



Gulf Coast
Ecosystem
Restoration
Council

Gulf-wide Foundational Investment

Baseline Flow, Gage Analysis and On-Line Tool
To Support Restoration
(EPA_RESTORE_004_000_Cat1)



Project Name: Baseline Flow, Gage Analysis & On-Line Tool to Support Restoration

Cost: Category 1: \$5,800,000

Responsible Council Member: Environmental Protection Agency and Department of the Interior/U.S. Geological Survey

Partnering Council Members: All, with Mississippi watershed focus

Project Details: The U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) will collaborate on a comprehensive, large-scale project to provide vital information on the timing and delivery of fresh water to the streams, bays, estuaries, and wetlands of the Gulf States.

Activities: This project will develop regionally consistent streamflow metrics and measures of streamflow alteration, and will develop an online mapping tool to identify areas where streamflow alteration is highest at the regional, state or watershed scale and prioritize restoration efforts. Additionally, a streamflow accounting tool for a large focus-area watershed in Mississippi will be created to enable water resource managers to evaluate a range of potential management scenarios, such as modifying the release curves for selected reservoirs upstream in order to evaluate changes in freshwater delivery to an estuary.

Activities will also include the installation and operation of 18 new stream gages based on a streamflow alteration gap analysis that will be conducted to create a more robust gage network and help to minimize flow alteration predictions in future analyses. Targeting new stream gages in areas and land cover types currently underrepresented in existing networks will improve future streamflow assessments.

Environmental Benefits: Adequate freshwater flow to the rivers and estuaries is not only critical to the health and function of those ecosystems, but it is also important for the support of a thriving state, local and coastal economy. The data and information provided through this proposal will support state and local freshwater flow decisions. The project will promote community resilience by helping Gulf communities adapt to short and long-term changes in flows, and will improve science-based decision making in targeting and siting restoration work.

Duration: Project funds will be expended over a seven-year period.

More information on these activities can be found in Appendix K. Gulf-wide; Unique Identifier: EPA_RESTORE_004_000_Cat1.

