

Public Input and the Council-Selected Restoration Component

The RESTORE Act, signed into law in July 2012, established a Gulf Coast Restoration Trust Fund (Trust Fund) which will receive 80 percent of the civil and administrative Clean Water Act penalties resulting from the *Deepwater Horizon* oil spill. The Trust Fund supports five restoration components aimed at restoring the long-term health of the valuable natural ecosystems and economy of the Gulf Coast region.

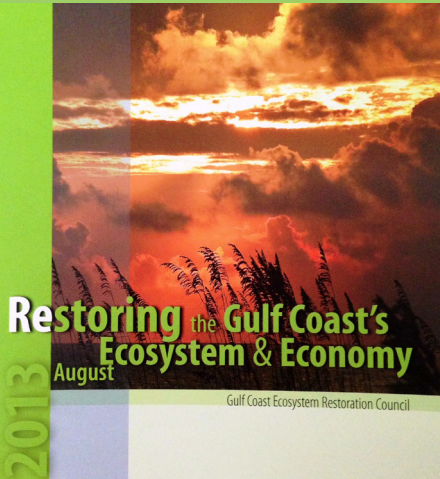
Thirty percent of the money directed to the Trust Fund is managed by the Gulf Coast Ecosystem Restoration Council (Council) to implement ecosystem restoration under a [Comprehensive Plan](#), developed by the Council with input from the public, to restore the ecosystem and the economy of the Gulf Coast Region. This 30%, of which approximately \$150-\$180 million* is available for projects and programs, is referred to as the Council-Selected Restoration Component.

The Funded Priorities List (FPL)

Once the Council has selected which projects and programs it intends to prioritize for funding, it will publish those selections in the form of a draft "Funded Priorities List" (FPL). The draft FPL, expected to be published in 2015, will be made available for public review and comment. After careful consideration of public input, the Council will make changes as appropriate, and finalize the FPL.

The last four years of the public's input to the Council and its predecessor, the Gulf Coast Ecosystem Task Force, has been summarized by the Council. Read the "Summary of Public Comment" [here](#).

**This range represents funds made available from the Transocean Deepwater Inc. settlement (approx. \$240 million), minus funds necessary to address possible future changes in project costs, prudent planning costs necessitated by the unknown date of future infusion(s) of funds from other responsible parties, and the reasonable costs of administering the restoration program over at least 10 years (capped at 3%). A range is provided here because the final cost associated with the FPL depends on the costs of projects submitted, which projects are included on the final list after public comments are received, etc. Per the RESTORE Act and the Treasury Regulations, all overhead costs to support both Council-Selected Restoration Component and Oil Spill Impact Component work must be drawn from Council-Selected Restoration Component Funds.*



What you need to know:

The submission window for members opens August 21, 2014 and closes no earlier than November 17, 2014.

The Council anticipates that once the full amount ultimately to be paid into the Trust Fund is known, future amendments to the FPL will include significantly larger projects and project lists that reflect the full amount available to be spent for restoration activities. Additional input from the public will be solicited accordingly.

Each Council member will not be able to submit every project to the Council, just as everything submitted to the Council will not be included on the draft FPL.



How to Provide Your Ideas

Each state and federal member of the Council is responsible for proposing restoration projects and programs for consideration by the Council as a whole. These members may solicit input from the public and will decide which proposals are ultimately submitted under this component. The Council can only consider proposals from the individual Council members.

Recognizing that the currently available amount of funds cannot cover the full array of the projects needed to successfully restore the Gulf, the Council has decided to focus its first project selection effort on projects and programs that restore habitat and/or water quality.

The submission window for individual Council members to submit project proposals for consideration under this component opens on Aug. 21, 2014 and closes no earlier than Nov. 17, 2014. The states and federal agencies will coordinate their outreach efforts. Contact a member representative or check out their website to learn more about how you can participate in the process:

Council Member Contact Information for Public Outreach Activities	
State of Alabama www.alabamacoastalrestoration.org <i>Patti Powell</i> : (334) 242-3484, patti.powell@dcnr.alabama.gov <i>Hank Burch</i> : (251) 625-0814, hank.burch@dcnr.alabama.gov	US Department of Agriculture www.nrcs.usda.gov/Gulf <i>Michele Laur</i> : (601) 607-3131, gulfrecovery@wdc.usda.gov
State of Florida www.deepwaterhorizonflorida.com <i>Ashley Williams</i> : (850) 245-2197, ashley.m.williams@dep.state.fl.us	US Department of the Army <i>Susan Rees</i> : (251) 694-4141, susan.i.rees@usace.army.mil
State of Louisiana www.coastal.la.gov <i>Jenny Kurz</i> : (225) 610-9737, jenny.kurz@la.gov	US Environmental Protection Agency project ideas: restorethegulf@epa.gov <i>Lakeshia Robertson</i> : (228) 688-1712; robertson.lakeshia@epa.gov
State of Mississippi www.restore.ms <i>Eboyne Allen</i> : Ebonye_Allen@deq.state.ms.us <i>Becky Russell</i> : (601) 397-2134, becky@russellmediaconsultants.com ;	US Department of Homeland Security <i>Kirstin Riesbeck</i> kirstin.riesbeck@uscg.mil
State of Texas www.restorethetexascoast.org <i>Tara Drissell</i> : (512)239-6230, tara.drissell@tceq.texas.gov	US Department of the Interior <i>Nanciann Regalado</i> : (678) 296-6805 nanciann_regalado@fws.gov
US Dept of Commerce www.restorethegulf.gov restore@doc.gov	Council Office www.restorethegulf.gov <i>Bethany Carl Kraft</i> : (202)431-8180 bkraft@doc.gov

Goals of the Comprehensive Plan

These goals provide the framework for an integrated restoration approach at local, state, tribal and federal levels:

Restore and Conserve Habitat – Restore and conserve the health, diversity, and resilience of key coastal, estuarine and marine habitats.

Restore Water Quality – Restore and protect water quality of the Gulf Coast region’s fresh, estuarine and marine waters.

Replenish and Protect Living Coastal and Marine Resources – Restore and protect healthy, diverse and sustainable living coastal and marine resources.

Enhance Community Resilience – Build upon and sustain communities with capacity to adapt to short- and long-term changes.

Restore and Revitalize the Gulf Economy– Enhance the sustainability and resiliency of the Gulf economy.

For More Information

Go to restorethegulf.gov or scan the QR code below.

