



Gulf Coast Ecosystem Restoration Task Force Frequently Asked Questions

TASK FORCE SPECIFICS

Q: What is the Gulf Coast Ecosystem Restoration Task Force?

- The Gulf Coast Ecosystem Restoration Task Force was created by President Obama through an Executive Order on October 5, 2010, and is the result of a recommendation made in Secretary Mabus' report on long term recovery following the Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill.
- Within one year of the Executive Order, the Task Force is charged with development of a restoration strategy that proposes a Gulf Coast ecosystem restoration agenda. The task force is directed to:
 - Define ecosystem restoration goals and describe milestones towards reaching those goals;
 - Consider existing research and ecosystem restoration planning efforts;
 - Identify major policy areas where coordinated actions between government agencies is needed; and
 - Evaluate existing research and monitoring programs and gaps in data collection
- To view the Executive Order, go to <http://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/2010/10/05/executive-order-gulf-coast-ecosystem-restoration-task-force>.
- To view Secretary Mabus' report, go to <http://www.restorethegulf.gov/sites/default/files/documents/pdf/gulf-recovery-sep-2010.pdf>.

Q: Who is on the Task Force?

- The Task Force is an advisory body comprised of lead officials from the five Gulf states appointed by the President upon recommendation of each Governor, and 11 Federal agencies and White House offices.
 - State of Alabama
 - State of Florida
 - State of Louisiana
 - State of Mississippi

- State of Texas
 - Council on Environmental Quality
 - Department of Agriculture
 - Department of Commerce
 - Department of Defense
 - Department of the Interior
 - Department of Justice
 - Department of Transportation
 - Domestic Policy Council
 - Environmental Protection Agency
 - Office of Management and Budget
 - Office of Science and Technology Policy
- The Environmental Protection Agency’s Administrator, Lisa P. Jackson, serves as Chair of the Task Force and the Chair of the Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority of Louisiana, Garret Graves, serves as Vice-chair. John Hankinson serves as Executive Director. The Task Force is staffed by various Executive branch personnel.
 - The Task Force may also include representatives from affected federally recognized Tribes. The Task Force shall, in collaboration with these tribes, determine the areas for tribal participation in matters within the scope of the Task Force’s responsibilities.
 - The directory of Task Force members is located at www.restorethegulf.gov/task-force.

Q: Where is the Task Force located?

- The Task Force has an administrative home at EPA, and has points of contact in both Washington, D.C. and throughout the Gulf region. If you have additional questions about the Task Force, please contact us at GulfCoastTaskForce@epa.gov or

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 Woodrow Wilson Center G1-1
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GETTING INVOLVED WITH THE TASK FORCE

Q: How can I attend a public meeting?

- Information and schedules for public meetings and listening sessions are available at www.restorethegulf.gov/task-force or to receive this information via email you

can request to be added to the Task Force listserv at GulfCoastTaskForce@epa.gov.

- Task Force meeting schedule:
 - November 8, 2010 – Pensacola, Florida
 - February 28, 2011 – New Orleans, Louisiana
 - May 6, 2011 – Mobile, Alabama
 - June 27, 2011 – Southeast Texas
 - August 29, 2011 – Biloxi, Mississippi

Q: How can my organization participate on the Task Force?

- While the Executive Order limits formal membership to certain federal and state agencies, the Task Force is striving to ensure all voices are heard and considered as we develop the restoration strategy. Forums will include listening sessions, and conference calls to capture stakeholder and community ideas and concerns.
- If you would like to receive updates on upcoming Task Force meetings, please email GulfCoastTaskForce@epa.gov to join the Task Force listserv. You also may email your individual thoughts and comments on the ecosystem restoration strategy development process to this address.

Q: How do I contact the Task Force?

- The best way to contact the Task Force is by email at GulfCoastTaskForce@epa.gov.