



2025 Annual Report to Congress



Gulf Coast Ecosystem Restoration Council

Letter from the Executive Director

I am pleased to present the Fiscal Year 2025 (FY 2025) Annual Report to Congress of the Gulf Coast Ecosystem Restoration Council (RESTORE Council or Council). Established by the Resources and Ecosystems Sustainability, Tourist Opportunities, and Revived Economies of the Gulf Coast States Act (RESTORE Act) of 2012, the Council is an independent federal agency responsible for administering a portion of the civil settlements from the Deepwater Horizon oil spill. Composed of representatives of the governors from each of the five Gulf Coast states and the leaders of six federal agencies, the Council's mission is to implement a Comprehensive Plan for the ecological and economic recovery of the Gulf Coast. This report highlights the Council's ongoing commitment to effective program delivery, sound financial management, and measurable progress in restoring the Gulf of America's ecosystems and communities.

The RESTORE Council's vision is "a healthy and productive Gulf ecosystem achieved through collaboration on strategic restoration projects and programs." To achieve this, the Council works closely with federal, state, and local partners to plan and fund projects that promote long-term environmental health, strengthen coastal economies, and build community resilience. The Council approves projects under two key components of the RESTORE Act: the Council-Selected Restoration Component, implemented through Funded Priorities Lists (FPLs), and the Spill Impact Component, implemented through State Expenditure Plans (SEPs). FPLs are developed collaboratively among Council members with input from Gulf stakeholders, while SEPs are prepared by individual state members or their representative Gulf coastal counties (Florida). Through these efforts, the Council continues to restore critical habitats, improve water quality, and provide enduring environmental and economic benefits to Gulf communities.

*Over its lifetime, the Council is projected to invest more than \$3.2 billion in restoration and economic recovery projects across the Gulf Coast. Fiscal Year 2025 marked another key milestone with the development of the Draft 2026 Funded Priorities List, proposing over \$403 million in new investments to enhance water quality, conserve habitats, and strengthen Gulf ecosystems. This proposal builds upon more than \$685 million in previously approved restoration work under the Council-Selected Restoration Component. During FY 2025, the Council awarded \$104 million through 16 new awards, representing a 60 percent funding increase over FY 2024, and executed 24 monetary amendments totaling \$84.4 million. To date, the Council has awarded more than \$1.32 billion in restoration funding from the Deepwater Horizon settlement, including \$493.7 million under the Council-Selected Restoration Component and \$831 million under the Spill Impact Component. Further, in April 2025, the Council released *Reflection on Restoration and Partnerships*, a 15-year commemorative report highlighting major achievements since the RESTORE Act's passage.*

Accountability and transparency remain central to the Council's operations. In FY 2025, the Council once again received an unqualified opinion on its financial statements—its eleventh consecutive year with zero findings, zero questioned costs, and no material weaknesses. The Council also successfully completed its Data Accountability and Transparency Act of 2014 (DATA Act), improper payment, and Federal Information Security Modernization Act of 2014 (FISMA) audits, reaffirming the strength of its internal controls and compliance with federal standards. As the Council continues to implement its Comprehensive Plan, it remains dedicated to ensuring that public funds are used efficiently and effectively to deliver tangible restoration outcomes for the Gulf Coast. We are deeply grateful for Congress's continued partnership and support in restoring the ecosystem health and economic vitality of this vital region. Please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions or input you may have.

Mary S. Walker

Executive Director

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The RESTORE Council

The Council is composed of the Governors of Alabama, Florida, Louisiana, Mississippi, and Texas, the Secretaries of the U.S. Departments of Agriculture, the Interior, the Army, Commerce, and Homeland Security, and the Administrator of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency currently serves as Council Chair. The individuals shown below represent the Council members for the 2025 reporting year. The Council spends no taxpayer funds and receives no annual appropriations from Congress. All funding comes from civil settlements from the *Deepwater Horizon* oil spill. Additional background on the RESTORE Council can be found in the Council's [Comprehensive Plan](#).



RESTORE Council Background

Created by the [Resources and Ecosystems Sustainability, Tourist Opportunities, and Revived Economies of the Gulf Coast States Act of 2012](#) (RESTORE Act), the RESTORE Council was established to provide for a regional approach to restoring the long-term health of the valuable natural ecosystem and economy of the Gulf Coast region in the wake of the Deepwater Horizon disaster. An innovation in state-federal partnership, the RESTORE Council manages over \$3.2 billion in ecosystem restoration funding through collaboration among its membership of the five Gulf states and six federal agencies. To date, the Council has awarded over \$1.32 billion in Deepwater Horizon disaster recovery funding for wetland restoration, water quality improvement, and a range of other ecosystem and economic projects from Texas to Florida.

The RESTORE Act dedicates 80 percent of civil and administrative penalties paid under the Clean Water Act, after the date of enactment, by responsible parties in connection with the Deepwater Horizon oil spill to the Gulf Coast Restoration Trust Fund (Trust Fund) for ecosystem restoration, economic recovery, and tourism promotion in the Gulf Coast region.

The RESTORE Council administers the expenditure of 60% of these funds (Figure 1). According to the terms of the settlement with BP Exploration & Production Inc. (BP), these funds are deposited into the Trust Fund over a 15-year period ending in 2031.

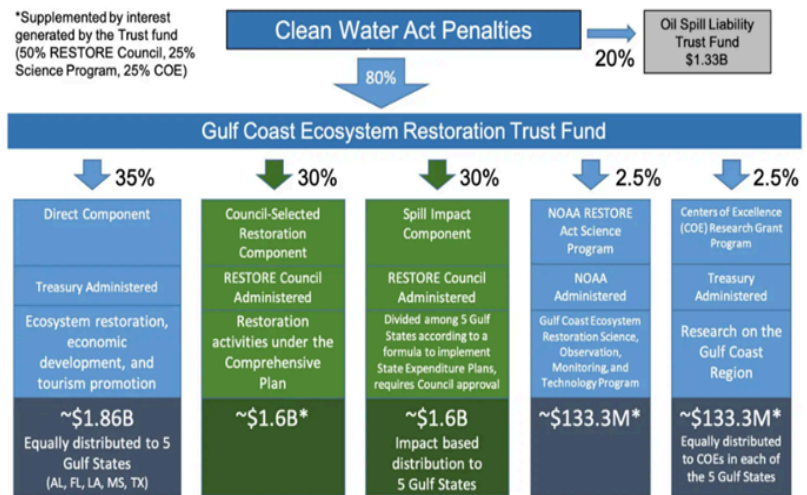


Figure 1. Allocation of the Gulf Coast Restoration Trust Fund based on settlements with BP, Transocean and Anadarko. The Council administers two of the five components, the Council-Selected Restoration Component and the Spill Impact Component shown in green.

The Council-Selected Restoration Component

Under the Council-Selected Restoration Component of the RESTORE Act, 30% of available funding is administered for Gulfwide ecosystem restoration and protection through Funded Priorities Lists (FPLs) developed in collaboration among the members of the Council. Council-Selected Restoration Component funding decisions are guided by criteria set forth in the RESTORE Act, the Council’s Comprehensive Plan and other policies, including the Council’s Planning Framework. For more details, review [previous FPLs](#) and the projects and programs included on those FPLs.

The Spill Impact Component

The remaining 30% is allocated to the states under [the Spill Impact Component](#) of the Act, according to a formula established by the RESTORE Act and further developed through a U.S. Department of the Treasury regulation. Spill Impact Component funds are spent according to individual [State Expenditure Plans](#) (SEPs) that are developed by each state entity identified in the RESTORE Act. The SEPs must adhere to criteria set forth in the Act and are subject to approval by the Council chair in accordance with those criteria.

Council Coordination

The Council takes an integrated and coordinated approach to Gulf Coast restoration. This approach strives to both restore the Gulf Coast region's environment and, at the same time, revitalize the region's economy. Coordination with other partners is particularly important, given the diversity of funding sources and decision-making bodies investing in Gulf Coast restoration.

The Council established goals and objectives in the [Comprehensive Plan](#) to guide its ecosystem restoration funding decisions. The Council selects and funds projects and programs that restore the natural resources, ecosystems, fisheries, marine and wildlife habitats, beaches, and coastal wetlands of the Gulf Coast region, without regard to geographic location within the Gulf Coast region.

Under the Council-Selected Restoration Component of the Act, only Council members are eligible to submit proposals for funding. The Council coordinates among the eleven members to determine priority projects and programs for funding and then develops FPLs through collaboration among its members and with feedback from stakeholders across the Gulf. Council approval of funding requires the affirmative vote of at least three state members and the federal Chair. The other five federal members do not formally vote on Council funding.

Funds for approved FPL projects are disbursed to Council members via grants to state members and interagency agreements (IAAs) with federal members. As part of the grant and IAA process, all activities for which funding is sought are reviewed to ensure consistency with the approved FPL and compliance with the RESTORE Act and all other applicable requirements, including compliance with all applicable federal environmental laws and the application of best available science (BAS) criteria as required by the Act and further defined by the Council.

RESTORE Council's vision statement is "A healthy and productive Gulf ecosystem achieved through collaboration on strategic restoration projects and programs."



Significant FY 2025 Council Accomplishments

- The Council approved amendments to prior FPLs to provide planning and implementation funds for projects including:
 - \$1,564,636 in planning and implementation funds to construct approximately 24,800 linear feet of oyster reef breakwater and approximately 205 acres of marsh and submerged aquatic vegetation in Pensacola Bay, a component of the Initial FPL Pensacola Bay Living Shoreline project.
 - \$753,750 in planning funds to complete necessary living shoreline planning for the FPL 3b approved Texas Shoreline Protection Through Living Shorelines Program.
 - \$12,859,851 in implementation funding for the Dagger Point Stabilization project under the FPL 3b approved Texas Shoreline Protection Through Living Shorelines Program.
 - \$426,312 in planning funds to complete planning for the FPL 3b approved Texas Coastal Water Quality Program.
 - \$645,996 in planning funds to complete restoration planning for the FPL 3b Texas Chenier Plain Ecosystem Restoration Program.
 - \$4,237,070 in implementation funding for the McFaddin National Wildlife Refuge Shoreline Breakwater project under the FPL 3b Texas Chenier Plain Ecosystem Restoration Program.
 - \$3,562,230 in implementation funding for the J.D. Murphree Wildlife Management Area Levee project under the FPL 3b Texas Chenier Plain Ecosystem Restoration Program.
- Two State Expenditure Plans (SEPs) were amended to increase funding for existing activities and/or to add new projects or programs.
 - [Florida SEP Amendment #7](#)
 - [Mississippi SEP Amendment 2024](#)

The Council supports ecosystem restoration that can enhance local communities by giving people desirable places to live, work, and play, while creating opportunities for new and existing businesses of all sizes, especially those dependent on natural resources. In addition, the Council supports ecosystem restoration that builds local workforce capacity.

The Council's funding strategy includes both the desired environmental outcomes, and the processes used to accomplish them. In these processes the Council builds upon the restoration experience, scientific expertise, and other capabilities of its diverse membership of state and federal agencies. The Council makes funding decisions that leverage limited restoration resources for maximum effectiveness, while also supporting planning, science, and other activities that maximize the potential for success.

Council Goals

The Council has adopted the following five goals which provide the overarching framework for an integrated and coordinated approach for region-wide Gulf Coast restoration and help guide the collective actions at the local, state, tribal, and federal levels. These goals were collaboratively developed and approved through coordination with all eleven members of the RESTORE Council and can be found in the Council approved [Comprehensive Plan](#).

Goal 1	Restore and Conserve Habitat – Restore and conserve the health, diversity, and resilience of key coastal, estuarine, and marine habitats.
Goal 2	Restore Water Quality and Quantity – Restore and protect the water quality and quantity of the Gulf Coast region’s fresh, estuarine, and marine waters.
Goal 3	Replenish and Protect Living Coastal and Marine Resources– Restore and protect healthy, diverse, and sustainable living coastal and marine resources.
Goal 4	Enhance Community Resilience – Build upon and sustain communities with the capacity to adapt to short- and long-term changes.
Goal 5	Restore and Revitalize the Gulf Economy – Enhance the sustainability and resiliency of the Gulf economy.

Figure 2. RESTORE Council Goals as defined in the Comprehensive Plan.

Council Progress by Goals, 2016-2025

Over the ten-year period of FY 2016 to FY 2025, a total of \$468.3M has been awarded under the Council-Selected Restoration Component through grants and Interagency Agreements (IAA) for ecosystem restoration activities. In that same period, a total of \$826.9M was awarded under the Spill Impact Component through grants for ecosystem restoration and economic recovery activities. The remaining \$29.5M represents funding for the Council’s Comprehensive Plan Commitment and Planning Support and the Planning State Expenditure Plans.

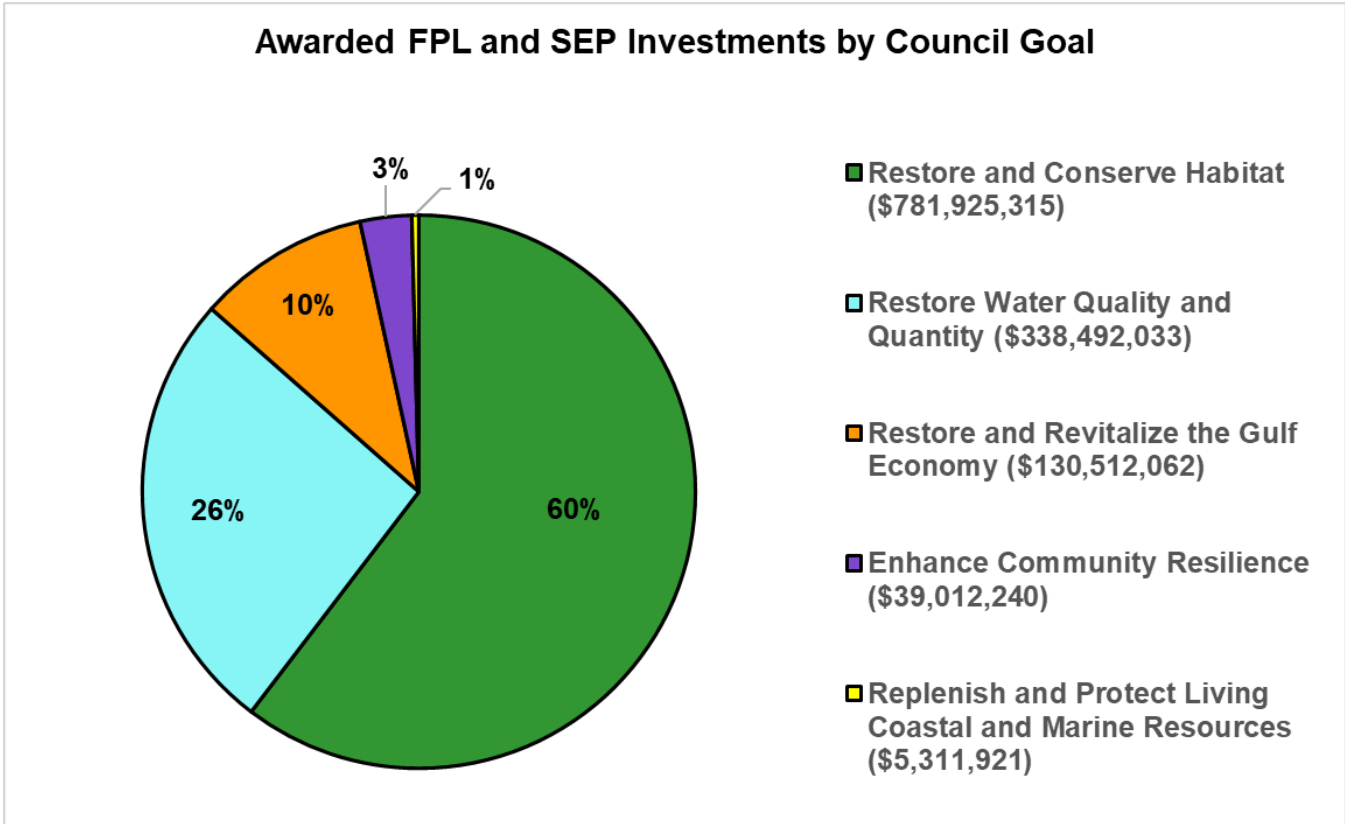


Figure 3. Funding distribution for investments to date, categorized by Council primary goal. Planning support funds, including Commitment and Planning Support and planning SEP awards, are excluded.

Council Progress by Objectives, 2016-2025

The Council builds on these goals with additional objectives that support communities and processes for restoration decision making. Most of the Council investments to date has supported the following objectives:

- Restore, Enhance and Protect Habitats (40%);
- Restore, Improve, and Protect Water Resources (24%); and
- Restore and Enhance Natural Processes and Shorelines (15%)

More information about the Council’s Goals and Objectives can be found in the [2022 Comprehensive Plan](#).

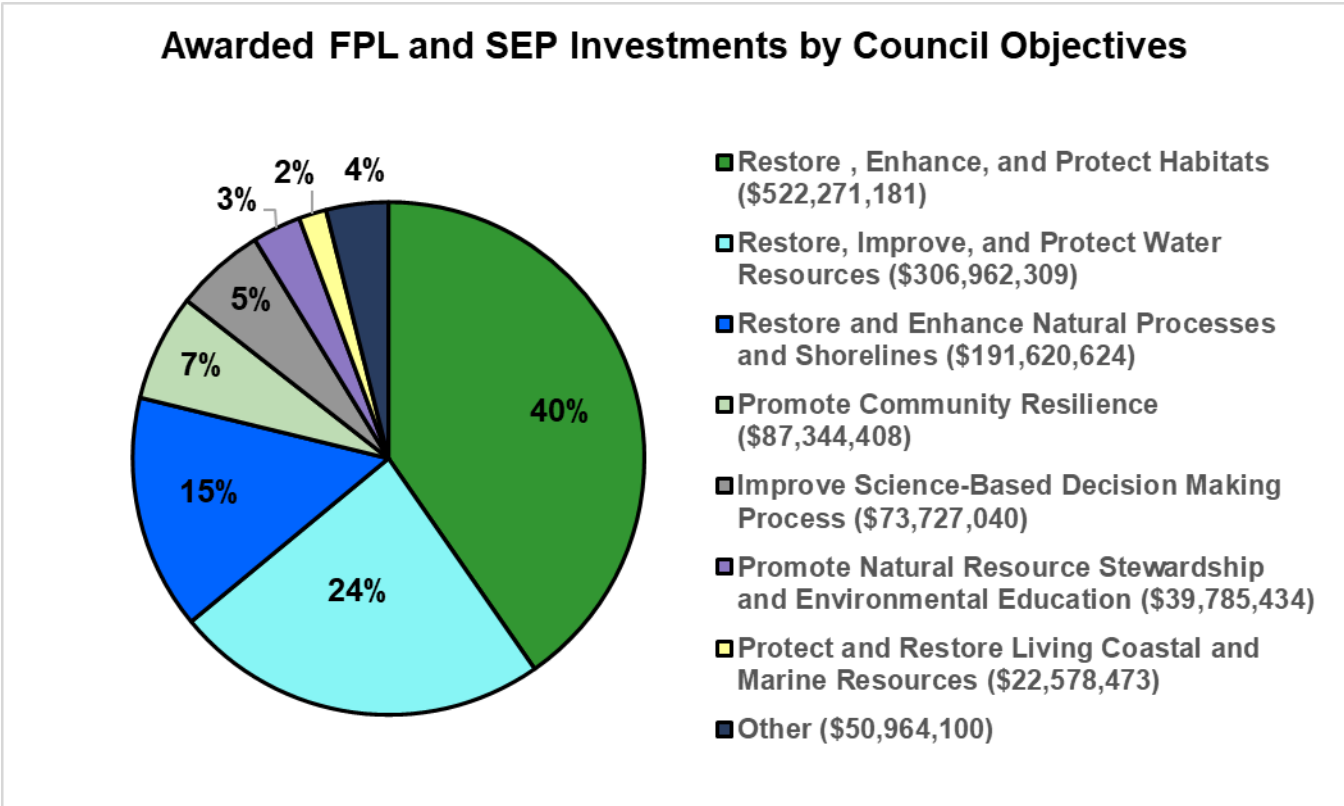


Figure 4. Funding proportions for state and federal members in support of the Council’s Comprehensive plan. Included FPL, SEP, and Planning support grants.

Council FY 2025 Sub-Awards to Non-Governmental Organizations

The RESTORE Act requires that, for awards made under the Council-Selected Restoration Component, a State or federal award recipient may make a grant or subaward to or enter into a cooperative agreement with a non-governmental entity that equals or exceeds 10 percent of the total amount of the award provided to the State or federal award recipient only if certain notice requirements are met. In FY 2025, this requirement applied to one award. The Texas Commission on Environmental Quality provided \$6,000,000 in a subaward to Coastal Prairie Conservancy (CPC) under their *Texas Land Acquisition Program for Coastal Conservation* to acquire 2,500 acres of valuable coastal prairie grasslands, bottomland woodlands, and wetlands, including brackish marsh. After acquisition, the title, with a conservation easement held by CPC, will be transferred to Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) and added to the Justin Hurst Wildlife Management Area (JHWMA) as the West Addition.

Council Investment Over Time

In FY 2025, the Council awarded \$104 million through the completion of 16 new awards (2 FPL, 14 SEP), a 60% increase in funding over FY 2024. The Council also completed 24 monetary amendments of existing awards, totaling \$84.4 million, a 26% increase in funding from the previous year. During FY 2025, the Council also processed 38 non-monetary awards, and 33 Administrative Adjustments to carry out projects and programs under the RESTORE Act, as well as 14 award closeouts. These awards now bring the total amount awarded by the Council to \$1.32 billion in funding for restoration activities across the Gulf Coast region using funds from the Deepwater Horizon oil spill settlement. These awarded funds include: \$493.7 million under the Council-Selected Restoration Component, and \$831 million under the Spill Impact Component. (Figure 5).

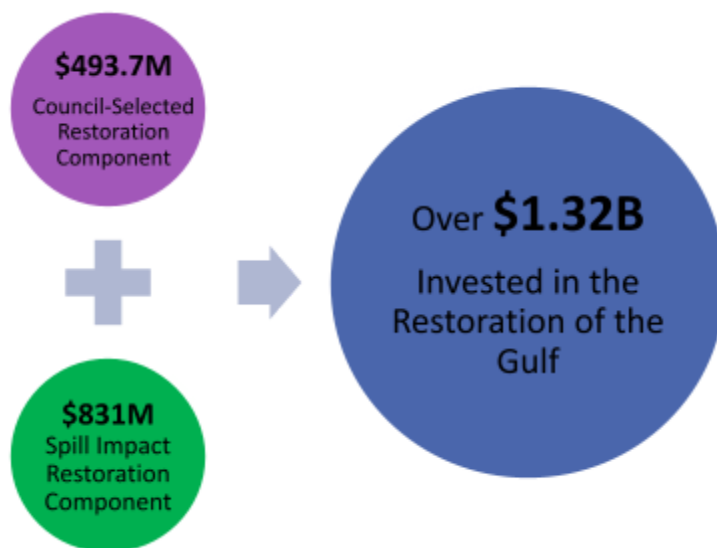


Figure 5: In FY 2025, the RESTORE Council reached the milestone of over \$1.32B invested in the restoration of the Gulf, with \$493.7M funding Council-Selected Restoration Component projects and programs, and \$831M funding the Spill Impact Restoration Component projects.

Appendix A: Projects and Programs Funded in FY 25

New Council-Selected Restoration Component (FPL) Activities Funded During FY 2025

Organization	Project Title	Application Type	Awarded Amount	Award Issued Date	Award End Date
The Department of the Interior, Bureau of Indian Affairs	Tribal Youth Restoration Program - Alabama - Coushatta Tribe of Texas	New Award	\$70,766.00	6/26/2025	6/1/2028
The United States Department of Agriculture, Natural Resources Conservation Service	Gulf Coast Conservation Reserve Program	New Award	\$3,100,000.00	7/15/2025	9/30/2029
Alabama Dept of Conservation & Natural Resources	Coastal Alabama Regional Water Quality Program	Monetary Amendment	\$10,443,101.34	11/12/2024	12/31/2028
Louisiana Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority	Commitment and Planning Support - Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority	Monetary Amendment	\$1,750,000.00	12/16/2024	5/15/2031
Florida Department of Environmental Protection	Pensacola Bay Living Shoreline - Phase 1	Monetary Amendment	\$1,564,636.00	1/14/2025	3/31/2029
The Department of the Interior, The National Park Service	Jean Lafitte Canal Backfilling (Implementation)	Monetary Amendment	\$37,660.34	1/14/2025	12/31/2026
Alabama Dept of Conservation & Natural Resources	Commitment and Planning Support - Alabama	Monetary Amendment	\$1,750,000.00	1/21/2025	12/31/2029
Texas Commission on Environmental Quality	Commitment and Planning Support - Texas	Monetary Amendment	\$1,750,000.00	4/1/2025	5/31/2028
Florida Department of Environmental Protection	Florida Water Quality Improvement Program	Monetary Amendment	\$5,773,660.00	6/16/2025	6/30/2032

New Spill Impact Component Activities (SEP) Funded During FY 2025

Organization	Project Title	Application Type	Awarded Amount	Award Issued Date	Award End Date
The Gulf Consortium	23-1: Canal Management Master Plan Implementation	New Award	\$12,516,999.00	3/3/2025	12/1/2029
The Gulf Consortium	11-1: Horseshoe Beach Working Waterfront	New Award	\$1,092,632.00	7/15/2025	9/30/2030
Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality	Activity #22: Institute of Marine Mammal Studies Outreach and Ecotourism	New Award	\$824,078.00	12/19/2024	7/15/2027
Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality	Activity #18: Walter Anderson Museum of Art Creative Complex	New Award	\$1,208,561.00	12/19/2024	12/15/2026
Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources	Project #28: One Mobile: Reconnecting People, Work and Play through Complete Streets	New Award	\$2,287,500.00	1/23/2025	10/31/2027
The Gulf Consortium	13-5: Inshore Artificial Reef	New Award	\$139,822.00	4/1/2025	2/1/2028
The Gulf Consortium	15-9: Channel Restoration and Water Quality Project	New Award	\$12,399,456.00	4/1/2025	3/31/2030
Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality	Activity #23: Coastal Science Program for MS High Schools	New Award	\$1,862,230.00	6/2/2025	5/31/2030
Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality	Activity #3: Compatibility, Coordination and Restoration Planning Round II	New Award	\$498,845.00	7/1/2025	6/30/2030
Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality	Activity #24: Nonspecific Invasive Species Detection and Treatment	New Award	\$1,097,550.88	5/22/2025	3/31/2028
Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality	Activity #30: Classrooms and Dormitories for the Center for Marine Education and Research	New Award	\$2,654,084.08	4/18/2025	9/30/2027
Louisiana Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority	River Reintroduction into Maurepas Swamp (Construction)	New Award	\$60,000,000.00	6/12/2025	12/31/2029
Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality	Activity #25: Pascagoula River Scenic Trail	New Award	\$2,667,583.00	5/22/2025	5/31/2028
Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality	Activity #17: Harbor Expansion Parking Area (Jones Park)	New Award	\$1,616,673.00	5/22/2025	12/31/2027
Alabama Dept of Conservation & Natural Resource	State Expenditure Plan #6: City of Chickasaw Sewer Rehabilitation Project	Monetary Amendment	\$1,548,476.00	11/12/2024	12/15/2027
Alabama Dept of Conservation & Natural Resources	State Expenditure Plan #10: Bayou La Batre Collection System/Lift Station Upgrades	Monetary Amendment	\$1,000,000.00	11/12/2024	12/15/2027
Alabama Dept of Conservation & Natural Resources	State Expenditure Plan #17: Fairhope Area Community-Based Comprehensive Land Use	Monetary Amendment	\$28,332.00	11/12/2024	3/31/2025
The Gulf Consortium	2-1: Santa Rosa Sound Water Quality Improvement Program - Monitoring and Construction	Monetary Amendment	\$8,805,641.00	11/12/2024	6/30/2027
The Gulf Consortium	16-2: Wastewater Collection System Improvements	Monetary Amendment	\$3,534,844.00	12/16/2024	12/31/2026
The Gulf Consortium	18-2: Portosueno Park Living Shoreline	Monetary Amendment	\$566,937.00	12/19/2024	4/30/2027
The Gulf Consortium	5-2: St. Andrew Bay Stormwater Improvement Program - St. Andrew Bay Watch	Monetary Amendment	\$4,915,771.00	4/9/2025	12/1/2027
The Gulf Consortium	8-1: Wakulla Springshed Water Quality Protection Program - Otter Creek WWTF Construction	Monetary Amendment	\$4,771,998.00	5/8/2025	6/30/2027
Alabama Dept of Conservation & Natural Resources	State Expenditure Plan #29 - Planning Grant to Amend State Expenditure Plan 2021	Monetary Amendment	\$246,767.00	5/9/2025	6/30/2028
The Gulf Consortium	6-2: St. Joseph Peninsula Coastal Erosion Control Project	Monetary Amendment	\$2,756,913.00	6/16/2025	12/15/2027

Texas Commission on Environmental Quality	FY20 RESTORE Nature Based Tourism	Monetary Amendment	\$14,200,000.00	6/23/2025	12/31/2026
Texas Commission on Environmental Quality	FY22 RESTORE NBT-IB MAGEE BEACH PARK (BKT 3)	Monetary Amendment	\$800,000.00	6/23/2025	12/31/2026
Alabama Dept of Conservation & Natural Resources	SEP #16: Three Mile Creek Watershed Restoration	Monetary Amendment	\$115,437.00	8/13/2025	7/31/2027
Alabama Dept of Conservation & Natural Resources	State Expenditure Plan #4: Auburn University Gulf Coast Engineering Research Station	Monetary Amendment	\$3,100,000.00	8/13/2025	5/31/2029
Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality	Mississippi Beachfront Resilience	Monetary Amendment	\$4,950,000.00	8/13/2025	10/31/2027
Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality	D'Iberville Working Waterfront and Commercial Seafood Harbor	Monetary Amendment	\$2,000,000.00	9/2/2025	3/31/2029
Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality	Mississippi Gulf Coast Water Quality Improvement Program	Monetary Amendment	\$8,000,000.00	9/2/2025	7/31/2028

Completed/Closed Grants During FY 2025

Organization	Grant Program	Project Title	Total Award Amount (after de-obligations)	Project Start Date	Date Award Closed Out
United States Coast Guard	Council Selected Restoration Component	Commitment and Planning Support - DHS / U.S. Coast Guard	\$1,316,057.10	6/1/2018	4/1/2025
The Environmental Protection Agency	Council Selected Restoration Component	Gulf of Mexico Estuary Program (GMEP) (Planning)	\$2,030,009.43	6/25/2018	4/1/2025
The Environmental Protection Agency	Council Selected Restoration Component	Tampa Bay National Estuary Program (Implementation)	\$1,362,428.98	2/22/2018	4/1/2025
Florida Department of Environmental Protection	Council Selected Restoration Component	Palm River Restoration Project Phase II, East McKay Bay (Implementation)	\$832,493.69	4/2/2018	11/4/2024
Texas Commission on Environmental Quality	Council Selected Restoration Component	Texas Beneficial Use/Marsh Restoration (FY16 RESTORE - BENEFICIAL USE (BKT 2))	\$636,665.03	7/31/2018	7/15/2025
The Department of the Interior, Bureau of Indian Affairs	Council Selected Restoration Component	Gulf of Mexico Habitat Restoration via Conservation Corps Partnerships/Youth Conservation Corps (BIA)	\$229,233.40	4/1/2021	9/11/2025
Louisiana Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority	Spill Impact Component	Paradis Canal Gate (CPRA-Parish Matching Opportunities Project)	\$2,576,343.98	6/25/2019	6/12/2025
Alabama Dept of Conservation & Natural Resources	Spill Impact Component	State Expenditure Plan #1-Environmental Restoration of Cotton Bayou & Terry Cove (Phase 1-Planning)	\$539,025.70	11/1/2019	1/24/2025
Alabama Dept of Conservation & Natural Resources	Spill Impact Component	State Expenditure Plan #22: Canal Road Improvements E. of SR-161	\$5,670,037.00	10/1/2019	6/12/2025
Alabama Dept of Conservation & Natural Resources	Spill Impact Component	Alabama Gulf Seafood Marketing	\$2,979,886.42	4/8/2019	7/15/2025
Alabama Dept of Conservation & Natural Resources	Spill Impact Component	State Expenditure Plan #17: Fairhope Area Community-Based Comprehensive Land Use	\$720,694.21	9/1/2019	9/10/2025
The Gulf Consortium	Spill Impact Component	15-1: Port Richey Watershed Stormwater Management Project - Construction	\$14,375.56	5/13/2022	1/24/2025
The Gulf Consortium	Spill Impact Component	18-10: Kingfish Boat Ramp Renovation and Expansion - Construction	\$21,473.94	8/28/2020	11/12/2024
The Gulf Consortium	Spill Impact Component	7-3: Apalachicola Bay Cooperative Dredging	\$6,028,150.41	4/6/2020	11/12/2024

Appendix B: Centers of Excellence Annual Reports

Centers of Excellence Background

The RESTORE Act dedicates 2.5 percent of the Trust Fund to the Centers of Excellence Research Grants Program, administered by the Department of the Treasury. These funds are to be used to establish Centers of Excellence for science, technology, and monitoring. As required by Sections 1605(c)(4) and 1603(t)(2)(C)(vii)(VII)(ee) of the RESTORE Act, each Center of Excellence is to provide an annual report to the RESTORE Council with grant information, including the amount, discipline(s), grant recipients, and in cases where grants are awarded to a consortium, the membership of the consortium. The Council, in turn, is to provide this information to Congress.

Set forth below is the Executive Summary from each Center of Excellence report as well as a link to Centers of Excellence grants information received from each. For clarity, the Council had no part in the preparation or substance of this information or the underlying programs. Inquiries regarding this material should be directed to the individual Center of Excellence.

Alabama Marine Environmental Sciences Consortium (MESC) at the Dauphin Island Sea Lab (DISL)

Executive Summary

Brief Description of the selected COE

In 2015, the Alabama Gulf Coast Recovery Council (AGCRC) selected the Alabama Marine Environmental Sciences Consortium (MESC) at the Dauphin Island Sea Lab (DISL) to be the home of Alabama's Center of Excellence (ALCOE). The Alabama MESC is comprised of 22 public and private colleges and universities located throughout Alabama, from the mountains to the coast: Alabama A&M University, Alabama State University, Athens State University, Auburn University, Auburn University (College of Aquaculture), Auburn University at Montgomery, Huntingdon College, Jacksonville State University, , Samford University, Spring Hill College, Stillman College, Talladega College, Troy University, Tuskegee University, The University of Alabama, University of Alabama at Birmingham, University of Alabama at Huntsville, University of Mobile, University of Montevallo, University of North Alabama, University of South Alabama, and University of West Alabama. The MESC was founded to focus resources and reduce redundancy in marine sciences in higher education institutions, serving as a collaborative vehicle for coastal studies. The Dauphin Island Sea Lab was founded in 1972, a former Air Force Base. Please see <https://www.disl.edu/about/our-history> for a history of DISL's facilities, science, and personnel. The Dauphin Island Sea Lab's mission is to become a center for transformative U.S. oceanic and coastal research and education.

The complete version of the Center of Excellence's report can be found on the [RESTORE Council's website](#).

Executive Summary

The primary focus for the Florida RESTORE Act Centers of Excellence Program (FLRACEP) in 2025 was to award four new Centers of Excellence from a new Treasury grant. This year also closed out the final (RFP) III projects. All but one project from RFP III and III.5 projects performance periods end December 31, 2024, with final reporting due in early 2025.

Staff met with the Treasury to determine performance measures and milestones update for semi-annual reporting (August). New Performance measures have been established and incorporated into the semi-annual reporting within RGMS. PMT updated Bylaws and Rules and Policies in June. A grant amendment for additional facilities support in the form of vessel time was prepared and submitted (April) to Treasury based on the awarded RFP V project needs to access sites in the De Soto Canyon area (executed October 2025). The amendment was also submitted for an extended performance period on the grant (RGMS-RCE020428) to accommodate both the RFP V awarded projects beyond their projected end-dates (in anticipation of possible requests for extension) and to close-out the grant. The new requested end date is September 30, 2029.

The Annual All Hands Meeting in January 2025 took place at the University of South Florida's University Student Center in St. Petersburg, Florida, with a virtual option for the broader community. Over a day and a half, the current and newly awarded Centers of Excellence leads, and several students, reported on research progress. The meeting also included program updates and shared meals for networking and discussions. On January 29th all the Centers of Excellence leads who had active projects after March 2024 presented their research. The Program Management Team attended and held Q&A and discussion sessions with the researchers. On January 30th the Program Management Team met virtually with the FLRACEP administrative team for the annual meeting. Topics included the progress and any follow-up recommended by the PMT for active projects, RFP V review and selection process, updates to the 10-Year Strategic Plan, and financial reporting. A summary of the PMT meeting notes and updated strategic plan was created by the Program Director and shared with the PMT.

A new competitive research grant competition was announced in June 2024. FIO submitted a budget amendment to support request for proposals (RFP) V in July 2024. Letters of intent were received in late August, and full proposals are due in early January 2025. The total available funding \$4.2 M (not including ship time). The FLRACEP administrative team extended the deadline for RFP V full proposals to January 10th to allow people to ask final questions and work with their sponsored research offices to submit the proposals outside of holiday closures. This also allowed more time for hurricane-impacted researchers. FLRACEP received 10 full proposals. A Science Review Panel of 8 experts on the RFP V research topics was assembled in January. Each participant was offered an honorarium for the reviews of 3-4 proposals. After signing a COI and non-disclosure agreement, the participants received a folder with the proposals, rubric for scoring, and guidelines. An introductory meeting was held in early February with all SRP members to review the guidance and process. Written reviews were collected prior to the panel sessions, which were held on February 18th and 19th. Each proposal was discussed and merits weighed to reach consensus statements and a recommendation for funding. The consensus statements were provided to the PMT along with the full proposals. These were discussed in a meeting on February 28th and decisions on funding made. Award letters were sent to P.I.s in March. Sub-award packages were updated and assembled and provided to awarded institutions on March 18th. The FLRACEP Director held a P.I. on March 31st to have each P.I. introduce their project and discuss field plans. This is the first of continued meetings to help coordinate and facilitate work amongst the RFP V awards since they are working in the same region and have synergistic goals. The Office of Gulf Coast Restoration has obligated over \$13.6 M in research awards through five RFPs since the inception of the program. The complete version of the Center of Excellence's report can be found on the [RESTORE Council's website](#).

The Center of Excellence for Louisiana (LA-COE)

Executive Summary

In the 2025 financial year (FY25), the RESTORE ACT Center of Excellence for Louisiana (LA-COE) monitored the 12 projects ongoing in the third Request for Proposals cycle (RFP3 cycle) following their initiation in September 2024. This included soliciting two semi-annual progress reports (PPRs) and requiring two meetings between RFP3 primary investigators (PIs), team members, The Water Institute Technical Points of Contact (TPOCs), and Liaisons from the Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority (CPRA) following the submission of the PPRs. During FY25, LA-COE hosted its annual All-Hands and Executive Committee meetings on August 18, 2025, in which RFP3 award recipients and team members, CPRA Liaisons, TPOCs, and LA-COE Executive Committee members gathered for presentations on the progress of each of the 12 ongoing RFP3 projects. Additionally, the LA-COE Executive Committee members met to discuss potential updates to the LA-COE RFP timeline, among other topics. The LA-COE continued ongoing program operations according to the standard operating procedures (SOPV4), which were updated in December 2023. The details of the RFP3 awards, as well as how this research can inform the Louisiana Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority Coastal Master Plan is routinely updated on the LA-COE RFP3 cycle webpage: <https://thewaterinstitute.org/la-coe/funded-research-rfp3-cycle>.

The complete version of the Center of Excellence’s report can be found on the [RESTORE Council’s website](#).

The Mississippi Based Restore Act Center of Excellence (MBRACE)

Executive Summary

Brief Description of the Center of Excellence

The Mississippi Based Restore Act Center of Excellence (MBRACE) is a consortium of four Mississippi universities - Jackson State University, Mississippi State University, University of Mississippi, and University of Southern Mississippi. The University of Southern Mississippi serves as the lead university for the consortium.

Overview of focus of the COE

The focus of MBRACE, a consortium of Mississippi’s research universities, is a sound, comprehensive science- and technology-based understanding of the chronic and acute stressors, both anthropogenic and natural, on the dynamic and productive waters and ecosystems of the northern Gulf. The goals of MBRACE are: (1) serve as a focal point for new, long-term research and socioeconomic initiatives along the northern Gulf with relevance to Mississippi’s resources; (2) serve the people of Mississippi and the northern Gulf region with a scientifically based understanding of ecosystem status and trends (past to present, predictive) with special emphasis on improved forecasting abilities to ensure sustainable coastal and ocean ecosystems of the Gulf; and (3) work within a consortium of stakeholders including Mississippi’s research universities under the Mississippi Research Consortium, state and federal agencies, local communities, private industry, and non-governmental organizations. MBRACE’s long-term Science Plan focuses on the State’s directive toward sustainable coastal management through three major thrust areas: (1) monitoring and ocean observations, (2) modeling, and (3) process studies.

Summary of the annual performance of the COE

MBRACE continues to move the Center of Excellence program forward. The five-person Executive Steering Committee (ESC) comprising leadership from the four MBRACE universities continues to work with the administrative team to execute the program. MBRACE continued working on three key All Hands Meeting Action Items: (1) Model Coordination; (2) Conceptual Model and Paper Development; and (3) Policy Brief. Follow-up work included coordinating and contributing to meetings with PIs and ESC, communicating via e-mail and calls, and text/figure review and revision. Regular e-mails and communications with EAG, ESC, and PIs and Leads continue on these topics.

The complete version of the Center of Excellence's report can be found on the [RESTORE Council's website](#).

The Texas Centers of Excellence

Executive Summary

In March 2015, as the Texas Governor's appointee to the RESTORE Council, Commissioner Toby Baker of the TCEQ established two Centers of Excellence (COE) in Texas in accordance with the requirements set forth in the RESTORE Act and U.S. Treasury regulations: Texas OneGulf and Subsea Systems Institute.

Texas OneGulf

The mission of the Texas OneGulf (OG) Center of Excellence is to gather and improve knowledge about the Gulf of America to inform decision-making around the challenges to environmental and economic sustainability of the Gulf of America and its impact on the health and well-being of Texans and the nation. Texas OneGulf is designed with the capacity and flexibility to address all five disciplines denoted in Section 1605 of RESTORE. Drawing from the Texas OneGulf Strategic Research and Action Plan, the Council identified Texas OneGulf Priority Needs, including priority research questions in the Community Resilience and Estuarine and Coastal Environments focus areas.

Subsea Systems Institute

The Subsea Systems Institute (SSI) is a Center of Excellence formed under the RESTORE Act and represents a collaboration between the University of Houston, Rice University, and NASA/Johnson Space Center. The mission of SSI is to improve the safety and efficiency of offshore energy development by facilitating engineering, science and policy research and through third party unbiased validation of technology and practices, and by increasing skill sets across the workforce aligned with the development and deployment of new technologies. The vision and objectives for the institute are to:

- Support economic and workforce development in the State of Texas through collaboration between research institutions, colleges, and industry
- Develop best available technology and risk mitigation practices to positively impact offshore safety by bringing together NASA, industry, and academic expertise
- Provide unbiased third-party validation and establishment of best practices to build public trust in the sustainable and safe offshore drilling and production operations in the Gulf of America region and beyond
- Attract and retain talent for jobs and investments in the local, state and national economy

Summary of the Annual Performance of Texas COE

Texas continues to move the Centers of Excellence program forward. Both Centers continued to work with stakeholders and advisory councils. TCEQ monitored activities associated with each Centers' operational Grant

Activity Description (GAD) and research project GADs (six with Texas OneGulf and four with SSI). In September 2024, Treasury issued an amendment to Grant II award, providing an additional \$3,088,000.00 to each Center, and extending the end date to August 31, 2027. Since October 2024, TCEQ has worked with Centers to extend project contracts to February 28, 2027.

The complete version of the Center of Excellence’s report can be found on the [RESTORE Council’s website](#).