

RESTORE Council
Initial FPL Amendment Bundle
Deer Island and Marsh Restoration in Fish River and Oyster Bay
Summary of Public Comment Period

From June 24, 2021 to July 26, 2021, the Gulf Coast Ecosystem Restoration Council sought public comment on a proposed bundled amendment to its 2015 Initial FPL. The proposed amendment is titled: Deer Island Beneficial Use and Marsh Restoration in Fish River and Oyster Bay. The proposed funding for this project is administered by the Council pursuant to the [Resources and Ecosystems Sustainability, Tourist Opportunities, and Revived Economies of the Gulf Coast States Act of 2012](#) (RESTORE Act), and comes from the RESTORE Act allocation known as the Council-Selected Restoration Component, or “Bucket 2.”

Pursuant to the RESTORE Act, the Council is responsible for administering portions of Deepwater Horizon oil spill settlement funds for the purpose of restoring the environment and economy of the Gulf coast. The Council administers two funding programs, one of which is the Council-Selected Restoration Component, or “Bucket 2.” Under Bucket 2, the Council votes to approve Gulf ecosystem restoration projects and programs proposed by the Council members. Bucket 2 projects and programs approved for funding by the Council are included in what is referred to as a Funded Priorities List (FPL).

FPLs include activities in two categories. Category 1 activities are approved for Bucket 2 funding. Such approval requires a Council vote as set forth in the RESTORE Act. To be approved in Category 1, a project or program must have documentation demonstrating that all applicable environmental laws have been addressed. For example, a construction project would need documentation demonstrating compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and other applicable laws.

Category 2 activities are Council priorities for potential future funding, but are not currently approved for funding. As appropriate, the Council reviews the activities in Category 2 in order to determine whether to move the given activity to Category 1 and approve it for funding via a Council vote. Such funding approvals are done via amendments to the FPL containing the given project(s). FPL amendments are also required for other changes to listed projects (e.g., material changes in scope or cost, transfer of sponsorship to another Council member).

The Council sought public comment on a proposal of whether to amend its 2015 Initial Funded Priorities List (Initial FPL) to approve modifications to the location, size, and sponsor for the previously-approved \$3,000,000 in implementation funding for the Deer Island Beneficial Use Site in Mississippi

and \$2,250,089 in planning and implementation funding for Marsh Restoration in Fish River and Oyster Bay located in Alabama. More information can be found on the [Council's website](#). During the public comment period, the Council announced that written comments would be accepted via mail and digital submissions via email. The Council did not receive any comments by mail or digitally via email during the public comment period.