

US Environmental Protection Agency

Gulf National Estuary Program (NEP) and Lake Pontchartrain Basin Restoration Program (LPBRP) Comprehensive Plan Implementation Program

This is a proposal for funding of projects that the seven existing Gulf of Mexico National Estuary Programs (NEPs) and the Lake Pontchartrain Basin Restoration Program (LPBRP) would implement to protect and restore habitat and water quality consistent with established comprehensive management plans. The study areas for these programs cover approximately forty percent of the Gulf of Mexico coast. NEP Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plans (CCMPs) and the Comprehensive Management Plan (CMP) provide goals and objectives as well as specific actions to restore and protect the estuary based on a stakeholder driven process rooted in strong science and are consistent with the Gulf Coast Ecosystem Restoration Council's goals. The NEPs and LPBRP are poised to receive RESTORE funds to implement "shovel ready" projects and have a long track record of proven success. Projects to be undertaken under this proposal will include: implementing nonpoint source best management practices; implementing green infrastructure measures; designing and constructing storm water parks; completing and implementing watershed management plans; protecting critical aquatic, shoreline and upland habitat through easement or purchase; restoring and managing critical aquatic, shoreline and upland habitat through a variety of hydrologic, landscape, vegetation and wildlife management actions; establishing living shoreline habitat; and other water quality and habitat restoration, protection and management techniques. Projects proposed by the NEPs and LPBRP include planning, design, pre- and post- monitoring, and implementation work. Restoration efforts would typically be carried out via public-private partnerships and would address key funding or other programmatic gaps. Requested funding amount: \$16,800,000.