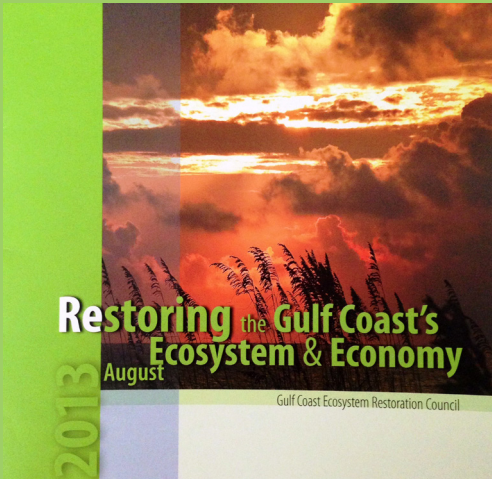


About the

Gulf Coast Ecosystem Restoration Council Comprehensive Plan



The Gulf Coast region is a national treasure and a driver of our nation's economy. The region provides valuable energy resources, abundant fisheries, extraordinary beaches and recreational activities, a vibrant shipping industry, and a rich cultural heritage. It is one of the most diverse ecosystems in the world.

In recognition of the region's environmental challenges as well as the vital importance of recovery of the Gulf's natural resources and economy after the oil spill, Congress passed the Resources and Ecosystems Sustainability, Tourist Opportunities, and Revived Economies of the Gulf Coast States Act (RESTORE Act) in July 2012. The RESTORE Act established the Gulf Coast Ecosystem Restoration Council (Council). The Council is responsible for developing a Comprehensive Plan to guide a coordinated, region-wide effort to restore, protect, and revitalize the Gulf Coast.

The Initial Comprehensive Plan was approved in August 2013 and builds on previous work in the Gulf to develop restoration goals and represents input from diverse voices from across the region. The Plan will evolve over time. Over the next few years, the Council will develop and implement this Plan through an iterative process that will lead to a comprehensive, region-wide restoration effort that is based on the best available science and the priority restoration needs of the Gulf of Mexico.

Purpose of the Comprehensive Plan

Establish overarching restoration goals and objectives for the Gulf Coast region.

Describe the process for funding ecosystem restoration projects and programs.

Describe the process for approving State Expenditure Plans.



The Comprehensive Plan

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.



What's Next?

In the coming months, the Council will develop a draft Funded Priorities List (FPL) that identifies projects and programs that it will fund. The projects in the FPL will be chosen based on the best available science and in accordance with the statutory requirements of the RESTORE Act.

In July 2014, the Council approved a proposal submission and evaluation process to select projects for inclusion on the draft FPL, which will be included as an addendum to the Initial Comprehensive Plan (approved in August 2013). This first FPL addendum will contain projects and programs that will be funded with available Transocean Deep-water Inc. funds. Future amendments to this FPL and the process by which projects are selected for inclusion will evolve over time as new information becomes available, adaptive management activities occur, and as funding uncertainties are resolved. 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.

Public engagement remains an important element of planning, and the Council continues to seek input from communities and stakeholders across the Gulf. Council members anticipate convening community conversations across the Gulf to provide information about the proposal submission and evaluation process as well as to collect public input to inform the development of the draft FPL. The draft FPL will be published for a formal comment period to provide interested stakeholders the opportunity to provide input on proposed projects and programs prior to funding and implementation.

Project Ideas for Member Consideration

The RESTORE Act directs the Council to fund and implement projects and programs through its members. Individual Council members may solicit and then choose to "sponsor" -- submit to the Council for consideration-- projects and/or programs from any entity, as well as the general public. Council members (listed at www.restore-thegulf.gov) have different methods to gather project submissions and ideas. Council members will use the following methods to identify potential projects to sponsor for consideration on the FPL.

State of Texas: www.restorethetexascoast.org live in August 2014

State of Louisiana: www.coastal.la.gov

State of Mississippi: www.restore.ms

State of Alabama: www.alabamacoastalrestoration.org

State of Florida: www.deepwaterhorizonflorida.com

US Department of Commerce: email: restore@doc.gov

US Department of the Interior: Interior is working with new and existing partners and stakeholders to develop project ideas.

US Department of Homeland Security: will not be submitting projects

US Department of Agriculture: USDA is engaging new and existing partners to develop project ideas. For additional information visit www.nrcs.usda.gov/Gulf

US Environmental Protection Agency: email: restorethegulf@epa.gov

US Department of the Army: Galveston District: janelle.s.stokes@usace.army.mil;

New Orleans District: mark.r.wingate@usace.army.mil; Mobile District

susan.i.rees@usace.army.mil; Jacksonville District april.n.patterson@usace.army.mil

To submit a project idea to the Council for dissemination to its members: email restorecouncil@restorethegulf.gov