

# Funded Priorities List Planning Framework Draft



## Planning Framework Draft Overview

Beginning April 26, 2019, the Gulf Coast Ecosystem Restoration Council (RESTORE Council or Council) is providing the *Gulf Coast Ecosystem Restoration Council Planning Framework* draft (Planning Framework draft) for public review and comment as it continues to advance its vision, stated in the *2016 Comprehensive Plan Update: Restoring the Gulf Coast's Ecosystem and Economy*, for “A healthy and productive Gulf ecosystem achieved through collaboration on strategic restoration projects and programs.”

The resolution of civil claims and penalties associated with the Deepwater Horizon oil spill has provided unprecedented funding for ecosystem restoration in the Gulf of Mexico (Gulf). The Council plays a key role in developing strategies and implementing projects that help sustain the Gulf’s natural resources for future generations. With this responsibility in mind, the Council develops Funded Priorities Lists (FPLs) that describe the projects and programs it will fund. Projects and programs funded through the Council- Selected Restoration Component (commonly referred to as “Bucket 2”) must be in furtherance of the goals and objectives of the Council’s Comprehensive Plan and address at least one of the priority criteria identified in the RESTORE Act. Thus far, the Council has finalized two FPLs and plans to finalize a third in 2020.

Recognizing that needs outweigh available funds, the purpose of the Planning Framework draft is to signal the Council’s FPL 3 restoration priorities and to support the Council’s Comprehensive Plan commitments to:

- Developing a regional ecosystem-based approach to restoration
- Leveraging resources and partnerships through increased collaboration
- Increasing public engagement, inclusion, and transparency regarding the funding decisions in Bucket 2
- Advancing science-based decision-making
- Delivering results and measuring impacts

## Public Review and Comment Period: April 26 - June 12, 2019

Beginning April 26, 2019, the Planning Framework draft will be available for a 45-day public review and comment period, ending at 11:59 pm MDT on June 12, 2019. During this time frame, the RESTORE Council will provide an overview of the Planning Framework draft via live public webinars and public meetings across the Gulf states. The Council will gather public input on the Planning Framework draft to ensure restoration investments fit into a broad vision for the Gulf of Mexico. For more information on meeting dates, times, and locations and how to comment, visit [www.restorethegulf.gov](http://www.restorethegulf.gov).

If you are interested in receiving notifications of upcoming webinars, subscribe to receive the RESTORE Council’s automatic email updates at [www.restorethegulf.gov/contact-us](http://www.restorethegulf.gov/contact-us) and select the “Public Meetings and Public Comment Periods” category in addition to other categories of interest to you.

# Priority Approaches

The Planning Framework draft identifies priorities that strategically link past and future restoration funding decisions. In this way, the document serves as a “bridge” between the Council’s overarching goals and objectives and the specific restoration projects and programs approved in future FPLs. To that end, the Council will consider how future investments may build upon those in the Initial FPL, as well as other restoration activities funded by other restoration efforts in the Gulf of Mexico region.

Although this Planning Framework draft was developed to support their decision-making for FPL 3, the Council views it as a “living” document that is broad enough to serve as a foundation for all future FPLs. The Council anticipates that it will review and revise this Planning Framework as needed prior to developing future FPLs.



The Planning Framework draft is organized around priority approaches and associated techniques and their application within geographic areas. The RESTORE Council’s Comprehensive Plan goals and objectives can be met through actions called “priority approaches and techniques.”

A priority approach may be implemented by multiple associated restoration techniques. Techniques are specific methods or activities used to carry out an approach.

For more information on priority approaches and techniques, please see other fact sheets and the Planning Framework document.

# Geographic Areas

Geographic areas illustrate the general areas where the Council may implement certain approaches and techniques. The geographic areas described in the Planning Framework are a step toward identifying priority watersheds and/or estuaries for investment to meet the Comprehensive Plan goals and objectives.

Together, these priority approaches, techniques, and geographic areas provide an indication to the public and potential funding partners of the kinds of projects and programs that the RESTORE Council may develop and consider for FPL 3 funding.

Geographic Areas	Priority Approaches
Texas	Wetlands, Habitats, Hydrology, Oyster, Nutrients
Chenier Plain, Texas-Louisiana	Wetlands, Habitats, Hydrology, Nutrients
Pontchartrain Basin, Louisiana-Mississippi	Wetlands, Habitats, Hydrology, Oyster, Nutrients
Mississippi Sound, Mississippi	Wetlands, Habitats, Oyster, Nutrients
Mobile Bay and Mobile-Tensaw Delta, Alabama	Hydrology, Oyster, Nutrients
Perdido River and Bay, Alabama-Florida	Habitats, Nutrients, Oyster
Florida	Wetlands, Habitats, Hydrology, Oyster, Nutrients
Gulfwide	Wetlands, Habitats, Hydrology, Oyster, Nutrients