



# Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill Natural Resource Damage Assessment

## Early Restoration

Early restoration provides an opportunity to implement restoration projects prior to the completion of the natural resource damage assessment process.

A natural resource damage assessment is the process used by natural resource trustees to develop the public's claim for natural resource damages against the party or parties responsible for the spill. It also seeks compensation for the harm done to natural resources and those services they provide.

Typically, natural resource trustees develop a restoration plan(s) to compensate for the impacts following a damage assessment. Plans for early restoration projects, however, may be developed prior to the completion of the injury assessment to achieve restoration faster.

A natural resource damage assessment can be prolonged and complex, in some cases lasting many years. In the case of the *Deepwater Horizon* Oil Spill Natural Resource Damage Assessment (NRDA), early restoration is fundamental to beginning the



*Potential restoration type: planting*

restoration of natural resources and their services prior to the completion of the full injury assessment.

### Early Restoration for the *Deepwater Horizon* Oil Spill

On April 21, 2011, the *Deepwater Horizon* Oil Spill NRDA Trustees announced an agreement under which BP committed to provide \$1 billion toward implementation of early restoration projects.

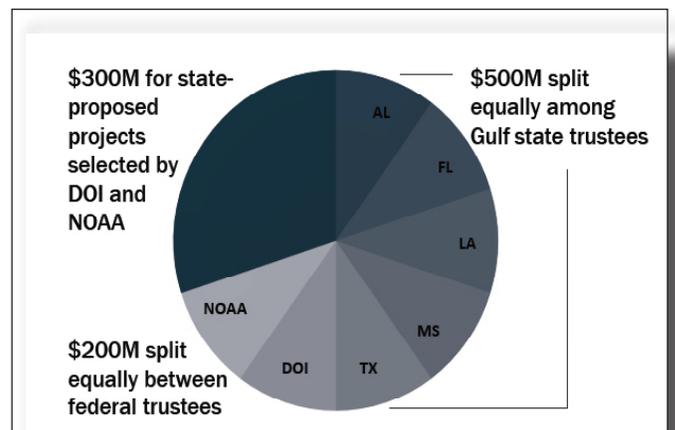
This agreement is the largest of its kind ever reached. It represents an initial step toward fulfilling the responsible parties' obligation to fund the complete restoration of injured natural resources.

These early restoration funds are divided as shown below:

- \$500 million split equally among Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama, Florida and Texas
- \$200 million split equally between NOAA and the U.S. Department of the Interior (DOI)
- \$300 million to fund additional state-proposed restoration projects to be selected by NOAA and DOI



*Potential restoration type: oyster reef formation*



*Allocation of \$1 billion early restoration agreement*