

JUNE 2014

DEEPWATER HORIZON OIL SPILL NRDA TRUSTEES

*Early Restoration, Phase III*

# Assess Plan Restore

A guide to projects and planning contained in the  
Final Phase III Early Restoration Plan and Final  
Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement



On April 20, 2011, one year after the *Deepwater Horizon* oil spill, BP agreed to provide up to \$1 billion toward early restoration projects in the Gulf of Mexico. Since then, we have worked with the public and BP to identify and implement suitable projects so restoration of the Gulf can begin prior to the conclusion of the complete damage assessment.

This guide offers an overview of our proposed strategic approach to early restoration planning and the proposed projects in Phase III. Both the planning component and the projects, which are expected to cost roughly \$627 million, are described in greater detail in the *Final Phase III Early Restoration Plan and Final Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (Final Phase III ERP/PEIS)*. You can find it [online](#) or in these [community libraries and offices](#).

We received thousands of comments before preparing the Final Phase III ERP/PEIS and reviewed and carefully considered each one as explained in [Chapter 13](#). Your input—provided through the internet, the mail, and during public meetings held across the Gulf this past winter—was instrumental in shaping this stage of early restoration.

Now that the Phase III ERP/PEIS has been issued, we will prepare a Record of Decision (ROD) in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act and natural resource damage assessment regulations. The ROD will explain our final decisions on the Final Phase III ERP/PEIS and will be available to the public this summer.

The *Deepwater Horizon* Oil Spill NRDA Trustees

- APRIL 20, 2010 ● *Deepwater Horizon* explodes, killing 11 workers. Millions of gallons of oil spill into the Gulf of Mexico
- APRIL 2011 ● BP agrees to provide \$1 billion for early restoration
- APRIL 2012 ● Phase I early restoration \$62 million [SEE REPORT](#)
- DECEMBER 2012 ● Phase II early restoration \$9 million [SEE REPORT](#)
- JUNE 2014 ● Phase III early restoration plan [SEE MORE](#)



# Early restoration begins the process of recovery

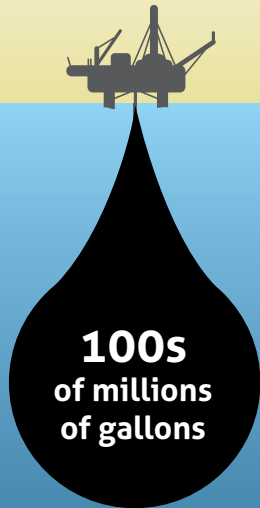
Early restoration allows us to get to work as quickly as possible to restore the Gulf. Given the magnitude of the spill, we know that it will take time to evaluate the full extent of the injuries. Meanwhile, we are poised to begin Phase III of early restoration; projects selected in Phases I and II are currently underway or completed.

*Deepwater Horizon*  
drilling rig

*Exxon Valdez*  
tanker

*Argo Merchant*  
tanker

*Mega Borg*  
tanker



# What projects are included in the final Phase III plan?

We have identified 44 projects for consideration in Phase III.



Proposed Project	Location	Estimated Cost*
Freeport Artificial Reef Project	TX	\$2,155,365
Matagorda Artificial Reef Project	TX	\$3,552,398
Mid/Upper Texas Coast Artificial Reef-Ship Reef	TX	\$1,919,765
Sea Rim State Park Improvements	TX	\$210,100
Galveston Island State Park Beach Redevelopment	TX	\$10,745,060
Louisiana Outer Coast Restoration	LA	\$318,363,000
Louisiana Marine Fisheries Enhancement, Research, and Science Center	LA	\$22,000,000
Hancock County Marsh Living Shoreline Project	MS	\$50,000,000
Restoration Initiatives at the INFINITY Science Center	MS	\$10,400,000
Popp's Ferry Causeway Park	MS	\$4,757,000
Pascagoula Beach Front Promenade	MS	\$3,800,000
Alabama Swift Tract Living Shoreline	AL	\$5,000,080
Gulf State Park Enhancement Project	AL	\$85,505,305
Alabama Oyster Cultch Restoration	AL	\$3,239,485
Beach Enhancement Project at Gulf Island National Seashore	FL	\$10,836,055
Gulf Islands National Seashore Ferry Project	FL	\$4,020,000
Florida Cat Point Living Shoreline Project	FL	\$775,605

*Continued next page.*

\*includes funding for contingencies.

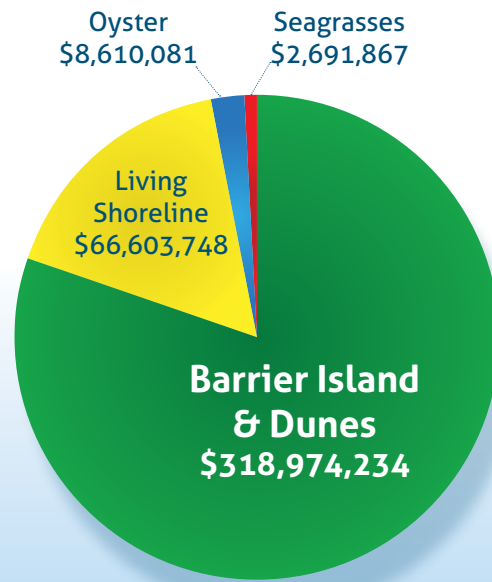
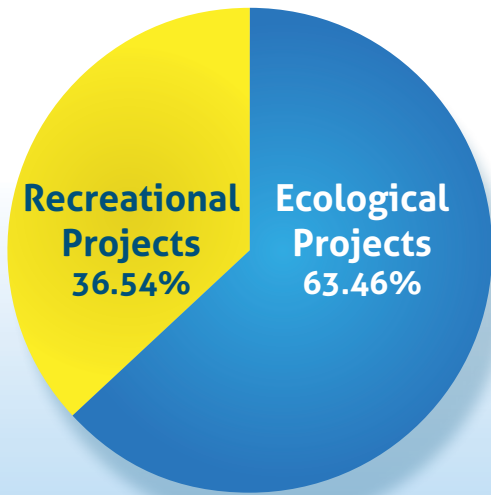
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Proposed Project	Location	Estimated Cost*	Proposed Project	Location	Estimated Cost*
Florida Pensacola Bay Living Shoreline Project	FL	\$10,828,063	Bald Point State Park Recreation Areas	FL	\$470,800
Florida Seagrass Recovery Project	FL	\$2,691,867	Enhancement of Franklin County Parks and Boat Ramps	FL	\$1,771,385
Perdido Key State Park Beach Boardwalk Improvements	FL	\$588,500	Apalachicola River Wildlife and Environmental Area Fishing and Wildlife Viewing Access Improvements	FL	\$262,989
Big Lagoon State Park Boat Ramp Improvement	FL	\$1,483,020	Navarre Beach Park Gulfside Walkover Complex	FL	\$1,221,847
Bob Sikes Pier Parking and Trail Restoration	FL	\$1,023,990	Navarre Beach Park Coastal Access	FL	\$614,630
Florida Artificial Reefs	FL	\$11,463,587	Gulf Breeze Wayside Park Boat Ramp	FL	\$309,669
Florida Fish Hatchery	FL	\$18,793,500	Developing Enhanced Recreational Opportunities on the Escribano Point Portion of the Yellow River Wildlife Management Area	FL	\$2,576,365
Scallop Enhancement for Increased Recreational Fishing Opportunity in the Florida Panhandle	FL	\$2,890,250	Norriego Point Restoration and Recreation Project	FL	\$10,228,130
Shell Point Beach Nourishment	FL	\$882,750	Deer Lake State Park Development	FL	\$588,500
Perdido Key Dune Restoration Project	FL	\$611,234	City of Parker-Oak Shore Drive Pier	FL	\$993,649
Florida Oyster Cultch Placement Project	FL	\$5,370,596	Panama City Marina Fishing Pier, Boat Ramp, and Staging Docks	FL	\$2,000,000
Strategically Provided Boat Access Along Florida's Gulf Coast	FL	\$3,248,340	Wakulla Mashas Sands Park Improvements	FL	\$1,500,000
Walton County Boardwalks and Dune Crossovers	FL	\$743,276	Northwest Florida Estuarine Habitat Restoration, Protection, and Education-Fort Walton Beach	FL	\$4,643,547
Gulf County Recreation Projects	FL	\$2,118,600			

\*includes funding for contingencies.

**TOTAL \$627,198,302**

# Phase III projects at a glance (proposed)



## How would these projects affect BP's liability?

BP and the other responsible parties are required to compensate the public for all natural resource injuries and losses due to the spill. Early restoration is the first step in that longer process.

In early restoration, the Trustees, the U.S. Department of Justice, and BP negotiate to determine specific offsets for each project. In the future, we will credit these early restoration offsets against our total assessment of BP's liability.

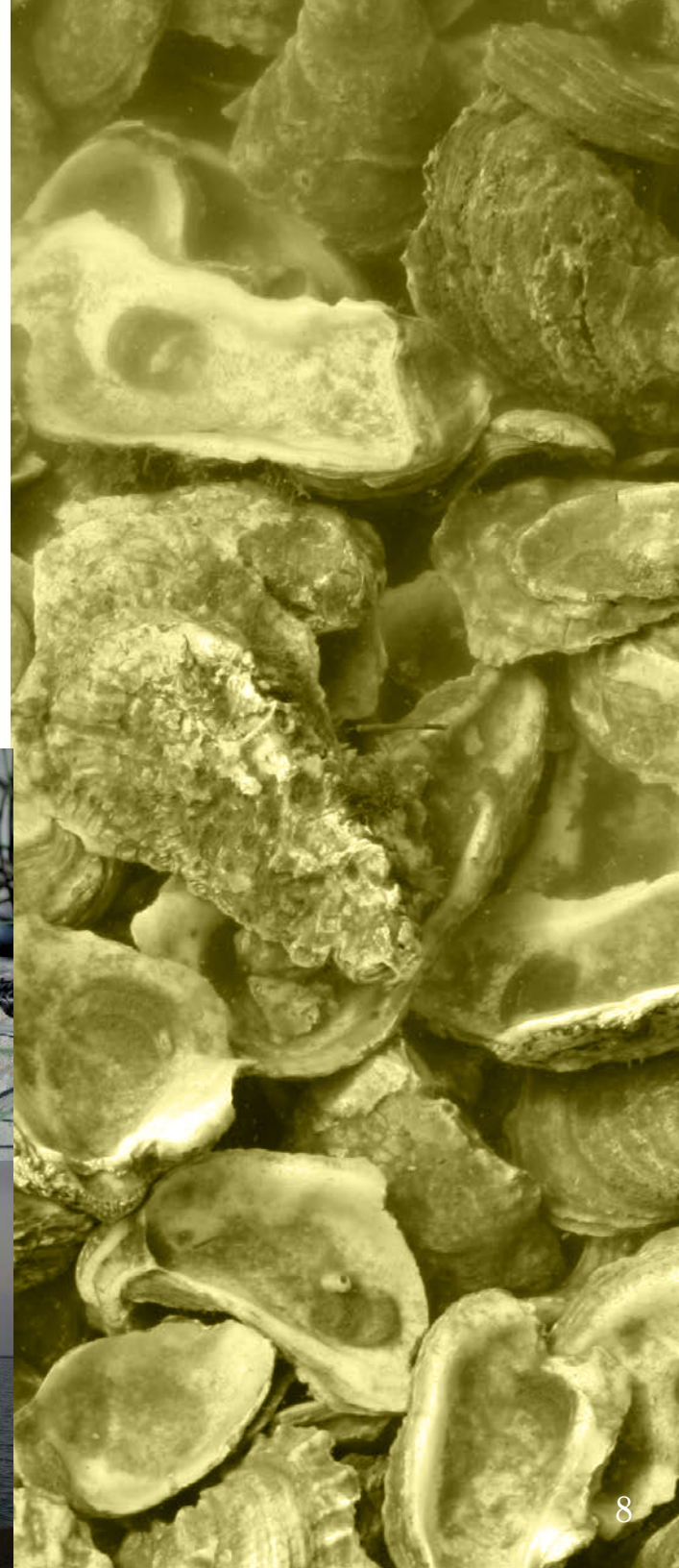
You can read more about the Phase III project offsets in the [full plan](#).



# How would these projects help to restore the Gulf?

Some of the proposed projects would restore barrier islands, dunes, marshes, shorelines, and oyster beds. Others, such as boat ramps and park enhancements, seek to address the lost recreational use of natural resources.

Together, these projects would help the Gulf continue to recover from a range of injuries sustained during the spill.





# Our strategy for early restoration

We agree with many of you who feel that more needs to be done to restore the Gulf than is considered in our early restoration plans. To do this, we need additional time to determine the full extent of injuries and losses and to identify reliable restoration methods.

We are therefore proposing to focus on 12 types of projects that are most suitable for development during early restoration.

These 12 early restoration project types are designed to restore ecological and recreational use losses resulting from the spill; we analyzed the environmental impacts of these project types in the early restoration programmatic environmental impact statement, which can be found in the full plan.

We considered the consequences of taking no action, implementing *only* ecological projects; implementing *only* recreational projects, or implementing *both* ecological and recreational projects.

After careful consideration, we are proposing to implement *both* ecological and recreational projects. This strategy will address a variety of injuries caused by the spill and contribute to our goal of restoring the Gulf.

For a complete explanation of how each Phase III project aligns with one or more of the 12 project types, please see Table 7.1 in the [full plan](#).

## PROPOSED EARLY RESTORATION PROJECT TYPES



Create and improve wetlands



Protect shorelines and reduce erosion



Restore barrier islands and beaches



Restore and protect submerged aquatic vegetation



Conserve habitat



Restore oysters



Restore and protect finfish and shellfish



Restore and protect birds



Restore and protect sea turtles



Enhance public access to natural resources for recreational use



Enhance recreational experiences



Promote environmental and cultural stewardship, education and outreach

With the completion of the programmatic environmental impact statement and programmatic early restoration plan for Phase III, we have laid a solid foundation for our current and future early restoration projects.

Please continue to submit your project ideas here:  
[www.gulfspillrestoration.noaa.gov/restoration/give-us-your-ideas/](http://www.gulfspillrestoration.noaa.gov/restoration/give-us-your-ideas/)





*Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill NRDA Trustees, Early Restoration, Phase III*  
June 2014