Alabama Restoration Area

Draft Restoration Plan I and Environmental Impact Statement: Provide and Enhance Recreational Opportunities

Purpose of Draft Plan

The Alabama Trustee Implementation Group (AL TIG) prepared the draft Restoration Plan I and Environmental Impact Statement (RP/EIS) as part of its restoration planning efforts to compensate the public for the injury to natural resources and resource services caused by the *Deepwater Horizon* (DWH) oil spill. The AL TIG is seeking public comment on the draft RP/EIS, including on the six preferred alternatives proposed in the draft plan.

In identifying projects for the draft RP/EIS, the AL TIG considered the Oil Pollution Act evaluation standards, the Restoration Goals and other criteria identified in the DWH Trustees' Final Programmatic Damage Assessment and Restoration Plan and Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement, input from the public, and the current and future availability of funds under the DWH Natural Resource Damage Assessment (NRDA) settlement.

The majority of NRDA funds that will be made available to the AL TIG—over \$110 million—are to be used for the "Provide and Enhance Recreational Opportunities" Restoration Type due to the significant injury to recreational use services in the State of Alabama. The AL TIG chose to prioritize restoration projects under this Restoration Type in this draft RP/EIS and focused on recreational use on the shoreline, where the majority of that injury occurred.

Projects Evaluated

The draft RP/EIS evaluates nine project alternatives, along with a "no action" alternative, that are intended to compensate for a portion of Alabama's recreational use injury. Of the 10 alternatives evaluated, the AL TIG proposes moving forward with the following six recreational use projects within the "Provide and Enhance Recreational Opportunities" Restoration Type:

- Gulf State Park Lodge and Associated Public Access Amenities Project – \$56,300,000
- Fort Morgan Pier Rehabilitation \$3,075,000
- Laguna Cove Little Lagoon Natural Resource Protection – \$4,400,000
- Bayfront Park Restoration and Improvement – \$1,000,000
- Dauphin Island Eco-Tourism and Environment Education Area – \$4,000,000
- Mid-Island Parks and Public Beach Improvements – \$1,900,000

The total funding proposed in the draft RP/EIS is \$70,675,000.







Proposed project sites for nine of the alternatives evaluated in the draft RP/EIS, including the six proposed for implementation.

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