



Deepwater Horizon Natural Resource Damage Assessment

Deepwater Horizon Trustees Invite Public Comment on

Proposed Florida Coastal Access Early Restoration Gulf Project

Public Meeting on December 14 in Panama City; Comment Period Open through December 31

Gulf Coast (December 1, 2015)-----The *Deepwater Horizon* oil spill Natural Resource Damage Assessment Trustees released a draft plan today that proposes a Florida Coastal Access restoration project at an estimated cost of \$34.4 million.

The Draft Phase V Early Restoration Plan and Environmental Assessment is available for public review and comment through December 31. It is posted online at www.gulfspillrestoration.noaa.gov and will be available at a public meeting held on December 14, 2015.

MEETING

Draft Phase V Early Restoration Plan and Environmental Assessment

Proposed Florida Coastal Access Early Restoration Project

6:00 PM– 9:00 PM

Gulf Coast State College

Student Union East – Room 231 (Gibson Lecture Hall)

5230 West U.S. Highway 98, Panama City, FL, 32411

The public meeting will begin with a 30-minute interactive open house (at 6:00 PM) where Trustee staff will be available to discuss project details. The open house will be followed by a formal presentation (at 6:30 PM) and opportunity for the public to provide comments to Trustee representatives.

The proposed Florida Coastal Access Project would enhance public access to the surrounding natural resources and increase recreational opportunities through the acquisition and/or enhancement of four coastal parcels in the Florida Panhandle. These locations include Innerarity Point in Escambia County, a parcel in the City of Destin, a parcel in the City of Lynn Haven, and Island View Park in Franklin County. The proposal also includes funding for ten years of operation and maintenance.

A future phase of this project will propose acquisition of one or more additional properties in the Florida Panhandle to provide passive recreational uses and coastal access for the public. This future phase would also include ten years of funding for operation and maintenance.

Copies of the Draft Plan are available at a number of public locations in area communities.

Visit www.gulfspillrestoration.noaa.gov to view a list of public libraries where copies of the Draft Plan have been placed for public review.

In addition to verbal comments provided at the public meeting, the public may also submit written comments through December 31, 2015:



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- Online: www.gulfspillrestoration.noaa.gov
- By U.S. Mail: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, P.O. Box 49567, Atlanta, GA 30345

Early restoration allows the Trustees to jump-start restoration using up to \$1 billion BP has agreed to make available for projects jointly agreed to by BP and the Trustees. If the proposed Phase V project is approved, approximately \$866 million of the \$1 billion would be obligated. More information about the first four phases of early restoration can be found at www.gulfspillrestoration.noaa.gov.

This public review and comment process for the Draft Phase V ERP/EA is separate from the public comment processes for the *Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill Draft Programmatic Damage Assessment and Restoration Plan and Draft Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement* (Draft PDARP/PEIS) and the proposed Consent Decree Among Defendant BP Exploration & Production, Inc., the United States of America, and the States of Alabama, Florida, Louisiana, Mississippi, and Texas, which ends on December 4, 2015. For more information on the Draft PDARP/PEIS, please visit <http://www.gulfspillrestoration.noaa.gov>. A link for the proposed Consent Decree and directions for comment to the Department of Justice is available at <http://www.gulfspillrestoration.noaa.gov>.

Media Contacts

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