Deepwater Horizon
Natural Resources Damage Assessment
Texas Trustee Implementation Group
Public Meeting
December 1, 2021
Agenda

- NRDA and Deepwater Horizon
- Funding in Texas
- Restoration Planning
- Active Project Updates
Webinar Participation

Please use the “Questions” box to type questions for the Q&A session.

We will answer as many submitted questions as possible at the end of the presentation.

The presentation will be posted on www.gulfspillrestoration.noaa.gov.
**Authority:** Oil Pollution Act of 1990

**Trustees:** Designated federal, state, and tribal agencies

**Responsibilities:**
- Determine injury to natural resources and ecosystem services
- Assess damages for injuries to recover and restore natural resources and services
- Recover damages or restoration to compensate the public for those injuries

**Goal:** Restore injured natural resources to baseline condition and to replace ecosystem services lost while the habitat was contaminated, effectively making the environment and public whole.
In April 2010, the Deepwater Horizon exploded, caught fire, and sank.

- Discharged 3.19 million barrels of oil into the Gulf of Mexico over 87 days.
- Injured wildlife, habitats, and ecological functions.
- Adversely affected recreational opportunities.

Impacted shoreline and state waters of Louisiana, Alabama, Mississippi, Texas, and Florida and the open waters of the Gulf of Mexico.
Restoration Projects

- Multiple restoration projects under each restoration plan
- Must be implemented in accordance with PDARP and restoration plan

Restoration Plans

- Evaluates specific projects for restoration types established in PDARP
- Multiple restoration plans released over time
- Projects must be consistent with restoration goals, types, approaches, and techniques identified in PDARP

PDARP

- Framework document for future project-specific restoration plans
- Identifies approaches and techniques for restoration
Injury Quantification:
• Determines nature and extent of injuries to natural resources and services

Restoration Planning:
• Establishes restoration goals
• Identifies type and amount of restoration needed to compensate for the impacts
• Identifies approaches and techniques for restoration and monitoring

Damages:
• Allocates restoration funding for specific restoration types by geographic area
Texas Trustee Implementation Group

Responsible for planning and implementing restoration activities within the Texas Restoration Area

- Identify, develop, and evaluate project alternatives
- Draft restoration plans identifying proposed projects
- Engage the public for comment on restoration plans
- Select and implement restoration projects
- Conduct monitoring and adaptive management
Texas TIG Agencies

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
Department Of the Interior
United States Department of Agriculture
United States Environmental Protection Agency
Texas Parks and Wildlife Department
Texas Commission on Environmental Quality
Texas General Land Office
Total Allocation

- Louisiana TIG: $5,000,000,000
- Open Ocean TIG: $1,240,697,916
- Florida TIG: $680,152,643
- Regionwide TIG: $349,851,678
- Alabama TIG: $295,589,305
- Mississippi TIG: $295,557,000
- Texas TIG: $238,151,458
- Unknown Conditions: $700,000,000
Texas Allocation of Restoration Funds

Restoration funding allocated to the Texas Restoration Area for each restoration goal:

- **Blue**: Restore and Conserve Habitat
- **Orange**: Restore Water Quality
- **Green**: Replenish and Protect Living Coastal and Marine Resources
- **Red**: Provide and Enhance Recreational Opportunities
- **Teal**: Monitoring, Adaptive Management, Administrative Oversight

Funds allocated:
- $91 million
- $23 million
- $19 million
- $7 million
- $100 million
Commitment of Restoration Funds

Committed versus remaining restoration funding allocated for each restoration goal

1. RESTORE AND CONSERVE HABITAT
   - Committed Restoration Funds: $22.5 M (1%)
   - Remaining Restoration Funds: $77.5 M

2. NUTRIENT REDUCTION
   - Committed Restoration Funds: $27.5 M (72%)
   - Remaining Restoration Funds: $22.5 M

3. SEA TURTLES
   - Committed Restoration Funds: $40.6 M (51%)
   - Remaining Restoration Funds: $27.5 M

4. PROVIDE AND ENHANCE RECREATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES
   - Committed Restoration Funds: $18.6 M (100%)
   - Remaining Restoration Funds: $0 M

5. MAM
   - Committed Restoration Funds: $2.5 M (0%)
   - Remaining Restoration Funds: $4.0 M (38%)

Data current as of May 2020
Restoration work in the Texas Restoration Area will focus on restoring wetlands and other coastal habitats and reducing nonpoint source pollution. We will also restore wildlife injured by the spill, including oysters, birds, and sea turtles.

Together, the trustees will restore natural resources—and the services they provide—that were injured by the spill. We will develop project-specific restoration plans, consistent with the programmatic restoration plan (see chart below). As part of the restoration planning process, we will accept restoration project ideas from the public. The public will also have the opportunity to review and comment on any proposed project-specific restoration plans for the Texas Restoration Area. Once approved, we will then begin implementation and monitoring of the selected projects.

https://www.gulfspillrestoration.noaa.gov/restoration-areas/texas
Texas TIG Current Restoration Planning Activities

Restoration Plan and Environmental Assessment 2 (RP/EA 2)

• October 1 - December 10, 2020: Solicited project ideas from the public
• January 2021: Began screening projects and drafting plan
• February 2022: Release Draft RP/EA for public comment
• March 2022: Public meeting for comment
• July 2022: Release Final RP/EA
Texas Trustee Implementation Group
Projects in Progress
Twenty (20) active projects along the Texas coast include:

- Hydrologic and wetland restoration
- Habitat acquisition
- Park redevelopment and improvements
- Oyster restoration
- Artificial reef construction
- Sea turtle restoration
- Rookery Island construction

*Project numbers correlate to NOAA Storymap IDs*
Bahia Grande Acquisition Project

**Location:** Laguna Atascosa National Wildlife Refuge, Cameron County

**Description:** Acquisition and protection of important coastal habitat including tidal wetlands, thorn scrub, and coastal prairie.

**Benefits:** Acquired land is being managed by USFWS as part of the Laguna Atascosa National Wildlife Refuge and the Bahia Grande Coastal Corridor. The acquisition and protection of these habitats benefits numerous species, including wading birds, migratory birds, and ocelots.

**Status:** The acquisition was finalized in summer 2021, with final project reporting to be completed this year.
Dredged Material Planning for Wetlands Restoration

**Location:** 8 sites in Sabine Lake, Galveston Bay, Matagorda Bay, San Antonio Bay and Aransas Bay

**Description:** Develop engineering and design documents to restore coastal wetlands at these sites using beneficial use of dredged material

**Benefits:** Engineering and Design documents will be used to form the basis of a future Texas TIG Restoration Plan that will focus on a subset of the eight sites. The Texas TIG is actively working with the USACE to leverage TIG funding with ongoing dredging activities to restore coastal habitats that support fish and wildlife resources.
Bahia Grande Hydrologic Restoration

**Location:** Laguna Atascosa National Wildlife Refuge, near Port Isabel, Cameron County

**Description:** Enlarge and stabilize the existing Joe Gayman pilot channel, which provides tidal exchange between the Brownsville Ship Channel and the Bahia Grande

**Benefits:** Restore water to a tidally influenced wetland which has been impacted since the 1950s. Approximately 6,500 acres of wetland will be restored, making this one of the largest wetland restoration projects in the United States, and one of the most cost effective on a per-acre basis.

**Status:** Under Construction

Photos by Derek Salazar
McFaddin Beach and Dune Restoration

**Location:** McFaddin National Wildlife Refuge, Jefferson County

**Description:** Restore and enhance 17 miles of beach and dune habitat which provides protection for Salt Bayou Marsh

**Benefits:** Restore dune and beach barrier along ~17 miles of shoreline to protect Texas' largest system of freshwater marshes from open water transition with Gulf of Mexico. This will be the largest beach restoration project in Texas to date.

**Status:** Solicitation complete
Texas Rookery Islands
Dickinson Bay Island II

Location: Dickinson Bay, north of Texas City, TX, Galveston County

Description: Construction of a 4-acre bird rookery island in Dickinson Bay. Will involve placing fill to create new island mass, planting native scrub-shrub vegetation to enhance habitat, and building armored levees to protect the island from erosion.

Benefits: Will create nesting habitat for colonial waterbirds.

Status: Under Construction
Oyster Restoration - East Galveston Bay

Location: East Bay, Galveston and Chambers County

Description: Engineering and design for this project was completed via funding from the Texas TIG RP1. Project implementation funding is provided by the RW TIG as part of the Improving Resilience for Oysters by Linking Brood Reefs and Sink Reefs project funded in September 2021.

Benefits: Project will restore 6 acres of intertidal reef and 1.4 acres of subtidal oyster reef.
Please type your questions in the “Questions” box.

We’ll do our best to answer as many as possible.