



Deepwater Horizon Natural Resource Damage Assessment

Deepwater Horizon Trustees Propose Comprehensive Restoration Plan for the Gulf of Mexico

Trustees ask for public comment on draft plan, which would allocate up to \$8.8 billion for restoration from proposed settlement with BP

GULF COAST (October 5, 2015) ----- The *Deepwater Horizon* oil spill Natural Resource Damage Assessment Trustees (Trustees) propose a comprehensive, integrated, ecosystem restoration plan for the Gulf of Mexico. The draft plan is based on an assessment of impacts to the Gulf's natural resources—and the services those resources provide—following the *Deepwater Horizon* oil spill.

The *Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill Draft Programmatic Damage Assessment and Restoration Plan (PDARP)* and *Draft Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (PEIS)* is available for public review and comment through Dec. 4. It is posted at www.gulfspillrestoration.noaa.gov and will be available at public repositories throughout the Gulf and at the meetings listed below.

The draft plan allocates funds from a proposed settlement with BP of up to \$8.8 billion for natural resource injuries stemming from the spill. The Trustees propose to accept this settlement, which will resolve BP's liability for natural resource injuries stemming from the spill.

The draft plan allocates funds to meet five restoration goals, and 13 restoration types designed to meet these goals. The restoration types address a broad range of impacts at both regional and local scales. The plan also provides guidance for identifying, evaluating, and selecting future restoration projects. Together, these efforts will restore wildlife and habitat and increase recreational opportunities in the Gulf.

The five goals of the draft plan are to: 1) restore and conserve habitat; 2) restore water quality; 3) replenish and protect living coastal and marine resources; 4) provide and enhance recreational opportunities; and 5) provide for monitoring, adaptive management, and administrative oversight to support restoration implementation.

The 13 proposed restoration types are:

1. Wetlands, coastal, and nearshore habitats
2. Habitat projects on federally managed lands
3. Nutrient reduction
4. Water quality
5. Fish and water column invertebrates
6. Sturgeon
7. Submerged aquatic vegetation
8. Oysters
9. Sea turtles
10. Marine mammals
11. Birds



Deepwater Horizon Natural Resource Damage Assessment

12. Low-light and deep seafloor communities
13. Provide and enhance recreational opportunities

In proposing this plan to address the ecosystem-level injuries caused by this spill, we considered both the potential environmental benefits and impacts. The plan does not identify specific projects for each restoration type, but lays out a framework for developing future project-specific restoration plans. The public will have the opportunity to comment on these subsequent restoration plans.

All public meetings will begin with an interactive open house where the public can learn details of the assessment and proposed restoration activities. The open house will be followed by a formal presentation and opportunity for the public to provide comments on the draft plan, as well as on the proposed settlement with BP.

Date	Time (local times)	Location
Mon., Oct. 19, 2015	5:00 PM Open House 6:00 PM Public Meeting	Courtyard by Marriott – Houma 142 Library Boulevard Houma, LA 70360
Tues., Oct. 20, 2015	5:00 PM Open House 6:00 PM Public Meeting	University of Southern Mississippi, Long Beach FEC Auditorium 730 East Beach Boulevard Long Beach, MS 39560
Thurs., Oct. 22, 2015	5:00 PM Open House 6:00 PM Public Meeting	Hilton Garden Inn New Orleans Convention Center, Garden Ballroom 10001 South Peters St New Orleans, LA 70130
Mon., Oct. 26, 2015	6:00 PM Open House 7:00 PM Public Meeting	The Battle House Renaissance Mobile Hotel 26 N Royal St Mobile, AL 36602
Tues., Oct. 27, 2015	6:00 PM Open House 7:00 PM Public Meeting	Pensacola Bay Center 201 E Gregory St Pensacola, FL 32502
Thurs., Oct. 29, 2015	6:00 PM Open House 7:00 PM Public Meeting	Hilton St. Petersburg Bayfront 333 1st Street South St. Petersburg, FL 33701
Tues., Nov. 10, 2015	6:00 PM Open House 7:00 PM Public Meeting	Hilton Galveston Island Resort Crystal Ballroom 5400 Seawall Boulevard Galveston, TX 77551
Wed., Nov. 18, 2015	6:00 PM Open House 7:00 PM Public Meeting	DoubleTree by Hilton 1515 Rhode Island Ave NW Washington, DC 20005



Deepwater Horizon Natural Resource Damage Assessment

Media Contacts

Department of the Interior: Nanciann Regalado, 678.296.6805, nanciann_regalado@fws.gov

NOAA: Ben Sherman, 301.713.3066, ben.sherman@noaa.gov

USDA: Fritscher, Justin, 202.720.5776, justin.fritscher@wdc.usda.gov

U.S. EPA: Keala Hughes, 228-688-2651, hughes.keala@epa.gov

Alabama: Patti Powell, 334.242.3484, Patti.Powell@dcnr.alabama.gov

Florida: Heather Thomas, 850.245.2197, Heather.Thomas@dep.state.fl.us

Louisiana: Jenny Kurz, 225.342.0168, jenny.kurz@la.gov

Mississippi: Robbie Wilbur, 601-961-5277, rwilbur@deq.state.ms.us

Texas: Tom Harvey, 512.389.4453, Tom.Harvey@tpwd.state.tx.us