

Phase I Early Restoration Plan



April 2012

FLORIDA (PENSACOLA BEACH) DUNE RESTORATION PROJECT

GENERAL PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The project will help restore an area of the beach where oiling and the extensive use of all-terrain vehicles and heavy equipment has inhibited plant growth and prevented the natural seaward expansion of the dunes since June 2010. The primary dunes are the first natural line of defense for coastal Florida to prevent the loss of wildlife habitat and private property due to hurricanes, sea level rise, oil spills and other threats. Pensacola Beach is located toward the western end of Santa Rosa Island in Escambia County, Florida. The western boundary of Pensacola Beach lies approximately 7.5 miles east of Pensacola Pass. From that point of origin the project would progress approximately 4.2 miles to the east. This beach segment has been engineered and augmented through two prior nourishment projects. The project will consist of planting appropriate dune vegetation approximately 40 feet seaward of the existing primary dune on 18-inch centers and 6 inches deep to provide a buffer to the primary dune habitats.

RESOURCE BENEFITS AND RELATIONSHIP TO INJURY

The Florida Dune Restoration Project will directly restore primary vegetated dune habitat injured by the spill and response efforts through active replacement of plants and dunes. The proposed project will help prevent erosion by restoring a "living shoreline": a coastline protected by plants and associated dunes rather than hard structures. These natural resources provide habitat to wildlife and increase the storm protection to both habitat and human resources.

METHODS AND RESULTS OF OFFSETS ESTIMATION

For the purposes of negotiations of Offsets with BP in accordance with the Framework Agreement, the Trustees used widely accepted methodologies. Habitat Equivalency Analysis was used to estimate Offsets provided by the Florida Dune Restoration Project. Offsets reflect units of discounted service acre years (DSAYs) of primary dune habitat, and would be applied against primary dune habitat along the Florida coast injured by the Oil Spill as determined by the Trustees' total assessment of injury. In estimating DSAYs, the Trustees considered a number of factors, including, but not limited to, benefits of revegetating primary dune habitat, the time period that it would take for revegetated habitat to provide different levels of ecological benefits, estimated project life span and potential impact of hurricanes and drought. Total estimated Offset for the Florida Dune Restoration Project is 105 DSAYs.

ESTIMATED COST

The estimated cost for this project is approximately \$644,487.

(Estimated costs for some of the projects were updated from those provided in the DERP/EA. Actual costs may differ depending on future contingencies, but will not exceed the amount shown without further agreement between the Trustees and BP.)

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Florida Dune Restoration Project planting areas.