



# Deepwater Horizon Natural Resource Damage Assessment

## Early Restoration

Early restoration provides an opportunity to implement restoration projects prior to the completion of the Natural Resource Damage Assessment (NRDA) process.

A NRDA is the process used by natural resource trustees to develop the public's claim for natural resource damages against the party or parties responsible for the spill. It also seeks compensation for the harm done to natural resources and those services they provide.

Typically in a NRDA, natural resource trustees develop a restoration plan(s) to compensate for the impacts following a damage assessment. Plans for early restoration projects, however, may be developed prior to the completion of the injury assessment to achieve restoration faster.

NRDAs can be prolonged and complex, in some cases lasting many years. In the case of the *Deepwater Horizon* Oil Spill NRDA, early restoration is fundamental to beginning the



*Potential restoration type: planting*

restoration of natural resources and their services prior to the completion of the full injury assessment.

### Early Restoration for the *Deepwater Horizon* Spill

On April 21, 2011, the *Deepwater Horizon* NRDA Trustee Council announced an agreement under which BP committed to provide \$1 billion toward implementation of early restoration projects.

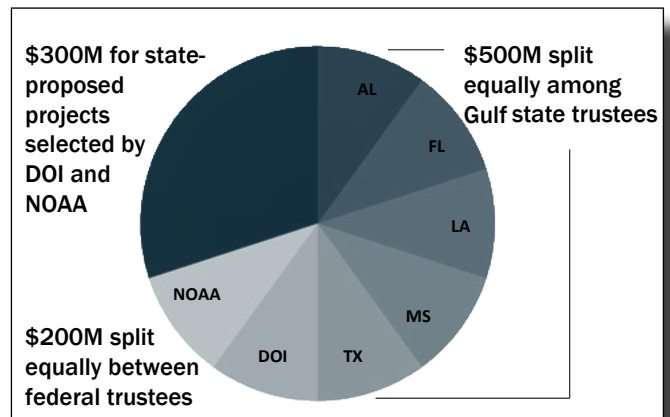
This agreement is the largest of its kind ever reached. It represents an initial step toward fulfilling the responsible parties' obligation to fund the complete restoration of injured natural resources.

These funds are divided among the trustees:

- \$500 million split equally among the Gulf state trustees (Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama, Florida and Texas)
- \$200 million split equally between the federal trustees (National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and the U.S. Department of the Interior)
- \$300 million to fund additional state-proposed restoration projects to be selected by federal trustees



*Potential restoration type: oyster reef formation*



*Allocation of \$1 billion early restoration agreement*

## Phase I Early Restoration Plan

Early restoration plans will be developed to begin restoration of the Gulf of Mexico to compensate for natural resource injuries, including the loss of human use of Gulf resources, from the spill.

The plans will outline projects agreed to by the trustees and BP to be presented for public input. They will be finalized to ultimately form a Final Early Restoration Plan.

The first of these plans, the Phase I Early Restoration Plan and Environmental Assessment (ERP/EA) includes these projects at right, two each in Alabama, Florida, Louisiana and Mississippi.

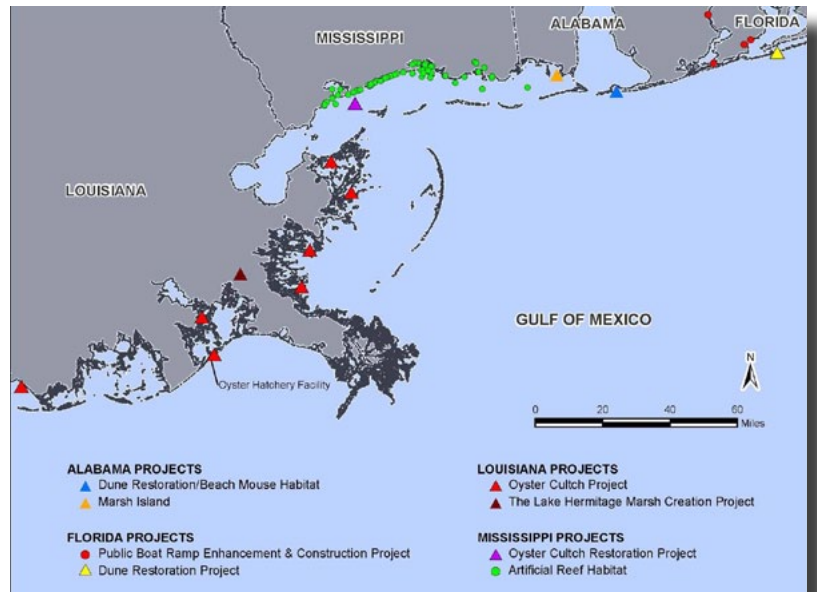
The projects are intended to provide services that will benefit impacted marshes, coastal dune habitats, nearshore sediments, oysters and human uses (such as beach-going and fishing).

While there were no Texas-based projects proposed for the Phase I ERP/EA, trustees for that state expect to propose several projects in the next phase of early restoration.

The Phase I ERP/EA, available online and at repositories throughout the Gulf region, describes the projects listed here in detail. See [www.gulfspillrestoration.noaa.gov/early-restoration](http://www.gulfspillrestoration.noaa.gov/early-restoration).

Project Title	Estimated Cost*
Lake Hermitage Marsh Creation (Louisiana)	\$14,400,000
Louisiana Oyster Cultch Project	\$15,582,600
Mississippi Oyster Cultch Restoration	\$11,000,000
Mississippi Artificial Reef Habitat	\$2,600,000
Marsh Island (Portersville Bay, AL) Marsh Creation	\$11,280,000
Alabama Dune Restoration Cooperative Project	\$1,480,000
Florida Boat Ramp Enhancement Construction	\$5,067,255
Florida (Pensacola Beach) Dune Restoration	\$644,487
<b>Total Estimated Cost for Phase I Projects</b>	<b>\$62,054,342</b>

*\*Actual costs may differ depending on future contingencies, but will not exceed the amount shown without further agreement between the trustees and BP.*



## Public Involvement



*Trustees listen as a citizen comments at a public meeting*

In addition to soliciting project ideas from the public, the trustees also listened to public input on the initial round of early restoration projects set forth in the Phase I ERP/EA.

The public was encouraged to review and comment on the proposed plan beginning Dec. 15, 2011, and ending Feb. 14, 2012. Comments were accepted online, in writing and verbally at public meetings held throughout the Gulf and in Washington, DC, in January and February 2012. More than 750 people attended the 12 meetings.

More than 500 people commented at the meetings, online and via mail. The trustees considered all comments received before completing and publishing the Phase I *Final* Early Restoration Plan and Environmental Assessment. Additional rounds of early restoration are expected, and the public will be invited to review and comment on future plans.

