

Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill NRDA Early Restoration Public Meeting November 13, 2012



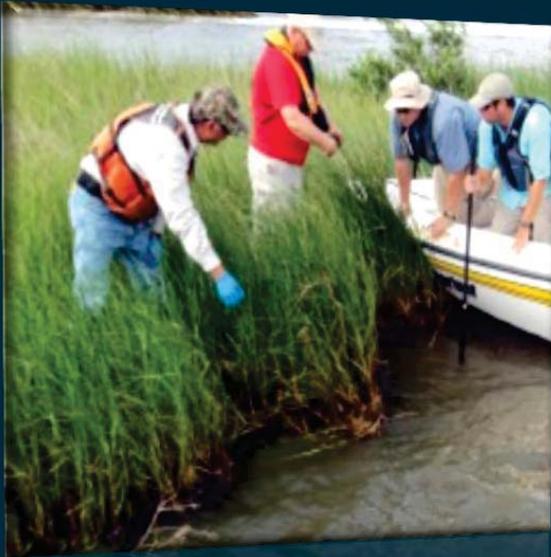
Tonight's Objective

To receive your comments on the proposed projects included in the Draft Phase II Early Restoration Plan and Environmental Review (Plan)

Presentation

- ◎ NRDA Overview
- ◎ Early Restoration Background
- ◎ Draft Phase II Early Restoration Plan and Environmental Review
- ◎ Proposed Phase II Early Restoration Projects
- ◎ Public Comment Period

NRDA Overview



Oil Pollution Act of 1990

OPA NRDA Regulations, 15 CFR § 990

NRDA Objective

To make the environment and public whole for injuries to natural resources and services resulting from an incident involving a discharge or substantial threat of discharge of oil.

15 CFR § 990.10

DWH NRDA Trustees

State Trustees

Alabama

Florida

Louisiana

Mississippi

Texas

Federal Trustees

Department of Commerce

Department of the Interior

Department of Agriculture

Environmental Protection
Agency

Department of Defense

Stages of NRDA



Pre-
assessment



Injury
Assessment
and
Restoration
Planning



Restoration
Implementation

Public Involvement

- ◎ NRDA 101 Public Meetings (Fall and Winter 2010)
- ◎ PEIS Public Scoping Meetings (Spring 2011)
- ◎ Early Restoration Project Solicitation Meetings (Summer 2011)
- ◎ Phase I Plan meetings (Winter 2012)
- ◎ Ongoing updates via websites and email notifications



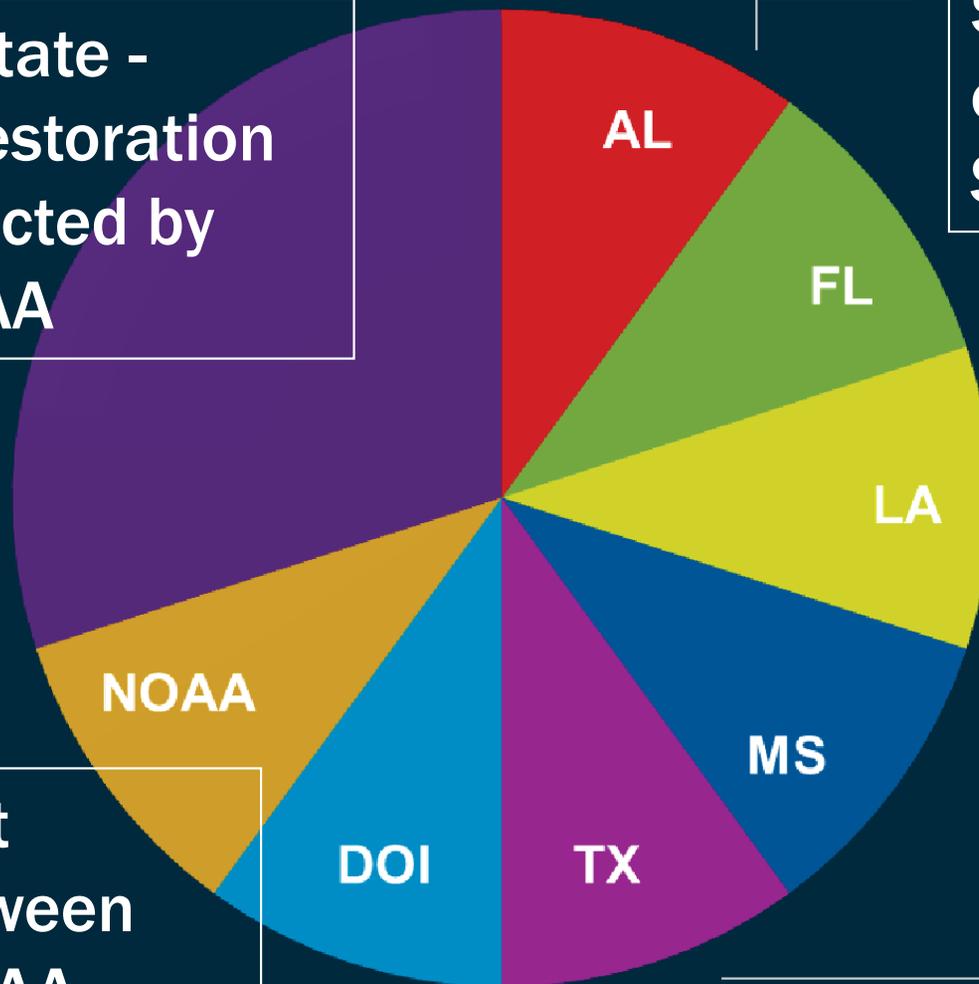
Early Restoration Overview

- ◎ \$1 billion Framework agreement for Early Restoration
- ◎ Early Restoration allows restoration projects to begin prior to NRDA completion
- ◎ Injury assessment will continue while Early Restoration planning is under way

Allocation of \$1 Billion

\$300M for state - sponsored restoration projects selected by DOI and NOAA

\$500M split equally among Gulf State Trustees



\$200M split equally between DOI and NOAA

Selection Process and Criteria Overview

- ◎ Oil Pollution Act (OPA) Regulations
- ◎ Early Restoration Framework Agreement Criteria
- ◎ Other practical considerations

Oil Pollution Act Criteria

- ◉ Cost
- ◉ Return injured resources and lost services to baseline
- ◉ Compensate for interim losses
- ◉ Likelihood of success
- ◉ Prevent future injury from incident
- ◉ Avoid collateral injury from restoration implementation
- ◉ Benefits more than one resource and/or service
- ◉ Public health and safety

Framework Agreement Criteria

- ◉ Make environment and public whole through restoration and/or compensation
- ◉ Address one or more specific injuries
- ◉ Restore resources, habitats and services of natural resources to the same or similar to those injured/lost
- ◉ Not inconsistent with long-term restoration
- ◉ Feasible and cost effective

Practical Considerations

Taken into account as appropriate:

- Prompt provision of benefits
- Diverse projects addressing array of resources
- Use of types of restoration with predictable cost and likely success
- Ready for implementation

Phase I Projects Being Implemented

Project Title	Est. Cost* <small>*not to exceed</small>
Lake Hermitage Marsh Creation – NRDA Early Restoration Project	\$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
Total Estimated Cost for Phase I Projects	\$62,054,342

Project Selection Process

Early Restoration Framework Agreement

Ongoing Public Submissions

Trustee-led Public Meetings

Public Project Solicitation
(Ongoing)

Project
Screening

Negotiation

Drafting of NEPA and
Early Restoration Plan

Public
Comment

Process
Continues

Project Implementation
and Monitoring

Draft Phase II Early Restoration Plan and Environmental Review (Plan)



Photo by: David Macri



Photo by: Blair Witherington, FWC



Draft Phase II Plan Overview

- ◎ Alternative A: No Action – Natural Recovery
- ◎ Alternative B: Proposed Early Restoration Projects
 - Each proposed project has been evaluated separately
 - All or any combination of proposed projects may move forward based on public input

Phase II Proposed Projects

Project title	Estimated cost
Comprehensive Program for Enhanced Management of Avian Breeding Habitat Injured by Response in the Florida Panhandle, Alabama, and Mississippi	\$4,658,118
Improving Habitat Injured by Spill Response: Restoring the Night Sky	\$4,321,165

Proposed Projects: Florida

- ◎ Ongoing open submissions from the public and local governments
- ◎ Focus on projects in Northwest Florida eight-county area of impact
- ◎ Practical considerations
- ◎ Address known impacts in Florida

Proposed Projects: DOI

- ◎ Consistent with the missions and statutory authorities of National Park Service and Fish and Wildlife Service
- ◎ Consistent with the enabling legislation of individual National Park and National Wildlife Refuge units
- ◎ Consistent with publicly reviewed park and refuge management plans

Beach Nesting Habitat Requirements



Photo by: Ron Mayberry

Disturbance of nesting habitat can lead to abandonment of eggs and chicks. Exposed eggs are susceptible to predators and over-heating.

Habitat including wrack line is critical for nesting birds.



Photo by: Nancy Douglass, FWC

Beach Nesting Habitat Requirements

Chicks and eggs are small and camouflaged against beach habitat making them difficult to observe



Photo by: Chris Burney, FWC



Photo by: Eva Furner

Issue: Nesting Sites for Birds Exposed to Humans and Predators

Example of at-risk shorebird eggs and nest during DWH response



Avian Breeding Habitat Injured by Response Activities

Proposed Restoration:

Prevent disturbance of nesting habitat through

- Symbolic fencing
- Predator control
- Surveillance



Completed posted area (photo by Chris Burney)

Resources benefitted:

- Habitat for beach-nesting birds

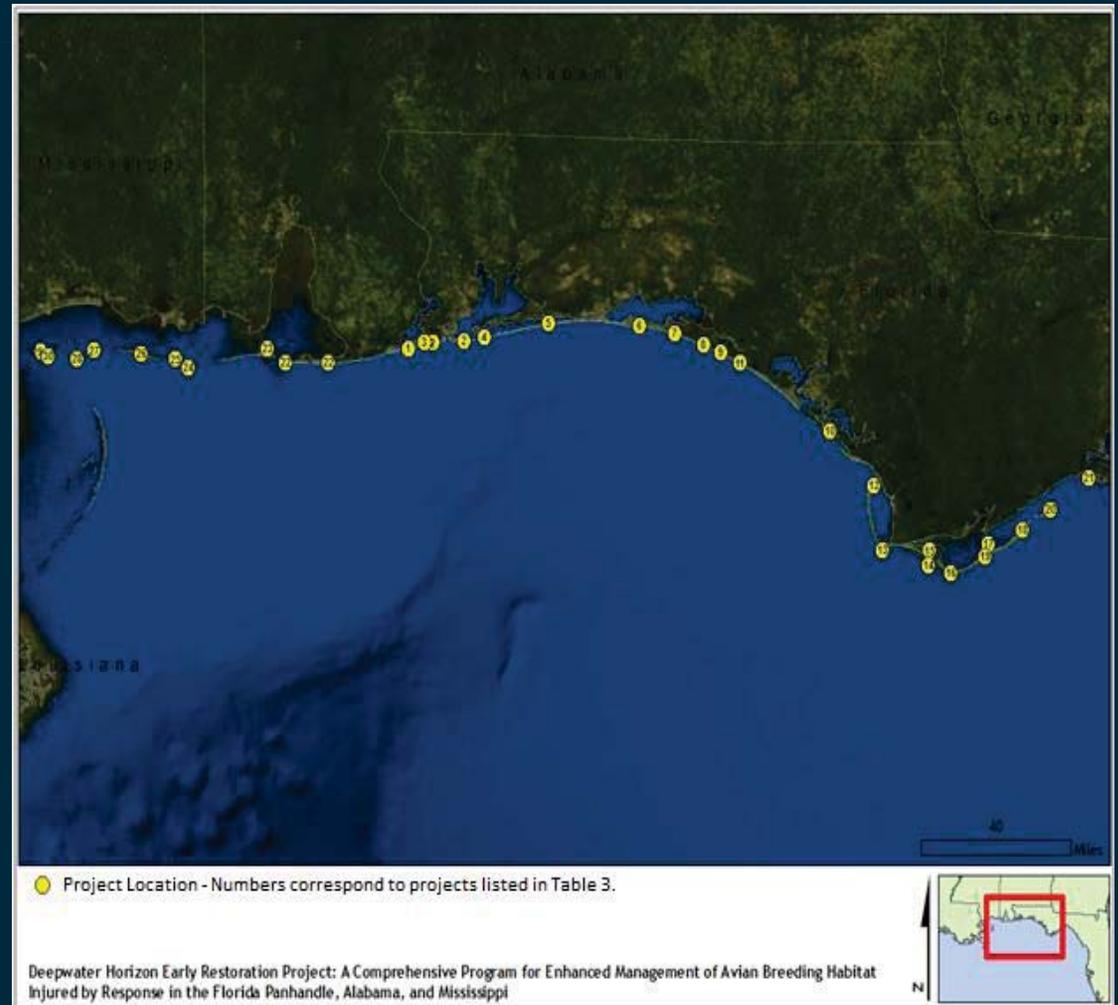
Avian Breeding Habitat Project

- ◎ Total Estimated Cost: \$4,658,000
- ◎ Project Duration: 5 years

Avian Breeding Habitat Project Areas

Location:

- Florida: Escambia, Santa Rosa, Okaloosa, Walton, Bay, and St. Vincent National Wildlife Refuge in Gulf and Franklin counties.
- Alabama: Bon Secour National Wildlife Refuge in Baldwin and Mobile counties.
- Mississippi: Gulf Islands National Seashore—Mississippi District.



Avian Breeding Habitat Injured by Response: Offsets

- Used Habitat Equivalency Analysis (HEA)
- Offsets reflect units of discounted service acre years (DSAYs) of nesting habitat for beach-nesting birds
- Total estimated offset is 1679 DSAYs
 - 1352 DSAYs in FL
 - 54 DSAYs on DOI lands in AL
 - 272 DSAYs on DOI lands in MS

Beach Nesting Habitat Requirements



Sea turtles nest at night. They abort nesting if disturbed and become disoriented by lights on the beach.



Turtles require unrestricted access to the upper beach, barriers cause them to head back to the water and abort nesting attempt.

Issue: Nesting Beaches for Sea Turtles Exposed to Lighting and Traffic at Night



Beaches were lit up at night and heavily trafficked, disrupting nesting attempts.

Improving Habitat Injured by Spill Response: Restoring the Night Sky

Proposed Restoration: Reduce artificial lighting impacts on nesting habitat for loggerhead sea turtles

Resources Benefitted: Beach nesting habitat for loggerhead sea turtles

Improving Habitat Injured by Spill Response

Impacts of light pollution controls: before and after



Reducing light on beach habitat reduces hatchling & adult disorientation. Light pollution is listed as a high threat in the loggerhead recovery plan.

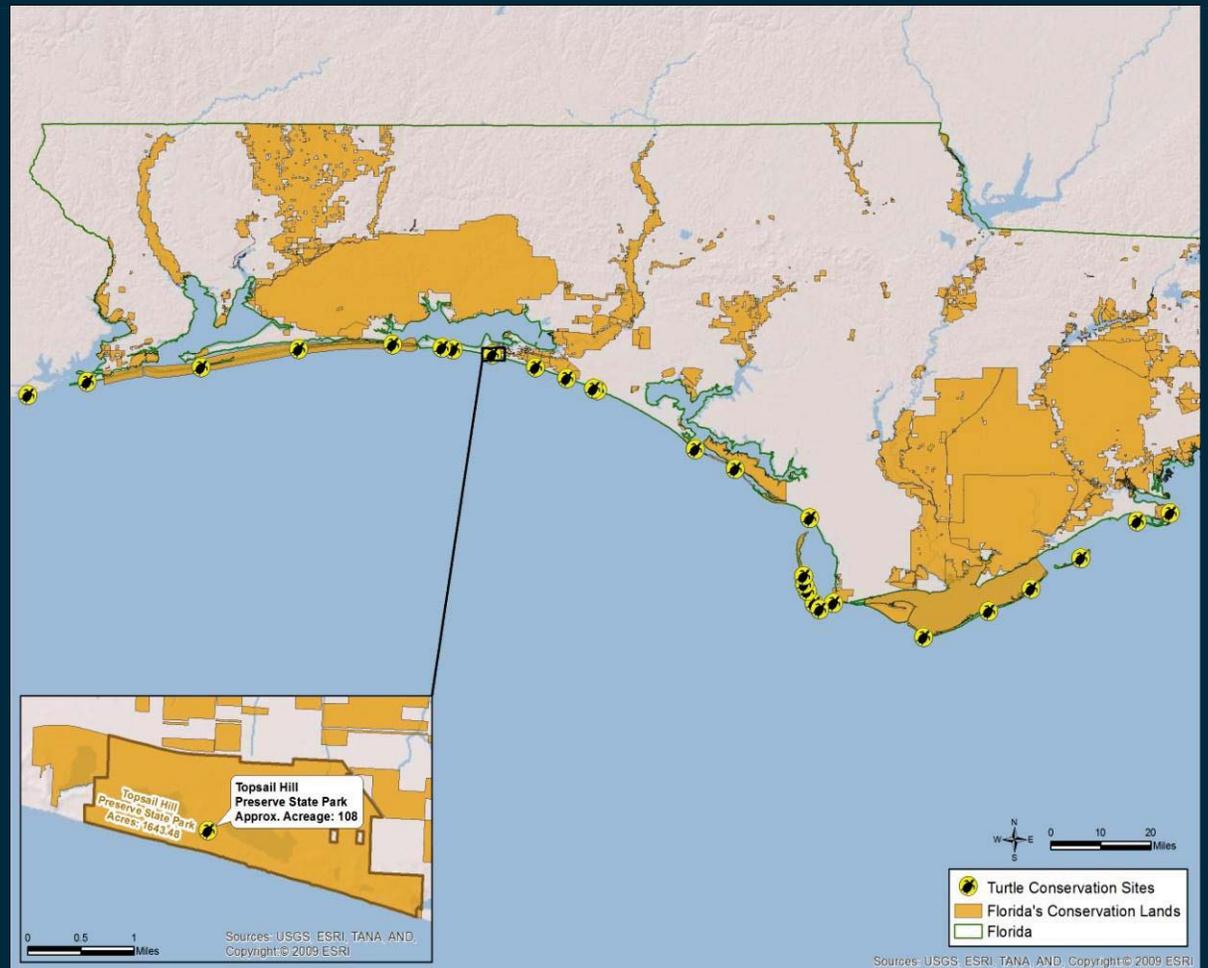
Improving Habitat Injured by Spill Response Project

- ◎ Total Estimated Costs: \$4,321,165
- ◎ Project Duration: 4 years

Improving Habitat Project Areas

Location:

- Alabama – State-owned beaches within the boundaries of the Gulf State Park in Baldwin County
- Florida – public lands and nesting beaches in Escambia, Santa Rosa, Okaloosa, Walton, Bay, Gulf, and Franklin counties



Improving Habitat Injured by Spill Response: Offsets

- ◎ Used Habitat Equivalency Analysis (HEA)
- ◎ Offsets reflect units of discounted service acre years (DSAYs) of nesting habitat for loggerhead sea turtles
- ◎ Total estimated offset is 1084 DSAYs:
 - 1053 DSAYs in FL
 - 31 DSAYs in AL

Next Steps

- Public comment period ends Dec. 10, 2012
- Trustees consider all public comments received
- Trustees finalize approved projects with BP
- The final Plan will include:
 - Any agreed-upon projects
 - Summary of public comments and Trustee responses
 - NEPA compliance for each project
- Project implementation begins

Trustee Representatives

○ Florida

- Mimi Drew – NRDA Trustee Representative
- Gil McRae – NRDA Trustee Representative

○ Alabama

- Will Brantley – NRDA Trustee Representative

○ U.S. Department of the Interior

- Debora McClain – NRDA Trustee Representative

To Submit Your Comments

- Make oral comments tonight
- Type comments into our computers at information tables
- Submit written comments tonight or mail them to:

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
P.O. Box 2099
Fairhope, AL 36533

- Visit our website at:

www.gulfspillrestoration.noaa.gov

- **Deadline for comments is December 10, 2012**

Public Comments

The purpose of tonight's meeting is to receive your comments on the proposed projects included in the Draft Phase II Early Restoration Plan and Environmental Review.

www.gulfspillrestoration.noaa.gov
www.dep.state.fl.us/deepwaterhorizon

Deadline for comments is December 10, 2012