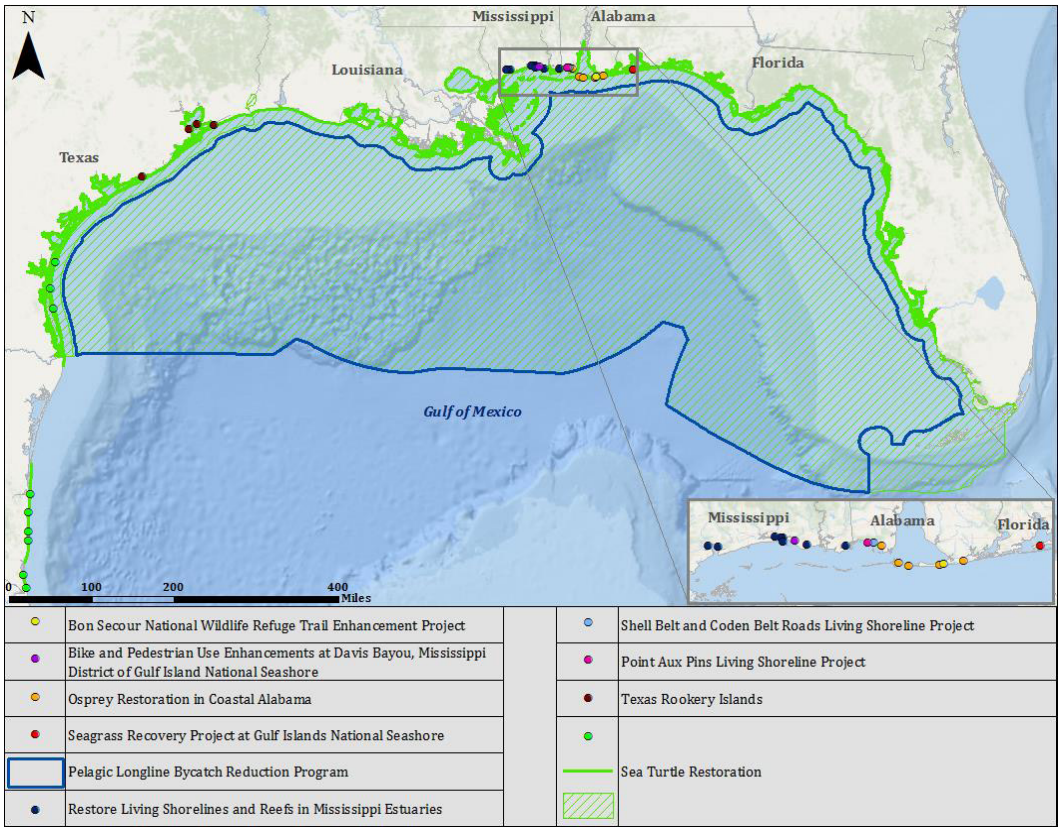
Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill Natural Resource Damage Assessment

Early Restoration - Draft Phase IV Early Restoration Plan and Environmental Assessments

On May 20, 2015, the *Deepwater Horizon* Natural Resource Damage Assessment Trustees published the Draft Phase IV Early Restoration Plan and Environmental Assessments. It is available for public review and comment through June 19, 2015. The draft plan proposes 10 projects that have a combined estimated cost of $134 million. The proposed projects would benefit sea turtles, birds, and fish; increase recreational opportunities; and improve nearshore and reef habitats.

The full draft Phase IV plan can be viewed at **www.gulfspillrestoration.noaa.gov** and at Gulf community locations (listed on the website). Comments can be made through June 19 at public meetings, online, or mailed to U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, P.O. Box 49567, Atlanta, GA 30345.



Proposed Projects	Location	Estimated Cost
Osprey Restoration in Coastal Alabama	AL	$45,000
Point aux Pins Living Shoreline	AL	$2,300,000
Shell Belt and Coden Belt Roads Living Shoreline	AL	$8,050,000
Bon Secour National Wildlife Refuge Trail Enhancement	AL	$545,110
Seagrass Recovery at Gulf Islands National Seashore	FL	$136,700

Proposed Projects	Location	Estimated Cost
Bike and Pedestrian Use Enhancements at Davis Bayou, Gulf Islands National Seashore	MS	$6,967,000
Restoring Living Shorelines and Reefs in Mississippi Estuaries	MS	$30,000,000
Texas Rookery Islands– Galveston Bay and East Matagorda Bay	TX	$20,603,770
Sea Turtle Early Restoration	Gulf-wide	$45,000,000
Pelagic Longline Bycatch Reduction	Gulf-wide	$20,000,000

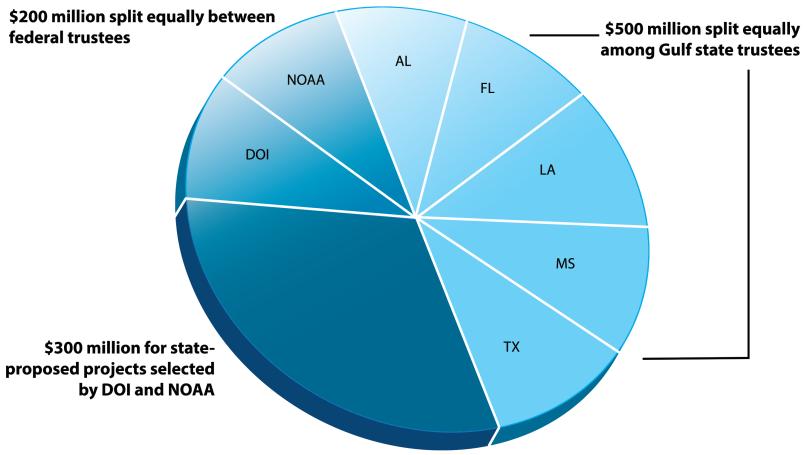
Early Restoration for the *Deepwater Horizon* Oil Spill

On April 21, 2011, an agreement was announced under which BP committed to provide up to $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 resources.

These early restoration funds are divided as shown below:

- $500 million split equally among Florida, Alabama, Mississippi, Louisiana, and Texas
- $200 million split equally between NOAA and the U.S. Department of the Interior (DOI)
- $300 million to fund additional state-proposed restoration projects selected by NOAA and DOI



Allocation of $1 billion early restoration agreement

Early Restoration Phases I – III

Prior to Phase IV, the Trustees approved three early restoration plans, which together include 54 projects across the Gulf at a combined estimated cost of $698 million. The Trustees have also approved a Programmatic Early Restoration Plan and a Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement, which identifies 12 types of projects that are most suitable for implementation during early restoration.

The Early Restoration Programmatic Early Restoration Plan and Environmental Impact Statement informed the Trustees decisions in selecting the proposed projects for the draft Phase IV Early Restoration Plan.

Early Restoration Project Types

- Create and improve wetlands
- Protect shorelines and reduce erosion
- Restore barrier islands and beaches
- Restore and protect submerged aquatic vegetation
- Conserve habitat
- Restore oysters
- Restore and protect finfish and shellfish
- Restore and protect birds
- Restore and protect sea turtles
- Enhance public access to natural resources for recreational use
- Enhance recreational experiences
- Promote environmental and cultural stewardship, education and outreach