



# 2017 Annual Report to Congress

Gulf Coast ecosystem Restoration Council



**DRAFT**

# **2017 Annual Report to Congress**

## **Gulf Coast Ecosystem Restoration Council**

**Calendar Year 2017**

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## Table of Contents

<b>Letter from the Acting Executive Director</b>	2
<b>Gulf Coast Ecosystem Restoration Council Members</b>	4
<b>Background on the RESTORE Act</b>	5
<b>Council-Selected Restoration Component Accomplishments</b>	6
Background	6
Promoting Coordination and Collaboration	8
Awarding Funds for Restoration Projects and Programs	9
Making Projects “Shovel-Ready”	11
Sub-Awards to Non-Governmental Organizations	12
Enhancing Environmental Compliance Efficiency through Interagency Collaboration	14
<b>Spill Impact Component Accomplishments</b>	15
Background	15
Approving State Expenditure Plans	15
Awarding Funds for SEP Implementation	16
Assisting the Development of State Expenditure Plans	16
<b>Administrative Accomplishments</b>	17
Enhancing Efficiency of the Grant System	17
Department of Treasury Audits	18
Freedom of Information Act Requests	19
<b>Centers of Excellence Accomplishments</b>	19
Background	19
Texas Commission on Environmental Quality	20
Louisiana Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority	21
Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality	22
Alabama Gulf Coast Recovery Council	22
Florida Institute of Oceanography	23
<b>Summary</b>	23
<b>Appendix 1: All Council Funding Awards</b>	25
Council-Selected Restoration Component Awards	25
Spill Impact Component Awards	29

## Letter from the Acting Executive Director

The Gulf Coast Ecosystem Restoration Council (Council) hereby submits its 2017 Annual Report to Congress. The Council was created by the Resources and Ecosystems Sustainability, Tourist Opportunities, and Revived Economies of the Gulf Coast States Act (RESTORE Act) in 2012 as an independent federal agency charged with administering a portion of the civil settlements associated with the *Deepwater Horizon* oil spill. Consisting of the five Gulf Coast states (States) and six federal agencies, the Council's mission is to implement a comprehensive plan for the ecological and economic recovery of the Gulf Coast.

The funds administered by the Council offer a rare opportunity to address ecosystem and economic needs in a way that provides sustainable benefits to communities across the Gulf. To that end, the Council must be methodical in choosing its investments, efficient in implementing them, and diligent in financial management. In 2017, the Council made substantial progress toward developing future projects and programs, expediting existing investments, and effectively managing its funds. The Council has accomplished these while maintaining an administrative expense rate below 3%.

To date, the Council has approved approximately \$771 million in ecosystem restoration projects and programs across the Gulf. This sum represents funds approved under both the Council-Selected Restoration Component and the Spill Impact Component of the RESTORE Act (explained in further detail in our report). After funding for an activity is approved by the Council, it is disbursed to the sponsoring Council member via an award in the form of a grant (for States) or an interagency agreement (for federal member agencies). To date, the Council has awarded approximately \$122 million from the foregoing funding sources to its members and the Gulf Consortium of Florida Counties to support an array of restoration activities across the Gulf Coast, including investments in habitat conservation, oyster restoration, water quality, planning, science and more. These investments, though substantial, represent only a portion of the total funding available to the Council in the coming years. It is critical that while the Council administers these awarded funds it also builds a strong foundation for future success.

The Council's 2016 Comprehensive Plan update recognized that future success depends upon collaboration among Council members, other Gulf restoration funding partners and the public. Collaboration is needed to break down potential bureaucratic stovepipes and leverage resources to ensure the greatest possible benefit from the Council's investments. Congress established the structure for this collaboration by creating a Council comprised of the States and six federal agencies. To realize the full potential of this structure, in 2017 the Council developed a proposal to use a small portion of its Council-Selected Restoration Component funding for planning, collaboration and related actions to help identify and develop the best ideas for future funding. After reviewing public input, this proposal as well as a response to

public comments were finalized in September of 2017. In January 2018, the Council approved these planning funds.

As it looks to the future, the Council continuously reviews its past activities in order to enhance the efficiency and effectiveness of its operations. The 2016 Comprehensive Plan update was based on the lessons learned from an internal and public review of the Council's first round of funding decisions. In 2017, the Council conducted a similar review of the way in which it disburses funds to its State and federal members. The Council is using the findings of this review to expedite the disbursement of funds to its members. In addition, the Council has continued to receive unqualified ("clean") audits of its financial and other activities.

On behalf of the Council, I am pleased to submit this Annual Report to Congress outlining our progress over the past twelve months. The Council remains committed to maintaining active communication with Congress. Please contact us at any time with your thoughts, suggestions or questions. Thank you for your continued leadership and support in restoring the Gulf Coast region.

Ben Scaggs  
Executive Director (Acting)

## Gulf Coast Ecosystem Restoration Council Members

### **Chair**

#### **Environmental Protection Agency**

Scott Pruitt  
Administrator

#### **State of Alabama**

Kay Ivey  
Governor

#### **Department of the Army**

Mark T. Esper  
Secretary

#### **State of Florida**

Rick Scott  
Governor

#### **Department of Commerce**

Wilbur Ross  
Secretary

#### **State of Louisiana**

John Bel Edwards  
Governor

#### **Department of Homeland Security**

Kirstjen Nielsen  
Secretary

#### **State of Mississippi**

Phil Bryant  
Governor

#### **Department of the Interior**

Ryan Zinke  
Secretary

#### **State of Texas**

Greg Abbott  
Governor

#### **Department of Agriculture**

Sonny Perdue  
Secretary

## Background on the RESTORE Act

The Gulf Coast environment was significantly injured by the 2010 *Deepwater Horizon* oil spill, as well as by past and ongoing human actions. Restoring an area as large and complex as the Gulf Coast region is a costly, multi-generational undertaking. Gulf habitats are continually degraded and lost due to development, infrastructure, sea-level rise, altered riverine processes, ocean acidification, salinity changes and other human-caused factors. Water quality in the coastal and marine environments is degraded by upstream pollution and hydrologic alterations spanning multiple States and involving the watersheds of large and small rivers alike. Stocks of marine and estuarine species are depleted by over-utilization and conflicting resource use. Some of the region's environmental problems such as wetland loss and hypoxia span areas the size of some U.S. states. This degradation represents a serious risk to the cultural, social and economic benefits derived from the Gulf ecosystem.

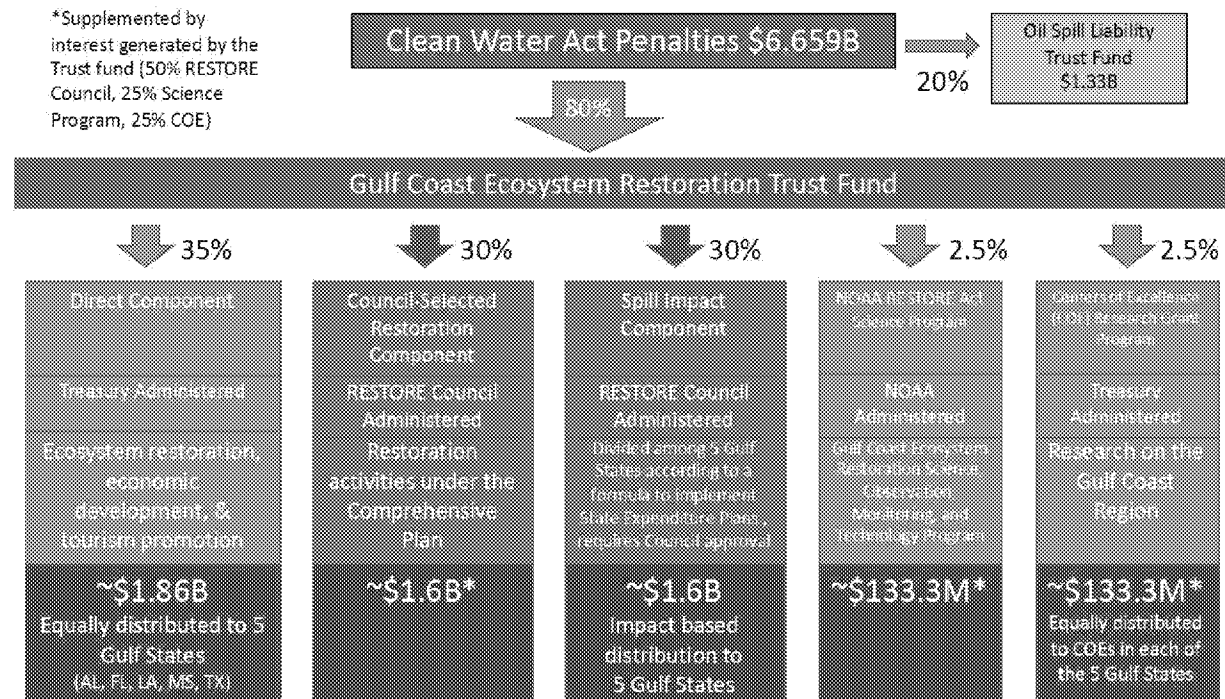
Spurred by the *Deepwater Horizon* oil spill, the Resources and Ecosystems Sustainability, Tourist Opportunities, and Revived Economies of the Gulf Coast States Act of 2012, or the RESTORE Act, was signed into law by President Obama on July 6, 2012. The Act calls for a regional approach to restoring the long-term health of the natural ecosystems and economy of the Gulf Coast region. The RESTORE Act dedicates 80 percent of civil and administrative penalties paid under the Clean Water Act (CWA), after the date of enactment, by responsible parties in connection with the *Deepwater Horizon* oil spill to the Gulf Coast Restoration Trust Fund (Trust Fund) for ecosystem restoration, economic recovery and tourism promotion in the Gulf Coast region. Established by the Act, the Gulf Coast Ecosystem Restoration Council (Council) is comprised of the Governors of the five Gulf Coast States (States), the Secretaries of the U.S. Departments of the Interior, Army, Commerce, Agriculture and Homeland Security, and the Administrator of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). The Administrator of the EPA currently serves as the Council's Chairperson.

The resolution of civil claim totals for entities held responsible for the *Deepwater Horizon* oil spill will yield more than \$20 billion, the largest civil penalties ever awarded under any environmental statute, and the largest recovery of damages for injuries to natural resources of the United States. Of these penalties, the RESTORE Act will provide \$5.33 billion (80 percent of \$6.659 billion, plus interest) to the Trust Fund, consisting of 80 percent of the following: \$1 billion (plus interest) in civil penalties from Transocean Deepwater Inc. and related entities for violating the CWA in relation to their conduct in the *Deepwater Horizon* oil spill; \$159.5 million from a civil fine paid by Anadarko Petroleum Corporation; and \$5.5 billion (plus interest) from BP Exploration and Production, Inc. (BP) for a CWA civil penalty under the April 4, 2016 consent decree (Consent Decree), payable over a fifteen-year period (Figure 1).

The Council has oversight of the expenditure of 60 percent of the Trust Fund (green highlighted areas, Figure 1). Under the Council-Selected Restoration Component, 30 percent of available funding is administered for Gulf-wide ecosystem restoration and protection according to the Council's Comprehensive Plan. Under the Spill Impact Component, 30 percent is allocated to the States. The remaining funds are allocated as follows: 35 percent under the Direct Component,

divided equally among the five Gulf States for ecological and economic restoration; 2.5 percent to a National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Science Component (plus 25 percent of interest earned) dedicated to the Gulf Coast Ecosystem Restoration Science, Observation, Monitoring and Technology Program; and 2.5 percent to a Centers of Excellence Component (plus 25 percent of interest earned) dedicated to the Centers of Excellence Research Grants Program.

Figure 1. Allocation of the Gulf Coast Restoration Trust Fund based on settlements with BP, Transocean and Anadarko; RESTORE Council oversight components are highlighted in green.



## Council-Selected Restoration Component Accomplishments

### Background

Pursuant to the RESTORE Act, the Council approved an Initial Comprehensive Plan in 2013, setting forth goals and objectives for advancing comprehensive Gulf restoration. In 2015, the Council approved its first list of restoration projects and programs to be carried out under the Council-Selected Restoration Component. This list, called the Initial Funded Priorities List (or Initial FPL), consisted of \$156.6 million in restoration activities in 10 key watersheds as well as several Gulf-wide programs. After approving the Initial FPL, the Council began disbursing funds to its members to implement the projects and programs listed therein. The Council also conducted a thorough internal and public review of the process it used to select projects and programs in this first round of funding. The goal of this review was to apply lessons learned from the initial selection process to subsequent funding decisions.

The funding for the Initial FPL came from the settlement of CWA civil penalties against Transocean Deepwater Inc. and related entities. When it approved the Initial FPL, the Council did not know the amount and timing of additional funding that could come from the ongoing litigation with BP. In 2016, the entry of the Consent Decree meant that the amount and timing of that funding was now known.

In 2016, the Council updated its Comprehensive Plan in light of this new funding information and the lessons learned in the review of its Initial FPL. The [Comprehensive Plan update](#) emphasizes the importance of coordination and collaboration among the Council members and with other programs in order to leverage resources and maximize the effectiveness of available restoration funding. The 2016 Comprehensive Plan update also commits to enhancing public engagement and the use of best available science to support a holistic approach to Gulf restoration. These commitments are intended ensure that future Council investments provide the greatest possible ecological return. Following is a list of the specific commitments made in the Comprehensive Plan update (Table 1).

Table 1. Council Commitments from the 2016 Comprehensive Plan Update.

Topic	Commitment
<b>Development of Funded Priority Lists</b>	Take a holistic approach to restoration
	Continue to improve FPL Submission Guidelines
	Adopt the watershed/estuary-based approach as a strategic planning principle for future FPL development
	Healthy and sustainable ecosystems are essential for thriving and resilient coastal communities
	Encourage partnerships and additional public and private financial and technical support to maximize outcomes and impacts
	Identify and leverage new sources of funding to support current and future restoration work by exploring creative conservation funding
	Refine the Council processes for considering public input on draft FPLs before finalizing changes to the final FPL

Topic	Commitment
<b>Development of Funded Priority Lists</b>	Project evaluation and selection will be conducted in the most open manner feasible
	Update and improve the process for applying best available science to FPL proposals, including exploring the use of one or more science review panels
<b>Collaboration and Coordination</b>	Sponsor and participate in meetings and workshops in 2017 and into 2018
	Facilitate meaningful engagement with range of stakeholders
	Maximize outcomes by leveraging funds and expertise
	Coordination and collaboration among members and our restoration partners is critical to the success of Gulf restoration
	Coordinate regulatory efforts across Council membership
<b>Science</b>	Decisions made pursuant to the FPL will be based on the best available science
	The Council recognizes the importance of measuring outcomes and impacts in order to achieve tangible results and ensure that funds are invested in a meaningful way

### Promoting Coordination and Collaboration

It is now incumbent upon the Council to meet these commitments. Prior to 2017, no designated funding stream existed to support Council member efforts to plan and coordinate restoration activities under the Council-Selected Restoration Component. Historically, Council members had to rely upon general, tax-generated or appropriated funds to support their work on matters such as FPL development and the Comprehensive Plan update.

To address this challenge, in 2017 the Council developed the Comprehensive Plan Commitment and Planning Support FPL (CPS FPL). The CPS FPL, officially approved by the Council in January 2018, is intended to ensure that Council members have the resources needed to develop highly effective projects and programs for future funding under the Council-Selected Restoration Component. Under the CPS FPL, each of the eleven Council members may apply for up to

\$500,000 per year for up to three years and up to \$300,000 per year for two years thereafter. This equals up to \$23.1 million, or 1.44% of the total funds available (not including interest) in the Council-Selected Restoration Component. As with the Initial FPL, the CPS FPL includes a clause that incentivizes savings and efficiency by enabling the Council to apply unused planning funds to projects and programs sponsored by the member that achieves the savings.

The CPS FPL funding will provide the necessary resources for Council members to stimulate and encourage the coordination and collaboration necessary to achieve the commitments of the Comprehensive Plan. Specifically, the CPS FPL funding will provide funds necessary for members to:

- Strengthen ecosystem restoration proposals for future FPL(s) under the Council-Selected Restoration Component;
- Enhance the efficiency of future FPL development processes; and
- Facilitate long-term planning and leveraging efforts across funding streams.

The Council believes that investing a relatively small amount of time and resources in planning can ensure that restoration projects selected for funding will yield greater ecosystem benefits in the future. The Council will review the effectiveness of this funding at year four and consider whether extending planning and commitment support efforts beyond the five-year period is needed to continue to meet the Comprehensive Plan commitments.

#### Awarding Funds for Restoration Projects and Programs

In addition to the ongoing coordination and planning activities to support future investments, the Council has also worked to expedite the funding of the approximately \$156.6 million in ecosystem restoration projects and programs approved in the Initial FPL. In 2017, the Council awarded funds for thirteen Initial FPL projects, totaling \$62.14 million. This is in addition to the 2016 awards for ten Initial FPL projects totaling \$34.38 million. The Initial FPL activities awarded funds in 2017 are listed below, along with links to additional information (including the projected duration of each activity).

#### **Bayou Greenways (Planning & Implementation)**

Location: Texas

Sponsor: Texas Commission on Environmental Quality

Award amount: \$7,109,000.00

Additional information is available [here](#)

#### **Bayou Dularge Ridge, Marsh & Hydrologic Restoration (Planning)**

Location: Louisiana

Sponsor: Department of Agriculture/Natural Resources Conservation Service

Award amount: \$5,162,084.00

Additional information is available [here](#)

**Mississippi River Reintroduction into Maurepas Swamp (Planning)**

Location: Louisiana

Sponsor: Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority of Louisiana

Award amount: \$14,190,000.00

Additional information is available [here](#)

**Mobile Bay National Estuary Program (Planning)**

Location: Alabama

Sponsor: Environmental Protection Agency

Award amount: \$358,000.00

Additional information is available [here](#)

**Beach Haven - Joint Stormwater & Wastewater Improvement - Phase II (Implementation)**

Location: Florida

Sponsor: Florida Department of Environmental Protection

Award amount: \$5,967,000.00

Additional information is available [here](#)

**Bayou Chico Contaminated Sediment Removal - Planning, Design, and Permitting (Planning)**

Location: Florida

Sponsor: Florida Department of Environmental Protection

Award amount: \$356,850.00

Additional information is available [here](#)

**Apalachicola Bay Oyster Restoration (Implementation)**

Location: Florida

Sponsor: Florida Department of Environmental Protection

Award amount: \$4,680,000.00

Additional information is available [here](#)

**Apalachicola Watershed Agriculture Water Quality Improvements (Implementation)**

Location: Florida

Sponsor: Florida Department of Environmental Protection

Award amount: \$2,219,856.00

Additional information is available [here](#)

**Suwannee River Partnership Irrigation Water Enhancement Program (Implementation)**

Location: Florida

Sponsor: Florida Department of Environmental Protection

Award amount: \$2,884,000.00

Additional information is available [here](#)

**Tate's Hell Strategy 1 (Planning & Implementation)**

Location: Florida

Sponsor: Department of Agriculture

Award amount: \$7,000,000.00

Additional information is available [here](#)

**Council Monitoring and Assessment Program**

Location: Gulfwide

Co-sponsor: Department of the Interior/U.S. Geological Survey

Award amount: \$1,175,000.00

Co-sponsor: Department of the Commerce/NOAA National Centers for Coastal Ocean Science

Award amount: \$1,700,000.00

Additional information is available [here](#)

**Gulf of Mexico Habitat Restoration via Conservation Corps Partnership**

Location: Gulfwide

Sponsor: U.S. Department of Commerce/NOAA Restoration Center

Award amount: \$7,500,000.00

Additional information is available [here](#)

**Strategic Conservation Assessment of Gulf Coast Landscapes**

Location: Gulfwide

Sponsor: Department of the Interior/U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Award amount: \$1,842,583.00

Additional information is available [here](#)

These projects and programs support planning, implementation and science activities that will provide on-the-ground ecological benefits to key Gulf watersheds, develop shovel-ready projects, and help build a strong science foundation for future decision-making. In 2018, the Council will continue to award funds for activities on the Initial FPL, while also conducting technical and financial oversight of existing awards.

**Making Projects "Shovel-Ready"**

In addition to approving funds for specific projects and programs, the Initial FPL also lists activities the Council has identified as priorities for potential future funding. This category of activities (referred to as Category 2 activities) are projects and programs the Council believes have merit, but which were not ready for implementation funding because the requisite environmental compliance had not been completed. The Council set aside a pool of available funds for potential use on Category 2 activities, pending Council approval. The Council also approved planning funds to address the environmental laws applicable to these Category 2

activities. Once these laws have been addressed for a Category 2 activity, the Council can vote to approve funding for that activity through an amendment to the Initial FPL. Such a vote only occurs after public comments have been considered by the Council.

The Council is committed to efficient, effective and transparent environmental compliance processes for its activities, including those in Category 2. With major federal regulatory agencies among its members, the Council was well positioned to efficiently address the environmental compliance needs for a number of Category 2 projects in 2017. By reviewing and adopting existing National Environmental Policy Act documentation developed by member agencies, the Council has been able to approve implementation funding for two Category 2 projects in 2017. This efficiency has enabled the Council to save over \$187,750 that was previously committed to the planning phase of these projects. These funds were re-allocated to project implementation, thereby increasing on-the-ground ecological benefits. Below are the Category 2 projects that were approved for funding in 2017.

#### **Tampa Bay Estuary Program**

Location: Florida

Sponsor: Environmental Protection Agency

Funding approved: \$1,544,960

Additional information is available [here](#)

#### **Palm River Restoration Project Phase II, East McKay Bay Project I**

Location: Florida

Sponsor: Florida

Funding approved: \$856,430

Additional information is available [here](#)

In 2017 the Council also amended the Initial FPL to allocate the \$9,300,000 in approved funding for the Lowermost Mississippi River Management project to the State of Louisiana. (The Initial FPL originally had this funding equally allocated between the State of Louisiana and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.) In addition, the Council amended the Initial FPL to modify the potential acquisition and conservation boundary for the Mississippi program entitled “Strategic Land Protection, Conservation, and Enhancement of Priority Gulf Coast” and the geographic area for beneficial use planning for potential future marsh restoration activities under the “Texas Beneficial Use/Marsh Restoration (Planning)” project.

#### **Sub-Awards to Non-Governmental Organizations**

The RESTORE Act requires that, for purposes of awards made under the Council-Selected Restoration Component, a State or federal award recipient may make a grant or subaward to or enter into a cooperative agreement with a non-governmental entity that equals or exceeds 10 percent of the total amount of the award provided to the State or federal award recipient only

if certain notice requirements are met. The Council has provided notice in advance of each such proposed subaward through the *Federal Register* and to specified Congressional Committees. In addition, the Council must include the name, purpose and amount of each qualifying subaward in its Annual Report to Congress. The below table provides the required information.

Table 2. 2017 Subawards to Nongovernmental Entities That Exceed 10 Percent of an Award

Name of Subrecipient	Purpose and Amount of Subaward
The Nature Conservancy (TNC)	Under a grant from the Council, the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) is implementing the Bahia Grande Coastal Corridor Implementation project, through which 1,852 acres of land will be conserved through fee title acquisition from willing sellers and added to a 105,000 acre corridor of conservation lands that includes the Laguna Atascosa National Wildlife Refuge (NWR), Boca Chica State Park and the Lower Rio Grande Valley NWR. Through a subaward in the amount of \$4,363,391, TNC will acquire three properties in the Bahia Grande Coastal Corridor, which are expected to ultimately become part of the Laguna Atascosa NWR. These properties will connect Laguna Atascosa NWR, Lower Rio Grande Valley NWR, and Boca Chica State Park, as well as over 2 million acres of intact habitat on private ranchland with the 1.3 million acre Rio Bravo Protected Area. Notice of this subaward was originally published in the <i>Federal Register</i> on November 23, 2016 (81 FR 84581).
Gulf of Mexico Alliance (GOMA)	Under an interagency agreement (IAA) with the Council, the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS), Department of the Interior and NOAA are jointly administering the Council Monitoring and Assessment Program (CMAP) to build the foundational components for Gulf region-wide monitoring in order to measure impacts of investments in restoration. Through a subaward from NOAA in the amount of \$525,000, GOMA will coordinate the Monitoring Community of Practice to leverage existing resources, capacities, and expertise and build on existing monitoring programs. These existing programs will be coordinated into a network, to provide efficiency in monitoring and collaborative cross-program review of performance with other Gulf ecosystem recovery efforts. Notice of this subaward was originally published in the <i>Federal Register</i> on March 14, 2017 (82 FR 13607), with a correction posted on April 14, 2017 (82 FR 17995).
The Houston Parks Board (HPB)	Under a grant from the Council, the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) is implementing the Bayou Greenways Planning and Implementation project, which supports the larger Bayou Greenways Initiative, which has the long-term goal of preserving and restoring 4,000 acres of riparian buffer corridors along

Name of Subrecipient	Purpose and Amount of Subaward
	<p>the major waterways (bayous and creeks) running predominately through Harris County and the City of Houston. Through a subaward in the amount of \$7,085,022, HPB will purchase and conserve approximately 80 to 100 acres of land through fee title acquisition from willing sellers. HPB intends to transfer title of acquired lands to the Houston Parks and Recreation Department for preservation in perpetuity as parkland. Notice of this subaward was originally published in the <i>Federal Register</i> on June 1, 2017 (82 FR 25289).</p>
The Nature Conservancy (TNC)	<p>Under an IAA with the Council, NOAA is implementing the Gulf of Mexico Habitat Restoration via Conservation Corps Partnership (GulfCorps) program, which is designed to contribute to meaningful Gulf Coast ecosystem restoration, while economically benefiting coastal communities by providing education, training, and opportunities to workers to implement conservation projects. Through a subaward in the amount of \$7,000,000, TNC will recruit and train GulfCorps participants who will be mobilized to provide labor on selected coastal restoration projects in each Gulf State. Projects may include invasive species removal, shoreline protection and enhancement, riparian restoration, debris removal, revegetation, reef restoration, and habitat monitoring and conservation. Notice of this subaward was originally published in the <i>Federal Register</i> on June 29, 2017 (82 FR 29565).</p>

Enhancing Environmental Compliance Efficiency through Interagency Collaboration

The Gulf Coast Interagency Environmental Restoration Working Group (GCIERWG) is a standing workgroup whose purpose is to achieve more effective and efficient environmental review and permitting of Gulf restoration projects across ecosystem restoration funding streams through early and consistent interagency coordination and prioritization of restoration efforts. This workgroup was formed in recognition of the critical need for increased regulatory collaboration to deliver timely restoration implementation. The GCIERWG is currently led by NOAA and is comprised of representation from the U.S. Departments of Army, Agriculture, Commerce, Interior, and the Environmental Protection Agency with facilitation by Council staff. The group coordinates through standing monthly interagency working group conference calls with follow-up as needed.

In 2017, the GCIERWG spearheaded a new interagency regulatory clearinghouse pilot effort to demonstrate the utility of a voluntary regulatory efficiency approach that engages field level technical review of restoration projects at the earliest possible stages to make the regulatory process collaborative and by applying efficiency tools to facilitate effective and expeditious

environmental compliance. Two FPL planning projects were selected as pilots: the Pensacola Bay Living Shoreline – Phase 1 project sponsored by the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (additional information available [here](#)) and the Golden Triangle Marsh Creation project sponsored by the Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority of Louisiana (additional information available [here](#)). Regulatory contacts for each project were identified, and project kick-off meetings were completed this year. As the planning and design begins for these projects in 2018, the GCIERWG will continue to engage through these pilot efforts, evaluating their utility for future applicability and potential expansion as staffing resources allow.

## Spill Impact Component Accomplishments

### Background

In addition to the Council-Selected Restoration Component funding, the remaining 30 percent of the Trust Fund under the Council's purview is allocated to the States under the Spill Impact Component, according to a formula established by the Council and implemented through a regulation. These funds are spent according to individual State Expenditure Plans (SEPs) that contribute to the overall economic and ecological recovery of the Gulf. The SEPs must adhere to four basic criteria set forth in the RESTORE Act and are subject to approval by the Council in accordance with those criteria. On December 15, 2015, the Council published the Spill Impact Component regulation, which set forth allocation for each State. These allocations became effective on April 12, 2016, following entry of the Consent Decree.

### Approving State Expenditure Plans

In 2017, the Council approved SEPs for Louisiana and Mississippi, representing approximately \$600,000,000 in coastal restoration investments. The Louisiana SEP, approved on March, 23, 2017, provides approximately \$551,500,000 in Spill Impact Component funding to support coastal restoration activities in the State's Coastal Master Plan. The Louisiana SEP includes four elements:

- 1. The Houma Navigation Canal Lock Complex (\$366 million)**
- 2. Adaptive Management (\$60.9 million)**
- 3. The Parish Matching Opportunities Program (\$100 million)**
- 4. Contingency funds (\$24.6 million)**

This SEP will need to be amended when funding approval is sought by Louisiana for specific activities in the third element, the Parish Matching Opportunities Program.

The Mississippi SEP, approved on April 13, 2017, provides approximately \$49,800,000 in Spill Impact Component funding to support coastal restoration activities. The Mississippi SEP includes three elements:

- 1. The Mississippi Gulf Coast Water Quality Improvement Program (\$45 million)**
- 2. Pascagoula Oyster Reef Complex Relay and Enhancement (\$3.5 million)**
- 3. Compatibility, Coordination, and Restoration Planning (\$1.3 million)**

#### Awarding Funds for SEP Implementation

Once a SEP is approved, funding for activities in the SEP is disbursed to the respective State via Council grants when the requisite funds become available in the Trust Fund and upon application by the State. As part of the grant process, all activities for which funding is sought are carefully reviewed to ensure consistency with the approved SEP and compliance with the RESTORE Act and all other applicable requirements. Funding for implementation activities is disbursed to the State after verification of compliance with all applicable federal environmental and other laws. Funding for planning activities in the SEP will be disbursed after verification of a direct relationship to the Spill Impact Component criteria.

In 2017, the Council awarded \$19.76 million in grant funding for implementation of the Texas Planning State Expenditure Plan (PSEP) and a portion of Louisiana's Adaptive Management project.

#### **Texas Planning State Expenditure Plan**

Location: Texas

Sponsor: Texas Commission on Environmental Quality

Award amount: \$292,503.00

Additional information is available [here](#)

#### **Adaptive Management**

Location: Louisiana

Sponsor: Louisiana Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority

Award amount: \$19,467,855.50

Additional information is available [here](#)

#### Assisting the Development of State Expenditure Plans

In 2017, the Council continued to work with other State members to assist with the ongoing development of their respective SEPs. The Florida Consortium of Counties, the designated entity responsible for development of the Florida SEP, has been awarded planning funds to

prepare a SEP that addresses the needs of its 23-county membership. The Council worked with the Consortium of Counties to help ensure that its SEP will meet the legal requirements of the RESTORE Act and that the future Council review of the SEP is as smooth and expeditious as possible. The Council also worked with Texas in the aftermath of Hurricane Harvey, providing guidance on how its SEP could address ecosystem and economic impacts of the storm and include elements that could help improve coastal resilience.

## Administrative Accomplishments

To best serve the communities of the Gulf Coast region, the Council carries out its activities to implement the Comprehensive Plan and accomplish the requirements of the RESTORE Act in an effective and efficient manner, at the minimum cost possible to maximize the funds available for restoration projects and programs. The Council has managed its fiscal resources through a strategy of incremental growth corresponding to the development of its Council-Selected Restoration Component and the Spill Impact Component programs. While a significant amount of unreimbursed support was provided to the Council staff by many of its members in the first several years, the Council is now operating on a steady-state basis.

During fiscal years 2013 through 2015 the Council developed its administrative and programmatic infrastructure by establishing its headquarters office in New Orleans; developing and implementing its core administrative systems including finance, budget, accounting, procurement, travel, records management and IT systems; acquiring and deploying its website and automated grants management system; and implementation of its grant, science, and environmental compliance programs.

During FY 2016 the Council completed an enterprise risk management (ERM) analysis and risk profile, and in FY 2017 the Council implemented the ERM program to ensure that the Council mitigates high risk areas identified through that analysis. Internal controls have been and continue to be a major consideration in the development and continued refinement of the Council's policies and procedures and automated systems. Administrative, finance, accounting, grants and interagency agreement policies and procedures have been developed and documented and continue to be refined. Post-award grants management and oversight procedures have been developed to mitigate the risk of improper payments and address risks identified in the enterprise-wide risk assessment, while also developing information that will enhance the Council's ability to forecast cash requirements and manage its awards in order to ensure positive outcomes.

## Enhancing Efficiency of the Grant System

In December 2015 the Council deployed its automated grants management system, the Restoration Assistance and Agreements Management System (RAAMS), and began implementing its grants and IAA program concurrent with the approval of the Initial FPL. The Council is committed to ensuring that the process used for awarding and disbursing funds is as

efficient as possible, while also providing the oversight needed for sound fiscal management. As it did with the Initial FPL, after a year of experience the Council initiated a thorough review of its application, disbursement and post-award oversight processes to identify and implement system changes that will lead to greater efficiency and effectiveness. While this review is ongoing, the Council has already incorporated efficiency measures identified thus far. The Council will continue to identify and implement process improvements and best practices for its grant and IAA program and system.

#### Department of Treasury Audits

In 2017 the Treasury Office of Inspector General completed the following seven audits.

1. RESTORE Act Council Effectively Acquired and Implemented a Grants Management System, but Challenges Remain in Service Agreement Monitoring and Invoice Processing (*OIG-17-037*)
  - a. The audit report found that the Council's grant program and system complied with applicable RESTORE Act, Federal grant regulations and internal grants policies and procedures.
  - b. The report identified two findings related to internal controls associated with processing the invoices associated with an IAA, and both findings have been resolved and all three recommendations implemented.
2. DATA Act Readiness: Council Is Making Progress in Meeting DATA Act Reporting Requirements Despite Challenges (*OIG-17-045*)
  - a. The report had no findings other than the Council is making adequate progress to meet OMB deadlines despite challenges. There were no recommendations.
3. Permanent Funding Authorities: Some Selected Entities Should Review Financial Management, Oversight and Transparency Policies (*GAO 17-59*)
  - a. The Council was mentioned briefly in the report, which focused on other federal entities. There were no findings with regards to the Council.
4. Gulf Coast Ecosystem Restoration Council Federal Information Security Modernization Act of 2014 Fiscal Year 2017 Evaluation (*OIG-CA-18-006*)
  - a. The evaluation found that consistent with applicable federal requirements and guidelines, the Council's information security program and practices were established and maintained in FY 2017. However, the Council's IT security program was not in place for the entire year thus there was a finding that it was not fully effective for the entire period. Since the Council had already taken corrective action there were no recommendations.
5. Council Met Reporting Requirements Under the DATA Act Despite Challenges (*OIG-18-008*)
  - a. The audit found that not all data was accurate due to a timing difference in processing between systems. The Council had improved their internal controls and reconciliation processes prior to completion of the audit.
6. Audit of the FY 2017 Financial Statements of the Gulf Coast Ecosystem Restoration Council (*OIG-18-016*)

- a. The auditors issued an unqualified (“clean”) audit opinion with no material weaknesses or significant deficiencies.
7. Management Letter for the Audit of the Gulf Coast Ecosystem Restoration Council's Fiscal Years 2017 and 2016 Financial Statements. (*OIG-18-028*)
  - a. The letter had one comment that the Council’s Information Security program and practices were formalized and documented, but not consistently applied. This comment resulted because the CIO and the IT Security program and practices were not in place for the entire year. The Report noted that the Council has taken the necessary steps to remediate this condition by filling the CIO position to maintain and further develop information security policies, procedures, and control techniques.

#### Freedom of Information Act Requests

During 2017 Council staff received four Freedom of Information Requests (FOIA) submissions, all requesting the same information. The requests were complex, requiring multi-member coordination and response. Completion of information compilation and review will not be completed until early 2018.

#### Centers of Excellence Accomplishments

##### Background

The RESTORE Act dedicates 2.5 percent of the Trust Fund to the Centers of Excellence Research Grants Program, administered by the Department of Treasury. These funds may be used to establish Centers of Excellence and by those Centers of Excellence for science, technology, and monitoring in one or more of the following disciplines:

- Coastal and deltaic sustainability, restoration, and protection, including solutions and technology that allow citizens to live in a safe and sustainable manner in a coastal delta in the Gulf Coast Region;
- Coastal fisheries and wildlife ecosystem research and monitoring in the Gulf Coast Region;
- Offshore energy development, including research and technology to improve the sustainable and safe development of energy resources in the Gulf of Mexico;
- Sustainable and resilient growth, economic and commercial development in the Gulf Coast Region; and
- Comprehensive observation, monitoring, and mapping of the Gulf of Mexico.

The RESTORE Act specifies who may apply to receive funds under the Centers of Excellence Research Grants Program. Following are the Centers of Excellence Research Grants Program eligible applicants for each State:

- In Alabama, the Alabama Gulf Coast Recovery Council or such administrative agent as it may designate;
- In Florida, the Florida Institute of Oceanography;
- In Louisiana, the Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority Board of Louisiana through the Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority of Louisiana;
- In Mississippi, the Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality; and
- In Texas, the Office of the Governor or an appointee of the Office of the Governor.

Pursuant to the RESTORE Act, each State provides an annual report on its respective Center of Excellence to the RESTORE Council with information regarding all grants, including the amount, discipline or disciplines, and recipients of the grants, and in the case of any grant awarded to a consortium, the membership of the consortium. This information is to be included in the Council's Annual Report to Congress. As of the date of this report, four Centers of Excellence have been established. Following are summaries of the activities of these Centers of Excellence; the full reports are located here ([link to a Council webpage for the full reports](#)).

#### Texas Commission on Environmental Quality

In January 2015, Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) competitively selected two consortia, the Texas A&M University Corpus Christi - Texas OneGulf Consortium and University of Houston (UofH) - Subsea Systems Institute.

The mission of the Texas OneGulf Center of Excellence is to gather and improve knowledge about the Gulf of Mexico to inform decision making around the challenges to environmental and economic sustainability of the Gulf of Mexico and its impact on the health and well-being of Texans and the nation. Texas OneGulf is designed with the capacity and flexibility to address all five focus disciplines denoted in Section 1605 of RESTORE. This Center has been awarded funding and has begun or completed activities on five projects. Highlights include: Completed and released first official Texas OneGulf Strategic Research and Action Plan (SRAP) project; Organized and convened Disaster Research Response (DR2) Workshop; Completed the sharing of and began use of templates and research protocols with multiple institutions; Completed 3-year plan to integrating Texas OneGulf DR2 program with other state and national DR2 programs to develop and advance initiatives identified; Completed the second round of glider missions; Three underserved datasets have been identified for Texas Knowledge Base project; Released Request for Proposal (RFP) to implement competitive grant program.

Subsea Systems Institute (SSI) is a collaborative endeavor focus on the translational engineering, validation science and appropriate policy towards maintaining the technological, economic and workforce leadership of the Gulf coast area in the realm of deepwater and ultra-deepwater hydrocarbon use. The SSI is addressing offshore energy development, including research and technology to improve the sustainable and safe development of energy resources in the Gulf of Mexico as its focus on one of the disciplines denoted in Section 1605 of RESTORE. This Center has been awarded funding and has begun or completed activities on seven projects.

Highlights include: Commenced with the testing of thin-film Li ion batteries and thin-film supercapacitors; Commenced with the construction of the high-pressure apparatus for capacitor- battery testing at 5,000 psi; Developed physics based annular models; Completed the presentation of results to the SSI Technical Advisory Committee and prepared final report for the Marine Drilling Hazard Mitigation and Production Facility Monitoring using Seismic and Sonar Imaging project; Completed industry workshop and prototype Autonomous Underwater Vehicles (AUV) design modifications; Progress on a Finite Element Model of an Annular; Launched new project with the designing of sensor and gateway nodes for subsea environment communication.

#### Louisiana Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority

On April 8, 2014, the Coastal and Protection and Restoration Authority (CPRA) named The Water Institute of the Gulf as the State of Louisiana's Center of Excellence. On November 1, 2015, the U.S. Department of the Treasury awarded CPRA a grant to begin its research program. The mission of the RESTORE Act Center of Excellence for Louisiana (LA-COE) is to support research directly relevant to implementation of Louisiana's Coastal Master Plan by administering a competitive grants program and providing the appropriate coordination and oversight support to ensure that success metrics are tracked and achieved.

The LA-COE completed coordination of the review process of 76 proposals (graduate studentship, research and collaborative awards) that were solicited under the first request for proposals (RFP1). The proposals were all reviewed by subject matter experts (SME) and CPRA for criteria defined in the RFP. The SME and CPRA reviews of the research and collaborative proposals were compiled for the External Review Board (ERB). The ERB consists of nationally and internationally recognized subject matter experts on topics relevant to Louisiana's Coastal Master Plan. An in-person ERB meeting was held in Baton Rouge, LA in April 2017. The ERB made funding recommendations (based on a scale of 1-3) for each research and collaborative proposal based on review and discussion of the proposals, the SME reviews, and the CPRA reviews. A Recommendation Meeting was held on June 20, 2017 with CPRA and LA-COE staff to discuss the ERB's recommendations and to develop a potential list of projects to fund, subject to concurrence by CPRA and LA-COE leadership. A Concurrence Meeting was held on May 30, 2017 to finalize which graduate studentship, research and collaborative awards would be granted. Principal investigators (PIs) were notified of the awards and then a public announcement was made via a joint LA-COE and CPRA press release on June 22, 2017. A total of 13 awards were announced; six graduate studentship awards, two collaborative awards, and five research awards.

Contracting and research grants management procedures were developed to help manage the funding process and subrecipients. Assessment and reporting on progress using defined metrics that address federal reporting requirements including reports to Treasury have been developed.

## Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality

In February 2015, the Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ) made available for public comment for 45 days a draft Request for Proposals describing the competitive selection process, rules, and policies. MDEQ prepared the draft Request for Proposals in accordance with state law and in compliance with 31 C.F.R. §34.700-708. Notice of the public comment and review period for the draft Request for Proposals was published in the Sun Herald and Clarion Ledger newspapers as well as online at [www.restore.ms](http://www.restore.ms). After consideration of meaningful input from the public, a final Request for Proposals was published in April 2015. Notice of availability of the final Request for Proposals was published in the Sun Herald and Clarion Ledger newspapers on April 6, 2015 and April 13, 2015, as well as online at [www.restore.ms](http://www.restore.ms). The deadline to submit proposals was May 7, 2015. As a result of the Final RFP, MDEQ received two proposals. After reviewing the proposals according to the qualifications and criteria described above, the Mississippi Based Restore Act Center of Excellence (MBRACE) was selected. MBRACE is a consortium of four Mississippi universities - Jackson State University, Mississippi State University, University of Mississippi and University of Southern Mississippi. The University of Southern Mississippi serves as the lead university for the consortium.

The focus of MBRACE, a consortium of Mississippi's research universities, is a sound, comprehensive science- and technology-based understanding of the chronic and acute stressors, both anthropogenic and natural, on the dynamic and productive waters and ecosystems of the northern Gulf. The goals of MBRACE are: (1) serve as a focal point for new, long-term research and socio-economic initiatives along the northern Gulf with relevance to Mississippi's resources; (2) serve the people of Mississippi and the northern Gulf region with a scientifically based understanding of ecosystem status and trends (past to present, predictive) with special emphasis on improved forecasting abilities to ensure sustainable coastal and ocean ecosystems of the Gulf; and (3) work within a consortium of stakeholders including Mississippi's research universities under the Mississippi Research Consortium, state and federal agencies, local communities, private industry, and non-governmental organizations.

MBRACE established a five-person Executive Steering Committee (ESC) comprised of leadership from the four MBRACE universities. The ESC developed core research questions and a science plan relative to the COE eligible disciplines. The science plan guides the Core Research Program conducted by MBRACE. A Call for Proposals to fund research under the Core Research Program was developed to solicit proposals from MBRACE universities. Proposals submitted by the University of Southern Mississippi, the University of Mississippi, and Mississippi State University have been approved, and the sub-award agreements have been executed. The proposal submitted by Jackson State University has been approved, and a sub-award agreement is pending execution.

## Alabama Gulf Coast Recovery Council

In 2015, the Alabama Gulf Coast Recovery Council (AGCRC) completed a competitive selection process and formally accepted the proposal of the Marine Environmental Sciences Consortium

(MESC) to serve as Alabama's Center of Excellence. The AGCRC authorized its Administrator (the Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources) to develop an agreement outlining the specific scope of work for the Center of Excellence in Alabama. Once the agreement is finalized, the AGCRC will designate the MESC as Alabama's Center of Excellence.

#### Florida Institute of Oceanography

The Florida RESTORE Act Centers of Excellence Program (FLRACEP) continues to monitor and manage the initial ten research grant awards funded through the first Request for Proposals. While these awards were slated to close November 30, 2017, Hurricanes Hermine and Matthew from the 2016 season and, most notably, Hurricane Irma in 2017 caused significant delays and disturbances to data collection, analysis and manuscript preparation. FLRACEP personnel decided to offer no-cost extensions through February 28, 2018 to all RFP I projects, and grants that accept will now close out in May 2018. The FLRACEP applied for and received an extension (with funds) of its existing award from the U.S. Department of the Treasury in order to fund and implement the research project associated with the program's second Request for Proposals. This work began in March of 2017 and will continue through the end of 2018 with the possibility of extension. External science review of the project is planned for the summer of 2018, and the Program Management Team will decide on the extent and duration of any project extension at that time. FLRACEP participated in its second programmatic audit in July 2017 and is awaiting the report of findings from the Department of Treasury Office of the Inspector General.

#### Summary

Since its inception in 2012, the Council has established itself as an independent federal agency capable of meeting its legislative mandate to support ecological and economic recovery in the Gulf Coast region. To meet this challenge the Council built a small agency from the ground up, addressing a range of fundamental policy, governance, staffing and fiscal management responsibilities. This has required achieving consensus and leveraging the strengths among the Council's six federal and five State members. In the initial years, prior to entry of the BP Consent Decree, the Council was building an organization to manage an unknown, but potentially substantial amount of money. The Council chose to develop a lean, low-overhead organization that could be scaled as necessary to meet future demands.

In 2013 the Council completed its initial Comprehensive Plan, setting forth goals and objectives to guide future investments. In 2014 the Council began to develop its first set of restoration investments, using civil penalties from other parties involved in the *Deepwater Horizon* oil spill. Since the ultimate amount of funding the Council would administer was unknown at that time, the Council focused on investments that would build a foundation for success for future restoration efforts. In 2015 the Council finalized this first list of restoration investments, which included planning, implementation and science activities in key watershed and estuaries across the northern Gulf.

In 2016 the Council began awarding funds for the projects and programs in this initial list, while continuing to strengthen its financial administration capacity. Additionally, the Consent Decree was finalized, and the Council assessed the process it used to identify its initial investments, incorporating the findings into an updated Comprehensive Plan. The updated Comprehensive Plan emphasizes collaboration and leveraging among Gulf restoration funding sources, along with other Council commitments necessary to achieve the greatest benefits from future investments.

In 2017 the Council set a path forward for meeting these commitments, while continuing to approve funds for a range of important restoration actions. In 2018 the Council will work toward the next round of funding decisions, using a robust collaboration process with its partners to make sure these investments provide the greatest restoration “bang for the buck.”

## Appendix 1: All Council Funding Awards

### Council-Selected Restoration Component Awards

#### Alabama

##### Mobile Bay National Estuary Program (Planning)

Organization: U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

Award amount: \$358,000.00

Interagency Agreement Number: IAACP17EP0028

Watershed: Mobile Bay

#### Florida

##### Apalachicola Bay Oyster Restoration (Implementation)

Organization: Florida Department of Environmental Protection

Award amount: \$4,680,000.00

Federal Award ID Number: GNTCP17FL0039

Watershed: Apalachicola Bay

##### Apalachicola Watershed Agriculture Water Quality Improvements (Implementation)

Organization: Florida Department of Environmental Protection

Award amount: \$2,219,856.00

Federal Award ID Number: GNTCP17FL008

Watershed: Apalachicola Bay

##### Bayou Chico Contaminated Sediment Removal - Planning, Design, and Permitting (Planning)

Organization: Florida Department of Environmental Protection

Award amount: \$356,850.00

Federal Award ID Number: GNTCP17FL0018

Watershed: Pensacola Bay

##### Beach Haven - Joint Stormwater & Wastewater Improvement Project - Phase II (Implementation)

Organization: Florida Department of Environmental Protection

Award amount: \$5,967,000.00

Federal Award ID Number: GNTCP17FL0026

Watershed: Pensacola Bay

##### Pensacola Bay Living Shoreline - Phase 1 (Planning)

Organization: Florida Department of Environmental Protection

Award amount: \$231,314.00  
Federal Award ID Number: GNTCP17FL0040  
Watershed: Pensacola Bay

Suwannee River Partnership Irrigation Water Enhancement Program (Implementation)

Organization: Florida Department of Environmental Protection  
Award amount: \$2,884,000.00  
Federal Award ID Number: GNTCP17FL0015  
Watershed: Suwannee

Tate's Hell Strategy 1 (Planning & Implementation)

Organization: Department of Agriculture  
Award amount: \$7,000,000.00  
Interagency Agreement Number: IAACP17DA0041  
Watershed: Apalachicola Bay

Louisiana

Bayou Dularge Ridge, Marsh & Hydrologic Restoration (Planning)

Organization: Department of Agriculture/Natural Resources Conservation Service  
Award amount: \$5,162,084.00  
Interagency Agreement Number: IAACP17DI0007  
Watershed: Mississippi River Delta

Biloxi Marsh Living Shoreline (Planning)

Organization: Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority of Louisiana  
Award amount: \$3,220,460.00  
Federal Award ID Number: GNTCP17LA0025  
Watershed: Mississippi River Delta

Golden Triangle Marsh Creation (Planning)

Organization: Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority of Louisiana  
Award amount: \$4,347,733.00  
Federal Award ID Number: GNTCP17LA0013  
Watershed: Mississippi River Delta

Mississippi River Reintroduction into Maurepas Swamp (Planning)

Organization: Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority of Louisiana  
Award amount: \$14,190,000.00  
Federal Award ID Number: GNTCP17LA0044  
Watershed: Mississippi River Delta

West Grand Terre Beach Nourishment and Stabilization (Planning)

Organization: Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority of Louisiana

Award amount: \$7,259,216.00

Federal Award ID Number: GNTCP16LA0024

Watershed: Mississippi River Delta

Mississippi

Enhancing Opportunities for Beneficial Use (BU) of Dredge Sediments in the Mississippi Sound (Planning)

Organization: Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality

Award amount: \$2,178,847.00

Federal Award ID Number: GNTCP16MS0022

Watershed: Mississippi Sound

Sea Grant Education and Outreach (Planning & Implementation)

Organization: Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality

Award amount: \$750,000.00

Federal Award ID Number: GNTCP16MS0020

Watershed: Mississippi Sound

Texas

Bahia Grande Coastal Corridor (Implementation)

Organization: Texas Commission on Environmental Quality

Award amount: \$4,378,500.00

Federal Award ID Number: GNTCP17TX0010

Watershed: Laguna Madre

Bayou Greenways (Planning & Implementation)

Organization: Texas Commission on Environmental Quality

Award amount: \$7,109,000.00

Federal Award ID Number: GNTCP18TX0011

Watershed: Galveston Bay

Matagorda Bay System Priority Landscape Conservation (Implementation)

Organization: Texas Commission on Environmental Quality

Award amount: \$6,012,000.00

Federal Award ID Number: GNTCP17TX0009

Watershed: Matagorda Bay

Gulf-wide

Baseline Flow, Gage Analysis & On-Line tool to Support Restoration

Organization: Department of the Interior/U.S. Geological Survey

Award amount: \$5,549,800.00

Interagency Agreement Number: IAACP17DI0001

Council Monitoring and Assessment Program

Organization #1: Department of the Interior/U.S. Geological Survey

Award amount: \$1,175,000.00

Interagency Agreement Number: IAACP17DI0006

Organization #2: Department of the Commerce/NOAA National Centers for Coastal Ocean Science

Award amount: \$1,700,000.00

Interagency Agreement Number: IAACP17DI0038

Gulf of Mexico Habitat Restoration via Conservation Corps Partnership

Organization: U.S. Department of Commerce/NOAA Restoration Center

Award amount: \$7,500,000.00

Interagency Agreement Number: IAACP17DC0030

Gulf of Mexico Habitat Restoration via Conservation Corps Partnerships / Youth Conservation Corps

Organization: Department of the Interior/Bureau of Indian Affairs

Award amount: \$500,000.00

Interagency Agreement Number: IAACP16DI0002

Strategic Conservation Assessment of Gulf Coast Landscapes

Organization: Department of the Interior/U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Award amount: \$1,842,583.00

Interagency Agreement Number: IAACP17DI0005

## Spill Impact Component Awards

### Texas Planning State Expenditure Plan

Organization: Texas Commission on Environmental Quality

Award amount: \$292,503.00

Federal Award ID Number: GNTSP17TX0042

Read the plan [here](#)

### Louisiana Adaptive Management

Organization: Louisiana Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority

Award amount: \$19,467,855.50

Federal Award ID Number: GNTSP17LA0046

Additional information available [here](#)

### Mississippi Planning State Expenditure Plan

Organization: Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality

Award amount: \$1,374,612.00

Federal Award ID Number: GNTSP16MS0019

Read the plan [here](#)

### Florida Gulf Consortium's Planning State Expenditure Plan

Organization: Gulf Consortium

Award amount: \$4,640,675.00

Federal Award ID Number: GNTSP16FL0021

Read the plan [here](#)