



*Deepwater Horizon* Oil Spill  
NRDA Early Restoration Public Meeting  
January and February 2012



# Tonight's Objective

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To receive your comments on the proposed projects included in the Draft Phase I Early Restoration Plan

# Presentation

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- ◉ NRDA Overview
- ◉ Early Restoration Background
- ◉ Draft Phase I Early Restoration Plan
- ◉ Proposed Phase I Early Restoration Projects
- ◉ Public Comment Period

# NRDA Overview

(Natural Resource Damage Assessment)

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# NRDA Under OPA

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- ◉ Oil Pollution Act of 1990
- ◉ OPA NRDA Regulations, 15 CFR Part 990

# NRDA Objective

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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

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## State Trustees

### **Alabama**

- Department of Conservation and Natural Resources
- Geological Survey of Alabama

### **Mississippi**

- Department of Environmental Quality

### **Florida**

- Department of Environmental Protection
- Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission

### **Louisiana**

- Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority (CPRA)
- Oil Spill Coordinator's Office
- Department of Environmental Quality
- Department of Wildlife and Fisheries
- Department of Natural Resources

### **Texas**

- Commission on Environmental Quality
- Parks and Wildlife Department
- General Land Office

## Federal Trustees

### **Department of Commerce**

- National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

### **Department of the Interior**

- Fish and Wildlife Service
- National Park Service
- Bureau of Land Management

# 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)
- Ongoing updates via websites, email notifications, etc.
- <http://www.doi.gov/deepwaterhorizon/index.cfm>
- <http://www.gulfspillrestoration.noaa.gov/>



# Early Restoration

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# Early Restoration Overview

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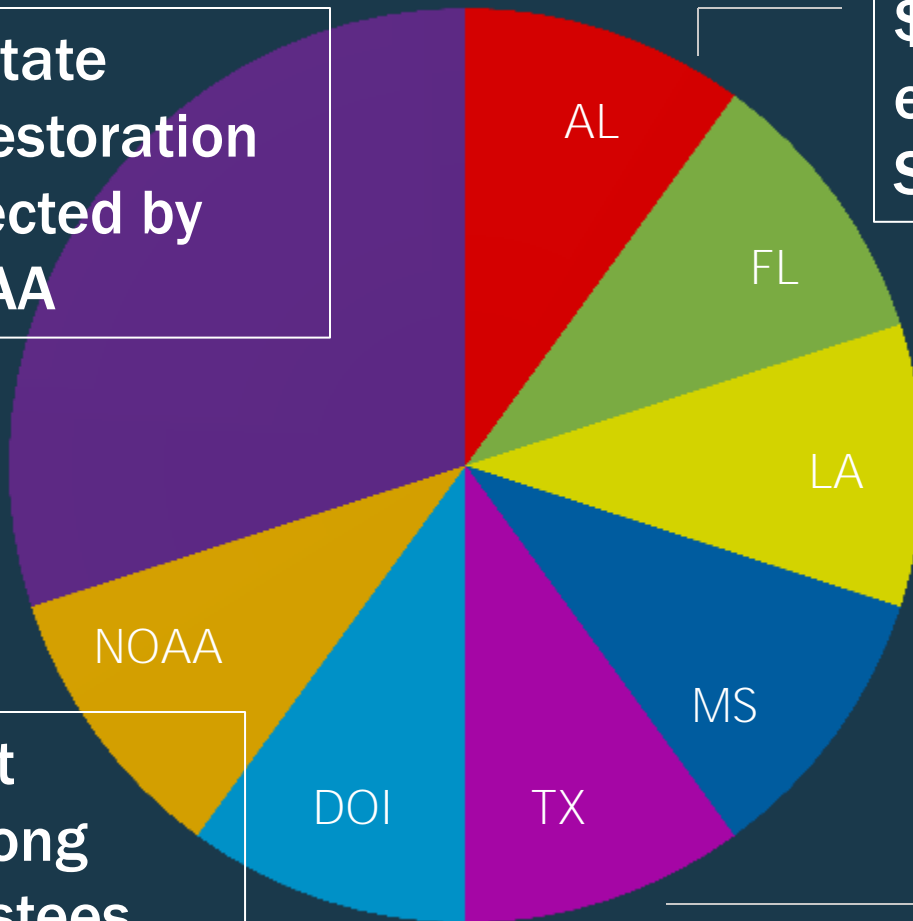
- ◉ \$1 billion Early Restoration agreement
- ◉ Early Restoration allows restoration projects to begin prior to NRDA completion
- ◉ Injury assessment will continue while Early Restoration planning is under way

# 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 among Federal Trustees**



# Selection Process and Criteria Overview

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

# Oil Pollution Act Criteria

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- ◉ 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

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- ◉ 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

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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



# 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 I Early Restoration Plan and Environmental Assessment (DERP/EA)

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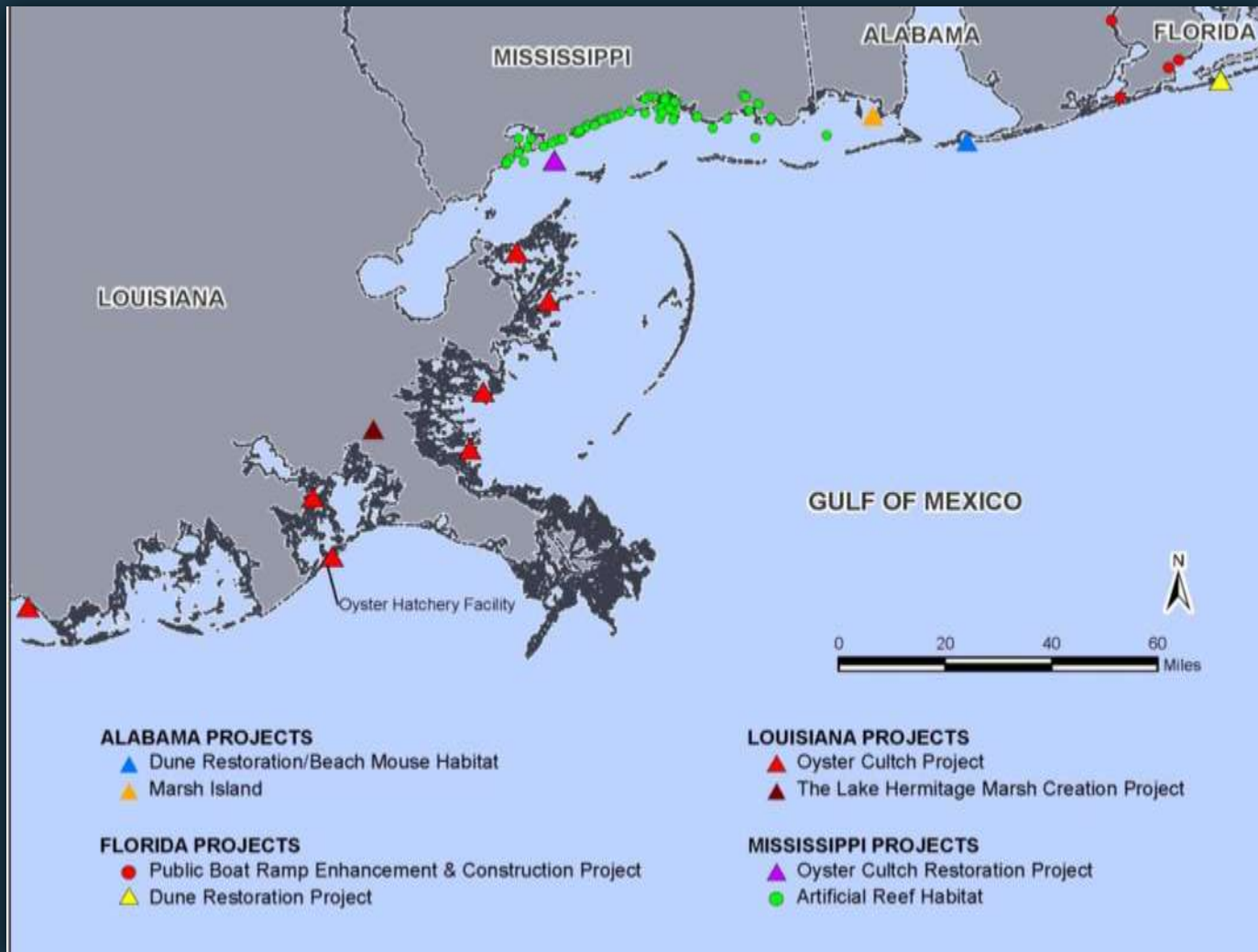


# Draft Phase I Early Restoration Plan and Environmental Assessment Overview

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- ◉ 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

# Draft Phase I Early Restoration Plan Proposed Action



# Phase I Proposed Projects

Proposed Project Title	Est. Cost
Lake Hermitage Marsh Creation – NRDA Early Restoration Project	\$13,200,000
Louisiana Oyster Cultch Project	\$14,874,300
Mississippi Oyster Cultch Restoration	\$11,000,000
Mississippi Artificial Reef Habitat	\$2,600,000
Marsh Island (Portersville Bay, AL) Marsh Creation	\$9,400,000
Alabama Dune Restoration Cooperative Project	\$1,145,976
Florida Boat Ramp Enhancement Construction	\$4,406,309
Florida (Pensacola Beach) Dune Restoration	\$585,898
Total Estimated Cost for Phase I Proposed Projects	\$57,212,483

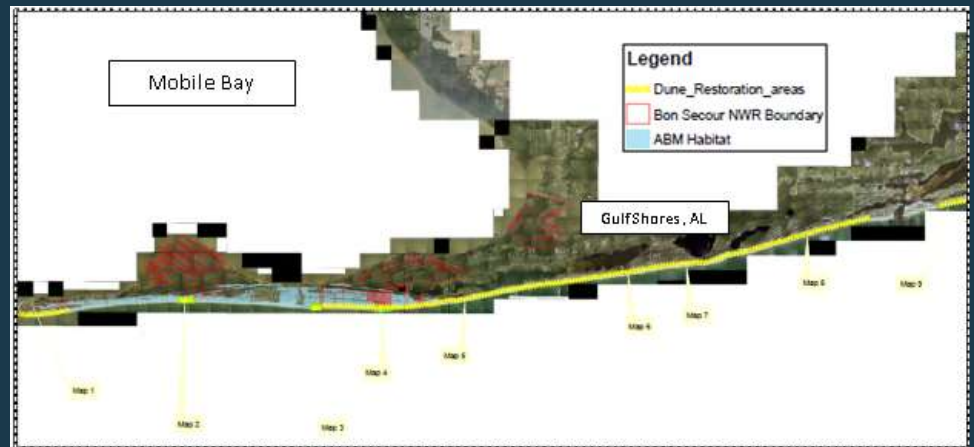
# Proposed Project: DOI

## Alabama Dune Restoration Cooperative Project

Proposed Restoration:  
55 acres of primary dune  
habitat

Resources Benefitted:  
Coastal dune and beach  
mouse habitat in Alabama

Estimated Cost: \$1,145,976





# Proposed Project: Louisiana

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## Lake Hermitage Marsh Creation – NRDA Early Restoration Project

Proposed Restoration:  
Approximately 104 acres  
of marsh creation

Resources Benefitted:  
Brackish Marsh in the Barataria  
Hydrologic Basin

Estimated Cost: \$13,200,000



# Proposed Project: Louisiana

## Louisiana Oyster Cultch Project

Proposed Restoration:  
Approximately 850 acres of cultch  
placement on public oyster seed grounds;  
construction of improvements to  
an existing oyster hatchery

Resources Benefitted:  
Oysters in Coastal Louisiana

Estimated Cost: \$14,874,300





# Proposed Project: Mississippi

## Mississippi Oyster Cultch Restoration

Proposed Restoration:  
1,430 acres of cultch  
restoration

Resources Benefitted:  
Oysters in Mississippi Sound

Estimated Cost: \$11,000,000



# Proposed Project: Mississippi

## Mississippi Artificial Reef Habitat

Proposed Restoration:  
100 acres of nearshore  
artificial reef

Resources Benefitted:  
Near shore habitat in  
Mississippi Sound

Estimated Cost: \$2,600,000



# Proposed Project: Alabama

## Marsh Island (Portersville Bay) Marsh Creation

Proposed Restoration:  
Protecting 24 existing acres of salt marsh; creating 50 acres of salt marsh; 5,000 linear feet of tidal creeks

Resources Benefitted:  
Coastal Salt Marsh in Alabama

Estimated Cost: \$9,400,000



# Proposed Project: Florida

## Florida Boat Ramp Enhancement and Construction

Proposed Restoration:  
Four boat ramp facilities

Resources Benefitted:  
Human Use in Escambia  
County, Florida

Estimated Cost: \$4,406,309



# Proposed Project: Florida

## Florida (Pensacola Beach) Dune Restoration

Proposed Restoration:  
20 acres of coastal dune  
habitat

Resources Benefitted:  
Coastal Dune Habitat in  
Escambia County, Florida

Estimated Cost: \$585,898





# Next Steps

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- Public comment period closes on February 14, 2012
- Trustees consider all public comments received
- Trustees finalize approved projects with BP
- The final ERP/EA will include:
  - Agreed upon projects
  - Summary of public comments and Trustee responses
  - NEPA analysis for each project
- Project implementation begins

# Early Restoration Public Meetings

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- ◉ Jan. 11 - Ft. Walton Beach, FL
- ◉ Jan. 12 - Pensacola, FL
- ◉ Jan. 17 - Gautier, MS
- ◉ Jan. 18 - Gulfport, MS
- ◉ Jan. 19 - Bay St. Louis, MS
- ◉ Jan. 23 - Mobile, AL
- ◉ Jan. 24 - Gulf Shores, AL
- ◉ Jan. 26 - Galveston, TX
- ◉ Jan. 31 - Houma, LA
- ◉ Feb. 1 - Chalmette, LA
- ◉ Feb. 2 - Belle Chasse, LA
- ◉ Feb. 7 - Washington, D.C.

# To Submit Your Comments

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- Make oral comments tonight.
- Type comments into our computers at information tables.
- Submit written comments tonight or mail them in.
- Visit our website at:

[www.gulfspillrestoration.noaa.gov](http://www.gulfspillrestoration.noaa.gov)

- **Deadline for comments is Feb. 14, 2012**



# Public Comments

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

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

[www.gulfspillrestoration.noaa.gov](http://www.gulfspillrestoration.noaa.gov)

Deadline for comments is Feb. 14, 2012