



GULF COAST ECOSYSTEM RESTORATION COUNCIL

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OVERVIEW

- Gulf Restoration
- The RESTORE Act
- Gulf Coast Ecosystem Restoration Council
- Challenges
- Progress to Date
- Draft Initial Comprehensive Plan
- Next Steps

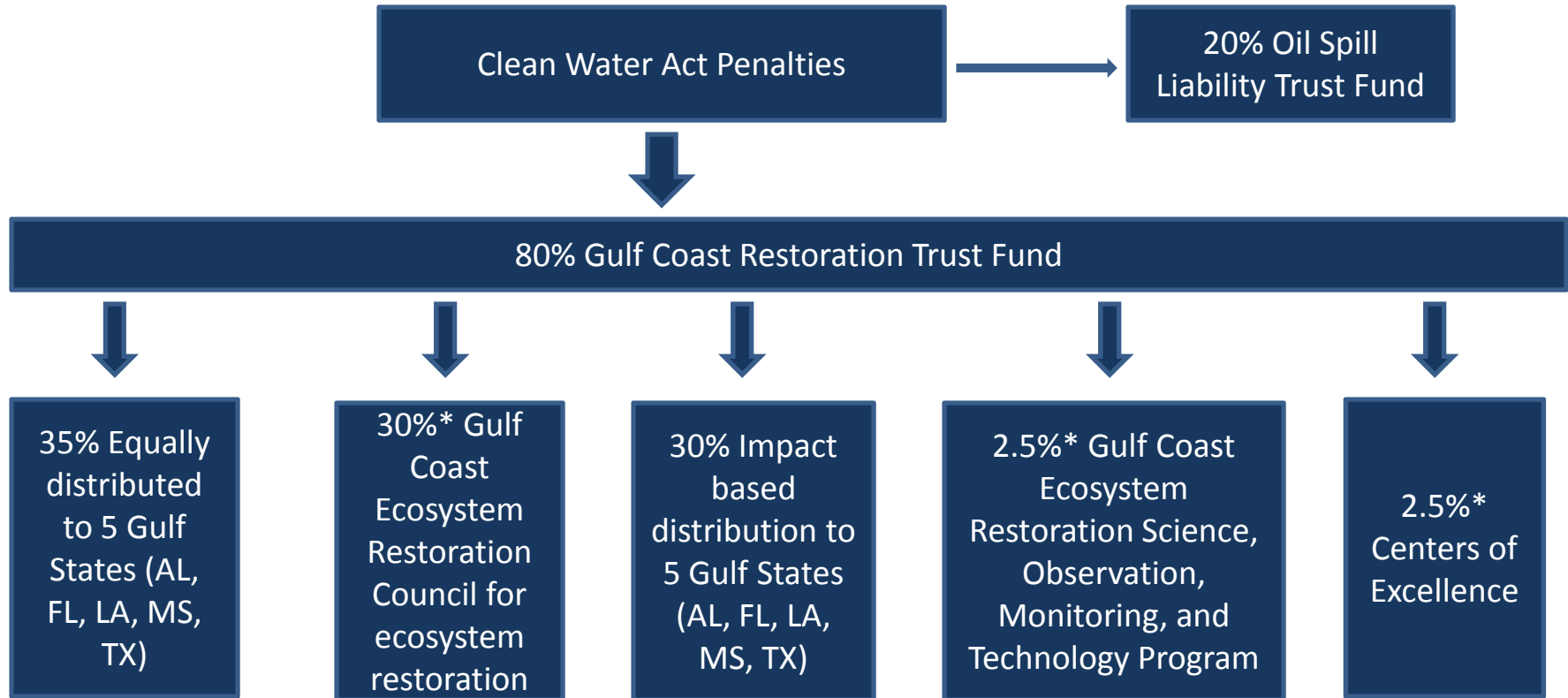
Gulf Restoration

- [We will add a slide on big picture – NRDA, NFWF, etc.]

The RESTORE Act

- Dedicates 80% of Clean Water Act civil and administrative penalties from the *Deepwater Horizon* oil spill to the Gulf Coast Restoration Trust Fund
- Uncertainty exists around the ultimate amount and timing of funds.
- To Date: Transocean has agreed to pay \$1 billion in civil penalties for violating the Clean Water Act in the *Deepwater Horizon* oil spill.

ALLOCATION OF RESTORE ACT FUNDS



***Supplemented by interest generated by the Trust Fund (50% to Gulf Coast Ecosystem Restoration Council, 25% to Science Program, 25% to Centers of Excellence)**

GULF RESTORATION COUNCIL

- **Composition:**
 - Six Federal members (Agriculture, Army, Commerce, EPA, the Interior, Homeland Security)
 - Five Gulf Coast States (Alabama, Florida, Louisiana, Mississippi, and Texas)
- **Chair:** Department of Commerce

CHALLENGES

- Uncertainty exists around the ultimate amount and timing of available funding;
- Current Fiscal Environment;
- Department of Treasury Regulations in development;
- Gulf Coast States in the process of developing State Expenditure Plans;
- Need to solicit additional public input.

DRAFT INITIAL COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

- Establishes five overarching Restoration Goals;
- Describes how the Council will solicit, evaluate, and fund projects and programs;
- Describes the process for approval of State Expenditure Plans;
- Contains a Preliminary List of “authorized but not commenced” projects;
- Identifies the Council’s Next Steps.

OVERARCHING GOALS

1. Restore and Conserve Habitat
2. Restore Water Quality
3. Replenish and Protect Living Coastal and Marine Resources
4. Enhance Community Resilience
5. Restore and Revitalize the Gulf Economy

COUNCIL-SELECTED RESTORATION COMPONENT

1. General Guidance on Types of Projects and Programs the Council will Fund;
2. Evaluation Criteria;
3. Selection Process.

STATE EXPENDITURE PLANS – SPILL IMPACT COMPONENT

1. Eligible activities are broader in scope than Council-Selected Restoration Component;
2. Describes the expected content of State Expenditure Plans;
3. Recognizes that each Gulf Coast State is unique and may have distinct priorities;
4. Sets out basic parameters for Council Approval of State plans.

NEXT STEPS

1. Refine Objectives and Criteria;
2. Advisory Committee(s)
3. Set forth regulation for “Bucket 3”
4. Select and publish a Funded Priorities List.

Public Comment

1. 30-day Public Comment Period
2. Listening Sessions in All 5 States
3. Welcome input and feedback
4. Asking for Specific Feedback on Criteria and Objectives

Questions on Draft Plan

- Should the Council further define the Priority Criteria? If so, how?
- Should the Council develop additional criteria for consideration now or in the future? If so, what should they be?

Questions on Draft Plan

- Should the Council consider other Objectives at this juncture? If not, at what point, if any, should the Council consider additional Objectives? If so, what should they be?
- Similarly, should the Council eliminate any of the Objectives?
- How should the Council prioritize its restoration Objectives?

INITIAL COMPREHENSIVE PLAN DEVELOPMENT TIMELINE



- FEBRUARY/MARCH 2013 – Public Engagement Opportunities in Gulf States



- SPRING 2013 – Council releases Draft Initial Comprehensive Plan for 30-day public comment period



- SUMMER 2013 - Council releases Initial Comprehensive Plan

A satellite-style map of the Gulf of Mexico region, showing the coastline of the United States and Mexico. The water is a deep blue, and the land is green and brown. White lines outline the state boundaries. The text is centered over the Gulf of Mexico.

For More Information
www.RestoretheGulf.gov