

# GULF COAST ECOSYSTEM RESTORATION COUNCIL

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# OVERVIEW

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

# Selected Gulf Restoration Efforts

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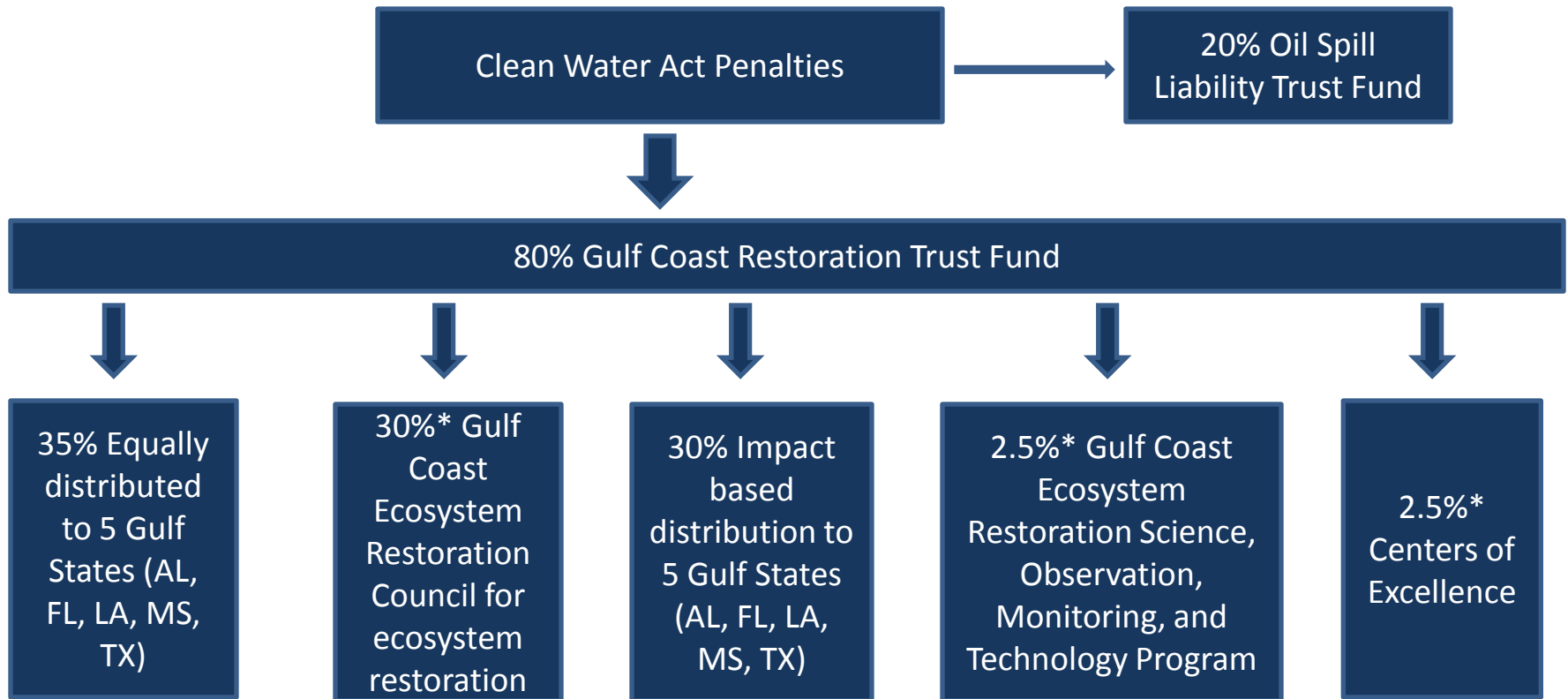
- **Deepwater Horizon Natural Resource Damage Assessment (NRDA)**
- **National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF)**
- **National Academy of Sciences (NAS)**

# The RESTORE Act

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- 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

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- **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

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- 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

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- 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

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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

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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

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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

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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

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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

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## Criteria

- 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

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## Objectives

- Should the Council consider other Objectives now? 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?

# Questions on Draft Plan

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## Advisory Committees

- Should the Council establish any advisory committees?
- If so, what type of advisory committees should the Council establish? How should the Council structure such advisory committees? What role should such advisory committees play?



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](http://www.RestoretheGulf.gov)