

# Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill

## RESTORE Act Funding and Projects Update 9/23/2014



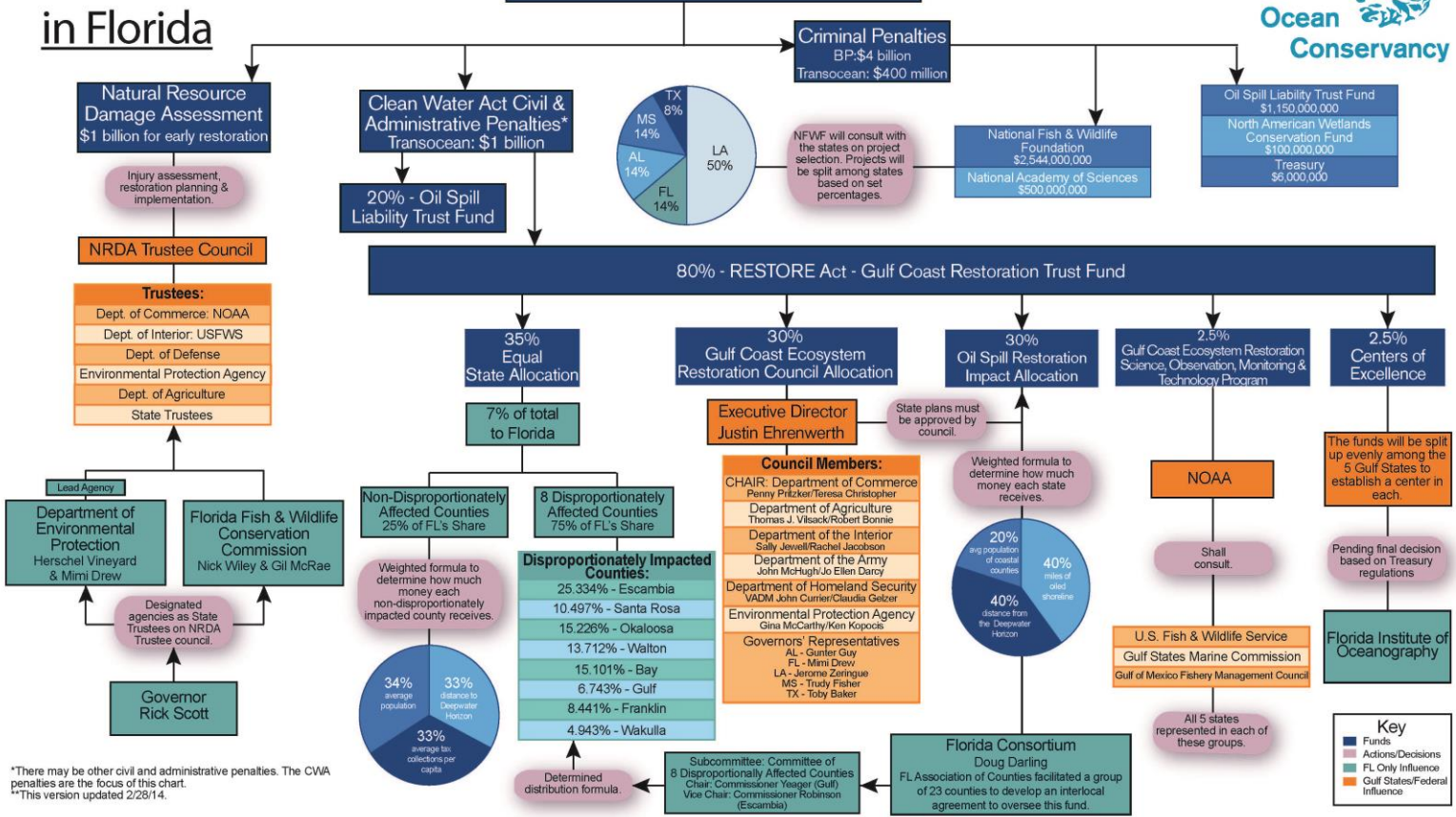
# Webinar Agenda

- Welcome and Introductions
- Deepwater Horizon Funding Update
- RESTORE Act- Council Selected Restoration Component Overview
- Florida's Restoration Priorities
- Managing Expectations
- Next Steps
- Public Comment

# It's Complicated!

## Flow of Oil Spill Funds in Florida

### Resolution of Criminal, Civil, Administrative & Natural Resource Claims



\*There may be other civil and administrative penalties. The CWA penalties are the focus of this chart.  
 \*\*This version updated 2/28/14.

**Key**

- Funds
- Actions/Decisions
- FL Only Influence
- Gulf States/Federal Influence

# RESTORE Act

The RESTORE Act was signed into law on July 6, 2012 by the President. It accomplishes:

- the creation of the Gulf Coast Restoration Trust Fund
- an outline for the proper use of the Trust Fund
- the establishment of the Gulf Coast Ecosystem Restoration Council

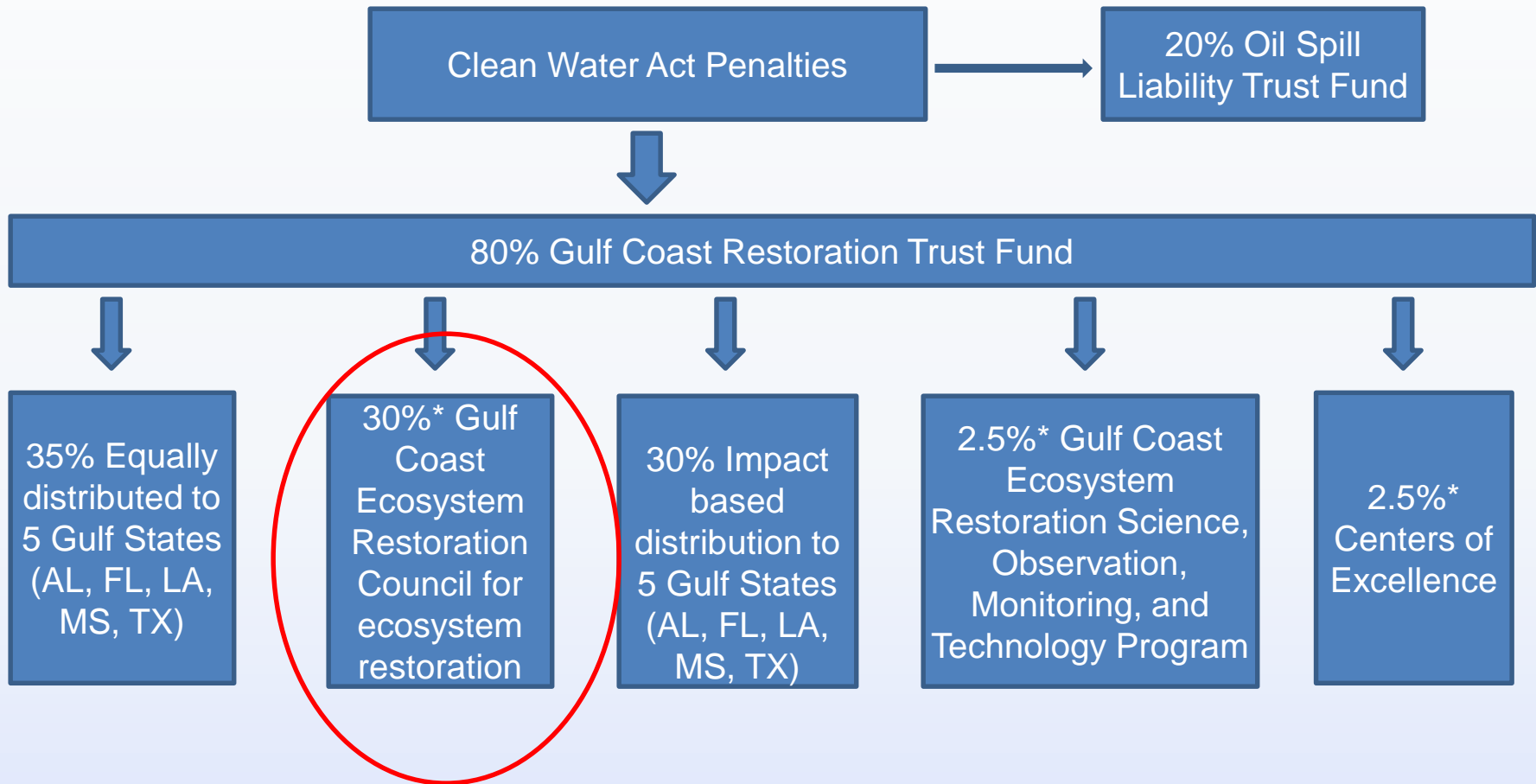
August 28, 2013 - The Council released the Initial Comprehensive Plan

August 15, 2014 - US Dept. of Treasury released Trust Fund regulations

August 21, 2014 - Council-Selected Restoration Component submission window opened for Council members

# ALLOCATION OF RESTORE ACT FUNDS

## Council-Selected Restoration Component



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

# Process for Council-Selected Restoration Component

**Projects Submitted.** Projects may focus on Habitat and Water Quality goals, with an emphasis on projects that are foundational, sustainable, have a high probability of success and that have community benefits.

## Project Vetting Activities

**Eligibility Verification and Budget Reasonableness, Coordination Reviews**

**Science  
Evaluation**

**Priority and  
Commitment to  
Plan Evaluation**

**Environmental  
Compliance  
Readiness**

Results from proposal submission and evaluation will be compiled into a context report and attached to each proposal to aid in the development of a draft Funded Priorities List.

# Florida's Restoration Approach

- DEPs online project submittal form
- Florida's priorities
  - Stormwater / Wastewater infrastructure projects,
  - Community resilience / Living shorelines,
  - Water quality projects including those which achieve water quality benefits provided by the preservation of buffer lands around military bases,
  - Implementation of agriculture best management practices, or
  - Fish and wildlife habitat and management.
- Collaboration with other states and federal agencies
- Public input on the projects

# Florida's Proposed Theme for Council-Selected Restoration Component Projects

- Estuary and associated watershed restoration
  - Watersheds are areas of land in which all of the water that enters it, drains into a common waterbody, such as a bay. Humans, plants, and animals depend on clean water to survive and the health of our watersheds is key to the health of our Gulf.
  - Estuaries are bodies of water where freshwater mixes with saltwater. These habitats are essential nurseries for young fish, shrimp and crabs as well as home to many other marine species.



# Successful Project Proposals for the Council-Selected Restoration Component

- Water quality and habitat focus
- Reasonable cost
- Gulf-wide significance
- Wide-spread support
- Scientifically-sound
- Meets priorities in the Initial Comprehensive Plan
- NEPA compliance status

# Recap and Next Steps

- The Council member submission window will close no earlier than Nov. 17
- Each of the 11 state and federal Council members are responsible for proposing projects and programs
- Council members may submit up to 5 projects for consideration
- The amount of funding available for the first FPL is approximately \$150-\$180 million
- The projects will be reviewed and included on a draft Funded Priorities List
- DEP and FWC will continue to seek public input on projects:

**Gulf Coast State College, Conference Center in Student Union East  
5230 West U.S. Highway 98  
Panama City, FL 32401  
Wednesday, October 22, 2014  
6:00 PM - 9:00 PM CST**

# Managing Expectations

- \$150-\$180 million available for projects Gulf wide equates to:
  - \$35 million per state
  - \$16 million per council member
- Council members may submit up to 5 projects for consideration
- Not every project submitted by a Council Member will be included on the draft Funded Priorities List

# Public Comment

- For more information or to submit a project visit: [www.deepwaterhorizonflorida.com](http://www.deepwaterhorizonflorida.com)
- Email comments and project updates to [Ashley.M.Williams@dep.state.fl.us](mailto:Ashley.M.Williams@dep.state.fl.us) with subject line “RESTORE Comment” by Friday, October 3<sup>rd</sup>.

