

Gulf Coast Ecosystem Restoration Science, Observation,
Monitoring, and Technology Program



NOAA RESTORE Act Science Program

2014 National Summit
Restore America's Estuaries and The Coastal Society
November 3, 2014

Mary Erickson

Goal

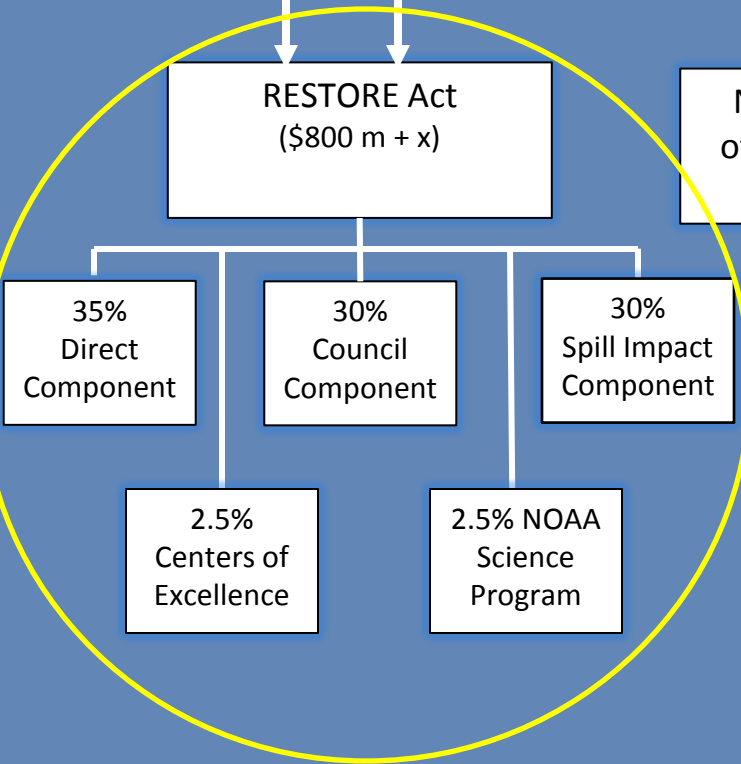


Support the science necessary for better understanding and management of the Gulf of Mexico ecosystem, specifically:

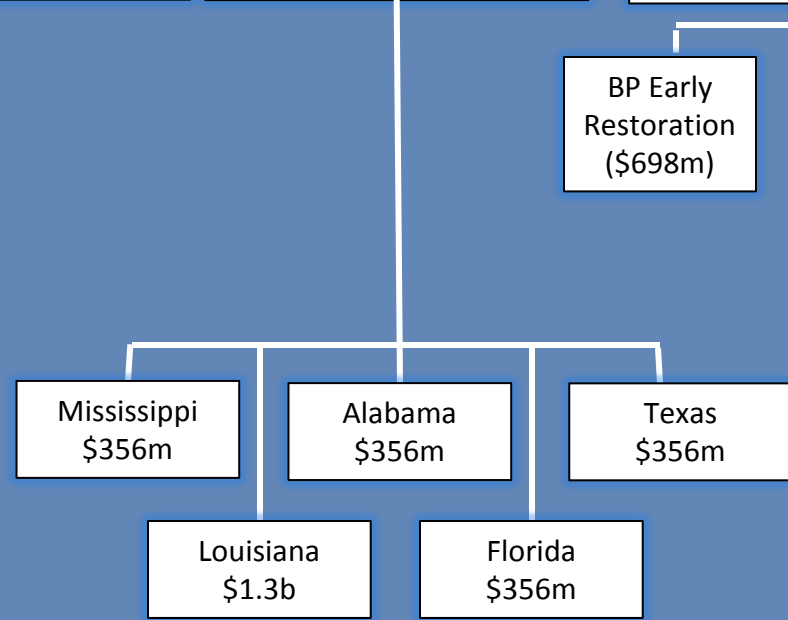
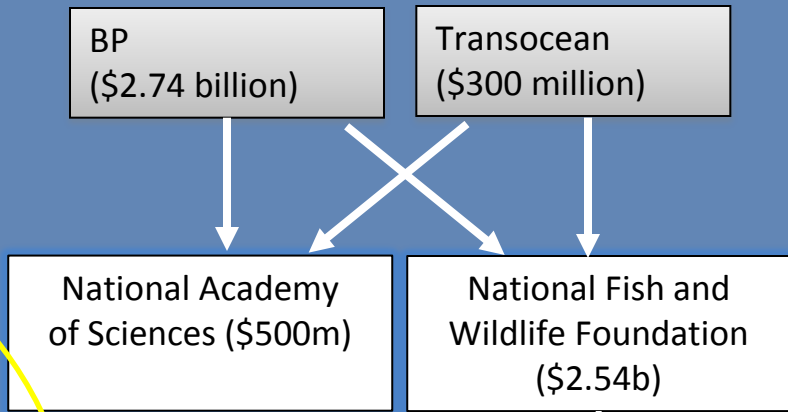
- healthy, diverse, sustainable, and resilient **estuarine, coastal and marine habitats**
- healthy, diverse, sustainable, and resilient **coastal and marine resources, including wildlife**
- resilient and adaptive **coastal communities.**

Deepwater Horizon Gulf Restoration Initiatives

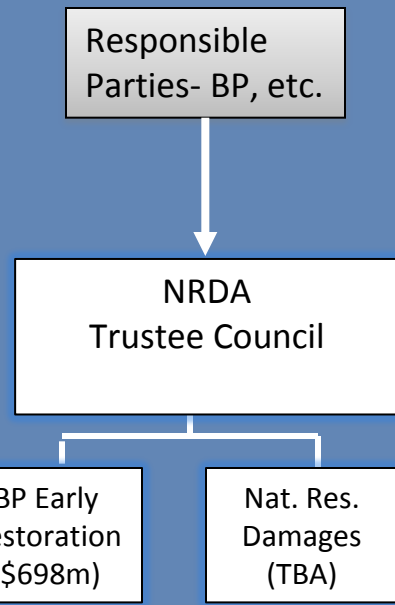
Civil Penalties



Criminal Penalties



Natural Resource Damages



Science Plan: What it Covers

- Released for public comment from Oct 30 to Dec 15
- 10 long-term priorities for the Program
 - Priorities informed by prior science and research needs assessments, stakeholder engagement
- Plan covers program implementation, partnerships, coordination

Other Components of Plan:

- Legislative requirements
- Vision and mission
- Geographic scope
- Approach to engagement
- Program management
- Program parameters
- Eligibility for funding opportunities
- Scientific integrity
- Data and information sharing

Priority Identification Process



- Reviewed existing needs assessments and earlier stakeholder input to identify research priorities
- Consolidated priorities
- Identified management needs supported by each priority
- Identified key activities, anticipated outputs, outcomes

Long-term Research Priorities

1. Gulf of Mexico ecosystem services, resilience, vulnerabilities
2. Gulf of Mexico management-ready ecosystem models
3. Improved modeling and forecasting of climate change and weather
4. Watershed, sediment, and nutrient impacts on coastal habitats/ecology
5. LMR, food webs, habitats, protected areas, and carbon flow
6. Long-term trends on status and health of ecosystem
7. Indicators of Gulf Coast environmental and socioeconomic conditions
8. Decision support tools to monitor and manage habitat, LMR, wildlife
9. Integrated existing and planned Gulf monitoring programs
10. Advanced engineering, physical, chemical, biological, and socioeconomic technologies to improve monitoring

Initial Federal Funding Opportunity

- Focuses on three short-term priorities:
 - Comprehensive inventory and assessment of ecosystem modeling
 - Analysis of ecosystem health/condition indicators and design/testing of additional indicators
 - Assessment of monitoring and observation needs and development of recommendations for a Gulf wide network
- Further refined by three topical areas:
 - Ecosystem and living marine resources management
 - Climate change and extreme weather impacts on sustainability of restoration
 - Integration of social/behavioral/economic science into restoration and management
- Total available funding is \$2 to 2.5 M for projects of 1-2 years

Comment on the Science Plan

find the plan at

<http://restoreactscienceprogram.noaa.gov/science-plan>

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Comments due December 15, 2014

NOAA SAB Working Group

Gulf Coast Ecosystem Restoration Science Program Advisory Working Group

Roles

- Provide independent guidance and review of the Science Program along with general programmatic advice and recommendations
- Provide a mechanism for formal coordination between the multiple organizations conducting Gulf of Mexico science connected to the Deepwater Horizon event

Members

Representatives of Gulf of Mexico Science Programs:

- Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission
- Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council
- RESTORE Act Centers of Excellence (Florida, Alabama, Mississippi, Louisiana, Texas)

Subject Matter Experts: physical, chemical, biological oceanography; economics or social sciences; wetlands ecology; fisher, wildlife, and marine mammal ecology; ecosystem modeling; toxicology; observing and monitoring systems; ecosystem management

Ex-officio members:

- Gulf of Mexico Research Initiative
- National Academy of Sciences Gulf Research Program
- Bureau of Ocean Energy Management
- National Fish and Wildlife Foundation