Science Supporting the Resiliency and Long-Term Sustainability of the Gulf of Mexico

RAE/TCS Conference, 3 November 2014

Gulf Environmental Benefit Fund
• $2.554 billion from BP and Transocean to:
  – Conduct or fund projects
  – Remedy harm, or reduce or eliminate risk of future harm, to **Gulf coast natural resources**
  – Where there has been injury to, destruction of, loss of, or loss of use of resources **resulting from the Macondo oil spill**
  – **Consult** with State resource managers, USFWS, and NOAA
  – **Maximize environmental benefits**

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**Gulf Environmental Benefit Fund**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Payment (in millions of dollars)</th>
<th>Louisiana</th>
<th>Alabama</th>
<th>Florida</th>
<th>Mississippi</th>
<th>Texas</th>
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<tr>
<td>Apr. 2013</td>
<td>$158.00</td>
<td>$79.00</td>
<td>$22.12</td>
<td>$22.12</td>
<td>$22.12</td>
<td>$12.64</td>
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<tr>
<td>Feb. 2014</td>
<td>353.00</td>
<td>176.50</td>
<td>49.42</td>
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<td>Feb. 2015</td>
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<tr>
<td>Feb. 2016</td>
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<td>150.00</td>
<td>42.00</td>
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<td>Feb. 2018</td>
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<td>447.00</td>
<td>125.16</td>
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<td>Totals</td>
<td><strong>$2,544.00</strong></td>
<td><strong>$1,272.00</strong></td>
<td><strong>$356.16</strong></td>
<td><strong>$356.16</strong></td>
<td><strong>$356.16</strong></td>
<td><strong>$203.52</strong></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

*BP = $2,394M*

*Transocean = $150M*
1. **Restore and Conserve Coastal Habitat**
   - Barrier islands & beach/dune habitat
   - Coastal marsh
   - Coastal bays & estuaries

2. **Enhance Populations of Priority Living Resources**
   - Oysters
   - Gulf Coast birds
   - Red snapper & reef fish
   - Sea turtles
   - Marine mammals
On-Cycle Process

April
States submit pre-proposals

June
Full Proposals Invited

July
Full Proposals Due

November
NFWF Board of Directors
Makes Funding Decisions
Off-Cycle Process

- Off-cycle requests are possible under special circumstances if there is an imminent need that cannot be addressed under normal funding cycle.
  - Two rounds of review and consultation
  - No diminution of review or lessening of due diligence activities
  - Must have available funds
2013 Projects

- **Initial Projects Announced November 2013**
  - 22 projects selected in the five Gulf states
  - Total obligation of over $112 million dollars
  - Project implementation underway

- **In aggregate, these projects will:**
  - Protect, restore or enhance significant acres of wetland habitat
  - Facilitate restoration of barrier island & beach/dune habitat
  - Advance priority river diversion projects to benefit coastal Louisiana
  - Protect nests for priority beach-nesting birds in Florida and Mississippi
  - Increase sea turtle hatchlings by reducing light pollution
  - Restore significant acreage of oyster reef
2014 Projects

- **Off-Cycle- Approved March 2014**
  - Caminada Headland (LA) Beach and Dune Restoration
  - Mississippi Coastal Restoration Planning
  - Powderhorn Ranch (TX) Acquisition
  - Total obligation of over $183 million
  - Project implementation underway

- **Regular Cycle- Decisions in November 2014**
  - 29 project proposals across the five Gulf states
  - Total request of over $120 million dollars
  - Proposal review and revision underway
NFWF, Collaboration, and Science

• NFWF, NRDA, and RESTORE Council Staff are coordinating to:
  – ensure consistent practices
  – manage workload
  – leverage project funds
  – share knowledge

• Proposals must include:
  – science-based project conceptual models
  – uncertainty and project risk assessments to support adaptive management

• Project-specific monitoring provides opportunities to partner:
  – regional baseline monitoring efforts
  – additional research efforts- getting to scale and reducing uncertainties for future projects