Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill; Draft Programmatic and Phase III Early Restoration Plan and Draft Early Restoration Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement

Abstract: In accordance with the Oil Pollution Act of 1990 (OPA) and the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), the Federal and State natural resource trustee agencies (Trustees) have prepared a Draft Programmatic and Phase III Early Restoration Plan and Draft Early Restoration Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (Draft Phase III ERP/PEIS). The Draft Phase III ERP/PEIS considers programmatic alternatives to restore natural resources, ecological services, and recreational use services injured or lost as a result of the *Deepwater Horizon* oil spill. The restoration alternatives are comprised of early restoration project types; the Trustees additionally propose forty-four specific early restoration projects that are consistent with the proposed early restoration program alternatives. The Trustees have developed restoration alternatives and projects to utilize funds for early restoration being provided under the Framework for Early Restoration Addressing Injuries Resulting from the *Deepwater Horizon* Oil Spill (Framework Agreement). Criteria and evaluation standards under the OPA natural resource damage assessment regulations and the Framework Agreement guided the Trustees' consideration of programmatic restoration alternatives. The Draft Phase III ERP/PEIS evaluates these restoration alternatives and projects under criteria set forth in the OPA natural resource damage assessment regulations and the Framework Agreement. The Draft Phase III ERP/PEIS also evaluates the environmental consequences of the restoration alternatives and projects under NEPA.

Lead Agency: U.S Department of the Interior

Cooperating Agencies:
Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality
Florida Department of Environmental Protection
Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission
Louisiana Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority
Louisiana Oil Spill Coordinator's Office
Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality
Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries
Louisiana Department of Natural Resources
Texas Parks and Wildlife Department
Texas General Land Office
Texas Commission on Environmental Quality
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
U.S. Department of Agriculture
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

For Further Information Contact: Nanciann Regalado at *nanciann_regalado@fws.gov*.

Comments Due: We will consider public comments received on or before February 4, 2014.

Public Comments may be submitted:
Via U.S. Mail: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, P.O. Box 49567, Atlanta, GA 30345
Via the Web: *http://www.gulfspillrestoration.noaa.gov*.

Draft Programmatic and Phase III Early Restoration Plan and Draft Early Restoration Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement

December 2013

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Introduction

On or about April 20, 2010, the mobile offshore drilling unit *Deepwater Horizon,* which was being used to drill a well for BP Exploration and Production, Inc. (BP) in the Macondo prospect (Mississippi Canyon 252 – MC252), suffered a blowout, caught fire, and subsequently sank in the Gulf of Mexico (the Gulf). Tragically, 11 workers were killed and 19 injured. This incident resulted in discharges of oil and other substances into the Gulf from the rig and the submerged wellhead. The *Deepwater Horizon* Oil Spill is the largest oil spill in U.S. history, discharging millions of barrels of oil over a period of 87 days (hereafter referred to as "the Spill," which includes activities conducted in response to the spilled oil). In addition, well over one million gallons of dispersants were applied to the waters of the spill area in an attempt to disperse the spilled oil.[1] An undetermined amount of natural gas was also released to the environment as a result of the Spill.

The U.S. Coast Guard responded and directed federal efforts to contain and clean up the Spill. The scope, nature and magnitude of the Spill was unprecedented, causing impacts to coastal and oceanic ecosystems ranging from the deep ocean floor, through the oceanic water column, to the highly productive coastal habitats of the northern Gulf, including estuaries, shorelines and coastal marsh. Affected resources include ecologically, recreationally, and commercially important species and their habitats in the Gulf and along the coastal areas of Texas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama and Florida. These fish and wildlife species and their supporting habitats provide a number of important ecological and human use services.

Pursuant to the Oil Pollution Act (OPA), 33 United States Code (U.S.C.) § 2701 *et seq*., and the laws of individual affected states, federal and state agencies, Indian tribes and foreign governments shall act as trustees on behalf of the public to assess injuries to natural resources and their services that result from an oil spill incident, and to plan for restoration to compensate for those injuries. OPA further instructs the designated trustees to develop and implement a plan for the restoration, rehabilitation, replacement, or acquisition of the equivalent of the injured natural resources under their trusteeship (hereafter collectively referred to as "restoration"). This process of injury assessment and restoration planning is referred to as natural resource damage assessment (NRDA). OPA defines "natural resources" to include land, fish, wildlife, biota, air, water, ground water, drinking water supplies and other such resources belonging to, managed by, held in trust by, appertaining to, or otherwise controlled by the United States (including the resources of the Exclusive Economic Zone), any State or local government or Indian tribe, or any foreign government (33 U.S.C. § 2701(20)).

[1] Dispersants do not remove oil from the ocean. Rather, they are used to help break large globs of oil into smaller droplets that can be more readily dissolved into the water column.

The Federal Trustees are designated pursuant to section 2706(b) (2) of OPA (33 U.S.C. 2706(b) (2)) and Executive Orders 12777 and 13626. The following federal agencies are the designated natural resource Trustees under OPA for this Spill:[2]

- The United States Department of the Interior (DOI), as represented by the National Park Service (NPS), United States Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS), and Bureau of Land Management;
- The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), on behalf of the United States Department of Commerce;
- The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA); and
- The United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

State Trustees are designated by the Governors of each state pursuant to section 1006(b) (3) of OPA (U.S.C. § 2706(b) (3)). The following state agencies are designated natural resources Trustees under OPA and are currently acting as Trustees for the Spill:

- Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD), Texas General Land Office (TGLO) and Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ);
- The State of Louisiana's Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority (CPRA), Oil Spill Coordinator's Office (LOSCO), Department of Environmental Quality (LDEQ), Department of Wildlife and Fisheries (LDWF) and Department of Natural Resources (LDNR);
- The State of Mississippi's Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ);
- The State of Alabama's Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (ADCNR) and Geological Survey of Alabama (GSA); and
- The State of Florida's Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) and Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC).

This document (Draft Phase III ERP/PEIS), prepared jointly by State and Federal Trustees, serves as a Draft Programmatic Early Restoration Plan and Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement and a Draft Phase III Early Restoration Plan and associated environmental analyses.

- This Draft Programmatic ERP and PEIS are intended to guide the development and evaluation of Early Restoration projects for the potential use of the remaining funds available for Early Restoration. This draft Programmatic ERP frames and helps to inform Early Restoration actions. The draft Programmatic ERP and PEIS identify a range of Early Restoration alternatives and project types that could be applied at this time and in future phases of Early Restoration planning. The PEIS may serve as the base document from which to tier subsequent environmental compliance evaluation for future Early Restoration plans.
- The Draft Phase III Early Restoration Plan proposes specific projects consistent with the Draft Programmatic Early Restoration Plan, supported by evaluation of the potential environmental impacts of the proposed projects.

[2] The U. S. Department of Defense is a trustee under OPA of natural resources at its Gulf Coast facilities potentially affected by the Spill but is not a member of the Trustee Council and did not participate in the preparation of this document.

The Trustees are actively seeking public comments regarding both the programmatic approach taken in this Draft document and the proposed Phase III Early Restoration projects. A Notice of Availability of this document and the request for input is available at: www.gulfspillrestoration.noaa.gov. The Draft's release opens a 60-day public comment period that runs through Feb. 4, 2014. The comment period will include 10 public meetings held across the Gulf states. All meetings will begin with an interactive open house during which Trustee staff will be available to discuss programmatic and project details.

Please visit www.gulfspillrestoration.noaa.gov to download an electronic copy of the draft and to view a list of public libraries and community locations across the Gulf in which electronic copies of the draft have been placed for public review.

In addition to verbal comments at public meetings, the public may submit written comments:

- Online: www.gulfspillrestoration.noaa.gov
- By U.S. Mail: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, P.O. Box 49567, Atlanta, GA 30345.

Framework Agreement

On April 20, 2011, BP agreed to provide up to $1 billion toward Early Restoration projects in the Gulf of Mexico to address injuries to natural resources caused by the Spill. This Early Restoration agreement, entitled "Framework for Early Restoration Addressing Injuries Resulting from the *Deepwater Horizon* Oil Spill" (Framework Agreement), represents a preliminary step toward the restoration of injured natural resources. The Framework Agreement provides a mechanism through which the Trustees and BP can work together "to commence implementation of Early Restoration projects that will provide meaningful benefits to accelerate restoration in the Gulf as quickly as practicable" prior to the resolution of the Trustees' natural resource damages claim.

The Early Restoration planning process is part of the NRDA but is also shaped in part by the Framework Agreement. Under the Framework Agreement, a proposed Early Restoration project may be funded only if all of the Trustees, the U.S. Department of Justice, and BP agree on, among other things, the amount of funding to be provided by BP and the "NRD Offsets" (explained later in this document) that will be credited for that project against BP's liability for NRD resulting from the Spill. The need for project-specific agreements with BP inevitably affects which projects are practical to pursue in the early restoration process.

Early Restoration is not intended to fully compensate the public for all natural resource injuries and losses including recreational use losses from the Spill. The Trustees have engaged the public in a separate process to address longer-term restoration. This process is described in Section 1.3.2 (Gulf Spill NRDA Restoration Planning) of the accompanying Draft Phase III ERP/PEIS. Since final determinations of injury will not be completed for some time, it is premature to say now what proportion of any particular resource injury or loss would be addressed by any Early Restoration project, including those proposed in this Draft Phase III ERP/PEIS. Ultimately, the responsible parties are obligated to compensate the public for the full scope of natural resource injuries caused by the spill, including the cost of assessment and restoration planning.

Natural Resource Damage Assessment Restoration Planning

Restoration activities are intended to restore or replace habitats, species, and services to their baseline condition, (primary restoration), and to compensate the public for interim losses from the time natural resources are injured until they recover to baseline conditions (compensatory restoration). To meet these goals, the restoration activities need to produce benefits that are related, or have a nexus, to natural resources injured and service losses resulting from the Spill.

Natural resource services include the ecological and recreational services that natural resources provide. Examples of ecological services include nutrient cycling, food production for other species, habitat provision, and other services that natural resources provide for each other. Recreational use services include (but are not limited to) recreational activities that make 'direct' use of natural resources (e.g., boating, nature photography, education, fishing, swimming, hiking, etc.).[3] For the purposes of this document, the term "natural resource services" includes ecological and recreational use services.

RESTORATION TERMS DEFINED

Restoration: Any action that restores, rehabilitates, replaces, or acquires the equivalent of the injured natural resources.

Baseline: The condition of the natural resources and services that would have existed had the incident not occurred

Primary Restoration: Any action, including natural recovery, that returns injured natural resources and services to baseline.

Compensatory Restoration: Any action taken to compensate the public for interim losses of natural resources and services from the date of injury until recovery.

Natural Resource Services: The functions performed by a natural resource for the benefit of another natural resource (ecological services) and/or the public (including recreational services).

NRDA restoration planning is designed to evaluate potential injuries to natural resources and natural resource services; to use that information to determine whether and to what extent restoration is needed; to identify potential restoration actions to address that need; and to provide the public with an opportunity to review and comment on the proposed restoration alternatives. Restoration planning has two basic components: (1) injury assessment and (2) restoration selection. The goal of injury assessment is to determine the nature and extent of injuries to natural resources and services. The goal of restoration selection is to evaluate the need for and type of restoration required based on the injury assessment. Under the NRDA regulations, Trustees must identify a reasonable range of restoration alternatives, evaluate and select the preferred alternative(s), and develop a Draft (for public comment) and Final Restoration Plan. Each restoration alternative considered must address specific injuries

[3] Natural resources can provide a variety of "direct" and "indirect" services to the public ("indirect" services to the public can be seen, for example, in the value the public holds for natural resources independent of their own use of such resources (e.g., by contributing to the protection of natural resources that they may not directly 'use' but want to preserve for future generations)). For the purposes of this document, the Trustees focus on the recreational service 'subset' of human use services. The Trustees reserve the right to seek compensation for all human use impacts arising from the Spill, consistent with OPA and OPA NRDA regulations.

associated with the incident. Ultimately, Trustees seek to implement restoration projects expected to fully compensate the public for losses of natural resources and services resulting from the Spill.

Early Restoration Programmatic Approach

For the purpose of accelerating meaningful restoration of injured natural resources and their services resulting from the Spill, The Trustees propose to continue implementation of Early Restoration in accordance with the OPA and using funds made available in the Framework Agreement. Given the potential magnitude and breadth of further Early Restoration, the Trustees elected to prepare a Programmatic Early Restoration Plan (Programmatic ERP) under OPA to analyze alternative approaches to continuing Early Restoration and to consistently guide remaining Early Restoration decisions. A programmatic approach assists the Trustees and the public in evaluation of proposed projects and in development and evaluation of future Early Restoration projects.

The regulations that guide natural resource damage assessments under OPA require that restoration planning actions undertaken by Federal Trustees comply with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), 42 U.S.C. § 4321 et seq., and the regulations guiding its implementation at 40 C.F.R. Part 1500. NEPA and its implementing regulations outline the responsibilities of federal agencies, including the preparation of environmental analysis, such as an environmental impact statement (EIS).

A Federal agency may prepare a programmatic EIS (PEIS) to evaluate broad actions. 40 C.F.R. § 1502.4(b); *see* Forty Most Asked Questions Concerning CEQ's National Environmental Policy Act Regulations, 46 Fed. Reg. 18026 (1981). When a federal agency prepares a PEIS, the agency may "tier" subsequent narrower environmental analyses on site specific plans or projects from the PEIS (40 C.F.R. § 1502.4(b); 40 C.F.R. §1508.28). Federal agencies are encouraged to tier subsequent narrower analyses from a PEIS to eliminate repetitive discussions of the same issues and to focus on the actual issues ripe for decision at each level of environmental review (40 C.F.R. § 1502.20).

A PEIS may consider multiple related federal actions that may encompass a large geographic scale or that constitute a suite of similar programs, both of which apply to the joint state and federal Early Restoration effort for natural resources and services that were impacted by the Spill. The Trustees elected to prepare a programmatic EIS to support analysis of the environmental consequences of the Programmatic ERP and to consider the multiple related actions that may occur as a result of Early Restoration, and to allow for a better analysis of cumulative impacts of potential actions. The affected environment analyzed in this draft document includes the northern Gulf of Mexico region and its physical and biological environments, and the human uses and socioeconomics of that area (See Chapter 3 – The Affected Environment).

For the Programmatic ERP, the Trustees developed a set of project types for inclusion in programmatic alternatives, consistent with the desire to seek a diverse set of projects providing benefits to a broad array of potentially injured resources.[4] Ultimately, this process resulted in the inclusion of twelve project types in the programmatic alternatives evaluated for Early Restoration in this document, including:

[4] Project type names, descriptions, and the resources benefitted are not necessarily indicative of NRD Offsets agreed upon with BP for any particular project pursuant to the Framework Agreement. Offset types and the relationship to projects proposed in

1. Create and Improve Wetlands
2. Protect Shorelines and Reduce Erosion
3. Restore Barrier Islands and Beaches
4. Restore and Protect Submerged Aquatic Vegetation
5. Conserve Habitat
6. Restore Oysters
7. Restore and Protect Finfish and Shellfish
8. Restore and Protect Birds
9. Restore and Protect Sea Turtles
10. Enhance Public Access to Natural Resources for Recreational Use
11. Enhance Recreational Experiences
12. Promote Environmental and Cultural Stewardship, Education and Outreach

Additional project types were considered by the Trustees, but not evaluated in detail at this time, the Trustees do not consider them appropriate for Early Restoration. For example, while the Trustees are concerned about and continue to evaluate potential Spill injuries to marine mammals and to components of the deep benthic environment (e.g., deep sea corals, mesophotic reefs and deep soft bottom sediment habitat), additional time and effort is needed to enhance Trustee understanding of such injuries and identify appropriate, reliable restoration methods.

While the twelve project types can be combined in numerous ways to develop programmatic alternatives, the Trustees considered and evaluated the following four programmatic alternatives in this document:

1. No Action;
2. Contribute to Restoring Habitats and Living Coastal and Marine Resources (project types 1-9 above);
3. Contribute to Providing and Enhancing Recreational Opportunities (project types 10-12 above); and
4. Contribute to Restoring Habitats, Living Coastal and Marine Resources, and Recreational Opportunities (project types 1-12 above).

The Trustees believe that these alternatives and project types are consistent with relevant evaluation criteria and provide a reasonable range for consideration and evaluation. Each project type is described under the relevant alternative and the Draft Phase III ERP/PEIS presents the Trustees preferred alternative (Alternative 4). The environmental analysis of the Programmatic ERP and PEIS alternatives can be found in Chapter 6.

Early Restoration Project Selection Process

The Trustees developed the Early Restoration selection process to be responsive to the purpose and need for conducting Early Restoration. Figure ES-1 depicts the general Early Restoration project solicitation and selection process. In summary, Early Restoration project selection is a step-wise process

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this DERP are described in Chapters 8-12 of this document. Future proposed projects, even if similar to those proposed herein or within the same project type, may bear different proposed NRD Offsets.

comprised of: (1) project solicitation; (2) project screening; (3) negotiation with BP; and (4) public review and comment.

Restoration Project Solicitation

Public input is an integral part of NEPA, OPA and the Spill restoration planning effort, and is an important means for ensuring that the Trustees consider relevant information and concerns of the public. Following the Spill, the Trustees established websites to provide the public information about injury and restoration processes.[5] Public solicitation of restoration projects has been ongoing since the Notice of Intent to Conduct Restoration Planning for the Spill was published in 2010.

Following adoption of the Framework Agreement in April 2011, the Trustees invited the public to provide restoration project ideas through a variety of mechanisms, including public meetings and internet-accessible databases. The Trustees received hundreds of proposals, all of which can be viewed at several web pages.[6] The Trustees conducted a public scoping process soliciting comments regarding the above stated programmatic Early Restoration approach June 4 – August 2, 2013, after publication of a Notice of Intent. A record of the public meetings and input opportunities is available at http://www.gulfspillrestoration.noaa.gov. A summary of comments received in response to the Notice of Intent to Conduct Scoping will be available in the Administrative Record.

[5] The Trustees established the following websites:

- NOAA, Gulf Spill Restoration, available at http://www.gulfspillrestoration.noaa.gov/;
- DOI, Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill Response, available at http://www.fws.gov/home/dhoilspill/;
- Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill, available at http://www.tpwd.state.tx.us/landwater/water/environconcerns/damage_assessment/deep_water_horizon.phtml/;
- Louisiana, Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill Natural Resource Damage Assessment, available at http://losco-dwh.com/;
- Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality, Natural Resource Damage Assessment, available at http://www.restore.ms/;
- Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, NRDA Projects, available at http://www.outdooralabama.com/nrdaprojects/; and Florida Department of Environmental Protection, Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill Response and Restoration, available at http://www.dep.state.fl.us/deepwaterhorizon/default.htm

[6] See www.gulfspillrestoration.noaa.gov, http://losco-dwh.com, http://www.restore.ms, http://www.tpwd.state.tx.us/landwater/water/environconcerns/damage_assessment/deep_water_horizon.phtml http://www.outdooralabama.com/nrdaprojects/ http://www.deepwaterhorizonflorida.com http://www.gulfspillrestoration.noaa.gov/restoration/give-us-your-ideas/.

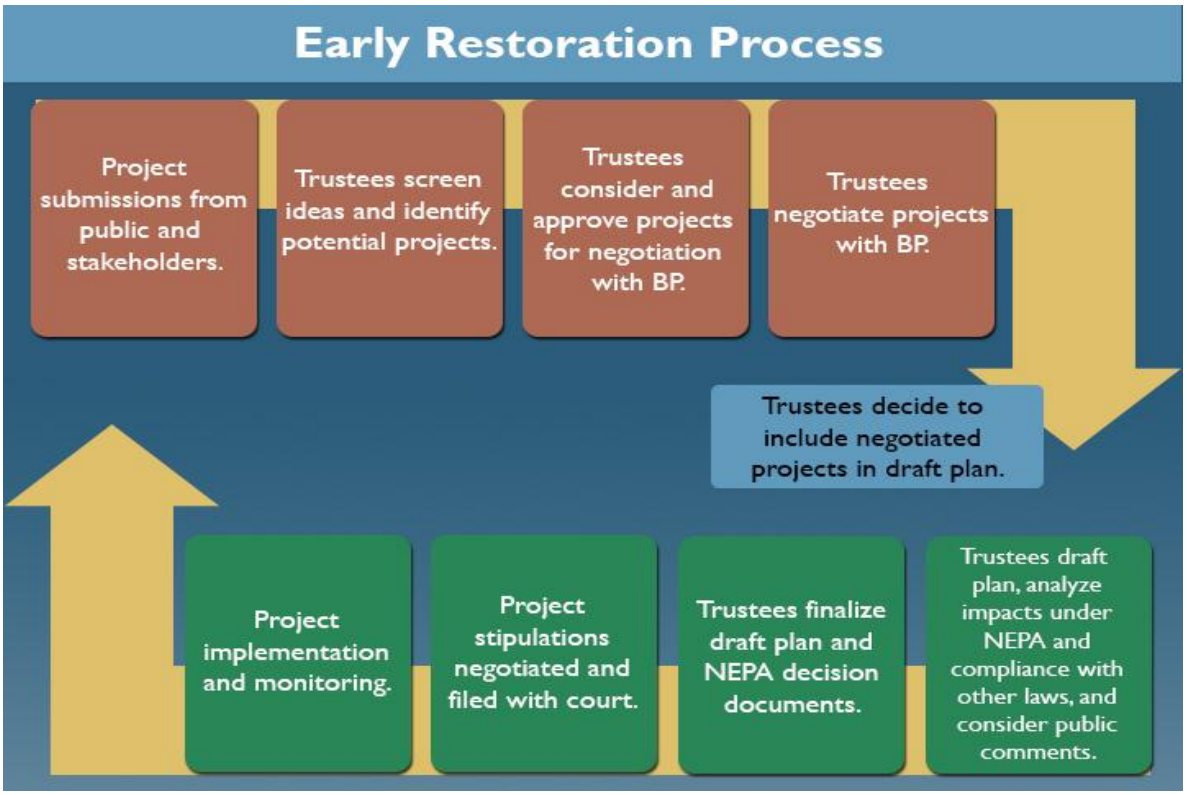

Figure ES-1. General Early Restoration project selection process.

The Trustees have addressed and continue to address NRDA, the restoration planning process and potential restoration projects at public meetings, venues and meetings with many non-governmental organizations and other stakeholders. The Trustees continue to solicit restoration ideas via the web and continue to consider existing and new project proposals as part of the restoration planning process.

Early Restoration Evaluation Criteria

In evaluating Early Restoration programmatic alternatives and specific restoration projects, the Trustees used criteria included in the NRDA regulations and the Framework Agreement, as well as factors that are otherwise key in planning or affecting Early Restoration, including those associated with other laws, regulations and programs. Chapter 2 contains a detailed discussion of various evaluation criteria. Chapter 5 provides a detailed evaluation of the consistency of the proposed alternatives with programmatic criteria, and Chapters 8-12 of this document provide project-specific information addressing each project's consistency with project evaluation criteria identified in Chapter 2. Additional Trustee-specific information on Trustee screening is included in each of Chapters 8-12.

Severability of Proposed Phase III Early Restoration Projects

In the Draft Phase III ERP/PEIS, the Trustees propose 44 specific Early Restoration projects expected to cost approximately $627 million for consideration along with a broader, programmatic plan and PEIS that encompass not only the proposed Phase III projects but also the remainder of the Early Restoration process. In general, the proposed Phase III projects presented in this Draft Phase III ERP/PEIS are independent of each other and can be selected independently for the Final Phase III ERP/PEIS. A decision not to include one or more of the proposed projects in the Final Phase III ERP/PEIS should not affect

either the programmatic elements of the plan or the Trustees' selection of the remaining Phase III Early Restoration projects.

Proposed Phase III Early Restoration Projects

The Trustees are proposing a set of Phase III Early Restoration projects totaling approximately $627 million in estimated projects costs (including contingencies). Ecological projects comprise $396.9 million (63%) of this total, and recreational projects comprise the remaining $230 million (37%). Within the ecological project category, barrier island restoration accounts for $318.4 million of estimated project costs, followed by living shoreline ($66.6 million), oyster ($8.6 million), SAV ($2.7 million) and dune projects ($0.6 million). Project information and environmental analyses for proposed Phase III Early Restoration projects are included in Chapters 8-12 of the Draft Phase III ERP/PEIS.

Table ES-1. Summary of Phase III Early Restoration projects.

PROJECT CATEGORY	ESTIMATED COST FOR ALL PROPOSED PROJECTS IN THAT CATEGORY
Barrier Islands	$318,363,000
Recreational	$230,118,372
Living Shoreline	$66,603,668
Oyster	$8,610,081
Seagrasses	$2,691,867
Dune	$611,234
Total	**$626,998,302**

Table ES-2 lists the 44 proposed Phase III projects, identifies the state in which each is located or proximate, and relates each project back to the project type(s) and programmatic alternatives noted above. Proposed projects are organized by state, from west to east within the Gulf. Unless otherwise noted, state Trustees will be the project management lead for proposed projects located in their states.

Table ES-2. Proposed Phase III Early Restoration Projects: Relationship to Programmatic Alternatives.

				ALTERNATIVE 4												
				ALTERNATIVE 2									ALTERNATIVE 3			
	PROPOSED PROJECT	LOCATION	COST	CREATE AND IMPROVE WETLANDS	PROTECT SHORELINES AND REDUCE EROSION	RESTORE BARRIER ISLANDS AND BEACHES	RESTORE AND PROTECT SUBMERGED AQUATIC VEGETATION	CONSERVE HABITAT	RESTORE OYSTERS	RESTORE AND PROTECT FINFISH	RESTORE AND PROTECT BIRDS	RESTORE AND PROTECT SEA TURTLES	ENHANCE PUBLIC ACCESS TO NATURAL RESOURCES FOR RECREATIONAL USE	ENHANCE RECREATIONAL EXPERIENCES	PROMOTE ENVIRONMENTAL AND CULTURAL STEWARDSHIP, EDUCATION, AND OUTREACH
1	Freeport Artificial Reef Project	TX	$2,155,365											X	
2	Matagorda Texas Artificial Reef Project	TX	$3,486,398											X	
3	Mid/upper Texas Coast Artificial Reef Ship Reef Project[1]	TX	$1,785,765											X	
4	Sea Rim State Park Improvements	TX	$210,100										X	X	
5	Galveston Island State Park Beach Development	TX	$10,745,060										X	X	

				ALTERNATIVE 4												
				ALTERNATIVE 2									ALTERNATIVE 3			
	PROPOSED PROJECT	LOCATION	COST	CREATE AND IMPROVE WETLANDS	PROTECT SHORELINES AND REDUCE EROSION	RESTORE BARRIER ISLANDS AND BEACHES	RESTORE AND PROTECT SUBMERGED AQUATIC VEGETATION	CONSERVE HABITAT	RESTORE OYSTERS	RESTORE AND PROTECT FINFISH	RESTORE AND PROTECT BIRDS	RESTORE AND PROTECT SEA TURTLES	ENHANCE PUBLIC ACCESS TO NATURAL RESOURCES FOR RECREATIONAL USE	ENHANCE RECREATIONAL EXPERIENCES	PROMOTE ENVIRONMENTAL AND CULTURAL STEWARDSHIP, EDUCATION, AND OUTREACH
6	Louisiana Outer Coast Restoration	LA[2]	$318,363,000			X									
7	Louisiana Marine Fisheries Enhancement, Research, and Science Center	LA	$22,000,000											X	X
8	Mississippi Hancock County Marsh Living Shoreline Project	MS	$50,000,000	X	X										
9	Restoration Initiatives at the INFINITY Science Center	MS	$10,400,000										X	X	X
10	Popp's Ferry Causeway Park	MS	$4,757,000										X	X	X
11	Pascagoula Beach Front Promenade	MS	$3,800,000										X	X	
12	Alabama Swift Tract Living Shoreline	AL	$5,000,080		X										
13	Gulf State Park Enhancement Project	AL	$85,505,305										X	X	X
14	Alabama Oyster Cultch Restoration	AL	$3,239,485						X						
15	Beach Enhancement Project at Gulf Island National Seashore	FL[3]	$10,836,055											X	
16	Gulf Islands National Seashore Ferry Project	FL[3]	$4,020,000										X		
17	Florida Cat Point Living Shoreline Project	FL	$775,605	X	X										
18	Florida Pensacola Bay Living Shoreline Project	FL	$10,828,063	X	X										
19	Florida Seagrass Recovery Project	FL	$2,691,867				X								
20	Perdido Key State Park Beach Boardwalk Improvements	FL	$588,500										X	X	
21	Big Lagoon State Park Boat Ramp Improvement	FL	$1,483,020										X	X	
22	Bob Sikes Pier Parking and Trail Restoration	FL	$1,023,990										X	X	
23	Florida Artificial Reefs	FL	$11,463,587										X	X	
24	Florida Fish Hatchery	FL	$18,793,500										X	X	
25	Scallop Enhancement for Increased Recreational Fishing Opportunity in the Florida Panhandle	FL	$2,890,250										X	X	
26	Shell Point Beach Nourishment	FL	$882,750											X	
27	Perdido Key Dune Restoration Project	FL	$611,234			X									
28	Florida Oyster Cultch Placement Project	FL	$5,370,596						X						
29	Strategically Provided Boat Access Along Florida's Gulf Coast	FL	$3,248,340										X	X	

				ALTERNATIVE 4												
				ALTERNATIVE 2									ALTERNATIVE 3			
	PROPOSED PROJECT	LOCATION	COST	CREATE AND IMPROVE WETLANDS	PROTECT SHORELINES AND REDUCE EROSION	RESTORE BARRIER ISLANDS AND BEACHES	RESTORE AND PROTECT SUBMERGED AQUATIC VEGETATION	CONSERVE HABITAT	RESTORE OYSTERS	RESTORE AND PROTECT FINFISH	RESTORE AND PROTECT BIRDS	RESTORE AND PROTECT SEA TURTLES	ENHANCE PUBLIC ACCESS TO NATURAL RESOURCES FOR RECREATIONAL USE	ENHANCE RECREATIONAL EXPERIENCES	PROMOTE ENVIRONMENTAL AND CULTURAL STEWARDSHIP, EDUCATION, AND OUTREACH
30	Walton County Boardwalks and Dune Crossovers	FL	$743,276										X	X	
31	Gulf County Recreation Projects	FL	$2,118,600										X	X	
32	Bald Point State Park Recreation Areas	FL	$470,800										X	X	
33	Enhancements of Franklin County Parks and Boat Ramps	FL	$1,771,385										X	X	X
34	Appalachicola River Wildlife and Environmental Area Fishing and Wildlife Viewing Access Improvements	FL	$262,989										X	X	
35	Navarre Beach Park Gulfside Walkover Complex	FL	$1,221,847										X	X	
36	Navarre Beach Park Coastal Access	FL	$614,630										X	X	
37	Gulf Breeze Wayside Park Boat Ramp	FL	$309,669										X	X	
38	Developing Enhanced Recreational Opportunities at the Escribano Point Portion of the Yellow River Wildlife Management Area	FL	$2,576,365										X	X	X
39	Norriego Point Restoration and Recreation Project	FL	$10,228,130										X	X	X
40	Deer Lake State Park Development	FL	$588,500										X	X	
41	City of Parker – Oak Shore Drive Pier	FL	$993,649										X	X	
42	Panama City Marina Fishing Pier, Boat Ramp and Staging Docks	FL	$2,000,000										X	X	
43	Wakulla Marshes Sands Park Improvements	FL	$1,500,000										X	X	
44	Northwest Florida Estuarine Habitat Restoration, Protection and Education – Fort Walton Beach	FL	$4,643,547										X	X	X
TOTAL			$626,998,302												

[1] As described in more detail in Chapter 8, the Trustees include an alternative (the Corpus Artificial Reef Project) to the Mid/upper Texas Coast Artificial Reef Ship Reef Project, to be implemented in the event the Ship Reef Project becomes technically infeasible (e.g., an appropriate ship cannot be acquired with available funding). The Corpus Artificial Reef Project 'Alternative' has its own project description, description of Affected Environment and analysis of environmental consequences in Chapter 8; is categorized within the same Programmatic Alternative as the Ship Reef Project; and would provide similar Offsets.

[2] One component of this proposed project would be implemented on federally-managed lands and managed by DOI.

[3] These proposed projects would be implemented on federally-managed lands and managed by DOI.

Document Organization and Decisions to be Made

Consistent with the purpose and need and proposed actions identified above, this Draft Phase III ERP/PEIS is divided into the following chapters:

- **Chapter 1 (Introduction, Purpose and Need, and Public Participation)**: Introductory information and context for this document;
- **Chapter 2 (Early Restoration Process and Status)**: Background, process and status information for Early Restoration efforts to date;
- **Chapter 3 (Affected Environment)**: Information describing the affected environment within which Early Restoration activities are expected to take place;
- **Chapter 4 (The *Deepwater Horizon* Oil Spill Natural Resource Injury Assessment)**: A summary of the status of *Deepwater Horizon* Oil Spill Natural Resource Injury Assessment efforts;
- **Chapter 5 (The Proposed Early Restoration Programmatic Plan: Development and Evaluation of Alternatives):** Descriptions of Early Restoration programmatic alternatives considered by the Trustees, including a "No Action" alternative and 3 action alternatives, and identification of a preferred alternative;
- **Chapter 6 (Environmental Consequences of Alternatives)**: An evaluation of those alternatives, including their expected environmental consequences;
- **Chapter 7 (Introduction to Proposed Phase III Early Restoration Projects)**: Identification of proposed projects and provide brief, summary information about them;
- **Chapters 8-12 (Evaluation of Proposed Phase III Restoration Projects: [State]:** OPA and NEPA analyses related to the 44 specific projects proposed by the Trustees for implementation in Phase III of Early Restoration, including a discussion of cumulative impacts. Chapters 8, 9, 10, 11 and 12 provide this information for proposed projects in Texas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama, and Florida, respectively.

The full document is intended to provide the public with information and analysis needed to enable meaningful review and comment on the Trustees' proposal to proceed with (1) identifying a preferred Early Restoration program; and (2) selecting and implementing up to 44 individual proposed Phase III Early Restoration projects. Ultimately, this document and the corresponding public comment are intended to inform the Trustees' selection of an Early Restoration programmatic alternative as well as individual Early Restoration projects. Projects not identified for inclusion in the Final Phase III and programmatic ERP/PEIS may continue to be considered for inclusion in future restoration plans.