

About the

Gulf Coast Ecosystem Restoration Council

In July 2012, in response to the *Deepwater Horizon* oil spill and other environmental challenges in the Gulf Coast region, Congress passed the Resources and Ecosystems Sustainability, Tourist Opportunities, and Revived Economies of the Gulf Coast States Act (RESTORE Act). The RESTORE Act:

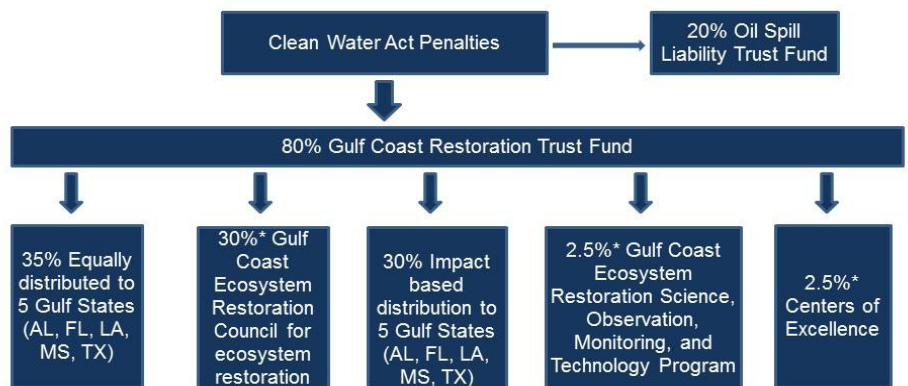
- Creates a Gulf Coast Restoration Trust Fund (Trust Fund).
- Outlines a structure for use of the Trust Fund.
- Establishes the Gulf Coast Ecosystem Restoration Council (Council).

Council Mission and Responsibilities

One of the Council's primary responsibilities is to develop a Comprehensive Plan to restore the ecosystem and economy of the Gulf Coast region. The Initial Comprehensive Plan (approved in August 2013) establishes the Council's goals for restoring and protecting the natural resources, ecosystems, fisheries, marine and wildlife habitats, beaches, coastal wetlands, and economy of the Gulf Coast region. In December of 2015, the Council approved for funding its Initial Funded Priorities List which includes foundational restoration activities the Council intends to implement. In August of 2016, the Council released a draft Comprehensive Plan Update for public comment. If approved, the updated Comprehensive Plan will provide strategic guidance for the Council to follow related to decisions on future restoration activities.

The Council has oversight responsibility for 60% of the Gulf Coast Restoration Trust Fund, as shown in the second and third columns from the left, below.

Allocation of Gulf Coast Restoration Trust Fund



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

Council Members



Chair

US Department of Agriculture
Secretary Thomas J. Vilsack

Designee: Robert Bonnie, Under Secretary for Natural Resources and Environment

<p>State of Alabama Governor Robert Bentley</p> <p><i>Designee:</i> N. Gunter Guy, Jr. Commissioner, Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources</p>	<p>US Department of Commerce Secretary Penny Pritzker</p> <p><i>Designee:</i> Bruce Andrews Deputy Secretary</p>
<p>State of Florida Governor Rick Scott</p> <p><i>Designee:</i> Mimi Drew Natural Resource Damage Assessment (NRDA) Trustee, and Former Secretary of the Florida Department of Environmental Protection</p>	<p>US Department of the Army Secretary Eric Fanning</p> <p><i>Designee:</i> Jo-Ellen Darcy Assistant Secretary of the Army (Civil Works)</p>
<p>State of Louisiana Governor John Bel Edwards</p> <p><i>Designee:</i> John Bradberry Chair, Louisiana Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority</p>	<p>US Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Gina McCarthy</p> <p><i>Designee:</i> A. Stanley Meiburg Acting Deputy Administrator</p>
<p>State of Mississippi Governor Phil Bryant</p> <p><i>Designee:</i> Gary Rikard Executive Director, Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality</p>	<p>US Department of Homeland Security Secretary Jeh Johnson</p>
<p>State of Texas Governor Greg Abbott</p> <p><i>Designee:</i> Toby Baker Commissioner, Texas Commission on Environmental Quality</p>	<p>US Department of the Interior Secretary Sally Jewell</p> <p><i>Designee:</i> Michael L. Connor Deputy Secretary</p>

For More Information

Go to restorethegulf.gov or scan the QR code below.

