



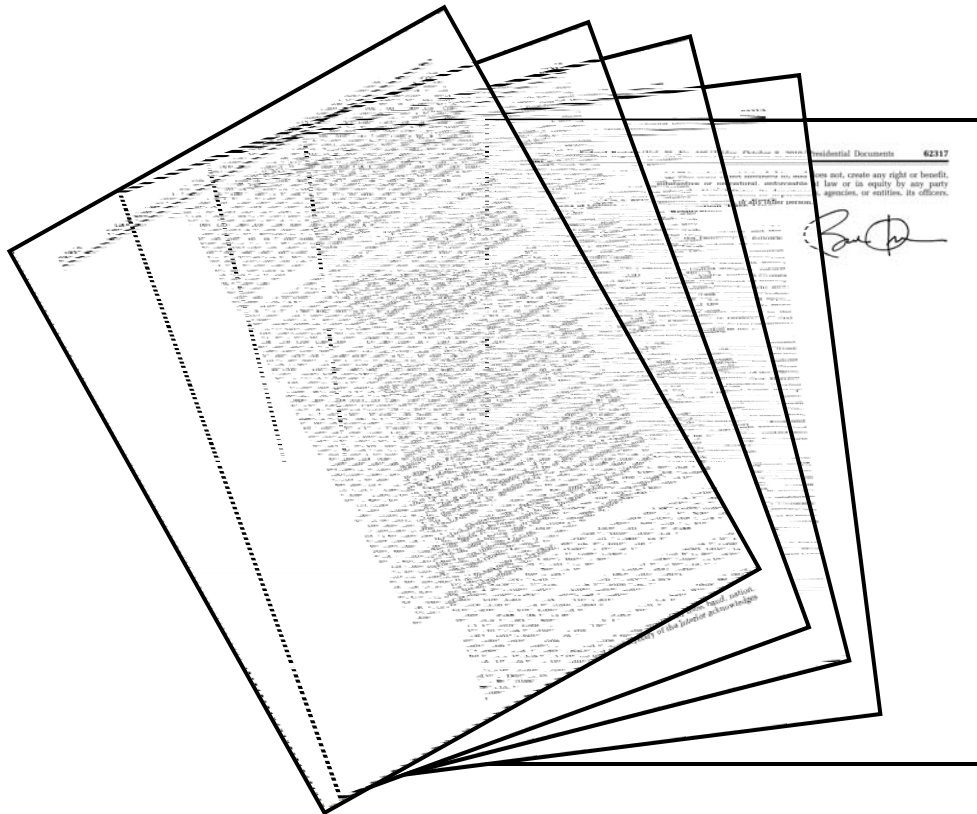
Restoration of a National Treasure **- The Gulf of Mexico -** **“America’s Sea”**



Bryon Griffith
Gulf of Mexico Ecosystem Restoration Task Force

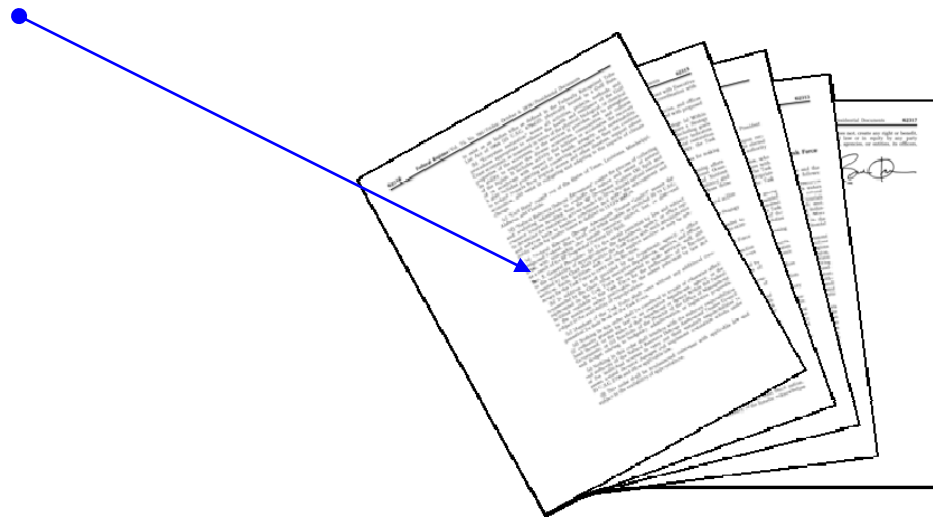


“The Gulf Coast is a national treasure. Its natural resources are an important economic engine for the entire United States; its waters sustain a diverse and vibrant ecosystem; and the Gulf’s culture, natural beauty, and historic significance are unique.”



**Executive Order 13554 of
October 5, 2010
Establishing the Gulf Coast
Ecosystem Restoration Task
Force**

*“To effectively address the damage caused by the BP Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill, address the longstanding ecological decline, and begin moving toward a more resilient Gulf Coast ecosystem, **ecosystem restoration is needed.**”*



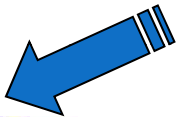


Legislative & Executive Branch Integration

**Incident
Recovery**



**Ecosystem
Restoration**



**Emergency
Response /
Incident
Recovery
(OPA 90):**



**Ecosystem
Restoration
(E.O. 13554):**



Emergency
Response /
Incident
Recovery
(OPA 90):

Incident Recovery

(BP Deepwater
Horizon Oil Spill)

- Deep Water
Horizon Spill
Response





**Emergency
Response /
Incident
Recovery**
(OPA 90):

Incident Recovery

**(BP Deepwater
Horizon Oil Spill)**

- Deep Water
Horizon Spill
Response
- Natural
Resource
Damage
Assessment





**Emergency
Response /
Incident
Recovery**
(OPA 90):

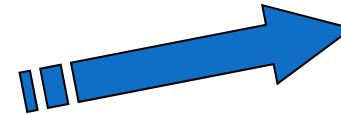
Incident Recovery

**(BP Deepwater
Horizon Oil Spill)**

- Deep Water
Horizon Spill
Response
- Natural
Resource
Damage
Assessment
- Economic
Impact
Recovery



Ecosystem Restoration



Ecosystem Restoration (E.O. 13554):

- Habitat
- Land Loss



100+ Years of Land Change for Coastal Louisiana



July 17, 2001



August 31, 2005



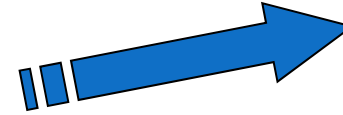
USGS





**Emergency
Response /
Incident
Recovery
(OPA 90):**

Ecosystem Restoration

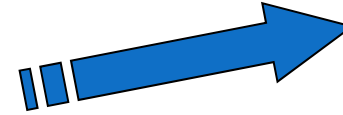


**Ecosystem
Restoration
(E.O. 13554):**

- Habitat
- Land Loss
- Water Quality



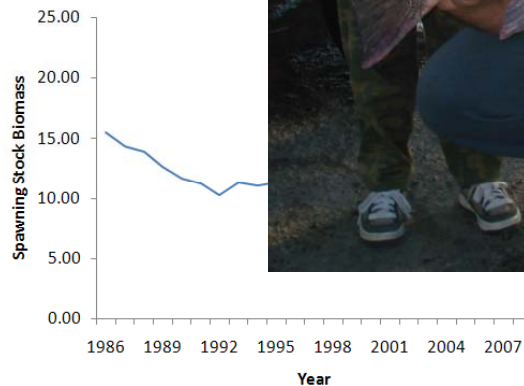
Ecosystem Restoration



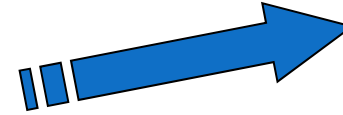
Ecosystem Restoration (E.O. 13554):

- Habitat
- Land Loss
- Water Quality
- Fisheries

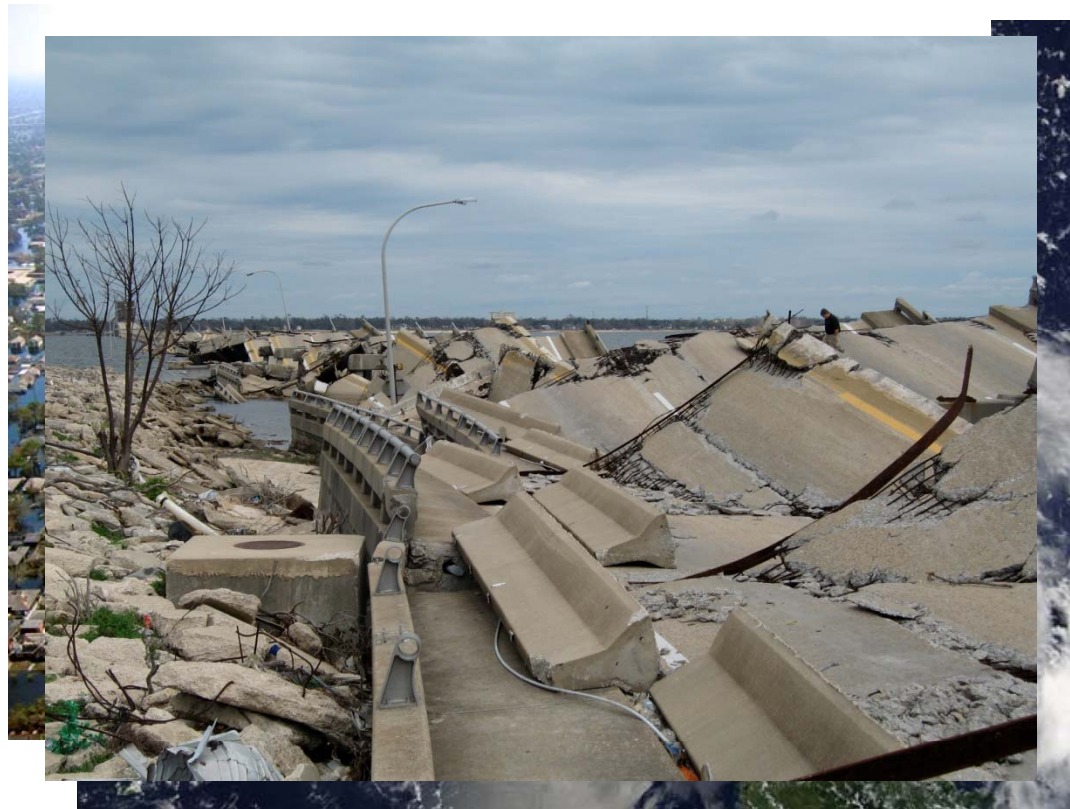
NOAA
FISHERIES
SERVICE



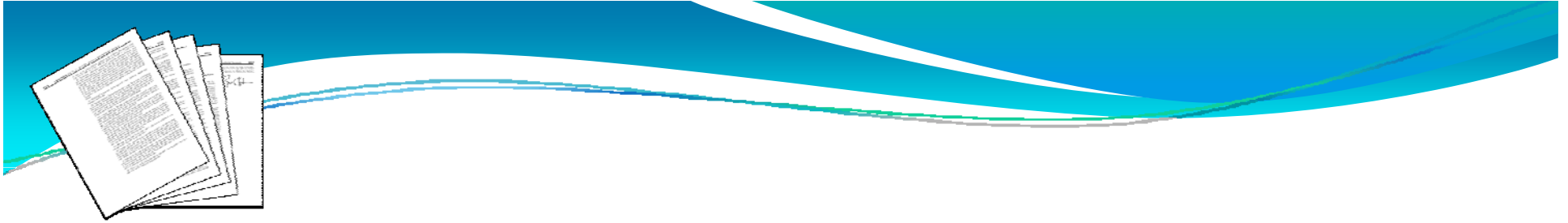
Ecosystem Restoration



Ecosystem Restoration (E.O. 13554):



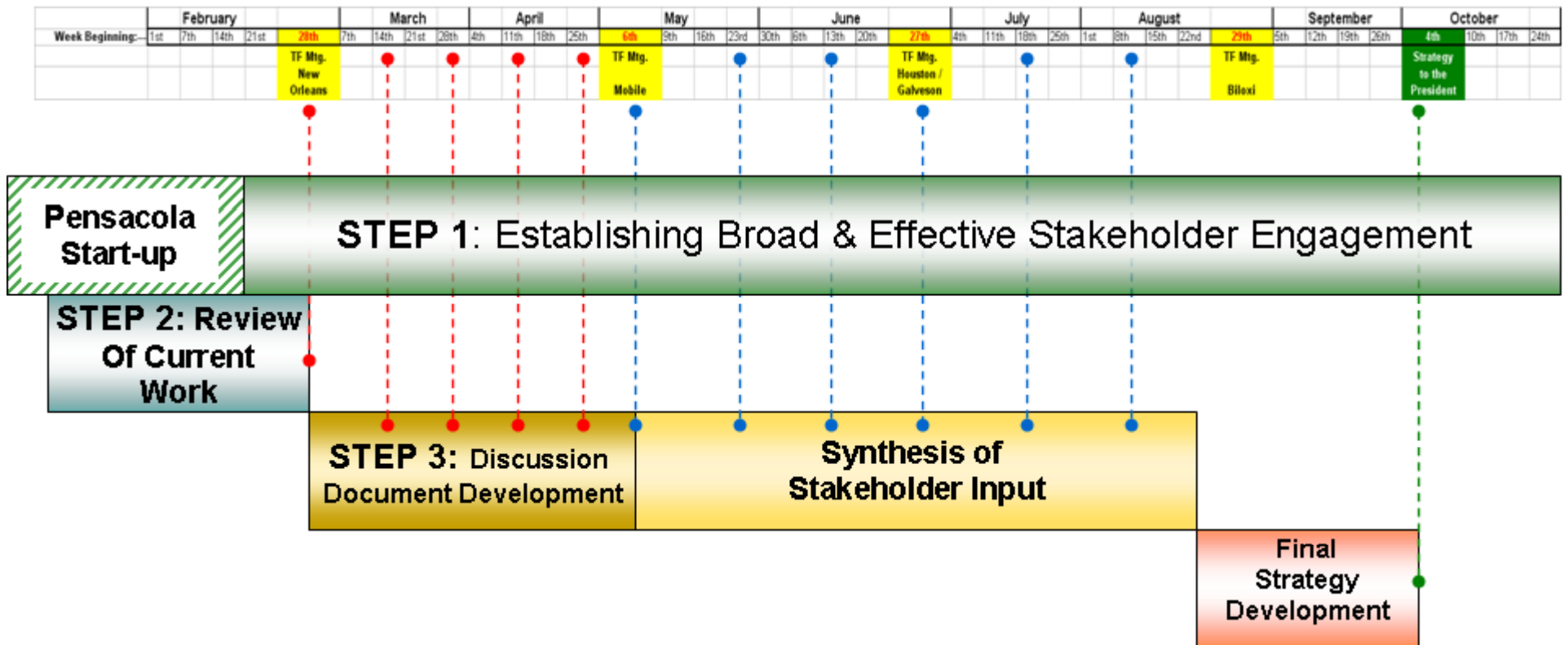
- Habitat
- Land Loss
- Water Quality
- Fisheries
- Climate Adaptation
- Sustainable Communities



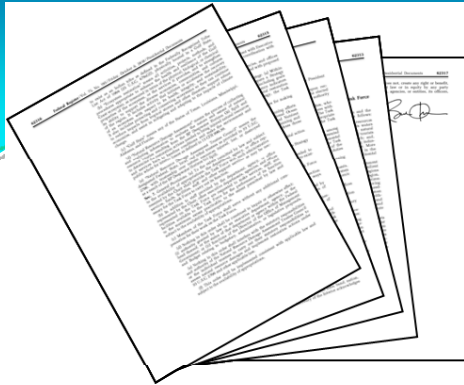
The Key Initial Challenge

On **(October 4, 2011)**, this Task Force will submit to the President a **Gulf of Mexico Regional Ecosystem Restoration Strategy**.

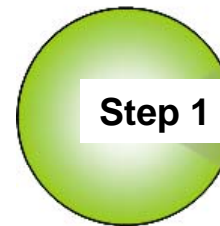
Strategy Development Schedule:



Step 1 – Establish Broad and Effective Stakeholder Engagement



Engage stakeholders throughout the region in the development of the strategy



Integration of Stakeholder Input:

- Public - NGOs
- Local Govt.
- Academia
- Business & Ind.
- Communities

[illegible]

- Public - NGOs
- Local Govt.
- Academia
- Business & Ind.
- Communities



Step 1

[illegible]

**Pensacola
Start-up**

STEP 1: Establishing Broad & Effective Stakeholder Engagement



Step 2 – Assess What is Currently Being Done to Address Restoration

In developing the Strategy, the Task Force Shall:

Consider existing research and ecosystem restoration planning efforts in the region

The image shows a stack of five overlapping documents, likely forms or reports, fanned out from top-left to bottom-right. The documents are white with black text and lines. The top document is the most visible and contains the following content:

Table

Table 1

Table 2

Table 3

Table 4

Table 5

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Table 7

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Table 271

National

Regional

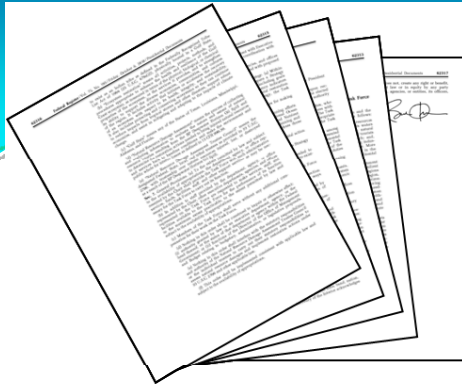
Local

Step 2

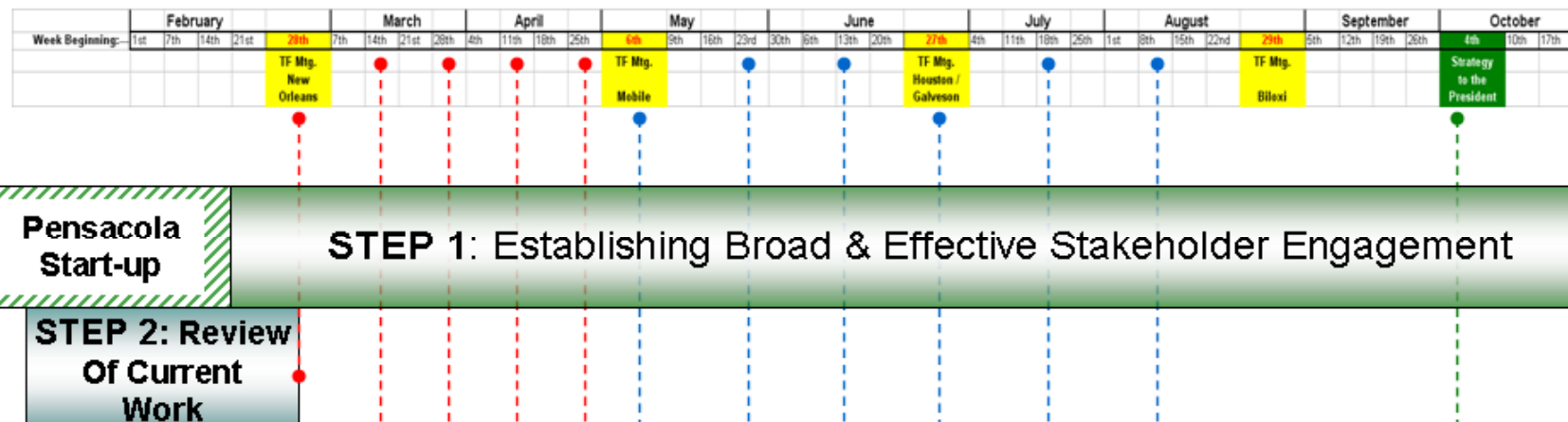
- Communities / People
- Wetlands
- Fisheries
- Industry
- Estuaries
- Barrier Islands
- Storm Barriers
- Mangroves
- Beaches
- Deepwater Habitats
- Shellfish
- Shrimp
- Finfish
- Birds
- Endangered Species
- Marine Mammals
- Bottomland Hardwoods

- Water Quality
- Contaminants
- Sediments
- Pathogens
- Salinity
- Overfishing
- Harmful Algal Blooms
- Ocean Acidification
- Freshwater
- Invasive Species
- Overharvesting
- Storm Surge
- Sea Level Rise
- Channelization

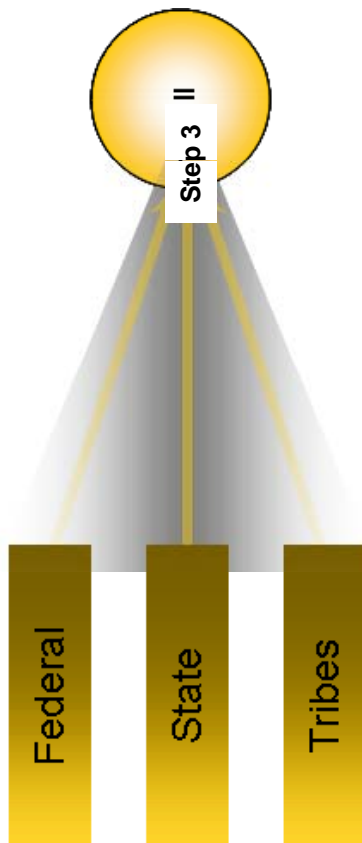
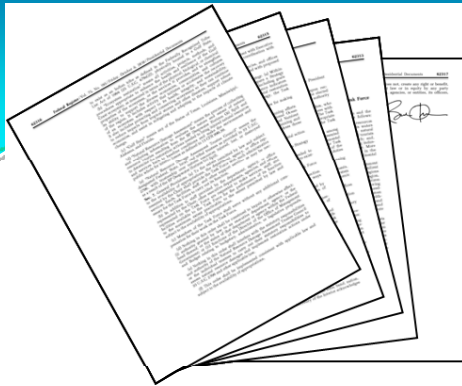
Step 2 – Assess What is Currently Being Done to Address Restoration



Strategy Development Schedule:



Step 3 – Coordinate and Integrate Federal, State and Tribal Priorities - (Discussion Document)



**Integration of Federal,
State and Tribal Priorities**

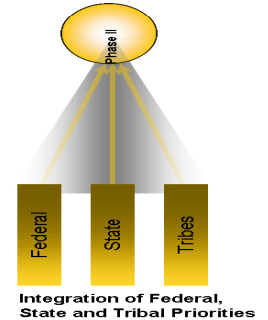
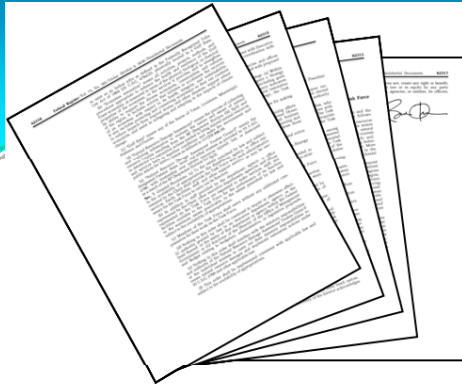
Identify monitoring, research, and scientific assessments needed to support decision making;

Evaluate existing monitoring programs and gaps in current data collection;

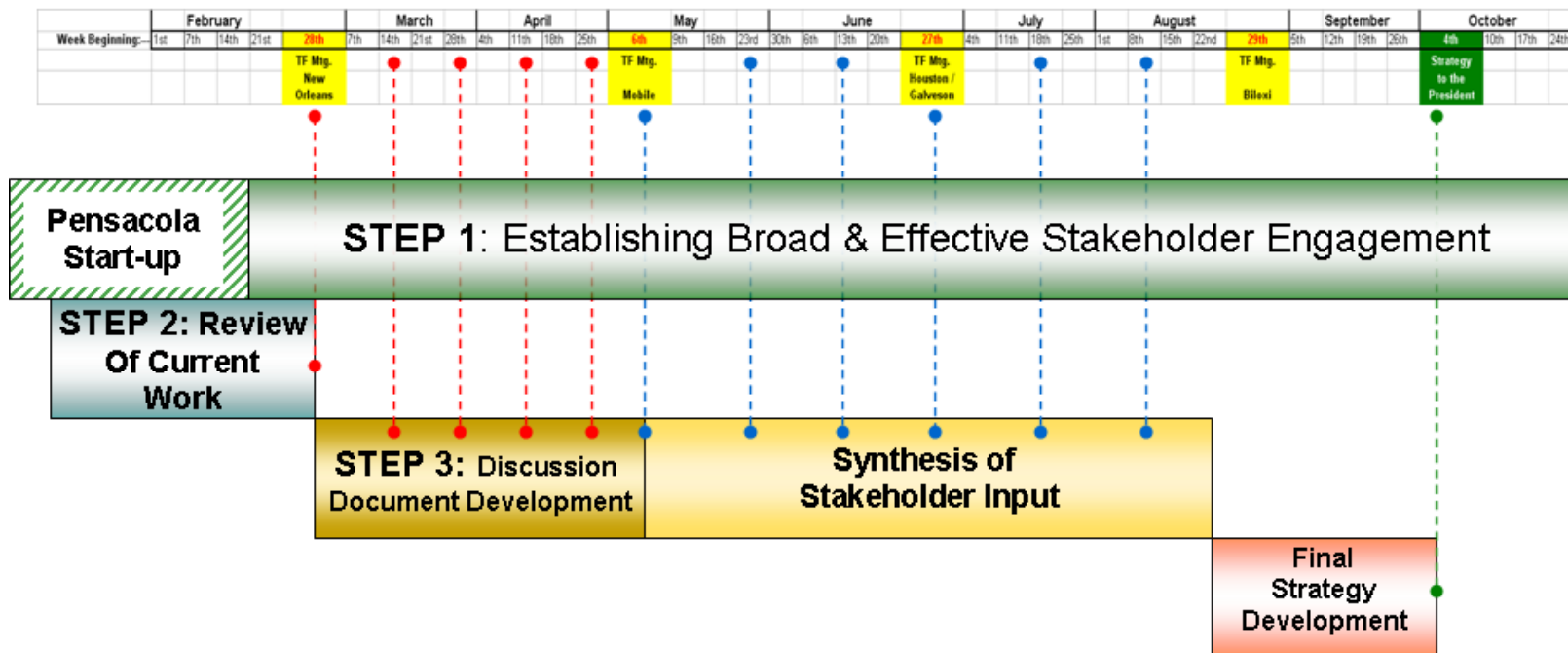
Define ecosystem restoration goals and describe milestones;

Identify major policy areas where Coordinated intergovernmental action is necessary;

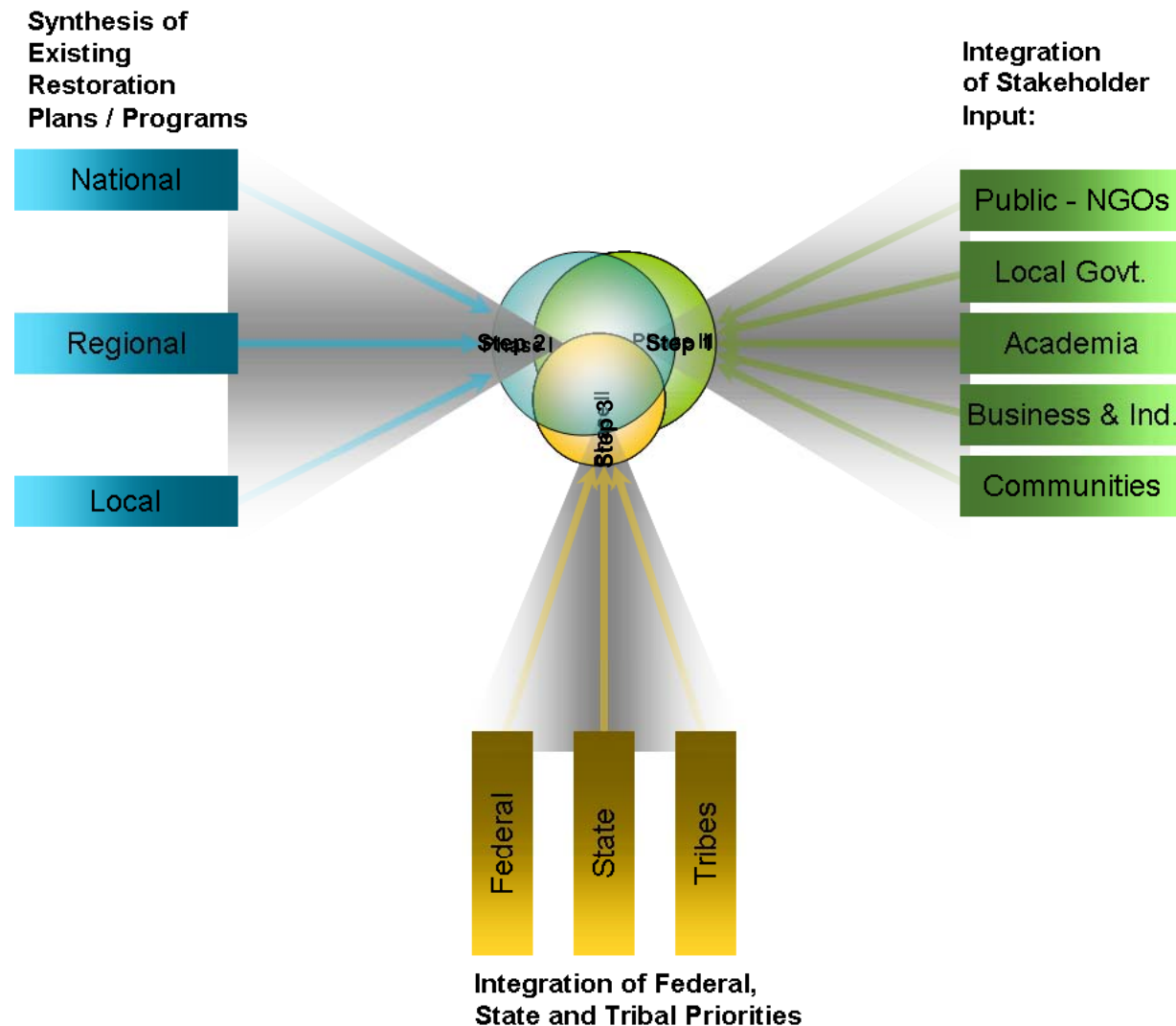
Step 3 – Coordinate and Integrate Federal, State and Tribal Priorities - (Discussion Document)



Strategy Development Schedule:



Merger of the Three Steps will Reveal Shared Priorities and Capacities:





**The Strategy will Focus on
Shared Priorities and the Supporting Actions and
Tactics Most Capable of Advancing
Gulfwide Restoration**