

## NRDA, NFWF, and GCER Allocations in Franklin County

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### NRDA

The Natural Damage Recovery Act (NRDA) process determines the amount of injury to human health and the environment post DWH oil spill release and identifies the type and amount of restoration required by responsible parties. In April 2011, BP committed to \$1 billion in early restoration projects in an agreement with the NRDA trustees. To date there are five phases of early restoration planning.

On July 2, 2015 an agreement in principle was announced in which BP Exploration & Production Inc. (BP) will pay \$8.1 billion in natural resource damages, including the \$1 billion BP previously committed to pay for early restoration projects. These monies will be allocated among several Restoration Areas, the Restoration Area Amount of \$349,851,678 will fund Region-wide projects; the Restoration Area Amount of \$1,240,697,916 will fund Open Ocean projects and the Restoration Area Amount of \$680,152,643 will fund projects in the state of Florida.

Phase I NRDA Early Restoration funding was announced on April 18, 2012; no projects were located in Franklin County.

In late 2012, FDEP announced the availability of Phase II NRDA Early Restoration funding for turtle and bird nesting habitats totaling \$8.9 million to be located across Escambia, Santa Rosa, Okaloosa, Walton, Bay, Gulf, and Franklin counties. These are regional cooperative projects expected to take a total of five years to complete.

- Enhanced Management of Avian Breeding Habitat Injured by Response in the Florida Panhandle, Alabama, and Mississippi. Includes symbolic fencing, predator control, and stewardship around important bird nesting areas to prevent disturbance - \$4,658,118
- Improving Habitat Injured by Spill Response: Reduce artificial lighting impacts near nesting habitat for loggerhead sea turtles in Florida and state lands in Alabama. Includes state-owned beaches within the boundaries of the Gulf State Park in Baldwin County, AL, and properties in Escambia, Santa Rosa, Okaloosa, Walton, Bay, Gulf, and Franklin counties, FL - \$4,321,165

Phase III NRDA Early Restoration funding was announced in December 2013 and seven projects were funded in Franklin County, as follows:

- Florida Cat Point Living Shoreline Project (**\$775,605**) – living shoreline breakwaters to reduce wave energy, increase benthic secondary productivity, and create salt marsh habitat.
- Enhancement of Franklin County Parks and Boat Ramps (**\$1,477,135**)
  - Waterfront Park - enhance existing parking and adjacent tie-up docks; improvements to existing building for information center and dockmaster office.
  - Indian Creek Park – construction of restroom facilities, connect to existing central wastewater facility nearby, and renovate the existing boat ramp, bulkhead, and parking area at the existing Indian Creek Park boat launch facility.
  - Eastpoint Fishing Pier – construction of new restrooms and holding tank at the existing public Eastpoint Fishing Pier

- St. George Island Fishing Pier – construction of new restrooms and holding tank; renovation of existing bulkhead at the existing St. George Island Fishing Pier
- Bald Point State Park Recreation Areas (**\$470,800**) – construction of picnic pavilions, boardwalks, and a restroom with an associated aerobic treatment system and drainfield at Bald Point State Park in Alligator Point, boardwalk and floating dock for use as a canoe/kayak launch
- Apalachicola River Wildlife and Environmental Area Fishing and Wildlife Viewing Access Improvements, Cash Bayou and Sand Beach (**\$262,989**) – construction of boardwalk on the ¼ mile Sand Beach, interpretive trail, and construction of a fishing and wildlife observation structure and associated parking at Cash Bayou.

In addition, three regional cooperative projects will benefit the Franklin County area:

- Florida Oyster Cultch Placement Project (**\$5,370,596**) – placement of 18,000 cubic yards of oyster cultch material over a 90 acre area in Apalachicola Bay.
- Alligator Harbor Aquatic Preserve Seagrass Recovery (**\$2,691,867**) – surveying and mapping of seagrass scaring; sediment tubes, and bird stakes. The Florida Seagrass Recovery Project will primarily be located in St. Joseph Bay Aquatic Preserve in Gulf County, with potential additional sites in Alligator Harbor Aquatic Preserve in Franklin County and St. Andrews Aquatic Preserve in Bay County.
- Scallop Enhancement for Increased Recreational Fishing (**\$2,890,250**) – Primarily located in Bay, Escambia, and Santa Rosa Counties; however, scallop populations in Gulf and Franklin counties may be enhanced if deemed appropriate to reduce the risk of collapse in currently harvested areas.

Phase IV NRDA Early Restoration funding was announced on September 23, 2015. Phase IV includes two regional cooperative projects potentially benefitting Franklin County:

- Pelagic Longline Bycatch Reduction (\$20,000,000) - restore pelagic (open-ocean) fish by reductions in bycatch
- Sea Turtle Early Restoration (\$45,000,000) - enhancement of the sea turtle stranding and salvage network and development of an Emergency Response Program

Phase V NRDA Early Restoration was approved by the Trustees in February 2016. Phase V includes one project in Franklin County:

- Island View Park (~**\$3,600,000**) – Construction of public park on a 7.3 acre parcel owned by Franklin County.

## NFWF

On November 14, 2013, the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) announced the award of more than \$100 million from its Gulf Environmental Benefit Fund (Gulf Fund) to 22 projects in the states of Alabama, Florida, Louisiana, Mississippi and Texas. The projects, developed in consultation with state and federal resource agencies, are designed to remedy harm and reduce the risk of future harm to natural resources that were affected by the 2010 Deepwater Horizon oil spill. In Florida, \$15.7 million was allocated to projects. One project is located specifically in Franklin County:

- Apalachicola Bay Oyster Restoration (**\$4,189,400**) – enhancement of approximately 18 acres and improve management of approximately 3,000 acres of degraded oyster reef habitat across a range of salinity levels

The following are NFWF regional cooperative projects that potentially benefit Franklin County:

- Comprehensive Panhandle Coastal Bird Conservation - \$3,205,300
- Florida Shorebird Conservation Initiative - \$1,489,800
- Benthic Habitat Mapping, Characterization and Assessment - \$4,477,900
- Eliminating Light Pollution on Sea Turtle Nesting Beaches - Phase I - \$1,500,000
- Eliminating Light Pollution on Sea Turtle Nesting Beaches - Phase II - \$2,115,100
- Enhanced Assessment for Recovery of Gulf of Mexico Fisheries - Phase I - \$3,000,000
- Enhanced Assessment for Recovery of Gulf of Mexico Fisheries - Phase II - \$3,000,000
- Enhanced Assessment for Recovery of Gulf of Mexico Fisheries - Phase III - \$5,814,200
- Increased Capacity for Marine Mammal Response - \$4,400,000

## GCERC

In July 2012, the Resources and Ecosystems Sustainability, Tourist Opportunities, and Revived Economies of the Gulf Coast States Act (RESTORE Act) established the Gulf Coast Ecosystem Restoration Council (GCERC). The Gulf Coast Ecosystem Restoration Council, through its Funded Priorities List will use funds from the settlement with Transocean Deepwater Inc. to provide near-term, on-the-ground ecosystem benefits, while also conducting planning activities designed to build a foundation for future success as additional funds become available from other parties. The Council will focus on 10 key watersheds across the Gulf in order to concentrate and leverage funds to address critical ecosystem needs in high priority locations.

On December 9, 2015, the GCERC announced the approval of the Funded Priorities List (FPL) and three projects were funded in Franklin County, as follows:

- Apalachicola Watershed Agriculture Water Quality Improvements (**\$2,219,856**) – includes activities focused on water quality and quantity focused Best Management Practices aimed to reduce pollutant loadings by 20-30% per application.
- Tate’s Hell Strategy 1 (**\$7,000,000**) – includes development of a Comprehensive Hydrologic Assessment and Restoration Plan as well as planning, design, and engineering for implementation recommendations.
- Apalachicola Bay Oyster Restoration (**\$3,978,000**) – an expansion of the NDRA Phase III project, this project includes placement of oyster cultch in Apalachicola Bay.

The Council also approved a suite of Gulf-wide investments designed to support holistic ecosystem restoration that may benefit Franklin County:

- Baseline Flow, Gage Analysis & On-Line Tool to Support Restoration - \$5,800,000
- Council Monitoring & Assessment Program Development – Planning - \$2,500,000
- GOMA Coordination - Planning - \$375,000
- Gulf Coast Conservation Reserve Program - \$6,000,000

- Gulf of Mexico Conservation Enhancement Grant Program – Planning - \$375,000
- Gulf of Mexico Conservation Enhancement Grant Program – Implementation - \$2,125,000
- Gulf of Mexico Estuary Program – Planning - \$2,200,000
- Gulf of Mexico Habitat Restoration via Conservation Corps Partnership – Implementation - \$8,000,000
- Strategic Conservation Assessment Framework – Planning - \$1,879,380

**Table 1. Summary of Specific Efforts in Franklin County**

Project	Source	Amount
Florida Cat Point Living Shoreline Project	NRDA	\$775,605
Enhancement of Franklin County Parks and Boat Ramps	NRDA	\$1,477,135
Bald Point State Park Recreation Areas	NRDA	\$470,800
Apalachicola River Wildlife and Environmental Area Fishing and Wildlife Viewing Access Improvements, Cash Bayou and Sand Beach	NRDA	\$262,989
Island View Park	NRDA	\$3,600,000
Apalachicola Bay Oyster Restoration	NFWF	\$4,189,400
Apalachicola Watershed Agriculture Water Quality Improvements	GCERC	\$2,219,856
Tate’s Hell Strategy 1	GCERC	\$7,000,000
Apalachicola Bay Oyster Restoration	GCERC	\$3,978,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>All Sources</b>	<b>\$23,973,785</b>

**Table 2. Summary of Regional Cooperative Projects Partially Benefitting Franklin County**

Project	Source	Amount
Enhanced Management of Avian Breeding Habitat Injured by Response in the Florida Panhandle, Alabama, and Mississippi	NRDA	\$4,658,118
Improving Habitat Injured by Spill Response: Reduce artificial lighting impacts near nesting habitat for loggerhead sea turtles in Florida and state lands in Alabama.	NRDA	\$4,321,165
Florida Oyster Cultch Placement Project	NRDA	\$5,370,596
Alligator Harbor Aquatic Preserve Seagrass Recovery	NRDA	\$2,691,867
Scallop Enhancement for Increased Recreational Fishing	NRDA	\$2,890,250
Pelagic Longline Bycatch Reduction	NRDA	\$20,000,000
Sea Turtle Early Restoration	NRDA	\$45,000,000
<b>Comprehensive Panhandle Coastal Bird Conservation</b>	NFWF	\$3,205,300
Florida Shorebird Conservation Initiative	NFWF	\$1,489,800
Benthic Habitat Mapping, Characterization and Assessment	NFWF	\$4,477,900
Eliminating Light Pollution on Sea Turtle Nesting Beaches Phase I	NFWF	\$1,500,000
Eliminating Light Pollution on Sea Turtle Nesting Beaches - Phase II	NFWF	\$2,115,100
Enhanced Assessment for Recovery of Gulf of Mexico Fisheries - Phase I	NFWF	\$3,000,000
Enhanced Assessment for Recovery of Gulf of Mexico Fisheries - Phase II	NFWF	\$3,000,000
Enhanced Assessment for Recovery of Gulf of Mexico Fisheries - Phase III	NFWF	\$5,814,200

Increased Capacity for Marine Mammal Response	NFWF	\$4,400,000
Baseline Flow, Gage Analysis & On-Line Tool to Support Restoration	GCERC	\$5,800,000
Council Monitoring & Assessment Program Development – Planning	GCERC	\$2,500,000
GOMA Coordination - Planning	GCERC	\$375,000
Gulf Coast Conservation Reserve Program	GCERC	\$6,000,000
Gulf of Mexico Conservation Enhancement Grant Program Planning	GCERC	\$375,000
Gulf of Mexico Conservation Enhancement Grant Program Implementation	GCERC	\$2,125,000
Gulf of Mexico Estuary Program Planning	GCERC	\$2,200,000
Gulf of Mexico Habitat Restoration via Conservation Corps Partnership – Implementation	GCERC	\$8,000,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>All Sources</b>	<b>\$141,309,296</b>