



RESTORE Council awards first grant for Gulf-wide Restoration to Louisiana for Barrier Island Project

The Louisiana Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority (CPRA) has been awarded a \$7.3 million grant from the Gulf Coast Ecosystem Restoration Council (RESTORE Council) for engineering and design of the West Grand Terre Beach Nourishment and Stabilization project under the Resources and Ecosystems Sustainability, Tourist Opportunities and Revived Economies of the Gulf Coast States Act of 2012 (RESTORE Act). This project is the first of seven projects the RESTORE Council has selected for funding under its Initial Funded Priorities List that will directly benefit Louisiana. West Grand Terre is located immediately northeast of Grand Isle at the mouth of the Barataria Basin.

“We are very excited to receive the first grant from the Council-Selected Restoration Component and are looking forward to getting this important work started. This project is located in an area that was heavily impacted by the Deepwater Horizon oil spill and is one of the most rapidly disappearing areas in Louisiana. We must act with heightened urgency to address the enormous environmental challenges faced by this region as well as the rest of our coast”, said CPRA Board Chairman Johnny Bradberry. “Today represents a significant milestone towards realizing the RESTORE Council’s goal of comprehensive Gulf Coast ecosystem restoration and we are excited to see these funds going back to the Gulf Coast to accomplish this critical work”, said Justin Ehrenwerth, Executive Director of the RESTORE Council.

The RESTORE Act allocates 80 percent of all Clean Water Act penalties paid by those responsible for the 2010 Deepwater Horizon Gulf oil spill disaster to Gulf Coast restoration activities. The RESTORE Act contains five different funding components. The Council-Selected Restoration Component directs 30 percent of the funds deposited into the Trust Fund to a Gulf-wide Comprehensive Ecosystem Restoration Plan (the “Comprehensive Plan”). The RESTORE Council’s Initial Comprehensive Plan was approved in August 2013. On December 9, 2015, the RESTORE Council approved an Initial Funded Priorities List which contained a list of the first projects and programs to be funded under the Council’s Initial Comprehensive Plan.



The West Grand Terre Beach Nourishment and Stabilization project is in the state's Coastal Master Plan and is designed to address degradation within Louisiana's Barataria/Plaquemines barrier island system. The goal of this project is to restore and enhance dune and back-barrier marsh habitat benefitting interior wetlands and Gulf estuarine dependent marine species. This project will also protect, restore, and maintain ecologically important breeding and nesting habitat of colonial nesting water birds including Louisiana's state bird, the brown pelican, as well as migratory shorebirds including the endangered piping plover. Additionally, this project will promote community resilience and reduce risk to infrastructure by providing storm surge and wave attenuation.

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