



State of Louisiana  
Coastal Protection and Restoration  
Authority

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Contact: Chuck Perrodin  
Public Information Director  
(o) 225-342-7615

## Louisiana Trustee Implementation Group Releases First Draft Restoration Plan

Louisiana's Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority (CPRA), along with the other state and federal agencies of the Louisiana Trustee Implementation Group, announces the release of its "Draft Restoration Plan #1," which proposes restoration projects to continue to address injuries to natural resources in Louisiana caused by the *Deepwater Horizon* oil spill. This is the first Louisiana natural resource restoration plan to be released since the Natural Resource Damage Assessment settlement was approved on April 4, 2016. "Release of this plan represents an exciting and significant step forward in our efforts to recover from the Deepwater Horizon oil spill. Because of the oil spill, Louisiana's coast has suffered one of the largest environmental disasters in U.S. history and we are absolutely committed to moving ahead as quickly and efficiently as possible to address these injuries", said Johnny Bradberry, Executive Assistant to the Governor for Coastal Activities.

The draft restoration plan proposes using \$22.3 million in *Deepwater Horizon* settlement funds to advance engineering and design on six coastal restoration projects intended to restore for damages to Louisiana wetlands, coastal, and nearshore habitats; in addition to habitat on federally managed lands; and bird habitat:

- Terrebonne Basin Ridge and Marsh Creation Project: Bayou Terrebonne Increment
- Barataria Basin Ridge and Marsh Creation Project: Spanish Pass Increment
- Lake Borgne Marsh Creation Project: Increment One
- Shoreline Protection at Jean Lafitte National Historical Park and Preserve

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- Queen Bess Island Restoration Project
- Rabbit Island Restoration Project

“We are eager to implement this suite of projects to address rapid restoration of habitats along the Louisiana coast”, says Michael Ellis, CPRA Executive Director. “This plan will be the first in a series of plans to restore the areas injured by the spill”, Mr. Ellis adds.

The Trustees are accepting public comments on the draft plan through November 21, 2016. A final restoration plan will be released after review and consideration of public comments. The draft restoration plan can be accessed online at [www.la-dwh.com](http://www.la-dwh.com) or [www.gulfspillrestoration.noaa.gov/restoration-areas/louisiana](http://www.gulfspillrestoration.noaa.gov/restoration-areas/louisiana).

In total, over \$5 billion from the Deepwater Horizon settlement has been allocated for restoration of natural resource damages in Louisiana over the next 15 years, including over \$368 million in early restoration projects selected by the Trustees before the settlement. Some examples of early restoration projects that have been implemented or are currently in construction include marsh creation at Lake Hermitage, oyster cultch plantings, and barrier island restoration projects. More details on Louisiana’s early restoration projects can be found at <http://www.gulfspillrestoration.noaa.gov/restoration/early-restoration>.

The Louisiana Trustee Implementation Group consists of the four Louisiana state agencies and five federal agencies responsible for identifying Deepwater Horizon natural resource restoration opportunities in Louisiana: the Louisiana Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority; the Louisiana Department of Natural Resources; the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality; the Louisiana Oil Spill Coordinator’s Office; the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries; the United States Department of Commerce, represented by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration; the United States Department of the Interior, represented by the United States Fish and Wildlife Service and National Park Service; the United States Department of Agriculture; and the Environmental Protection Agency.