

# Deepwater Horizon Natural Resource Damage Assessment and Restoration

## Texas Trustee Implementation Group Draft Restoration Plan/Environmental Assessment #2: Restoration of Wetland, Coastal and Nearshore Habitats; Nutrient Reduction; Oysters; Sea Turtles; and Birds

The Texas Trustee Implementation Group (TIG) prepared this plan as part of restoration planning efforts to compensate the public for the injury to natural resources and resource services in the Texas Restoration Area caused by the Deepwater Horizon oil spill. The Texas TIG is seeking public comment on the plan, including on the preferred alternatives proposed for implementation.

The deadline for submitting written comments is March 28, 2022. Comments can be submitted during the comment period by one of the following methods:

Online: <https://parkplanning.nps.gov/TXRP2> or by webinar on March 9, 2022: <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/2667653123715836432>

By mail (hard copy), addressed to the following:

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
P.O. Box 29649  
Atlanta, Georgia 30345



*Shorebirds foraging in Texas coastal emergent wetlands (Woody Woodrow, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service).*

### Restoration Planning

As part of the restoration planning effort, the Texas TIG solicited public input on restoration project ideas and evaluated the ideas through a project screening process. In developing the reasonable range of alternatives, the Texas TIG considered various factors, including:

- Project screening evaluation standards identified in the Oil Pollution Act regulations;
- Restoration goals and other criteria identified in the Deepwater Horizon Trustees' Final Programmatic Damage Assessment and Restoration Plan and Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement;
- Current and future availability of funds allocated by restoration type to Texas under the Deepwater Horizon natural resource damage assessment settlement; and
- Texas TIG's preference to focus on three restoration goals for the current round of restoration planning: 1) restore and conserve habitat, 2) restore water quality, and 3) replenish and protect living coastal and marine resources.

## Projects Evaluated

The alternatives restore wetlands, coastal and nearshore habitat (five alternatives); provide nutrient reduction benefits to the coastal environment and associated habitats (three alternatives); restore oyster habitat (two alternatives); restore sea turtle habitat (three alternatives); and restore lost bird habitat (five alternatives). Of the 18 alternatives, the Texas TIG is proposing to implement the following:

Wetlands, Coastal, and Nearshore Habitat Alternatives	
Bird Island Cove Habitat Restoration - Construction	\$5,000,000
Bahia Grande Channel F Hydrologic Restoration	\$1,500,000
Follets Island Habitat Acquisition Phase 2	\$3,300,000
Galveston Island Habitat Acquisition	\$1,120,000
Nutrient Reduction (Nonpoint Source) Alternatives	
Petronila Creek Constructed Wetlands Planning	\$450,000
Petronila Creek Watershed Nutrient Reduction Initiative	\$4,300,000
Oyster Alternatives	
Landscape Scale Oyster Restoration in Galveston Bay	\$9,500,000
Sea Turtle Alternatives	
Upper Texas Coast Sea Turtle Rehabilitation Facility	\$2,500,000
Lancha Sea Turtle Mitigation Plan	\$2,220,000
Bird Alternatives	
Laguna Vista Rookery Island Habitat Protection	\$2,100,000
Jones Bay Oystercatcher Habitat Restoration	\$2,300,000
San Antonio Bay Bird Island	\$1,500,000
Texas Breeding Shorebird and Seabird Stewardship	\$3,400,000
<b>Total Proposed Funding:</b>	<b>\$39,190,000</b>

For additional information on these alternatives, please see the Draft Restoration Plan/Environmental Assessment #2: Restoration of Wetland, Coastal and Nearshore Habitats; Nutrient Reduction; Oysters; Sea Turtles; and Birds online at [www.gulfspillrestoration.noaa.gov/restoration-areas/texas](http://www.gulfspillrestoration.noaa.gov/restoration-areas/texas).

