

**FLORIDA TRUSTEE IMPLEMENTATION GROUP RESTORATION PLAN 1 AND ENVIRONMENTAL
ASSESSMENT PUBLIC WEBINAR – PRESENTATION SCRIPT, DECEMBER 13, 2018**

Slide 1: Draft Restoration Plan I and Environmental Assessment Public Webinar, December 13, 2018

Good afternoon and welcome to the Florida Trustee Implementation Group public webinar. The purpose of today's webinar is to provide information on the Florida Trustee Implementation Group's Draft Restoration Plan I and Environmental Assessment and to receive your comments. Thank you for taking the time to join this presentation today. I understand we have over 100 people registered for the webinar. My name is Phil Coram, and I'm the Florida Department of Environmental Protection Deepwater Horizon Program Administrator. Before we begin the presentation, we will review the webinar setup and features. After today's webinar, in the next few days, we will post this presentation and script to the Trustee's website, www.GulfSpillRestoration.noaa.gov (the website link will be provided on a slide at the end of the presentation).

Slide 2: Webinar Participation

I'd like to quickly run through some webinar logistics. Hopefully you are now logged in to both the call and the webinar. You should be able to see the control panel on the right hand side of your screen (you may need to click the orange arrow to expand your control panel as shown in the top right of the slide). You should all be dialing in using the phone number provided by GoToWebinar—that's the number and access code listed under "Audio" in the control panel. If you are using a computer with a microphone or speakers, please make sure those are turned off or muted so that we don't get feedback. You can also ensure the button near Phone call under the Audio section is clicked to avoid computer audio feedback (as shown in the bottom right of the slide).

Please note that only presenters will be able to be heard over the phone during the webinar; attendees will be muted.

Slide 3: Virtual Open House/Public Meeting

If you have been to an in-person Natural Resource Damage Assessment public meeting, you know that we typically hold an open house before the public meeting when you can learn more about the restoration process, restoration plans, and specific projects, and informally ask questions to agency staff present.

During the public meeting itself, members of the public who ask to speak are called to a podium, where their comments are recorded in some way, and become part of what is called the Administrative Record.

This webinar includes both a virtual Open House session and a Virtual Public Meeting and Comment Session. This is the second time the NRDA Trustees have used a webinar for these purposes, and we hope it is successful, or that we learn how to do it better in the future. We do think webinars provide the public with greater opportunities to be actively involved in NRDA Restoration plans.

We will let everyone know when we start and end the Virtual Open House and Virtual Public Meeting sessions. We will let you know verbally, but will also send a note to all of the attendees through the GoToWebinar. When we send a note, it will appear in your Questions box. If your Question box is minimized, a red chat bubble will flash as shown in the control panel screen shot on this slide to indicate a note has been sent.

We will begin today with the Virtual Open House and Q&A Session. After the Virtual Open House, we will begin the Virtual Public Meeting with a presentation of the plan and the projects in the plan.

Slide 4: Virtual Open House/Public Meeting

As I noted, we will be accepting Questions today using the “Question” box in your GoToWebinar Control Panel. Please send questions at any time during the Virtual Open House. When sending a question, please include the word QUESTION at the front. We will answer as many questions as we are able.

After the Virtual Open House, we will begin the presentation and Virtual Public Meeting. You can provide formal comments at any time after the Virtual Open House ends. Please include the word COMMENT at the front of any formal comments. We will not be responding to comments, but all of the comments will be recorded as part of the Administrative Record, and will be considered and addressed in the final Restoration Plan.

Take a look at the question box at the bottom of the control panel. After expanding the Control Panel, you can click on “View” in the toolbar of the control panel and unclick “Auto-Hide the Control Panel” to automatically see the Questions box.

If you have technical issues with the webinar and are having trouble seeing or hearing the material, please enter a note in the question box. We will be able to see messages as they come in.

Please see the screen shot on this slide to point you towards the Question box. As noted previously, please use the box to submit a question during the Virtual Open House and to submit formal comments during the Virtual Public Meeting. And as a reminder, we will let you know when we are starting each of these sessions.

Slide 5: Today’s Agenda

Today’s agenda will begin with a review of impacts from Hurricane Michael.

We will then have a virtual open house, allowing participants to view the fact sheets that include a brief description of each preferred project in the draft plan and to ask informal questions. During this Open House, we will take time to answer questions that can be readily answered. Other questions will be saved and answered later or addressed in the final plan after the close of the public comment period. Please include the word QUESTION at the front of any questions you send.

We will then begin the Virtual Public Meeting, starting the presentation with a brief explanation about the Natural Resource Damage Assessment process, more commonly referred to as NRDA.

Following the overview of Natural Resource Damage Assessments, we will present Florida's first Draft Restoration Plan. The presentation will include an overview of the proposed projects.

You can submit formal comments throughout the Virtual Public Meeting and presentation. Please label your comments with the word "COMMENT" at the top of your comment. If time permits, we will read these aloud at the end of the session along with the name of the commenter.

Jim Reynolds with the Florida Department of Environmental Protection will now take over.

Slide 6: Hurricane Michael

As we are all aware, on October 10, Hurricane Michael made landfall as a strong Category 4, with 150 mph winds, near Mexico Beach in the Florida panhandle. This was the first category 4 landfall in the Florida Panhandle in recorded history.

Michael traveled to the north-northeast into Georgia while maintaining winds in excess of 120 mph.

Bay and Gulf counties were severely impacted, with Mexico Beach, Port St. Joe, Tyndall AFB, and parts of the Panama City area almost destroyed. Storm Surge in Mexico Beach and Port St. Joe was over 10 feet.

In addition, Franklin and Wakulla counties also saw impacts from wind and storm surge.

Because of the Hurricane this webinar was re-scheduled from October 10 to today. We are also extending the public comment period until December 28.

Slide 7: Hurricane Michael

Despite a massive recovery effort, it took over a month to restore primary power lines to the affected areas. Debris is still being removed, and many residents are still living in tents and at shelters while they try to rebuild.

Florida Trustees are working to evaluate potential impacts to projects proposed in the draft restoration plan by reviewing aerials, making site visits, contacting locals, and working with other agency staff.

Top left is a photo of Panama City Marina; top center is Mexico Beach; top right is Island View Park in Franklin County pre-landfall; bottom right is Island View Park after landfall where adjacent structures were destroyed; bottom center is Salinas Park in Gulf County looking toward the Gulf where dunes were washed out; and bottom right is Parker boat ramp.

Slide 8: Projects in Impacted Areas

In light of the devastation, the Florida Trustees are working with the affected counties to determine whether proposed projects are still priorities and still viable.

As we made contact, it was made clear to us that the projects, while not directly related to hurricane recovery, are perhaps now even more important to these communities.

The proposed preferred projects in the most heavily impacted areas are: FM6, St. Vincent National Wildlife Refuge Predator Control; WQ8, City of Port St. Joe Stormwater Improvements; WQ10, City of Carrabelle's Lighthouse Estates: Septic Tank Abatement – Phase II; REC9, St. Andrews State Park Improvements; REC10, T.H. Stone Memorial St. Joseph Peninsula State Park Improvements; and REC11, St. Marks National Wildlife Refuge Coastal Trail Connection, Spring Creek to Port Leon.

Slide 9: Impacts on Projects

Remarkably, only T.H. Stone Memorial St. Joseph Peninsula State Park on Cape San Blas in Gulf County was severely impacted. REC10 is proposed at this park.

As seen in the photos on the left, the hurricane severed the peninsula inside the park, leaving the park entrance, the boat ramp at Eagle Harbor, and a restroom on the peninsula. To the north, the camping areas, cabins, primary recreation and gulf access areas, and staff residences are now separated from the peninsula by a pass that is several hundred feet across. The park road was also significantly damaged in many places. The photos on the right show the new pass and the damage to the dunes.

DEP staff are continuing with damage assessment and evaluation of options to restore access to the northern portion of the park, but the recovery process will likely take years.

Due to the impacts to the park, including the damage to the road which will require repairs, it is unknown when the park will be reopened. In addition, it is not known how access to areas and amenities beyond the breach will be provided.

Given these impacts, the FL TIG is still evaluating whether this project would be successful as proposed.

Now that I have finished discussing the impacts of Hurricane Michael, Dianne Ingram with the Department of the Interior will take over and begin the Virtual Open House and Q&A session.

Slide 10: Virtual Open House

Thanks, Jim. Firstly, if you have not reviewed the plan yet, we suggest reviewing the factsheets at the link on the screen and placed in the Questions box now. There are four factsheets that list project titles and short descriptions of each preferred project proposed for funding in the plan.

The factsheets are organized by Restoration Type: one for Habitat Projects on Federally Managed Lands; one for Recreational Use; one with the combined restoration types for Water Quality and Nutrient Reduction projects; and one with the Overview Map and full list of preferred projects proposed for funding in the Plan.

We will display the Overview Map next, to allow the 20 minutes for gathering questions.

As a reminder, this is informal, and your questions and our answers will not be recorded. If you haven't already, please submit any questions that you have about the plan now in the Questions box of your GoToWebinar Control Panel including the word QUESTION at the front of each that you send.

Only the trustees will see the questions. We will accept questions for approximately 20 minutes. Depending on how many we receive today, we may group similar questions together and will try to answer as many as we can. However, we may not be able to get to your question today, or have an answer for you during this webinar.

If you want your question to be part of the Administrative Record, and be addressed in the final plan, please resubmit the question during the Virtual Public meeting session. We will remind you of this later.

Slide 11:

Now on to the questions, and answers.

We will be pausing now to review the questions we have received. It may take us a few minutes to review and respond. As we are receiving questions, we will display the map illustrating all of the preferred projects evaluated in the Draft Restoration Plan.

[Question/Answer session]

It looks we have stopped receiving questions, let's move on the next part of the agenda. We will now begin the Virtual Public Meeting beginning with a presentation. You can now submit formal comments, with the word COMMENT at the front at any time. We will end with reading the comments submitted, as time allows.

Slide 12: What is NRDA?

We begin the presentation with: what is NRDA?

The NRDA process is a mandatory legal process – based on the Oil Pollution Act – that the federal agencies and affected states implement after an oil spill.

It is a scientific process the Natural Resource Trustee agencies use to assess the degree to which natural resources and the services they provide may have been injured by an oil spill and spill response activities –including both environmental and lost recreational use of Gulf resources.

They then determine how to compensate the public through on-the-ground restoration activities; including undertaking restoration planning and implementation of the Trustees' selected restoration projects.

The goal is to restore injured resources to the condition they would have been in had the spill not occurred and provide compensation for interim losses of resources and resource services.

Slide 13: NRDA Process

NRDA is the process used by the Trustees to: develop the public's claim for natural resource damages against the parties responsible for a spill and to seek restoration or compensation for the harm done to natural resources and the services provided by those resources.

When we say injury we not only mean the environmental injuries caused by the Deepwater Horizon oil spill and associated response activities but also the injuries which affected public use and enjoyment of many of the natural resources across the Gulf.

Therefore, it is important to remember that NRDA not only assesses ecological injury, but also loss of recreational use of those resources because of the spill.

So, the NRDA process includes an assessment of the injury, restoration planning generally to determine what needs to be done to restore the natural resources, determining the cost of those needed restoration activities and finally, assessing and seeking monetary damages from the polluter to pay for restoration.

Slide 14: Deepwater Horizon Settlement

You may already know about the settlement agreement with BP.

That settlement includes \$8.8 billion in damages to be paid by BP over 15 years to address the natural resource damages and loss of use caused by the BP oil spill.

The \$8.8 billion includes approximately \$1 billion already committed for early restoration.

We are still obligated to complete the actions we committed to during early restoration even as we are planning for final restoration. In conjunction with the BP settlement the NRDA Trustees also prepared a Programmatic Damage Assessment and Restoration Plan (PDARP), that presented the Trustees' oil spill injury assessment and considered the environmental impacts of proposed restoration alternatives. The draft plan we are considering today contains specific restoration projects that are consistent with the goals and objectives outlined in the PDARP for restoring natural resources, and the services they provide, that were injured from the oil spill.

Slide 15: Deepwater Horizon Settlement

Total Florida allocation of restoration funds from the BP settlement is approximately \$680 million, which is spread over the 5 restoration goals.

Restore and conserve habitat goal – \$38M. Shown in dark blue.

Restore water quality – \$335M. Shown in orange.

Replenish and protect living coastal and marine resources - \$93M. Shown in green.

Provide and enhance recreational opportunities – \$184M. Show in red.

Monitoring and adaptive management, administrative oversight -\$30M. Shown in light blue.

Slide 16: Restoration Type Allocation

Here is another way to look at the funding.

Again, total Florida allocation of restoration funds from the BP settlement is approximately \$680 million, including just over \$144 million allocated to 32 early restoration projects.

I'd like to draw your attention to the four restoration goals outlined in red and the nine Restoration Types outlined in yellow to which these restoration funds are allocated in the FL restoration area.

We have selected projects within four of these restoration types for funding in this Restoration Plan which you will hear more about from the other speakers today.

There are also \$30 million in administrative and monitoring funds not shown on this slide.

Slide 17: Trustee Council Structure

This graphic shows the Post Settlement Structure of the Trustee Council. The Trustee Council now serves in an oversight role.

The settlement and legal documents associated with it, established restoration areas, one for each state and one for each, the Open Ocean and Region-wide restoration areas.

To get the work done for each restoration area, teams were set up, these teams are called Trustee Implementation Groups, or "TIGs".

For example, the FL restoration area has a FL TIG.

The work of developing individual restoration projects now falls on these TIGs.

Slide 18: FL TIG

The Florida Trustee Implementation Group is composed of the agencies shown on the screen.

Representatives from these agencies work together to ensure that the pre- and post-settlement restoration goals of the Trustees are met.

Slide 19: Planning Process

In order to put projects on the ground to conduct restoration, we select discreet projects to put in a Restoration Plan for the public to understand and comment on.

Here is an overview of the planning milestones followed by the FL TIG to develop this draft Restoration Plan.

- In August 2016, we began with a public webinar that introduced you to the newly formed FL TIG.
- In November 2016, we released a Call for Project Ideas.

- In September 2017, we issued a Notice of Intent to Conduct Restoration Planning.
- We then screened 1,393 project ideas that were submitted to the project idea portals.

We would like to thank everyone who submitted a project idea, as every project being considered today was from a project idea submitted through either the State of Florida's or the NRDA Trustees' on-line portals.

Slide 20: Project Eligibility Criteria

We used the listed project eligibility criteria to screen the 1,393 projects down to a reasonable number for further evaluation.

- Nexus to injury from the DWH oil spill.
- Meets Oil Pollution Act criteria.
- Not previously completed or fully funded.
- Sufficient information for evaluation (e.g., general location, activities, etc.) is available.
- Habitat Projects on Federally Managed Lands Restoration Type should occur on Gulf Islands National Seashore or St. Vincent National Wildlife Refuge.

The screening process is discussed in more detail in the draft plan.

Slide 21: OPA Criteria

After the initial screening, we used these six Oil Pollution Act criteria to further screen down the number of projects:

- Cost effectiveness.
- Meets Goals and objectives of PDARP.
- Likelihood of success.
- Avoids collateral injury.
- Benefits resources.
- Health and safety.

Slide 22: Additional Screening Criteria

We then did one final screening using criteria developed by FL TIG.

After going through the Project Eligibility screening criteria, the OPA criteria and the additional screening steps, the initial 1,393 project ideas were whittled down to the 32 project alternatives discussed in the draft plan. The next speakers will talk more about the projects that met these criteria.

Slide 23:

That's it for the NRDA Background part of the agenda.

I'd like to ask Ben Frater to discuss the next part of the agenda.

Ben is the Deepwater Horizon Assistant Restoration Manager for the Department of the Interior.

He will kick off the discussion on the Draft Restoration Plan and the Habitat Projects on Federally Managed Lands specifically.

Slide 24: Draft Restoration Plan I

The screening process that Dianne outlined resulted in the 32 project alternatives evaluated in the plan, with 24 being preferred, or recommended for funding.

These include both fully developed projects, and also simple planning and design projects, known as planning & design projects. The funds for these planning & design projects will support activities like planning, feasibility, design, engineering, and/or permitting activities only – but not actions related to construction or other restoration implementation activities.

The intent with these planning & design projects is to provide the FL TIG with greater clarity in the future related to a full project's cost and predicted benefits. The TIG is likely to select and include these future projects in a future restoration plan.

Slide 25: Draft Restoration Plan I

The four Restoration types addressed by the projects were those noted in our call for projects, and notice of intent to conduct restoration planning.

The Habitat Projects on Federally Managed Lands Restoration Type began with 14 project ideas. The screening process resulted in six projects evaluated in the plan, with four preferred – meaning they are proposed for funding.

The Water Quality and Nutrient Reduction Restoration Types began the screening process with 813 projects. Because both Restoration types fall under the same water quality Restoration goal, these project ideas were screened together.

That screening process resulted in 12 water quality projects evaluated in the plan with nine preferred; and three nutrient reduction projects evaluated in the plan with two preferred.

The FL TIG began the screening process for the Provide and Enhance Recreational Use Opportunities Restoration Type with 556 projects. That screening process resulted in 11 projects evaluated in plan, with nine preferred.

Slide 26: Draft Restoration Plan I

The total estimated cost for these 24 preferred projects is \$62 million.

When we look at the amount of funds already allocated to early restoration, and the funding proposed for this restoration plan, it still leaves over \$444 million for future restoration plans in Florida.

Slide 27:

If you have already read the draft plan, you noted that the projects are grouped both by Restoration Type and watershed.

We have tried to make the plan easier to read through the use of a numbering format, icons, and colors to note projects that fall within a certain Restoration Type.

For example, projects within the Habitat Projects on Federally Managed Lands Restoration Type are denoted with an FM numbering scheme, use a blue color, and use a sea oat as the icon.

Many of the maps in the plan include watershed boundaries, since projects in Chapter 4 (the environmental analysis chapter) were grouped and evaluated within watersheds.

The projects span from the Perdido River on the border with Alabama down to Charlotte Harbor. Early restoration projects in Florida were limited to the Panhandle, where majority of impacts from the spill occurred. However, there were spill impacts outside of Panhandle, and this Plan addresses some of that injury.

Slide 28:

I will now talk about the preferred projects in the draft plan associated with the Restoration type known as Habitat Projects on Federally Managed Lands. The DWH oil spill and response activities caused extensive injuries to wetlands, coastal, and nearshore habitats on federally managed lands across the northern Gulf of Mexico.

In Florida, the spill oiled 1,800 acres along 80 miles of federally managed beach shoreline. As some of you will recall, the oil remediation activities occurred primarily at night, and disturbed all types of animals that live there, whether they were nocturnally active or simply trying to sleep.

These federal lands were designated by the US Congress to be managed and maintained in such a way that would preserve their unique characteristics in perpetuity. This restoration type was created to specifically address the nature and character of the injury to federal lands which has left them in a deficit.

Injuries from oiling and response-related activities occurred within St. Vincent National Wildlife Refuge (NWR) and the Florida units of the Gulf Islands National Seashore (GUIS), which is why they are the two federal lands addressed in this plan.

The numbering of the projects (i.e., FM2) match what is in the plan; some are out of sequence in these slides because we are discussing only the preferred projects, and not those projects that are not being proposed for funding at this time.

Slide 29:

The four preferred projects with this restoration type are intended to improve the injured habitats on these federal lands through predator control, invasive plant control, and other stewardship activities.

The planning & design project will evaluate impacts of lighting on GUIs and develop a strategy to address any negative lighting impacts. Implementation of the strategy might be funded in future Restoration plans.

The total estimated costs for these four preferred Habitat Projects on Federally Managed Lands is \$2.7 million.

Slide 30:

And now I'd like to ask Lisa Robertson to continue discussion of the Draft Restoration Plan, specifically Nutrient Reduction and Water Quality projects.

Lisa is the Environmental Administrator for the Florida Department of Environmental Protection Deepwater Horizon Program.

Slide 31:

As Ben previously noted, we also have a numbering scheme, color, and icons for Nutrient Reduction and Water Quality projects. N-R for Nutrient Reduction, W-Q for water quality. Gold color, and a plant icon for Nutrient Reduction projects and a water drop icon for Water Quality projects.

As you can see from this map, the projects under these restoration types span from the Perdido River, on the border with Alabama, all the way down to Charlotte Harbor in Southwest Florida.

There are a total of 11 preferred projects with a total estimated cost of about \$22 million.

Slide 32:

The health of the Gulf of Mexico depends upon the health of its estuaries, which is influenced by land uses in the watersheds of its tributaries. In the five Gulf States, over 80 percent of the acreage is in private ownership, and is used for forestry and agriculture. Runoff from these land uses contributes nutrients and sediments that adversely affect the health of coastal waters. While agricultural lands are not the sole contributors of nutrients and sediments to coastal waters, there are opportunities to address this concern at their sources.

The two preferred Nutrient Reduction projects would be implemented by the USDA, through the development and implementation of conservation practices on private agricultural lands. They are in the Perdido River/Pensacola Bay watersheds and the lower Suwannee River Watersheds. You may have noticed differences in the estimated costs for these projects, that is because they will address a different number of sub-basins in each watershed, and they were selected by USDA to give us the biggest bang for the buck.

Pensacola/Perdido will address two HUC12 sub-basins: Sandy Hollow-Pine Barren Creek and Moore Creek.

Lower Suwannee will address three HUC12 sub-basins: Long Pond, Long Pond Slough, Manatee Springs.

The Suwannee River project complements similar Ag BMP program funded by RESTORE Pot 2 in middle Suwannee River watershed.

The total estimated cost for the 2 preferred nutrient reduction projects is \$5.25 million.

Slide 33:

In Florida, water quality is intricately linked to the health and resilience of coastal and marine habitats and resources, and our quality of life and economy. Actions related to reducing nutrients and improving water quality are expected to result in cascading benefits to coastal habitats and the fish and other species that reside in these waters. These actions also benefit recreational uses. Improving water quality in coastal areas would reduce the occurrence of beach closures, fish kills, algae blooms, and restrictions on shellfish harvesting. The draft plan has a diverse suite of nine water quality projects being proposed, from traditional stormwater control measures, sediment reduction projects, small and large scale hydrologic restoration activities, along with septic to sewer and reclaimed wastewater projects. Three are planning & design type of projects.

Four of the water quality projects are located in the greater Pensacola bay system. Carpenter Creek Headwaters is an urban stormwater retrofit system located near the headwaters in the City of Pensacola. It also includes wetland restoration. It has a companion recreational use project to be discussed later. Pensacola Beach Reclaimed Water System expansion will help to eliminate one of last point source wastewater discharges into the Pensacola Bay system by greatly expanding the existing reclaimed system at the beach. Rattlesnake Bluff is a sediment reduction project at stream crossing along the road on Eglin Air Force Base property adjacent to the Yellow River that would address 13 creek crossings that flow into the River. Pensacola Bay Unpaved Roads Initiative is a planning & design project. We have similar project in Choctawhatchee Bay being funded by NFWF Gulf Environmental Benefit Fund. Sediment from unpaved roads have been identified in Surface Water Improvement and Management plans are major stressor to these watersheds. Alligator Lake project is small hydrologic restore project that will remove flow obstruction that separates the north and south ends of the lake to allow tidal exchange between the Gulf and this coastal dune lake. Alligator Lake is the last remaining flow obstruction on the coastal dune lakes in Walton County.

Slide 34:

City of Port St. Joe is a stormwater improvement project for a 280-acre sub-basin discharging into Patton Bayou and St. Joseph bay - also will fund a Stormwater Master Plan for the City. Lighthouse Estates is a septic to sewer project that expands on the existing NFWFMD project. This project will remove 110 septic tanks from subdivision upgradient of Carrabelle Beach. Based on Department of Health sampling, the beach periodically has bacteriological water quality exceedances. It is anticipated that this project will reduce the number of water quality exceedances. The last two projects are planning & design hydrological restoration efforts. Lower Suwannee National Wildlife Refuge and Charlotte Harbor Flatwoods. The estimated cost for the nine preferred water quality projects is \$17 million.

Side 35:

We will now move to Recreational Use Projects. Jim Reynolds with the Florida Department of Environmental Protection, Deepwater Horizon Program, will continue the presentation.

Thank you. We are often asked why the Trustees are funding recreational projects. As Dianne discussed earlier, we are trying to offset the injuries from the oil spill. In Florida, one of the greatest injuries was lost recreational uses. People stopped visiting our beaches and stopped taking their boats into the Gulf during the oil spill.

Slide 36:

For recreation projects, the plan uses the R-E-C numbering scheme, with a reddish color, and a swimmer icon. There are nine proposed recreational use projects in the plan, including walking, biking, and paddle trails, a new local park, and enhancements to existing State and Federal parks, with an estimated cost of \$37 million. The projects in this restoration type are all located in the Panhandle.

Slide 37:

The Gulf of Mexico is a popular destination for a wide variety of recreational activities, drawing people regionally as well as nationally. These activities, including boating, fishing, and beach-going, depend on the environmental quality of the Gulf's natural resources and the ability to access them. The DWH oil spill resulted in losses to the public's use of natural resources. There is a diverse suite of recreational use projects, including trails, new local parks, and enhancements to existing State and Federal parks.

Perdido River Paddle Trail will complement similar project on Alabama side of River. We would like to thank TNC, NFWFMD and Escambia County who will be partners on this project and are providing the lands where the amenities will be located. Involves construction of camping facilities, elevated and screened, but not luxurious, at various sites along the River. Paddlers will be able to leisurely paddle and camp all the way from State Line down to Perdido Bay.

Carpenter Creek is companion to similarly titled water quality project. Includes a Paddle craft launch area, trail and boardwalk surrounding the stormwater treatment facility boardwalk and educational

signage telling the water story from the headwater down to Pensacola bay. GUIS Okaloosa Unit, near Fort Walton Beach, will rehabilitate an aging boat ramp, restrooms, pier, picnic areas, and RV sites, etc. Joe's Bayou, City of Destin, is our most expensive Rec. Use projects – will include new or rehabilitated paddle craft launch, restroom, fishing pier, boat ramp, trails and boardwalks. But will also include wetland, saltmarsh, and upland restoration and new living shoreline.

Slide 38:

The remaining projects involve enhancing access to four state parks and the St. Marks NWR Refuge. Amenities at the first 3 State Parks include things such things as improved parking, trails and boardwalks, paddle craft launches, fishing and boat piers, picnic pavilions, restrooms, etc.

The last is a trail project. As mentioned previously, T.H. Stone Memorial St. Joseph Peninsula State Park was heavily impacted by Hurricane Michael.

The Coastal trail connection involves completing the Florida National Scenic Trail at the St. Marks NWR.

To recap, the estimated cost for the preferred Rec. Use projects is \$37 million.

Now, back to Dianne to move to the Virtual Public Meeting portion of today's webinar.

Slide 39: Virtual Public Meeting

We have ended the presentation portion of this webinar, and are moving into the formal Virtual Public Meeting and comment portion. We call it the formal period because the comments you submit now will become part of the Administrative Record for this plan, and will be addressed by the FL TIG in the final plan. Submissions through the "Questions" box on you screen will be considered formal public comments if they include the word "COMMENT" at the front. Please note that there is an 850 character limit. If you have a longer comment you wish to provide, please do so using one of the other means for submitting public comments which we will describe at the end of today's webinar.

As time allows, we will read aloud the comments we receive so that everyone participating in this webinar will know the comments we receive. Again all comments (or questions) we receive during this portion of the webinar will be part of the Administrative Record and addressed in the final Plan. We will not be verbally responding to public comments during today's webinar. Our responses will be found in a separate Chapter in the final plan that discusses the comments we received along with our responses to these comments, and discusses how the plan was revised based on the comments. As a reminder, if you want a question you submitted previously to be part of the Administrative Record, and addressed in the final plan, please resubmit the question with the word "COMMENT" at the front.

On to the comments. We bring back Phil Coram to read these, as time allows. [Public comment session] It looks like we have stopped receiving comments, and will now discuss a little more on the public comment process, comment deadline, and other ways by which you may send us comments.

Slide 40: Submit Your Comments

As a reminder, we are here to receive your feedback on the proposed projects included in the draft plan.

In addition to this webinar, there are other ways to provide comments.

- You can submit a written comment by mail to the address noted here.
- Comments may also be submitted electronically via the website listed on this slide.

It is important to note that all comments must be received by December 28, 2018.

Slide 41: Next Steps

Again, the public comment period for the Draft FL Restoration Plan I will close on December 28, 2018.

The Florida TIG will then review and consider all comments received and finalize the plan. We will include a separate Chapter in the final plan that discusses the comments we received along with our responses.

Projects selected by the Florida TIG in the final plan will then proceed to implementation.

Slide 42: Thank You

Thanks for your participation. This now concludes the Public Webinar for the FL TIG Draft Restoration Plan.

We hope you found it useful, and we will now end this webinar.