

Deepwater Horizon NRDA

Florida Restoration Area



# *Deepwater Horizon*

Natural Resource Damage Assessment & Restoration

Florida Trustee Implementation Group  
Annual Public Meeting

December 7, 2023

# Webinar Participation



- If you're using a phone, turn off your computer's microphone and speakers.
- We will take verbal comments at the end of the presentation.
- Presentation will be posted on DWH Trustee website:  
[www.gulfspillrestoration.noaa.gov](http://www.gulfspillrestoration.noaa.gov)

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# Agenda



- Natural Resource Damage Assessment (NRDA) background
- Overview of Florida Trustee Implementation Group (FL TIG)
- Review of FL TIG funding and project status
- Updates on early restoration projects in Florida
- Updates on FL TIG Restoration Plan 1, 2, and 3 projects and planning/MAM projects
- Next steps
- Public comments

# What is NRDA?



- A legal process based on the Oil Pollution Act
- Allows Trustees to assess resource injuries and service losses caused by an oil spill
- Process to determine how best to compensate the public through on-the-ground restoration activities

# Deepwater Horizon Settlement



2016 DWH settlement - up to \$8.8B. Includes:

- \$7.1B for restoration actions over 15+ years
- Up to \$700M for natural resource conditions unknown at the time of the settlement and/or to provide for adaptive management
- \$1B previously committed for early restoration





# Post-Settlement Structure



## TRUSTEE COUNCIL

Alabama | Florida | Louisiana | Mississippi | Texas | DOI | EPA | NOAA | USDA

Ensures coordination, efficiency, transparency, and accountability across the Trustee Implementation Groups.

## TRUSTEE IMPLEMENTATION GROUPS

Alabama | Florida | Louisiana | Mississippi | Texas | Open Ocean | Regionwide | Unknown Conditions and Adaptive Management\*

Conduct planning for restoration and monitoring and adaptive management; provide oversight for implementation.

\*Will be formed at a future date.

## INDIVIDUAL TRUSTEE AGENCIES

More than a dozen individual state and federal agencies.  
Agencies implement restoration projects and monitoring activities.

# Florida TIG



## State and federal Trustees:

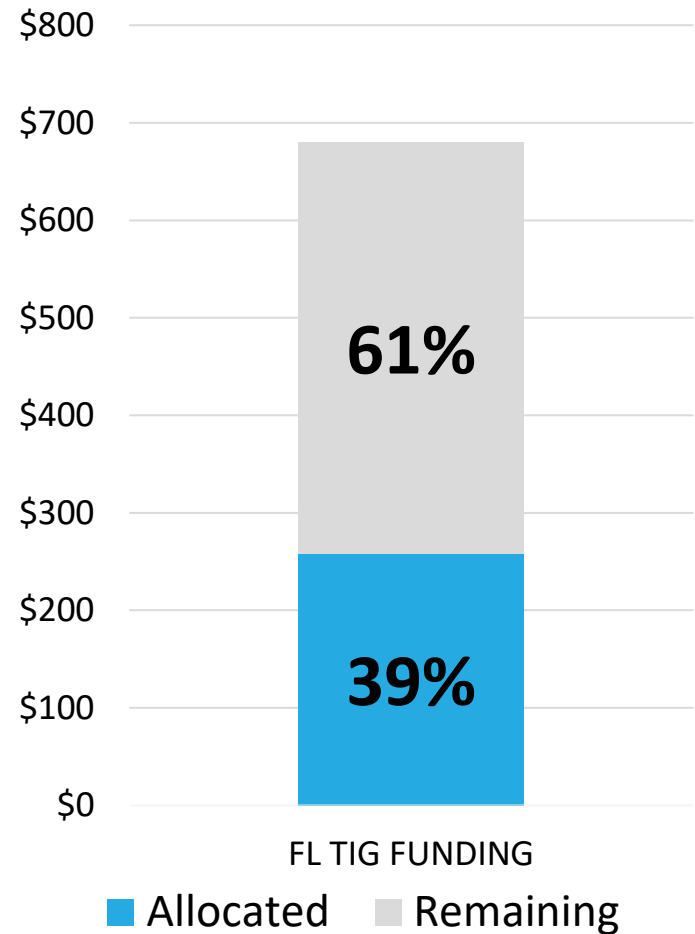
- Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP)
- Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC)
- U.S. Department of the Interior (DOI)
- National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)
- U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA)
- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)



# FL TIG Funding Update



- DWH NRDA allocation for the FL TIG is ~\$680M
- As of late 2023, the FL TIG has committed more than \$268M (39%), in planning and project / activity funds, and admin
- ~\$412M (61%) of the funds remain for future planning, projects / activities, and admin



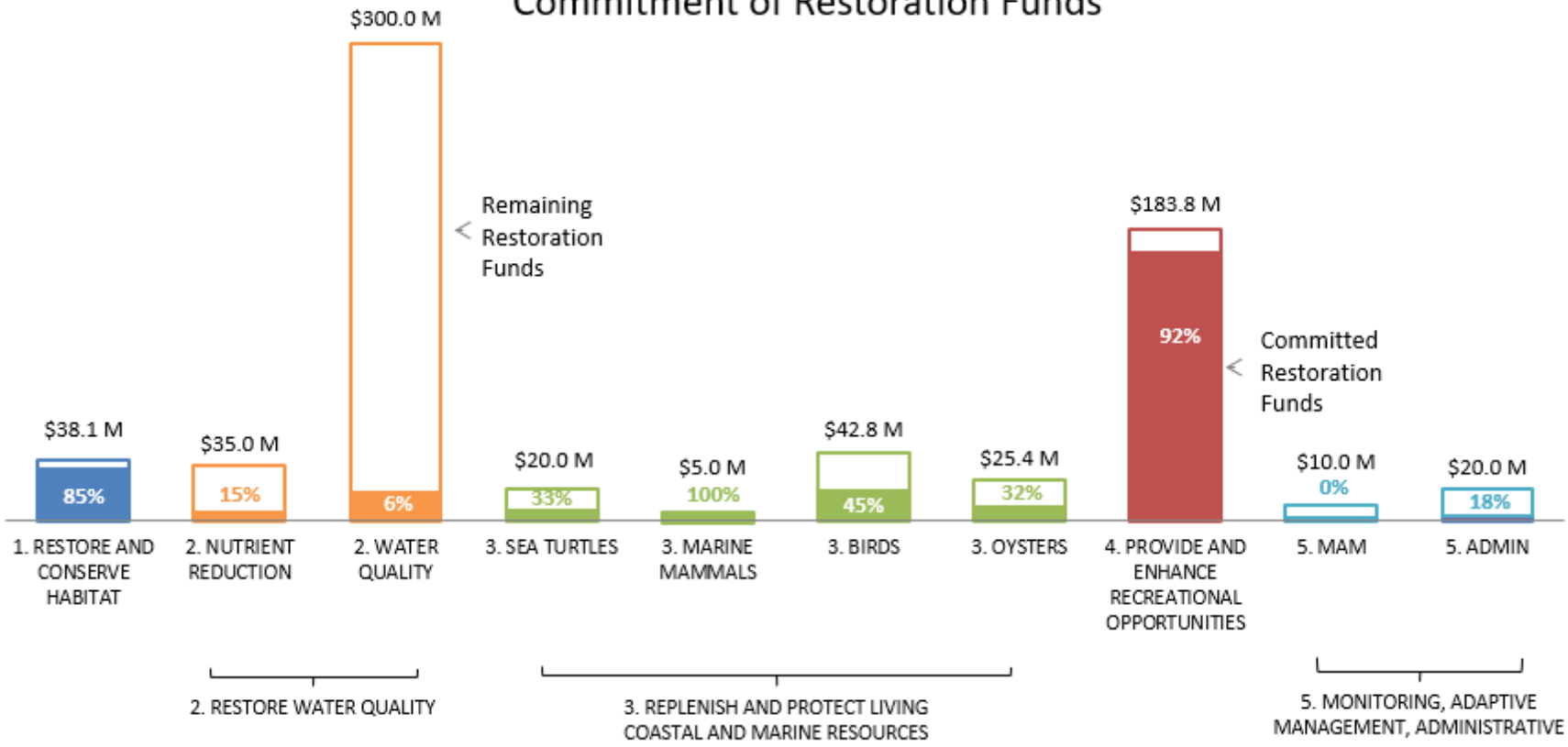
[www.gulfspillrestoration.noaa.gov/restoration-areas/florida](http://www.gulfspillrestoration.noaa.gov/restoration-areas/florida)



# FL TIG Allocation of Restoration Funds



Commitment of Restoration Funds

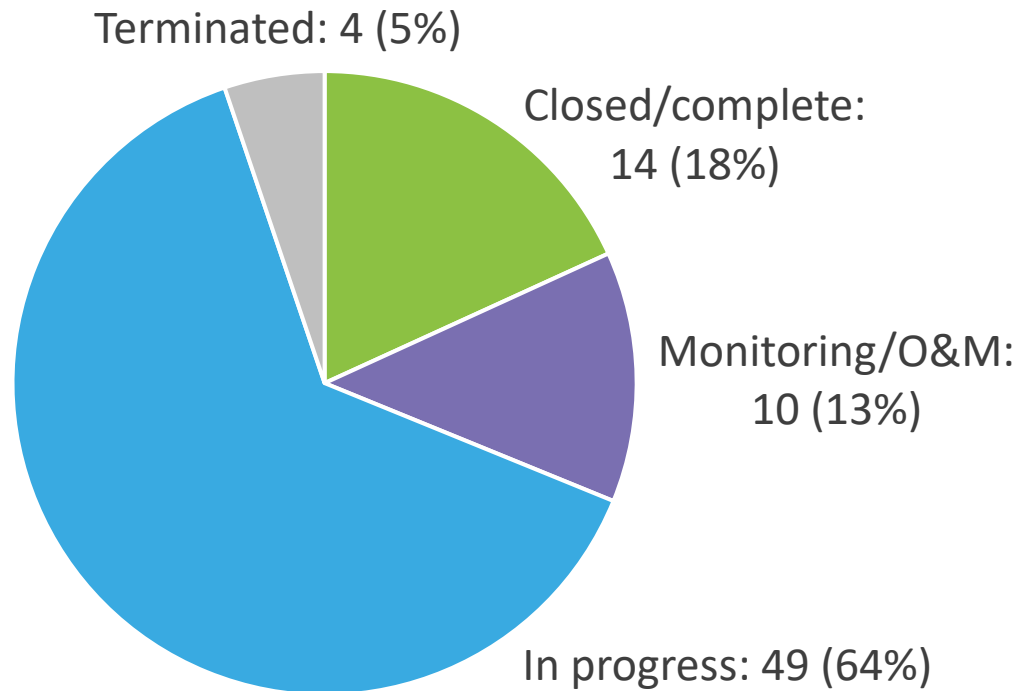


Data current as of November 2023

# FL TIG Project Status



77  
Total  
projects

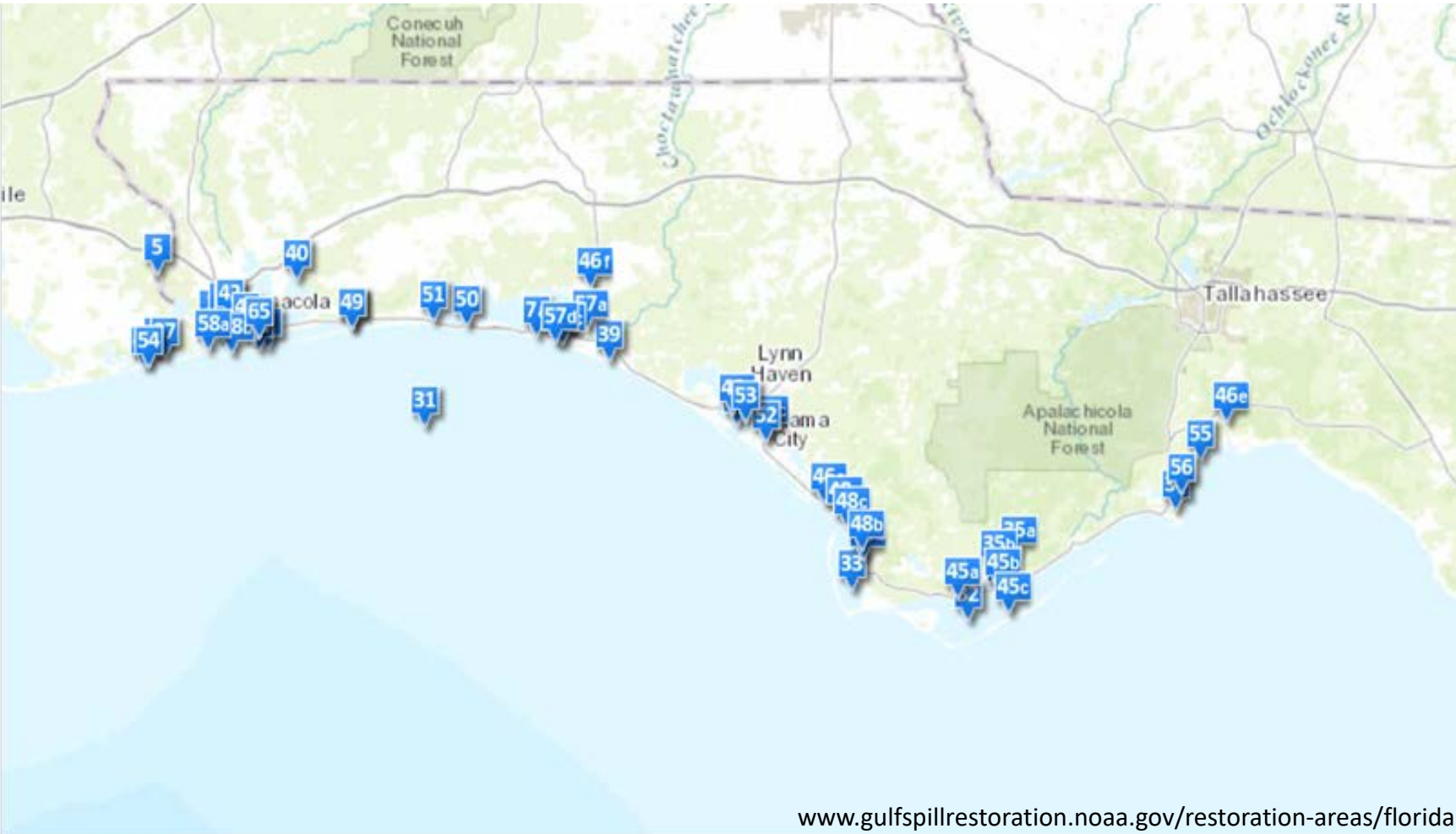


# Early Restoration Projects in Florida



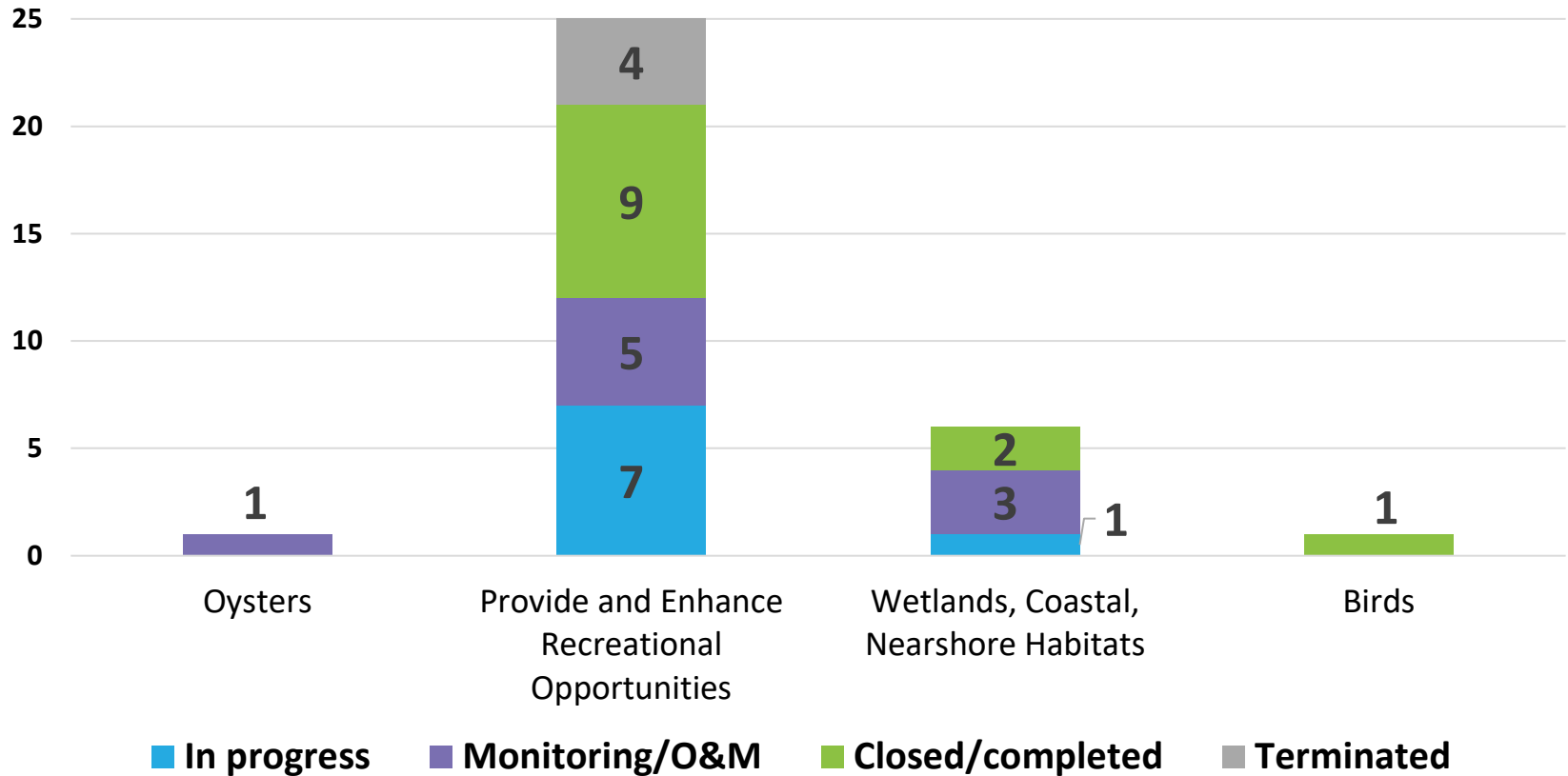


# Location Map of Early Restoration Projects in Florida



[www.gulfspillrestoration.noaa.gov/restoration-areas/florida](http://www.gulfspillrestoration.noaa.gov/restoration-areas/florida)

# Status of Early Restoration Projects in Florida



**Completed projects (since last annual meeting):** Navarre Beach Park Coastal Access and Dune Restoration; Navarre Beach Park Gulfside Walkover Complex; Big Lagoon State Park Boat Ramp Improvement; Gulf County Recreation Projects





# Walton County Boardwalks and Dune Crossovers (DEP)



- Status: complete (2022)
- Improved/enhanced facilities in Walton County:
  - Bayside Ranchettes Park
  - Ed Walline regional beach access facility
  - Gulfview Heights beach access facility
  - The Palms of Dune Allen West beach access facility





# Navarre Beach Park Coastal Access and Dune Restoration (DEP)



- Status: complete (2022)
- Improved access to the Santa Rosa Sound from the existing pavilion/parking lot areas.
- Constructed 2 new beach access boardwalks and a new kayak/canoe launch and boardwalk.
- Restored ~1 ac of degraded dune habitat by planting gaps in the existing dune.



# Navarre Beach Park Gulfside Walkover Complex (DEP)



- Status: complete (2022)
- Improved access to the Gulf from the existing pavilion/parking lot areas
- Constructed new beach access, wildlife observation area and boardwalk, picnic pavilions, parking and restroom facilities





# Enhancement of Franklin County Parks and Boat Ramps (DEP)



- Status: monitoring/O&M
- Improved/enhanced the Eastpoint public fishing pier, Indian Creek Park boat launch facility, and Waterfront Park
- The boardwalk connecting Eastpoint pier to the restrooms was reopened to the public in 2022 following repairs from Hurricane Michael
- Monitoring will be completed in 2023





# Florida Cat Point Living Shoreline (DEP)



- Status: monitoring/O&M
- >20,000 plants were planted behind 16 new breakwater structures (0.3 mi) adding ~1 acre of new salt marsh
- Recognized by the American Shore and Beach Preservation Association as one of five recipients for the 2023 Best Restored Shores Award





# Early Restoration Projects Currently Under Construction



- Beach Enhancement Project at Gulf Islands National Seashore
- Bald Point State Park Recreation Areas
- City of Parker - Oakshore Drive Pier
- Norriego Point Restoration and Recreation Project
- Northwest Florida Estuarine Habitat Restoration, Protection, and Education - Fort Walton Beach
- Developing Enhanced Recreational Opportunities on Escribano Point Portion of the Yellow River WMA

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# FL TIG Restoration Plan 1

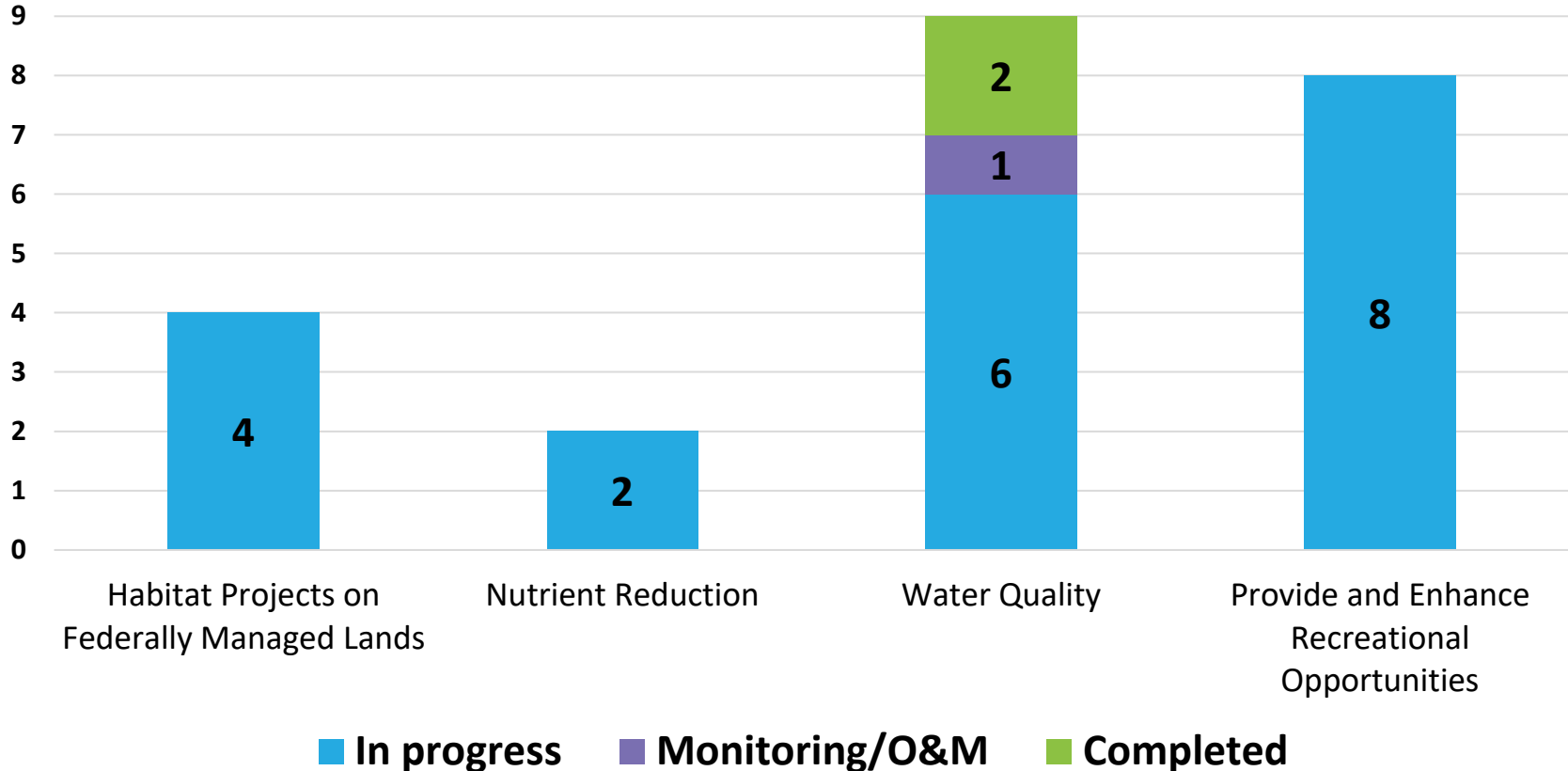




# Location Map of FL TIG RP1 Projects



# Status of FL TIG RP 1 Projects





# Lower Suwannee National Wildlife Refuge Hydrologic Restoration – P&D (DOI)



- Status: complete (2022)
- Analyzed existing information and developed a model to identify road sections that, when removed, would help restore hydrologic connections
- Final report identified locations in Dixie and Levy Counties where culverts, increasing road elevation, low water crossings, and other infrastructure improvements could be constructed







# Gulf Islands National Seashore (Florida) Night Sky Restoration (P&D) (DOI)



- Status: in progress
- Assessing light pollution at the FL District of GUIs, specifically skyglow, illuminance, and spectral composition of artificial lights
- Final report will describe the assessment results and provide a prioritized list of lights to replace/retrofit
- Night sky brightness measurements and associated information are being collected and data analysis will begin in 2024





# St. Vincent National Wildlife Refuge Predator Control (DOI)



- Status: in progress
- Restoring habitat and ecological services to natural resources through the control of raccoon populations and removal of feral hogs
- 2020 - 2023 field seasons: removed feral hogs, trapped raccoons, collected red wolf scat samples, established symbolic fencing around shorebird nesting areas, and placed cameras near nesting areas to detect/identify potential predators and human disturbance



# RP1 Projects Currently Under Construction



- Beach and Dune Habitat Protection at Gulf Islands National Seashore
- Invasive Plant Removal at Gulf Islands National Seashore
- Rehabilitation of Okaloosa Unit Recreational Facilities at Gulf Islands National Seashore
- Pensacola Beach Reclaimed Water System Expansion
- Perdido River and Bay Paddle Trail
- St. Andrews State Park Improvements (partially complete)
- Topsail Hill Preserve State Park Improvements (partially complete)

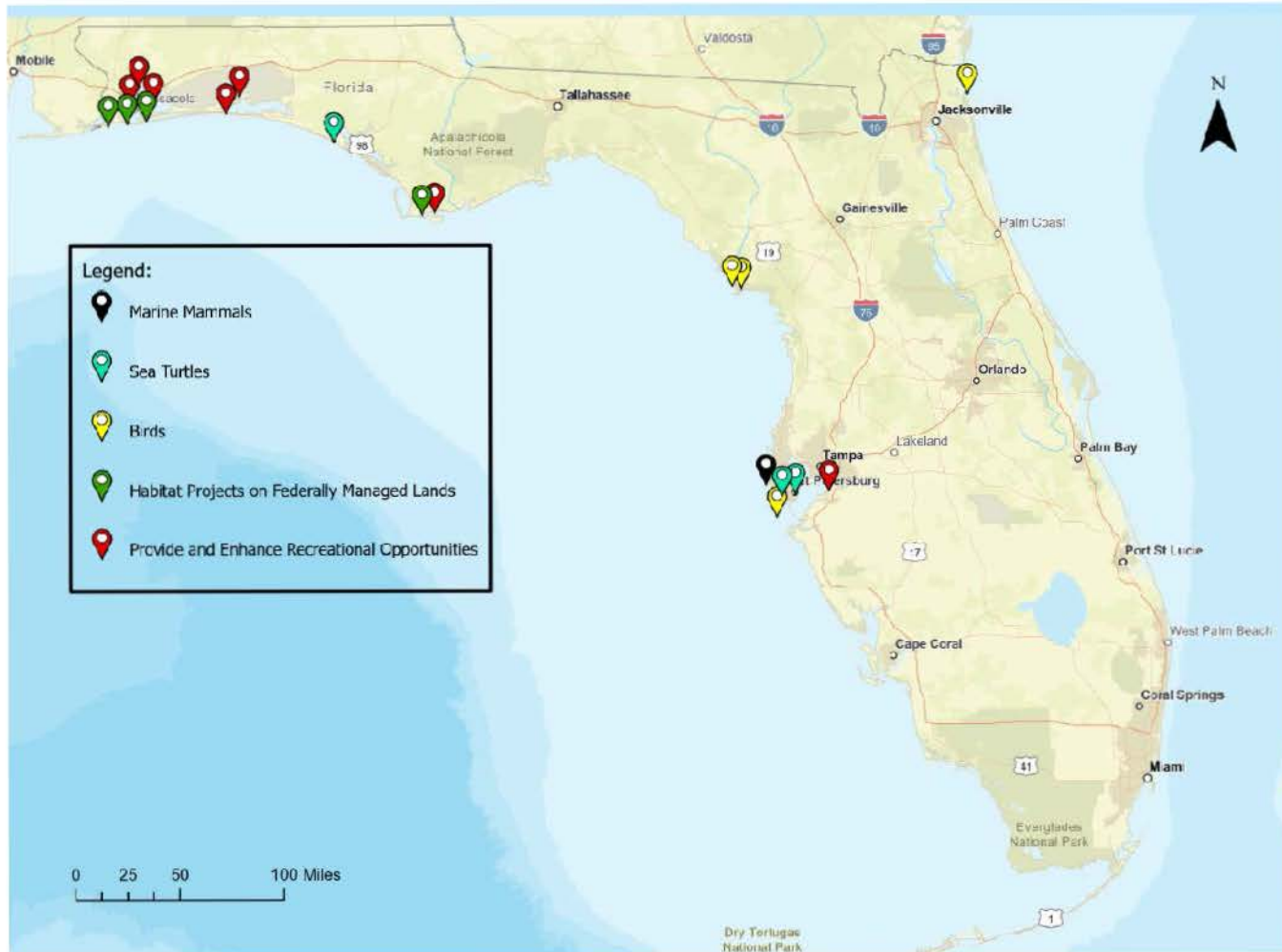
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# FL TIG Restoration Plan 2





# Location Map of FL TIG RP2 Projects

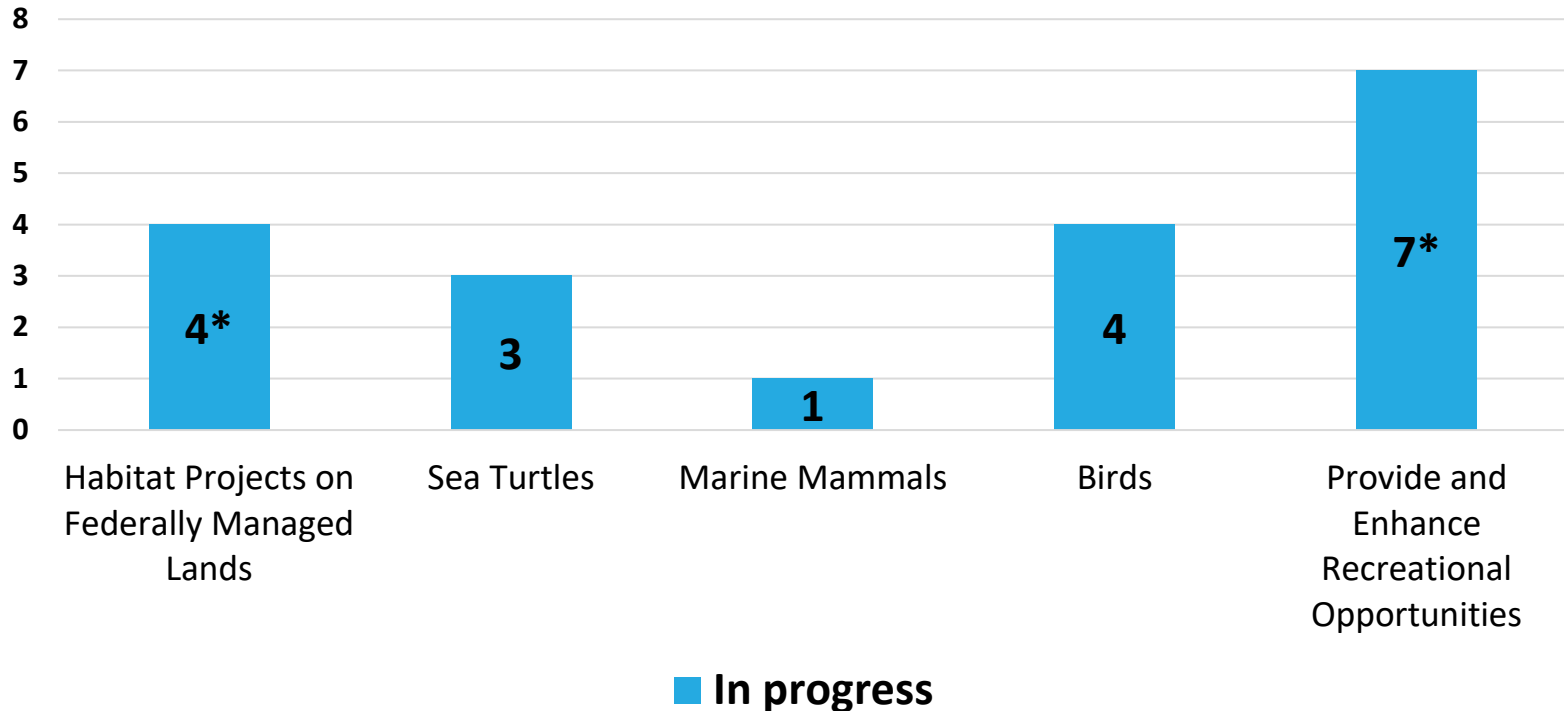




# Status of FL TIG RP 2 Projects



## FL TIG RP2 Projects



\*The *St. Vincent National Wildlife Refuge Access and Recreational Improvements through Acquisition at Indian Pass* project is jointly proposed and counted under two restoration types: Habitat Projects on Federally Managed Lands and Provide and Enhance Recreational Opportunities.



# Assessing Risk and Conducting Public Outreach to Reduce Vessel Strikes on Sea Turtles along Florida's Gulf Coast (FWC)



- Status: in progress
- Compiling data at hotspots of vessel strike mortality on sea turtles, gauging public opinion on different types of management strategies, and potentially reducing the number of sea turtles struck by educating boaters on ways to reduce their chances of hitting a sea turtle
- Implementation began in June 2022; anticipated completion in 2027



# RP2 Projects Currently Under Construction

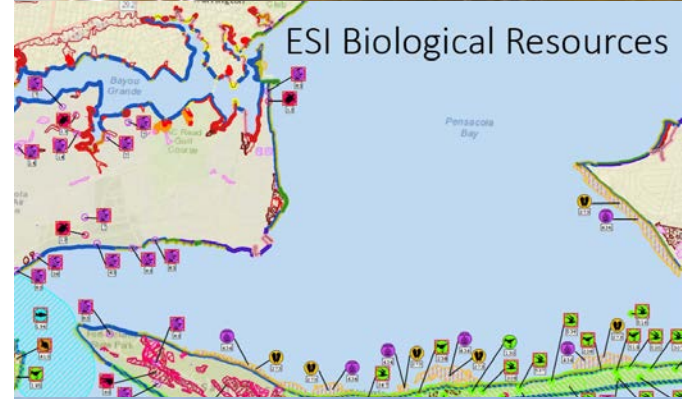


- Egmont Key National Wildlife Refuge Vegetation Management and Dune Retention
- Johnson Beach Access Management and Habitat Protection
- Pensacola Beach Fort Pickens Road Wildlife Lighting Retrofits
- Perdido Key Sediment Placement
- Florida Artificial Reef Creation and Restoration – Phase 2
- Pensacola Community Maritime Park Public Fishing Marina

# Status of FL TIG Planning and MAM Projects



- Planning
  - Conducting Habitat Suitability Analyses to Identify Optimal Oyster Restoration Locations along the Florida Gulf Coast (in progress)
  - Evaluating Orientation Response of Sea Turtle Hatchlings to Physical Cues on Nesting Beaches (in progress)
- MAM
  - Coastal Environmental Sensitivity Index Mapping of the Florida Gulf Coast (in progress)



# FL TIG Restoration Plan 3



- Restoration planning began in Nov 2022 by requesting project ideas from the public
- Project screening completed in mid-2023
- Plan proposes to address water quality using a range of approaches to enhance ecosystem services and recreational use by reducing pollutants, nutrients, and pathogens discharged to coastal watersheds and improving hydrology



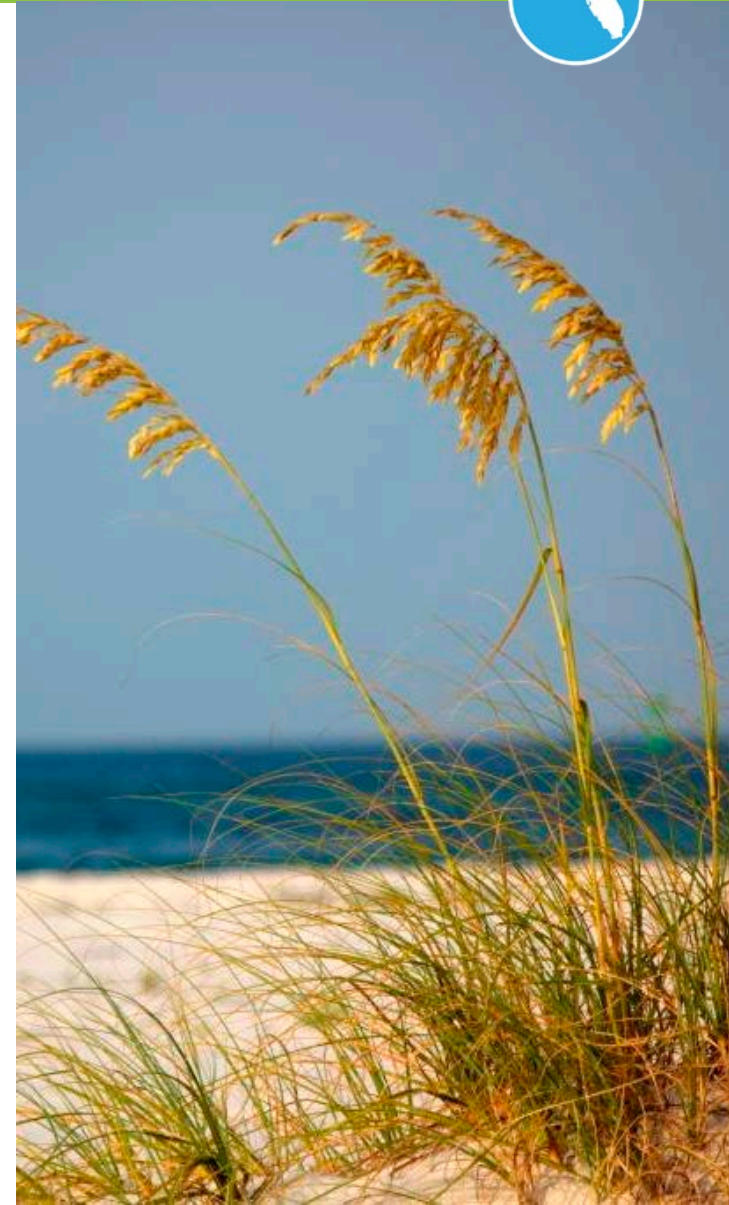


# Next Steps

# What is coming up for the FL TIG?



- Implementation and monitoring of early restoration, RP1, RP2, planning, and MAM projects
- FL TIG RP 3: draft for public comment expected in early 2024





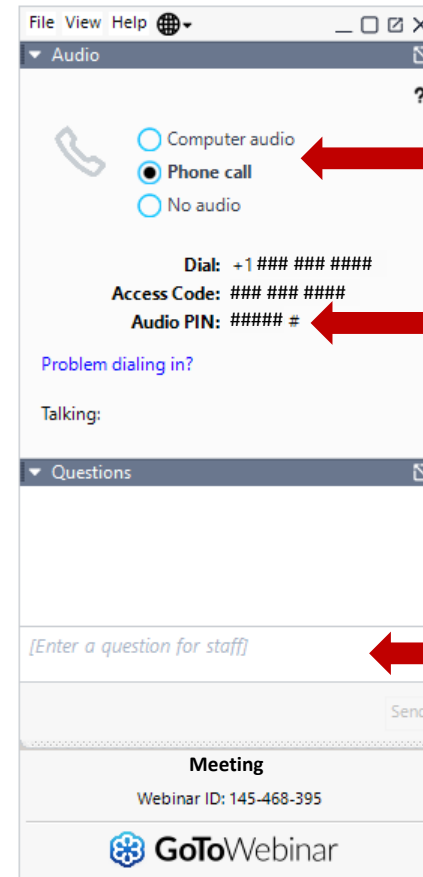
# Public Comments



# Public Comments



- All attendees are muted automatically.
- Please enter your audio PIN if you plan on speaking via phone – you will be unmuted by staff at the beginning of your comment.
- Enter your name in the questions box to request a speaking slot.



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A scenic photograph of a sunset over a body of water. The sun is low on the horizon, creating a bright orange and yellow glow that reflects on the water's surface. Several boats are visible in the distance, and the sky is filled with scattered clouds. The overall mood is peaceful and serene.

**Thank you.**

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