
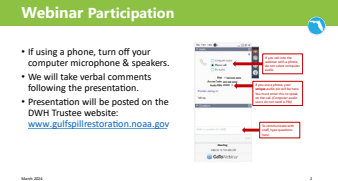



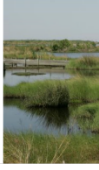


Florida Trustee Implementation Group Draft Restoration Plan 3 and Environmental Assessment (RP3/EA) Public Webinar Script and Public Comments

March 27, 2024

Webinar Script

SLIDE	IMAGE	SCRIPT
1		<p>Slide: Title</p> <p>Speaker: Erin Lyons, IEC</p> <p>Script:</p> <p>Hello, and welcome to the Florida Trustee Implementation Group’s Draft Restoration Plan 3 and Environmental Assessment public webinar!</p> <p>My name is Erin Lyons, and I’m a contractor supporting the Florida Trustees. I will be your facilitator for the webinar.</p> <p>The purpose of today’s webinar is to provide information on the draft plan and receive public comments.</p> <p>Thank you for taking the time to join this presentation. Within the next few days, this presentation and script will be available on the FL page of the Trustees’ website, www.gulfspillrestoration.noaa.gov. That website link is in the chat and will be provided again at the end of the presentation.</p> <p>Before we get started, let’s go over some of the webinar features that are available for you to use today.</p> <p><i>Message in the chat:</i></p> <p><i>The Trustees’ website is available at www.gulfspillrestoration.noaa.gov.</i></p>
2		<p>Slide: Webinar logistics</p> <p>Speaker: Erin Lyons, IEC</p> <p>Script:</p> <p>Hopefully, everyone’s logged into the webinar by now and connected to audio by computer or phone. You should be able to see the control panel on the right-hand side of your screen – which is shown on this slide.</p> <p>If you’re using a phone to connect to audio, you should be dialing in using the phone number provided by GoToWebinar—that’s the number and access code listed under “Audio” in the control panel. Please note that only presenters will be heard during the webinar; attendees will be muted unless it is your turn to provide a comment.</p>

		<p>Later in the webinar, the Trustees will hear verbal public comments on the plan. We will provide instructions if you would like to give a public comment. Please note that all comments are limited to three minutes, and we will not be responding to verbal comments at this time.</p> <p>Now I'll turn it over to Trip Boone with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.</p>
3	<p>Webinar Agenda</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Background <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Natural Resource Damage Assessment (NRDA) • Florida Trustee Implementation Group (FL TIG) • Draft RP-3/EA <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Planning timeline and screening process • Proposed projects • Opportunity for Public Comment • Next Steps  <p>Link to Draft RP3/EA: https://www.gulfspillrestoration.noaa.gov/restorationareas/florida</p>	<p>Slide: Webinar Agenda</p> <p>Speaker: Tripp Boone, EPA</p> <p>Script:</p> <p>Thank you, Erin. Hello, everyone. I am Tripp, a physical scientist with the USEPA. I'd like to thank you all for joining us for the Florida Trustee Implementation Group's Public Webinar this afternoon. I am joined today by the following Florida TIG members:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sara Ketron with FDEP • Gareth Leonard and Amy Raker with FWC • Stella Wilson with NOAA • Ashley Warren with DOI • Ben Battle with the USDA, and • Myself and Chris McArthur with USEPA. <p>In this presentation, we will begin with some background on the Natural Resource Damage Assessment, or NRDA, process, and the Florida Trustee Implementation Group, or TIG. As part of the NRDA process, Trustees undertake restoration planning, including drafting restoration plans for public review and comment, followed by the implementation of approved restoration projects.</p> <p>Today, we will be discussing the FL TIG's Draft Restoration Plan 3 and Environmental Assessment, including an overview of the planning timeline, the screening process, and the proposed projects included in the draft plan. The link to the draft plan is provided at the bottom of this slide and in the chat box.</p> <p>After presentation of the plan, there will be an opportunity for verbal public comment. At that time, attendees will be able to submit formal comments which will be included in the Administrative Record and will be addressed by the FL TIG in the final plan. Additional details will be provided during that portion of the webinar.</p> <p>We will then conclude with an overview of next steps.</p> <p>Let's get started.</p>

		<p><u>Message in the chat:</u></p> <p>The draft Restoration Plan is available at www.gulfspillrestoration.noaa.gov/media/document/2024-03-fl-draft3.</p>
4	<p>What is NRDA?</p>  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A legal process based on the Oil Pollution Act (OPA) • Allows Trustees to assess natural 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 	<p>Slide: What is NRDA?</p> <p>Speaker: Tripp Boone, EPA</p> <p>Script:</p> <p>To start with, what is NRDA? NRDA is a legal process – based on the Oil Pollution Act of 1990 – that federal agencies and affected states implement after an oil spill to assess the degree to which natural resources and the services they provide may have been injured by an oil spill and response activities.</p> <p>The Trustees then determine how to compensate the public for those natural resource injuries through on-the-ground restoration activities. The goal is to assess the extent of injury to a natural resource and determine appropriate ways of restoring and compensating for that injury.</p>
5	<p>Deepwater Horizon Settlement</p> <p>2016 DWH settlement - up to \$8.8B.</p> <p>Includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$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 	<p>Slide: <i>Deepwater Horizon</i> Settlement</p> <p>Speaker: Tripp Boone, EPA</p> <p>Script:</p> <p>In 2016, the <i>Deepwater Horizon</i> NRDA Trustees reached a settlement with British Petroleum for up to \$8.8 billion to address natural resource injuries related to the oil spill.</p> <p>The settlement included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$1 billion that had been committed prior to the settlement for early restoration projects/activities • \$7.1 billion for restoration actions, which is to be paid over a 15-year payment schedule • Up to \$700 million, some of which is in the form of accrued interest, to respond to natural resource injuries unknown at the time of the settlement or to provide for adaptive management
6	<p>NRDA Trustees' Governance Structure</p> 	<p>Slide: NRDA Trustees' Governance Structure</p> <p>Speaker: Tripp Boone, EPA</p> <p>Script:</p> <p>The <i>Deepwater Horizon</i> Settlement also formally established the governance structure, which is shown in this graphic.</p> <p>The settlement established restoration areas - one for each of the five Gulf states, one for the Open Ocean, and one for Regionwide.</p> <p>For each Restoration Area, teams called Trustee Implementation Groups, or TIGs, were established. The work of developing</p>

restoration plans and projects now falls on these TIGs. The Trustee Council serves in an oversight role.

Restoration projects in Florida are overseen primarily by the FL TIG, but the Regionwide and Open Ocean TIGs are currently implementing restoration projects in Florida as well.

7

Florida Trustee Implementation Group

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)

Slide: Florida Trustee Implementation Group

Speaker: Tripp Boone, EPA

Script:

The FL TIG is composed of 2 state agencies, the Florida Department of Environmental Protection and the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, and 4 federal agencies, the US Department of the Interior, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, the US Department of Agriculture, and the US Environmental Protection Agency.

These Trustees work together to develop restoration plans and implement projects to restore Florida’s natural resources and associated services that were injured in the oil spill.

8

FL TIG Funding Allocation

- DWH NRDA allocation for the FL TIG is ~\$680M
- As of February 2024, the FL TIG has committed more than \$269M (40%), in planning and project / activity funds and admin
- ~\$411M (60%) of the funds remain for future planning, projects / activities, and admin

Category	Amount	Percentage
Allocated	\$269M	40%
Remaining	\$411M	60%
Total	\$680M	100%

Slide: FL TIG Funding Allocation

Speaker: Tripp Boone, EPA

Script:

As part of the BP settlement, the Florida Restoration Area was allocated approximately \$680 million in restoration funding, which is further subdivided into specific amounts that will be applied towards specific programmatic restoration goals, monitoring activities, and administrative oversight.

As of February, the FL TIG has committed more than **\$269** million of these funds to restoration planning, the implementation of approved projects, monitoring and adaptive management and restoration planning activities, and administration.

Therefore, the FL TIG has approximately **\$411** million, or **60%** of its funds remaining.

9

FL TIG Restoration Funds


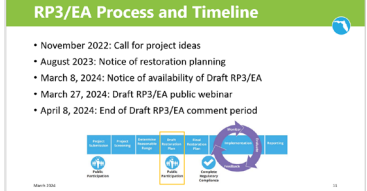

Slide: FL TIG Restoration Funds

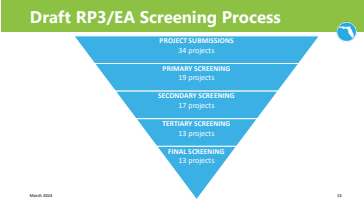
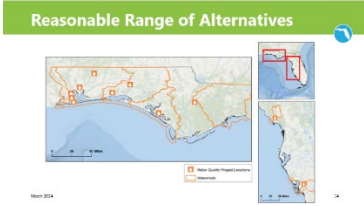
Speaker: Tripp Boone, EPA

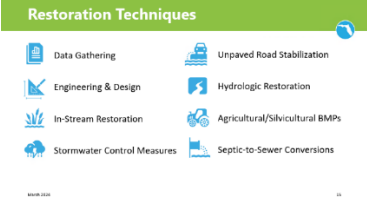
Script:

This chart shows the restoration funding allocated to the Florida Restoration Area across each programmatic Restoration Goal and Type and the percentage of committed funds as of February.

As you can see, some of the Restoration Types like Marine Mammals, Habitat Projects on Federally Managed Lands, and Recreational Use are either fully allocated or close to being fully allocated, while

		<p>others like Water Quality are just starting to have their allocation spent.</p>
<p>10</p>		<p>Slide: Florida TIG Restoration Plan 3 and Environmental Assessment</p> <p>Speaker: Tripp Boone, EPA</p> <p>Script:</p> <p>This brings us to the current plan, Restoration Plan 3, which will focus on the Water Quality Restoration Type.</p> <p>I will now turn it over to Sarah Ketron to provide an overview of the restoration planning process.</p>
<p>11</p>		<p>Slide: RP3/EA Process and Timeline</p> <p>Speaker: Sarah Ketron, FDEP</p> <p>Script:</p> <p>Thank you, Tripp. Hello, everyone. I am Sarah Ketron with the Florida Department of Environmental Protection. As Tripp mentioned, we will begin with an overview of the planning process for the Florida TIG’s Restoration Plan 3.</p> <p>On November 7, 2022, the FL TIG posted a public invitation on the Trustees’ website to submit project ideas under the Water Quality Restoration Type.</p> <p>Next, on August 7, 2023, the FL TIG posted a public notice on the Trustees’ website indicating that the TIG had initiated the restoration planning process.</p> <p>Subsequently, on March 8, 2024, the plan’s Notice of Availability was published in the Federal Register.</p> <p>The public is encouraged to review and comment on this draft plan during this ongoing comment period, which will conclude on April 8, 2024.</p>
<p>12</p>		<p>Slide: FL TIG Draft Restoration Plan 3 Overview</p> <p>Speaker: Sarah Ketron, FDEP</p> <p>Script:</p> <p>As I mentioned, Restoration Plan 3 is focused on the Restore Water Quality Programmatic Restoration Goal and Water Quality Restoration Type. This was the primary natural resource injured by the <i>Deepwater Horizon</i> incident in Florida.</p> <p>Restoration Plan 3 evaluates 13 restoration projects which were identified through a rigorous screening process. Out of these 13 projects, the Draft Plan proposes to fund 11 of these projects, with a combined estimated cost of roughly \$111.5 million. Two projects are fully evaluated in the Draft Plan but not proposed for funding at</p>

		this time. All projects will be discussed in a moment.
13	 <p>The diagram is a green inverted triangle with a white border. At the top, it says 'Draft RP3/EA Screening Process'. Inside the triangle, from top to bottom, are: 'PROJECT SUBMISSIONS 34 projects', 'PRIMARY SCREENING 19 projects', 'SECONDARY SCREENING 17 projects', 'TERTIARY SCREENING 13 projects', and 'FINAL SCREENING 13 projects'. A small blue circle with a white arrow is on the right side of the triangle.</p>	<p>Slide: Draft RP3/EA Screening Process</p> <p>Speaker: Sarah Ketron, FDEP</p> <p>Script:</p> <p>This figure is based on Figure 2-1 in the Restoration Plan and summarizes the FL TIG’s screening process, which was used to develop the reasonable range of alternatives evaluated in this draft plan.</p> <p>The FL TIG began the screening process by reviewing the 34 project ideas submitted through the DWH Trustee and Florida portals.</p> <p>The FL TIG performed four steps of screening, which resulted in narrowing down the 34 project submissions to the 13 projects included in the reasonable range of alternatives for this draft plan.</p> <p>For more detail on the screening process, please see Chapter 2 of the Draft Plan.</p>
14	 <p>The map shows the Florida Gulf Coast with several orange dots indicating project locations. A legend in the bottom right corner identifies the dots as 'Water Quality Impaired Counties'. An inset map on the right shows the entire state of Florida with a red box highlighting the coastal area shown in the main map.</p>	<p>Slide: Reasonable Range of Alternatives</p> <p>Speaker: Sarah Ketron, FDEP</p> <p>Script:</p> <p>The 13 projects in the Draft Plan’s Reasonable Range of Alternatives are shown here. The projects span the Florida Gulf Coast, from the Perdido Watershed in Escambia County down to the Charlotte Harbor Watershed in Charlotte County. Many of the projects would involve improvements throughout the target watersheds to address sources of water quality impairment at a watershed-level, and, as such, the points displayed are used to illustrate general project locations. The projects seek to address impacts to water quality and hydrology due to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Runoff of untreated and excess volumes of stormwater into aging and inadequate urban stormwater catchments and waterbodies • Erosion and sediment loading from dirt roads that cross tributaries to Florida waterbodies and critical habitat • Surface water runoff and groundwater seepage of nutrients and bacteria from aging and inadequate septic systems into impaired waters • Hydrologic fragmentation and alterations that reduce or eliminate tidal exchange and/or fish and wildlife access between floodplains, rivers and streams, and estuaries <p>Out of these 13, there are 11 preferred projects; in other words, those that are recommended for funding. The next few slides will describe each of the projects evaluated in the Draft Restoration Plan 3. The public can submit comments on both the non-preferred</p>

		and preferred alternatives.
15		<p>Slide: Restoration Techniques</p> <p>Speaker: Sarah Ketron, FDEP</p> <p>Script:</p> <p>Before we discuss the individual projects, we would like to provide an overview of the different types of restoration techniques or activities that the projects would implement.</p> <p>First, some projects involve planning activities such as data gathering or engineering and design. These planning activities would either inform implementation of the projects included in this current plan or inform the design of projects for consideration for future funding opportunities. Data gathering activities might include field sampling, ground surveys, or computer modeling. Engineering and design activities may include producing structural design plans or securing necessary environmental permits.</p> <p>Next, some of our projects include in-stream restoration activities, such as debris removal and soft engineering techniques, to help improve floodwater conveyance and reduce stream bank erosion during storm events.</p> <p>Many projects include the installation of stormwater control measures such as retention ponds or filtration structures. These would help capture pollutants in runoff and improve stormwater storage and filtering capacity.</p> <p>Other projects would target roadway enhancements at unpaved crossings with streams, which currently contribute to erosion and sediment runoff in coastal watersheds. These projects generally seek to stabilize road segments through paving, raising road elevations, or installing culverts and other drainage infrastructure to manage stormwater flows to reduce sediments carried from the unpaved roads.</p> <p>Many of the projects focus on hydrologic restoration, or the restoring of natural flow ways by removing impediments between areas of historic natural water exchange or capturing floodwaters and storing them to be released during more natural wet periods.</p> <p>One project seeks to work with farmers and foresters to implement agricultural and silvicultural best management practices, or BMPs, to reduce erosion and nutrient pollution originating in farm and forestry lands.</p> <p>Finally, a few projects would involve programs that transition neighborhoods with high instances of legacy septic field leaching to municipal sewer systems to help improve the treatment of wastewater and reduce the infiltration of nutrients and pathogens</p>


into groundwater.

On the next few slides, we will look at the proposed projects in more detail, broken down by the watershed in which the projects would occur; as we go, we will continue to use these symbols to convey the techniques and activities that each project would involve.

16

Draft RP3/EA Preferred Projects

- 11 preferred projects
 - Consistent with the PDARP and OPA
 - Cost-effectiveness
 - Trustee goals and objectives
 - Likelihood of success
 - Collateral injury
 - Benefits to multiple resources or services
 - Public health and safety
- Would allocate approximately \$111.5 M from FL TIG funds
 - Remaining balance of approximately \$299.5 M



Slide: Draft RP3/EA Preferred Projects

Speaker: Sarah Ketron, FDEP

Script:

As we previously noted, the Draft Plan evaluates a reasonable range of 13 restoration alternatives. These alternatives are consistent with the *Deepwater Horizon* Trustee Council’s Programmatic Damage Assessment and Restoration Plan (or PDARP) and the six Oil Pollution Act (or OPA) regulatory evaluation criteria, which are cost-effectiveness, Trustee goals and objectives, likelihood of success, collateral injury, benefits to multiple natural resources or services, and public health and safety.

Out of the 13 alternatives, the TIG is proposing 11 for funding and implementation.

The FL TIG proposes to use approximately \$111.5 million of the FL TIG settlement funds to fund the preferred projects in this draft plan. This would leave a balance of approximately \$299.5 million, plus any unallocated earned interest, for future restoration projects, administration, and monitoring and adaptive management or restoration planning activities.

17

Western Florida Panhandle

Perdido and Pensacola Bay Watersheds

Preferred Alternative	Restoration Technique(s)	Estimated Cost
W03, Pensacola and Perdido Watersheds Microbial Source Tracking (Planning)		\$1,100,000
W02, Pensacola Bay Unpaved Roads Initiative Phase 2 (Planning)		\$527,000
W03, Carpenter Creek Hydrologic Restoration and Stormwater Improvements		\$6,300,000
W04, Hillyer & Williams Stormwater Park		\$5,450,000
W05, Gulf Breeze Septic to Sewer Conversion		\$32,830,000
W06, Santa Rosa County Septic to Sewer Conversion		\$22,797,000

Slide: Western Florida Panhandle

Speaker: Sarah Ketron, FDEP

Script:

The first set of projects in this plan are located in the westernmost watersheds in the Florida Panhandle, the Perdido and Pensacola Bay watersheds. In total, there are six projects proposed for funding in this area.

The first project is Pensacola and Perdido Watersheds Microbial Source Tracking. This is a planning-only project that would deploy desk-based, field, and lab analyses to identify sources of bacterial pollution in this region, and then prioritize strategies and activities that could address these sources of bacterial pollution through future restoration opportunities.

The second project is the Pensacola Bay Unpaved Roads Initiative, which is also a planning-only project. This project would build on work that was conducted through the FL TIG RP1 project of the same name by holding public meetings, developing design plans and cost estimates, and securing environmental permits for road

improvements that would improve road stability and reduce erosion at unpaved road-stream crossings.

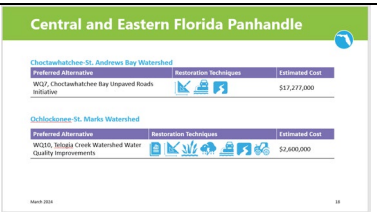
The third project is Carpenter Creek Hydrologic Restoration and Stormwater Improvements. This project would complete engineering and design, construction, and monitoring for in-stream restoration and stormwater retention and filtering infrastructure to reduce pollution and sediment influx into an urbanized segment of Carpenter Creek.

The fourth project in the Perdido and Pensacola Bay watersheds is the Hollice T. Williams Stormwater Park. This project would convert a 10-acre portion of the existing Hollice T. Williams Park into a stormwater park using green infrastructure to capture and treat runoff during storm events.

The fifth project is the Gulf Breeze Septic to Sewer Conversion. This project would involve planning, engineering and design, and implementation of a multiple-stage septic-to-sewer conversion for 1,030 residences within the City of Gulf Breeze. Through this project, antiquated residential septic systems would be decommissioned, and homes would be connected to the municipal sewer system, which has more advanced water treatment capacity.

The sixth project, the Santa Rosa County Septic to Sewer Conversion, would employ a similar strategy to connect up to 900 residences within Santa Rosa County to municipal sewer systems, thereby reducing septic field pollution.

18



Slide: Central and Eastern Florida Panhandle

Speaker: Sarah Ketron, FDEP

Script:

In the Choctawhatchee and St. Andrews Bay Watershed, the plan proposes funding to the Choctawhatchee Bay Unpaved Roads Initiative. This project would construct roadway and drainage improvements at 15 sites to stabilize erosion-prone stream crossings and reduce sediment loading into the Choctawhatchee Bay watershed.

Also included in this watershed are two projects evaluated in the Plan but not proposed for funding at this time. They are the Swift Creek Hydrologic Restoration project and Springfield Stream and Wetland Enhancement project. The Swift Creek project would partially restore Roberts Pond, a recreational impoundment, by reestablishing a natural stream channel and reconnecting a portion of the floodplain and riparian zone for Swift Creek, a tributary of Choctawhatchee Bay. The Springfield project would restore two degraded tributaries that drain into Lake Martin along St. Andrew Bay, addressing flooding issues within the City of Springfield and improving water quality and community resiliency. The National Fish

and Wildlife Foundation recently awarded a grant for the Springfield project to develop preliminary designs for habitat restoration that aims to improve community resiliency.

In the Ochlockonee – St. Marks Watershed, the plan proposes funding for the Telogia Creek Watershed Water Quality Improvements project. This project would gather data to identify “hotspot” areas of water quality impairment along Telogia Creek and subsequently employ a combination of techniques to address these impairments at up to 13 sites. These techniques might include in-stream restoration, installment of stormwater infrastructure, stabilization of unpaved roads, construction of drainage infrastructure to restore hydrologic connectivity, or working with local landowners to implement agricultural or silvicultural BMPs.

19

Big Bend and Peninsular Florida

Restoration Technique	Estimated Cost
WQ2L, Lower Suwannee National Wildlife Refuge Hydrologic Restoration Phase 2 (Planning)	\$1,600,000
Charlotte Harbor and Caloosahatchee Watersheds	
WQ2L, Bond Farm Hydrologic Enhancement Impoundment	\$38,500,000
WQ2L, Bond Farm Hydrologic Enhancement Southwest Discharge Structure (Planning)	\$500,000

March 2014

Slide: Big Bend and Peninsular Florida
Speaker: Sarah Ketron, FDEP
Script:

In the Suwannee watershed, the draft plan proposes funding to the Lower Suwannee National Wildlife Refuge Hydrologic Restoration Phase 2 Planning project. This project is a planning-only initiative that builds off work conducted through the FL TIG RP1 planning project of the same name. This phase would develop design plans and cost estimates and secure environmental permits for roadway improvements to improve overland water flow on the Refuge. These improvements would help to reduce flooding and restore more natural freshwater/estuarine water gradients.


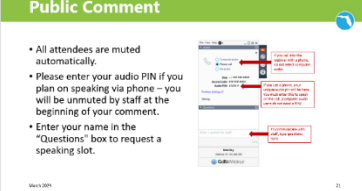

Finally, in the Charlotte Harbor and Caloosahatchee Watersheds, the draft plan proposes funding two projects.

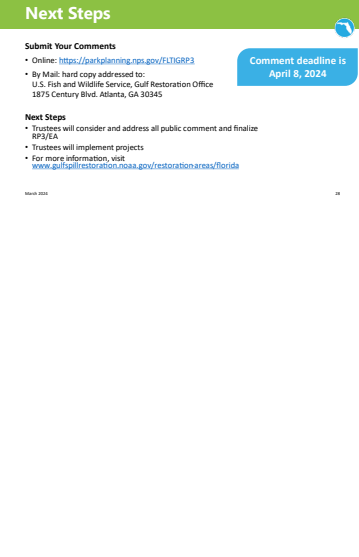

The first is the Bond Farm Hydrologic Enhancement Impoundment. This project would complete permitting, construction, and monitoring for a 538-acre hydrologic enhancement impoundment at the Bond Farm site on the Babcock-Webb Wildlife Management Area. This impoundment would help to reduce hydrologic degradation in the adjacent Wildlife Management Area by storing excess surface water during the wet season and releasing the water downstream during the dry season, restoring natural hydroperiods and reducing periods of prolonged flooding on the Wildlife Management Area.

The second is the Bond Farm Hydrologic Enhancement Southwest Discharge Structure, a planning-only initiative that would conduct planning, engineering and design, and permitting for a structure to further facilitate downstream water flows from the Bond Farm impoundment described in the previous project.

20

Slide: Public Comment
Speaker: Sarah Ketron, FDEP

	 <p>December 8, 2014 Florida Restoration Area</p> <p>Public Comment</p>	<p>Script:</p> <p>We would now like to provide you all with an opportunity to provide verbal comments on the Draft Plan and proposed projects.</p> <p>Verbal comments given during this portion of the webinar will be included as part of the formal public comments for the Draft Restoration Plan.</p> <p>Please keep your comments to three minutes to ensure all who wish to speak may have an opportunity to do so. If you have a lengthier comment, please consider using the online portal or mail your comment.</p> <p>The Trustees will not respond to verbal comments or questions during this session.</p> <p>I will now pass it back over to Erin to lead us through the public comment.</p>
21	 <p>Public Comment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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. 	<p>Slide: Public Comment Speaker: Erin Lyons, IEC Script:</p> <p>Thanks Sarah. Now we’ll start our public comment portion of the webinar. If you would like to give a verbal public comment, please use the questions box, where the bottom red arrow is pointing in the slide, to type your name.</p> <p>As a reminder, this is an opportunity to make a public comment, and the Trustees will not be answering questions at this time. All attendees are muted automatically, and we will unmute you when it is your turn to speak. If your webinar audio is by phone and you would like to make a comment, make sure you have selected “Phone call” under “Audio” in the webinar control panel, and that you have entered your unique audio PIN into your phone.</p> <p>We will call the first person’s name followed by the name of the next person in line, so you have a little bit of time to prepare. When it’s your turn, we will unmute your line and you will have three minutes to speak. Thank you in advance for respecting the three-minute rule.</p> <p>When it’s your turn to speak, please state your name and, if applicable, the organization you are representing prior to making your comments.</p> <p>[1 comment was received – see Public Comment section below]</p>
22	 <p>December 8, 2014 Florida Restoration Area</p> <p>Next Steps</p>	<p>Slide: Next Steps Speaker: Erin Lyons, IEC Script:</p> <p>That concludes the public comment portion of today’s webinar.</p>

		<p>Before wrapping up, Sarah Ketron will briefly remind you of a few other ways you can submit public comments. As a reminder, within the next few days, this presentation and script will be available on the FL page of the Trustees’ website, www.gulfspillrestoration.noaa.gov.</p>
23		<p>Slide: Next Steps Speaker: Sarah Ketron, FDEP Script: In addition to this webinar, you can submit comments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Electronically via the link shown here, or • By mail to the address on the slide. <p>The public comment period for this plan will close on April 8, 2024.</p> <p>Once the public comment period has ended, the FL TIG will review and consider all comments received and finalize the plan.</p> <p>The projects selected by the FL TIG in the final plan will then proceed to implementation.</p> <p>For more information, please visit the Florida page on the Trustee website, www.gulfspillrestoration.noaa.gov.</p>
24		<p>Slide: Thank You Speaker: Sarah Ketron, FDEP Script: Thank you for your interest and participation. This now concludes the public webinar for the FL TIG Draft RP3/EA. We will now end this webinar.</p>

Public Comment

My name is Laura Layman. I'm a lead project manager with the South Florida Water Management District, and I'm also the project coordinator of the Charlotte Harbor Flatwoods Initiative. So I wanted to just express my support for the Bond Farm projects, which is alternatives 12 and 13. The funding for these Bond Farm projects is essential to the success of the Charlotte Harbor Flatwoods Initiative. The Bond Farm projects are the keystone projects for this initiative, and the funds for construction and then planning for the southwest discharge sets in motion and also helps ensure the success of the other downstream project components, which will provide important hydrologic restoration of historic flows to both Charlotte Harbor and the Caloosahatchee River. The Babcock-Webb Wildlife Management Area that was mentioned earlier is the headwaters of the Charlotte Harbor area, which is the largest remaining last stand of healthy hydric pine flatwoods in our area and provides essential hydrology to the Yucca Pens Wildlife Management Area and then the downstream tidal creeks which discharge into Charlotte Harbor. So, this is an essential project. The South Florida Water Management District has been working actively with FWC on this project along with the other stakeholders and partners. We have a very strong local partnership and close working group, so I just wanted to really express my strong support for these projects and the critical need for this funding for our area. So thank you very much.