



Texas Trustee Implementation Group

Draft Restoration Plan/Environmental Assessment #3: Restoration of Wetlands, Coastal, and Nearshore Habitats



The Texas TIG comprises:

State Trustee agencies:

- Texas Commission on Environmental Quality
- Texas Parks and Wildlife Department
- Texas General Land Office

Federal Trustee agencies:

- National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
- U.S. Department of the Interior
- U.S. Department of Agriculture
- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

THE DEEPWATER HORIZON OIL SPILL

On April 20, 2010, the *Deepwater Horizon* (DWH) mobile drilling unit exploded and eventually sank in the Gulf of Mexico, resulting in a massive release of oil and other substances. This release caused extensive natural resource injuries across the northern Gulf. Under the authority of the Oil Pollution Act (OPA), a council of federal and state Trustees was established to conduct a Natural Resources Damage Assessment (NRDA), which includes assessing natural resource injuries resulting from the incident and working to make the environment and public whole for those injuries.

In accordance with OPA NRDA regulations, in 2016, the DWH Trustees issued a programmatic restoration plan to fund and implement restoration projects through a comprehensive, integrated, ecosystem approach. This programmatic restoration plan sets forth the process for DWH restoration planning and establishes a distributed governance structure that assigns a Trustee Implementation Group (TIG) for each of the eight Restoration Areas. The Texas TIG is responsible for restoration planning in the Texas Restoration Area.

GOAL AND OBJECTIVE

For this Draft Restoration Plan/Environmental Assessment #3 (RP/EA #3), the Texas TIG's primary goal is to restore coastal intertidal wetlands through the beneficial use of dredged material, which is consistent with the Restore and Conserve Habitat restoration goal in the programmatic restoration plan. To accomplish the restoration goal, the projects' objectives are to: 1) increase sediment elevations to suitable levels for estuarine marsh restoration, as determined by adjacent reference wetlands; and 2) establish estuarine marsh vegetation.





The Texas Trustees' [2017 Restoration Plan/Environmental Assessment #1](#) funded the Dredged Material Planning for Wetland Restoration project. This project resulted in the identification and preliminary design of eight potential wetland restoration projects. Following an evaluation of alternatives to restore wetlands, coastal, and nearshore habitats, the Texas Trustees are proposing seven of those projects as preferred alternatives for implementation. These projects, outlined in the RP/EA #3, have a total estimated cost of \$40 million.

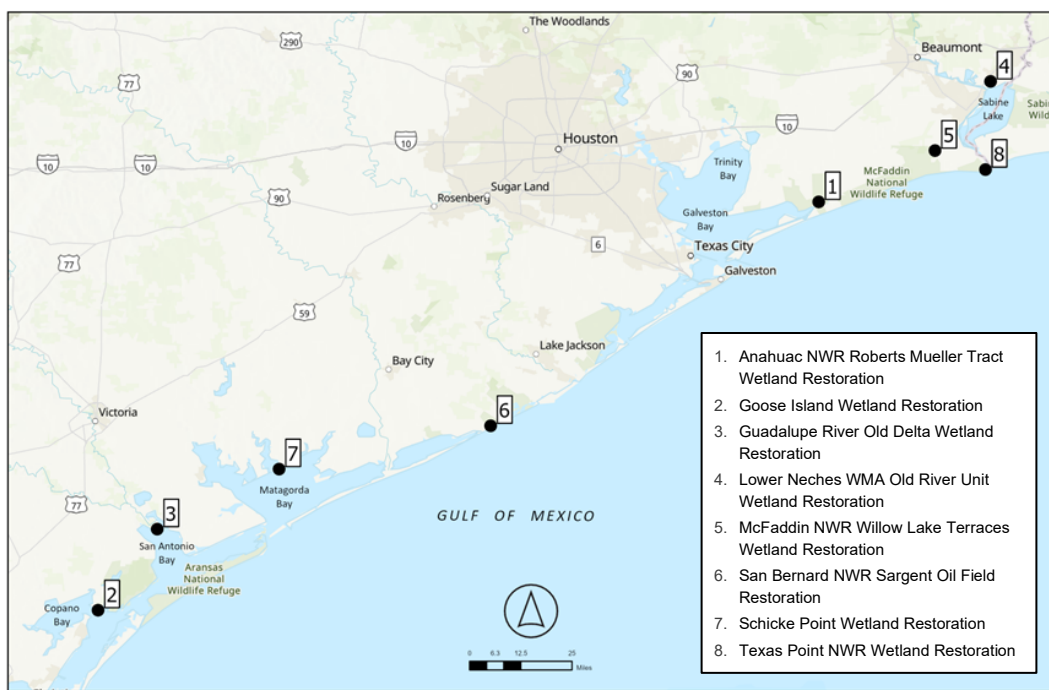
ALTERNATIVE	POTENTIAL ACRES	PREFERRED OR NOT PREFERRED
Anahuac National Wildlife Refuge Roberts Mueller Tract Wetland Restoration	550	Preferred
Goose Island Wetland Restoration	40	Preferred
Guadalupe River Old Delta Wetland Restoration	1,140	Not preferred
Lower Neches Wildlife Management Area Old River Unit Wetland Restoration	224	Preferred
McFaddin National Wildlife Refuge Willow Lake Terraces	218	Preferred
San Bernard National Wildlife Refuge Sargent Oil Field Wetland Restoration	200	Preferred
Schicke Point Wetland Restoration	72	Preferred
Texas Point National Wildlife Refuge Wetland Restoration	623	Preferred

PUBLIC REVIEW AND COMMENT

The Texas 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 DWH 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 February 18, 2025.

Comments can be submitted during the public comment period by one of the following methods:

- Online: <https://parkplanning.nps.gov/TXTIGRP3>
- In Person: January 28, 2025
Rosenburg Library, 2310 Sealy Avenue, Galveston, TX.
5 PM CST.
- By mail:
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Gulf Restoration Office
1875 Century Blvd.
Atlanta, GA 30345



Locations of the Proposed Alternatives

