



Texas Trustee Implementation Group

Final 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 America, 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 Final 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. 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, in the Final RP/EA #3 the Texas Trustees selected six of those projects for funding and implementation. These projects have a total estimated cost of up to \$36 million.

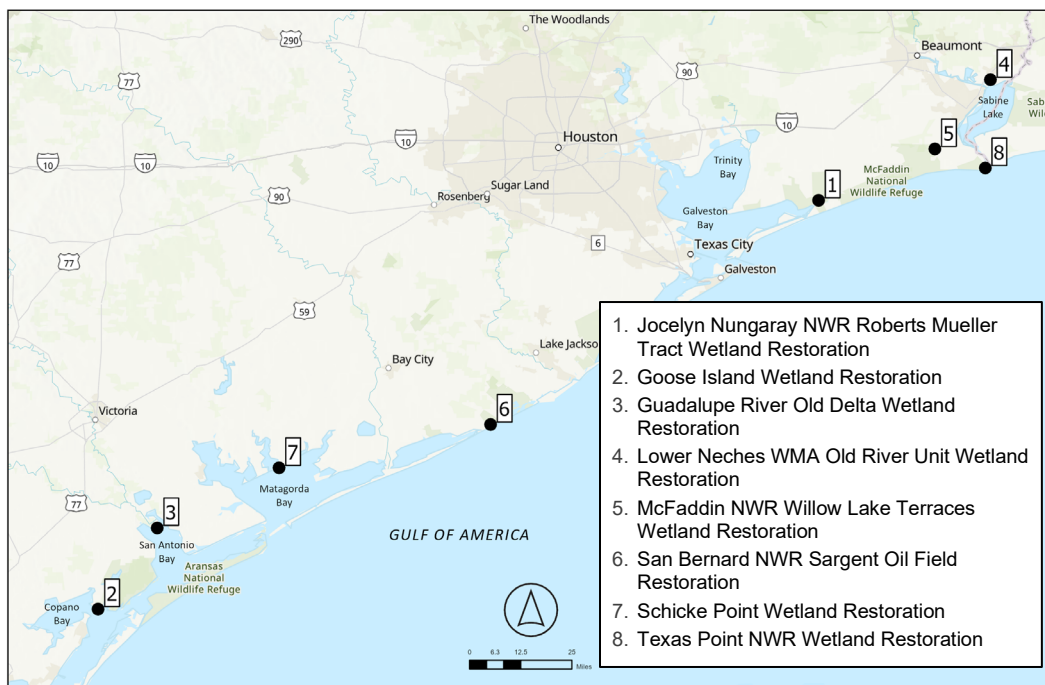
| SELECTED ALTERNATIVES | POTENTIAL ACRES |
|---|-----------------|
| Jocelyn Nungaray National Wildlife Refuge Roberts Mueller Tract Wetland Restoration | 550 |
| Goose Island Wetland Restoration | 40 |
| Lower Neches Wildlife Management Area Old River Unit Wetland Restoration | 224 |
| McFaddin National Wildlife Refuge Willow Lake Terraces | 218 |
| San Bernard National Wildlife Refuge Sargent Oil Field Wetland Restoration | 200 |
| Texas Point National Wildlife Refuge Wetland Restoration | 623 |

PUBLIC REVIEW AND COMMENT

The TIG released the draft restoration plan for public review and comment on January 16, 2025, and accepted comments through February 18, 2025. Six comments were received on the draft restoration plan, which informed the analysis of alternatives in the final plan. Appendix F of the final restoration plan summarizes the public comments received and the Texas TIG's response to those comments.

Comments included:

- Statements of support for the draft plan and the preferred and non-preferred alternatives.
- Encouragement to coordinate with other federal agencies when implementing the projects.
- Recommendations for alternative restoration activities.
- Questions regarding project design considerations.



Locations of the Analyzed Alternatives

