

RESTORE POLICY GUIDANCE

A. ECONOMIC BENEFITS

1. Job Creation¹

Project is evaluated on its contribution to job creation. Achievement of the following objectives will be taken into account:

- Increases in the number of full-time permanent jobs
- Demonstrates jobs created pay higher than the average county wage
- Provides jobs with benefits
- Creates jobs in target industries for the region

2. Infrastructure²

Project is evaluated on its contribution to infrastructure. Achievement of the following objectives will be taken into account:

- Promotes economic growth through infrastructure enhancements (port, rail, highway)
- Protects economic interests of the region (flood control, water pipelines)
- Increases domestic/global competitiveness

3. Economic Resiliency³

Project is evaluated on its contribution to economic resiliency. Achievement of the following objectives will be taken into account:

- Contributes to current industry clusters in the coastal region
- Supports the export industry
- Contributes to workforce development

4. Impacts to Local and Regional Economy⁴

Project is evaluated on its contribution to long-term economic impacts. Achievement of the following objectives will be taken into account:

- Demonstrates significant direct, indirect and induced impacts
- Demonstrates ongoing economic benefit to the region

5. Tourism⁵

Project is evaluated on its contribution to tourism. Emphasis will be placed on new tourism opportunities that create jobs and increase tourism dollars in the region. Achievement of the following objectives will be taken into account:

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- Supports current tourism activity
- Increases the number of travelers to the region

6. **Seafood Marketing⁶**

Project is evaluated on its contribution to seafood marketing. Achievement of the following objectives will be taken into account:

- Increases public awareness on the safety of Texas Gulf seafood
- Promotes local seafood industries
- Creates outreach opportunities and partnerships
- Leverages existing marketing efforts

B. ENVIRONMENTAL BENEFITS

1. Restoration, Conservation and Preservation of Habitat⁷

Project is evaluated on the extent to which it results in the restoration, preservation or conservation of habitat. Consideration will be given to the rarity and quality of transitional and upland habitats, and specific habitat types such as emergent tidal marshes, mud flats, seagrass meadows, coastal prairie, etc. Achievement of the following objectives will be taken into account:

- Restores and conserves indigenous habitats and healthy ecosystems
- Preserves or improves the quality of indigenous habitats and healthy ecosystems
- Restores, conserves or preserves habitats that are highly diverse or highly productive
- Restores, creates, or promotes recovery of lost habitats
- Maintains estuarine habitats by protecting or improving freshwater inflows

2. Rarity and Threat⁸

Project is evaluated on the extent to which it mitigates threats to natural resources or habitat that are rare, in decline, critical to the success of larger or landscape-scale systems, or are at risk of extirpation or extinction. Achievement of the following objectives will be taken into account:

- Protects a natural resource that is rare or in significant decline
- Protects a natural resource that is at risk from natural or human actions
- Conserves habitat in vulnerable areas subject to potential development

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3. Replenishment and Protection of Living Coastal and Marine Resources⁹

Project is evaluated on its net contribution to the numbers and diversity of native living coastal resources. This can include acquisition or protection of lands and waters critical to the lifecycles of listed and target species, enhancement of habitats critical to the life cycles of species, or direct intervention, as in the case of sea turtle conservation or stranded marine mammal rescue. Achievement of the following objectives will be taken into account:

- Conserves habitat for species of greatest conservation need
- Conserves or enhances significant structures or features such as bird rookeries, freshwater features, reefs, dunes
- Contributes to recovery of listed species
- Contributes to enhancement of coastal fisheries production

4. Restoration and Protection of Water Quality¹⁰

Project is evaluated on its expected benefits to ground and surface water quality. All portions of the estuarine gradient will be considered from freshwater inflow to marine waters. Achievement of the following objectives will be taken into account:

- Conserves watershed health
- Restores degraded water quality
- Protects ecologically sustainable water quality
- Restores or preserves beneficial hydrology
- Recharges groundwater

5. Project Synergy¹¹

Project is evaluated on its contribution to regional and Gulf-wide goals and to the extent it complements or enhances other land or water projects. This includes consideration of the extent the project contributes to overall ecosystem function by linking conserved areas or habitat types. Achievement of the following objectives will be taken into account:

- Connects high quality habitats or protects corridors between conserved lands
- Contributes to landscape scale conservation
- Reestablishes and/or sustains ecosystem functions and processes such as fire or predator-prey relationships
- Enhances function of adjacent lands and waters

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C. COMPREHENSIVE FACTORS

1. Complements Other or Current Projects¹²

Project is evaluated on its contribution to regional and Gulf-wide ecosystem values, the extent to which it complements or enhances other lands, waters and projects, or the extent to which it contributes to overall ecosystem function by linking conserved areas or habitat types. Projects will also be evaluated on the extent to which it leverages economic and environmental values. Achievement of the following objectives will be taken into account:

- Enhances function of adjacent lands and waters
- Encourages responsible stewardship of natural resources
- Encourages public green spaces in development plans
- Contributes in similar proportions to both economic development and ecological values.
- Enhances the human use or economic benefits of other projects

2. Promotes Community Resiliency¹³

Project is evaluated on the enhancement of resources that protect communities and infrastructure from storm and flood damage, reduce coastal erosion, manage existing environmental risk and enhance emergency preparedness. Achievement of the following objectives will be taken into account:

- Provides storm surge protection
- Provides flood control protection
- Provides erosion control and/or implements existing erosion control plan
- Results in setbacks, buyouts, buffers and/or relocation of vulnerable infrastructure
- Reduces the risk of release of hydrocarbons and other hazardous substances
- Protects roads and infrastructure from storm damage and erosion
- Implements transportation or land use options that steer development away from sensitive coastal resources and critical storm evacuation routes

3. Promotes Ecological Resiliency¹⁴

Project is evaluated on the likelihood of long-term ecological success. Long term success is enhanced by projects that are located and are of a scale to better absorb, respond and recover from large-scale impacts. Achievement of the following objectives will be taken into account:

- Enhances or takes advantage of existing natural processes that promote recovery
- Demonstrably accommodates the effects of relative sea level rise and long-term resiliency

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- Increases the life expectancy of existing natural resources (e.g., beaches, dunes)

4. Part of a Comprehensive Coastal Plan ¹⁵

Project is evaluated on the extent to which it is part of a comprehensive coastal plan. Achievement of the following objectives will be taken into account:

- Implements federally approved marine, coastal or comprehensive plan
- Implements a comprehensive, collaborative plan for coastal ecological or economic restoration

D. PROJECT LOGISTICS

1. Project Readiness and Planning¹⁶

Project is evaluated on its readiness and planning. Achievement of the following objectives will be taken into account:

- Completion of the Planning Phase
- Completion of project is within 3-5 years
- Completion of the project design
- Development of a Project Management plan
- Demonstrates regulatory compliance
- Completed the Permitting
- Addresses the level of environmental compliance sufficiently
- Addresses the level of engineering and design sufficiently
- Implementation ready (It is shovel ready)

2. Likelihood of Success¹⁷

Project is evaluated on its likelihood of success. Achievement of the following objectives will be taken into account:

- Manageable duration of implementation plan
- Demonstrates successful past similar projects
- Identifies the experience level of the applicant on similar projects
- Completion of a risk assessment
- Development of risk mitigation plan
- Includes adaptability in project implementation

3. Long-Term Operation and Management¹⁸

Project is evaluated on its long-term operation and management. Achievement of the following objectives will be taken into account:

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- Outlines the duration of the project plan
- Plans for long-term maintenance
- Addresses personnel resources to maintain the project
- Addresses maintenance budget and funding resources

4. Success Criteria and Monitoring¹⁹

Project is evaluated on its success criteria and monitoring. Achievement of the following objectives will be taken into account:

- Articulates the success criteria clearly in application
- Includes an appropriate monitoring plan for the success criteria

5. Based on Best Available Science²⁰

Project is evaluated on its basis in the best available science. Achievement of the following objectives will be taken into account:

- Identifies the scientific basis for methods selected
- Indicates that the science to be used in the project has been successfully used before
- Takes into account peer reviewed literature and publically available data
- Documents and communicates risk and uncertainties in the scientific basis of the project
- Identifies that the success rate of previous projects based on the science to be used is high

6. Cost-Effectiveness²¹

Project is evaluated on its cost effectiveness. Achievement of the following objectives will be taken into account:

- Funding maximizes the benefits for the project
- Manageable and appropriate project scale and project benefits for the level of funding
- Ecological and economic benefits justify the proposed implementation cost

7. Financial Partners and Funding²²

Project is evaluated on its level of financial partnering and funding. Achievement of the following objectives will be taken into account:

- Dedicated funding in place for the project
- Identifies opportunities to leverage with other partners
- Identifies completion of some of the project components
- Project is part of a larger ongoing or previously implemented project

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E. COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND RECREATIONAL USES

1. Public Support and Participation²³

Project is evaluated on its level of public support and participation. Achievement of the following objectives will be taken into account:

- Demonstrates public input in planning project, including broad based participation from individuals, businesses and non-profit organizations
- Demonstrates public support for project
- Encourages or results in public participation
- Demonstrates support from local governments and local elected officials

2. Recreational and Educational Uses²⁴

Project is evaluated on its contribution to recreational and educational uses. Achievement of the following objectives will be taken into account:

- Improves coastal State Parks
- Creates or improves other coastal publically owned recreational facilities
- Improves recreational fishing or hunting
- Increases public access to coastal resources
- Increases public education about coastal resources and their value
- Provides public green spaces for nature based recreation and education

F. GENERAL

1. Meets requirements of the U.S. Department of Treasury.
2. Meets requirements of the Gulf Coast Ecosystem Restoration Council, including consistency with their Initial Comprehensive Plan, Restoring the Gulf Coast's Ecosystem & Economy

¹ Resources and Ecosystem Sustainability, Tourist Opportunities, and Revived Economies of the Gulf Coast States Act (RESTORE Act), Public Law 112-141, Subtitle F, Section 1603, (t)(1)(B)(i)(IV)

RESTORE Council's Initial Comprehensive Plan, "Restoring the Gulf Coast's Ecosystem & Economy"
III. Goal (5): Restore & Revitalize the Gulf Economy
V. Eligible Activities: Workforce development & job creation

² Resources and Ecosystem Sustainability, Tourist Opportunities, and Revived Economies of the Gulf Coast States Act (RESTORE Act), Public Law 112-141, Subtitle F, Section 1603, (t)(1)(B)(i)(VI)

RESTORE Council's Initial Comprehensive Plan, "Restoring the Gulf Coast's Ecosystem & Economy"
III. Goal (5): Restore & Revitalize the Gulf Economy
IV. Objective (5): Promote Community Resiliency
V. Eligible Activities: Coastal flood protection and related infrastructure

³ Resources and Ecosystem Sustainability, Tourist Opportunities, and Revived Economies of the Gulf Coast States Act (RESTORE Act), Public Law 112-141, Subtitle F, Section 1603, (t)(1)(B)(i)(IV)

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⁵ Resources and Ecosystem Sustainability, Tourist Opportunities, and Revived Economies of the Gulf Coast States Act (RESTORE Act), Public Law 112-141, Subtitle F, Section1603, (t)(1)(B)(ii)(I)

RESTORE Council's Initial Comprehensive Plan, "Restoring the Gulf Coast's Ecosystem & Economy"
III. Goal (5): Restore & Revitalize the Gulf Economy
V. Eligible Activities: Promotion of tourism in the Gulf Coast region, including recreational fishing

⁶ Resources and Ecosystem Sustainability, Tourist Opportunities, and Revived Economies of the Gulf Coast States Act (RESTORE Act), Public Law 112-141, Subtitle F, Section1603, (t)(1)(B)(ii)(II)

RESTORE Council's Initial Comprehensive Plan, "Restoring the Gulf Coast's Ecosystem & Economy"
III. Goal(5): Restore and Revitalize the Gulf Economy
V. Eligible Activities: Promotion of the consumption of seafood harvested from the Gulf Coast Region

⁷ Resources and Ecosystem Sustainability, Tourist Opportunities, and Revived Economies of the Gulf Coast States Act (RESTORE Act), Public Law 112-141, Subtitle F, Section1603, (t)(1)(B)(i)(I); and (t)(1)(E)(ii)(I)

RESTORE Council's Initial Comprehensive Plan, "Restoring the Gulf Coast's Ecosystem & Economy"
III. Goal (1): Restore and Conserve Habitat
IV. Objective (1): Restore, Enhance, and Protect Habitats
IV. Criteria (1): Projects projected to make greatest contribution to restoring & protecting natural resources, ecosystems, fisheries, marine & wildlife habitats, beaches and coastal wetlands

⁸ Resources and Ecosystem Sustainability, Tourist Opportunities, and Revived Economies of the Gulf Coast States Act (RESTORE Act), Public Law 112-141, Subtitle F, Section1603, (t)(1)(B)(i)(I); and (t)(1)(E)(ii)(I)

RESTORE Council's Initial Comprehensive Plan, "Restoring the Gulf Coast's Ecosystem & Economy"
III. Goal(3): Replenish and Protect Living Coastal and Marine Resources
IV Objective (3): Restore & Protect Living Coastal and Marine Resources
IV Criteria (4): Projects and restore long-term resiliency of the natural resources, ecosystems, fisheries, marine and wildlife habitats, beaches and coastal wetlands most impacted by DWH oil spill

⁹ Resources and Ecosystem Sustainability, Tourist Opportunities, and Revived Economies of the Gulf Coast States Act (RESTORE Act), Public Law 112-141, Subtitle F, Section1603, (t)(1)(B)(i)(I) and(II); and (t)(2)(D)(iii)(IV)

RESTORE Council's Initial Comprehensive Plan, "Restoring the Gulf Coast's Ecosystem & Economy"
III. Goal (3): Replenish and Protect Living Coastal and Marine Resources
IV. Objective (3): Protect and Restore Living Coastal and Marine Resources
IV. Criteria (4): Projects that restore long-term resiliency of the natural resources, ecosystems, fisheries, marine and wildlife habitats, beaches, and coastal wetlands most impacted by the Deepwater Horizon oil spill

¹⁰ Resources and Ecosystem Sustainability, Tourist Opportunities, and Revived Economies of the Gulf Coast States Act (RESTORE Act), Public Law 112-141, Subtitle F, Section1603, (t)(1)(B)(i)(VII); and (t)(3)(B)(i)(II)

RESTORE Council's Initial Comprehensive Plan, "Restoring the Gulf Coast's Ecosystem & Economy"
III. Goal (2): Restore Water Quality
IV. Objective (2): Restore, Improve, and Protect Water Resources
IV. Criteria (1): Projects that are projected to make the greatest contribution to restoring and protecting the natural resources, ecosystems, fisheries, marine and wildlife habitats, beaches, and coastal wetlands of the Gulf Coast region without regard to geographic location within the Gulf Coast region

¹¹ Resources and Ecosystem Sustainability, Tourist Opportunities, and Revived Economies of the Gulf Coast States Act (RESTORE Act), Public Law 112-141, Subtitle F, Section1603, (t)(2)(D)(iii)(I); and (t)(3)(B)(ii)(II)

RESTORE Council's Initial Comprehensive Plan, "Restoring the Gulf Coast's Ecosystem & Economy"
II. Commitment: Leveraging Resources and Partnerships

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¹² Resources and Ecosystem Sustainability, Tourist Opportunities, and Revived Economies of the Gulf Coast States Act (RESTORE Act), Public Law 112-141, Subtitle F, Section1603, (t)(1)(B)(i)(III)

RESTORE Council's Initial Comprehensive Plan, "Restoring the Gulf Coast's Ecosystem & Economy"

III. Goal (4): Enhance Community Resilience

II. Commitment: Regional Ecosystem-based Approach to Restoration

II Commitment: Leveraging Resources and Partnerships

¹³ Resources and Ecosystem Sustainability, Tourist Opportunities, and Revived Economies of the Gulf Coast States Act (RESTORE Act), Public Law 112-141, Subtitle F, Section1603, (t)(1)(B)(i)(VII) and (t)(2)(D)(iii)(IV)

RESTORE Council's Initial Comprehensive Plan, "Restoring the Gulf Coast's Ecosystem & Economy"

III. Goal (4): Enhance Community Resilience

IV. Objective (5): Promote Community Resilience

IV. Criteria (4): Projects that restore long-term resiliency of the natural resources, ecosystems, fisheries, marine and wildlife habitats, beaches, and coastal wetlands most impacted by the Deepwater Horizon oil spill

¹⁴ Resources and Ecosystem Sustainability, Tourist Opportunities, and Revived Economies of the Gulf Coast States Act (RESTORE Act), Public Law 112-141, Subtitle F, Section1603, (t)(1)(B)(i)(I); and (t)(2)(D)(iii)(IV)

RESTORE Council's Initial Comprehensive Plan, "Restoring the Gulf Coast's Ecosystem & Economy"

IV Objective (4): Restore and Enhance Natural Processes and Shorelines

III. Goal (3): Replenish and Protect Living Coastal and Marine Resources

¹⁵ Resources and Ecosystem Sustainability, Tourist Opportunities, and Revived Economies of the Gulf Coast States Act (RESTORE Act), Public Law 112-141, Subtitle F, Section1603, (t)(1)(B)(i)(III); and (t)(2)(D)(iii)(III)

RESTORE Council's Initial Comprehensive Plan, "Restoring the Gulf Coast's Ecosystem & Economy"

II. Commitment: Regional Ecosystem-Based Approach to Restoration

II. Commitment: Leveraging Resources and Partnerships

V. Eligible Activities: Implementation of federally approved marine, coastal or comprehensive conservation management plan, including fisheries monitoring

¹⁶ Resources and Ecosystem Sustainability, Tourist Opportunities, and Revived Economies of the Gulf Coast States Act (RESTORE Act), Public Law 112-141, Subtitle F, Section1603; (t)(1)(B)(i)(VIII)

RESTORE Council's Initial Comprehensive Plan, "Restoring the Gulf Coast's Ecosystem & Economy"

II. Commitment: Delivering Results & Measuring Impacts

¹⁷ Resources and Ecosystem Sustainability, Tourist Opportunities, and Revived Economies of the Gulf Coast States Act (RESTORE Act), Public Law 112-141, Subtitle F, Section1603; (t)(1)(E)(ii)(III)

RESTORE Council's Initial Comprehensive Plan, "Restoring the Gulf Coast's Ecosystem & Economy"

II. Commitment: Delivering Results & Measuring Impacts

¹⁸ Resources and Ecosystem Sustainability, Tourist Opportunities, and Revived Economies of the Gulf Coast States Act (RESTORE Act), Public Law 112-141, Subtitle F, Section1603; (t)(2)(D)(iii)(IV)

RESTORE Council's Initial Comprehensive Plan, "Restoring the Gulf Coast's Ecosystem & Economy"

III. Goal (4): Enhance Community Resilience

IV. Objective (5): Promote Community Resilience

IV. Criteria (4): Projects that restore long-term resiliency of the natural resources, ecosystems, fisheries, marine and wildlife habitat, beaches and coastal wetlands most impacted by the Deepwater Horizon oil spill.

¹⁹ Resources and Ecosystem Sustainability, Tourist Opportunities, and Revived Economies of the Gulf Coast States Act (RESTORE Act), Public Law 112-141, Subtitle F, Section1603, (t)(1)(E)(ii)(IV)

RESTORE Council's Initial Comprehensive Plan, "Restoring the Gulf Coast's Ecosystem & Economy"

II. Commitment: Delivering Results & Measuring Impacts

V. Eligible Activities: Implementation of federally approved marine, coastal or comprehensive conservation management plan, including fisheries monitoring

²⁰ Resources and Ecosystem Sustainability, Tourist Opportunities, and Revived Economies of the Gulf Coast States Act (RESTORE Act), Public Law 112-141, Subtitle F, Section1603, (t)(1)(E)(ii)(IV); and (t)(2)(B)(i)

RESTORE Council's Initial Comprehensive Plan, "Restoring the Gulf Coast's Ecosystem & Economy"

II. Commitment: Science-Based Decision-Making

IV. Objective (7): Improve Science-Based Decision-Making Processes

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²¹ Resources and Ecosystem Sustainability, Tourist Opportunities, and Revived Economies of the Gulf Coast States Act (RESTORE Act), Public Law 112-141, Subtitle F, Section1603, (t)(3)(B)(i)(II)

R ESTORE Council's Initial Comprehensive Plan, "Restoring the Gulf Coast's Ecosystem & Economy"

II. Commitment: Leveraging Resources & partnerships

III. Goal (5): Restore and Revitalize the Gulf Economy

²² Resources and Ecosystem Sustainability, Tourist Opportunities, and Revived Economies of the Gulf Coast States Act (RESTORE Act), Public Law 112-141, Subtitle F, Section1603, (t)(1)(B)(i)(III); and (t)(2)(D)(iii)(III)

R ESTORE Council's Initial Comprehensive Plan, "Restoring the Gulf Coast's Ecosystem & Economy"

II. Commitment: Leveraging Resources & partnerships

²³ Resources and Ecosystem Sustainability, Tourist Opportunities, and Revived Economies of the Gulf Coast States Act (RESTORE Act), Public Law 112-141, Subtitle F, Section1603, (t)(1)(E)(ii)(III); and (t)(1)(B)(i)(IV)

R ESTORE Council's Initial Comprehensive Plan, "Restoring the Gulf Coast's Ecosystem & Economy"

II Commitment: Engagement, Inclusion and Transparency

II. Commitment: Leveraging Resources & Partnerships

V. Requirement: Requirement for State Expenditure Plan (7)

²⁴ Resources and Ecosystem Sustainability, Tourist Opportunities, and Revived Economies of the Gulf Coast States Act (RESTORE Act), Public Law 112-141, Subtitle F, Section1603, (t)(1)(B)(i)(I) and (V)

R ESTORE Council's Initial Comprehensive Plan, "Restoring the Gulf Coast's Ecosystem & Economy"

III. Goal (2): Restore Water Quality

IV. Objective (6): Promote Natural Resource Stewardship and Environmental Education

V. Eligible Activities: Promotion of Tourism in the Gulf Coast Region, Including Recreational Fishing