

experienced a significant explosion, fire, and subsequent sinking in the Gulf of Mexico, resulting in an unprecedented volume of oil and other discharges from the rig and from the wellhead on the seabed for a period of over three months. The *Deepwater Horizon* Oil Spill is the largest oil spill in U.S. history, discharging millions of barrels of oil over a period of 87 days. In addition, well over 1 million gallons of dispersants were applied to the waters of the spill area in an attempt to disperse the spilled oil. An undetermined amount of natural gas was also released into the environment as a result of the spill. Affected resources include ecologically, recreationally, and commercially important species and their habitats in the Gulf of Mexico and along the coastal areas of Alabama, Florida, Louisiana, Mississippi, and Texas.

The State and Federal Natural Resource Trustees (Trustees) are in the final stages of conducting the natural resource damage assessment for the *Deepwater Horizon* oil spill under the Oil Pollution Act 1990 (OPA; 33 U.S.C. 2701 *et seq.*). Pursuant to OPA, Federal and State agencies and Indian Tribes may act as trustees on behalf of the public to assess natural resource injuries and losses, and to determine the actions required to compensate the public for those injuries and losses. OPA further instructs the designated trustees to develop and implement a plan for the restoration, rehabilitation, replacement, or acquisition of the equivalent of the injured natural resources under their trusteeship, including the loss of use and services from those resources from the time of injury until the time of restoration to baseline (the resource quality and conditions that would exist if the spill had not occurred) is complete.

The Trustees are:

- U.S. Department of the Interior (DOI), as represented by the National Park Service, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and Bureau of Land Management;
- National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), on behalf of the U.S. Department of Commerce;
- U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA);
- U.S. Department of Defense (DOD);
- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA);
- State of Louisiana Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority, Oil Spill Coordinator's Office, Department of Environmental Quality, Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, and Department of Natural Resources;
- State of Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality;
- State of Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources and Geological Survey of Alabama;
- State of Florida Department of Environmental Protection and Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission; and
- For the State of Texas: Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, Texas General Land Office, and Texas Commission on Environmental Quality.

INVITATION TO COMMENT

The Trustees will seek public review and comment on the assessment of the Trustees' natural resources and restoration alternatives and supporting analysis included in

the Draft PDARP/PEIS. Before including your address, phone number, e-mail address, or other personal identifying information in your comment, you should be aware that your entire comment, including your personal identifying information, may be made publicly available at any time.

ADMINISTRATIVE RECORD

When they are completed, the documents comprising the Administrative Record will be available electronically at the following locations:

<http://www.doi.gov/deepwaterhorizon>; or

<http://la-dwh.com/AdminRecord.aspx>.

AUTHORITY

The authority of this action is the Oil Pollution Act of 1990 (33 U.S.C. 2701 *et seq.*), the implementing Natural Resource Damage Assessment regulations found at 15 CFR 990, the Louisiana Oil Spill Prevention and Response Act [La. R.S. §§30:2451-2496 (2010)], and the implementing Natural Resource Damage Assessment Regulations found at *Louisiana Administrative Code* 43:101 *et seq.*

Kyle Graham
Executive Director

1509#057

POTPOURRI

Office of the Governor Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority

Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill: Final Phase IV Early
Restoration Plan and Environmental Assessments

ACTION:

Notice of Availability of Final Plan

SUMMARY:

In accordance with the Oil Pollution Act of 1990 (OPA), the Louisiana Oil Spill Prevention and Response Act (OSPRA), and the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), notice is hereby given that the Federal and State Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill natural resource trustee agencies for Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama, Florida, and Texas (Trustees) have prepared a Final Phase IV Early Restoration Plan and Environmental Assessments (Final Phase IV ERP/EA) describing and proposing a suite of early restoration projects intended to continue the process of restoring natural resources and services injured or lost as a result of the Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill, which occurred on or about April 20, 2010, in the Gulf of Mexico. The Final Phase IV ERP/EA proposes 10 early restoration projects that are consistent with the early restoration program alternatives selected in the Final Phase III Early Restoration Plan/Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (Phase III ERP/PEIS). The Final Phase IV ERP/EA also includes a notice of change and supporting analysis for one Phase III Early Restoration Project, "Enhancement of Franklin County Parks and Boat Ramps Eastpoint Fishing Pier Improvements". The purpose of this notice is to inform the public of the availability of the Final Phase IV ERP/EA, which occurred on September 16, 2015.

ADDRESSES:

Obtaining the Document: You may download the Final Phase IV ERP/EA at <http://losco-dwh.com/>. Alternatively, you may request a CD of the document (see For Further Information Contact section below). You may also review copies of the document at the public facilities listed at <http://losco-dwh.com/>.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Jenny Kurz at jenny.pettiss@la.gov

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Introduction

On or about April 20, 2010, the mobile offshore drilling unit Deepwater Horizon, which was being used to drill a well for BP Exploration and Production, Inc. (BP) in the Macondo prospect (Mississippi Canyon 252 - MC 252), experienced a significant explosion, fire, and subsequent sinking in the Gulf of Mexico, resulting in an unprecedented volume of oil and other discharges from the rig and from the wellhead on the seabed for a period of over three months. The Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill is the largest oil spill in U.S. history, discharging millions of barrels of oil over a period of 87 days. In addition, well over 1 million gallons of dispersants were applied to the waters of the spill area in an attempt to disperse the spilled oil. An undetermined amount of natural gas was also released into the environment as a result of the spill. Affected resources include ecologically, recreationally, and commercially important species and their habitats in the Gulf of Mexico and along the coastal areas of Alabama, Florida, Louisiana, Mississippi, and Texas.

The State and Federal Natural Resource Trustees (Trustees) are conducting the natural resource damage assessment for the Deepwater Horizon oil spill under the Oil Pollution Act 1990 (OPA; 33 U.S.C. 2701 et seq.). Pursuant to OPA, Federal and State agencies and Indian Tribes may act as trustees on behalf of the public to assess natural resource injuries and losses, and to determine the actions required to compensate the public for those injuries and losses. OPA further instructs the designated trustees to develop and implement a plan for the restoration, rehabilitation, replacement, or acquisition of the equivalent of the injured natural resources under their trusteeship, including the loss of use and services from those resources from the time of injury until the time of restoration to baseline (the resource quality and conditions that would exist if the spill had not occurred) is complete. Pursuant to the process articulated in the Framework for Early Restoration Addressing Injuries Resulting from the Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill (Framework Agreement), the Trustees previously selected, and BP agreed to fund, a total of 54 early restoration projects, expected to cost a total of approximately \$700 million, through the Phase I Early Restoration Plan/Environmental Assessment (Phase I ERP/EA), Phase II Early Restoration Plan/Environmental Review (Phase II ERP/ER), and the Programmatic and Phase III Early Restoration Plan and Early Restoration Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (Phase III ERP/PEIS). These plans are available at: <http://www.gulfspillrestoration.noaa.gov/restoration/early-restoration/>.

The Trustees are:

- U.S. Department of the Interior (DOI), as represented by the National Park Service, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and Bureau of Land Management;
- National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), on behalf of the U.S. Department of Commerce;
- U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA);
- U.S. Department of Defense (DOD);
- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA);
- State of Louisiana Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority, Oil Spill Coordinator's Office, Department of Environmental Quality, Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, and Department of Natural Resources;
- State of Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality;
- State of Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources and Geological Survey of Alabama;
- State of Florida Department of Environmental Protection and Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission; and
- For the State of Texas: Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, Texas General Land Office, and Texas Commission on Environmental Quality.

Background

On April 20, 2011, BP agreed to provide up to \$1 billion toward early restoration projects in the Gulf of Mexico to address injuries to natural resources caused by the Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill. The Framework Agreement represents a preliminary step toward the restoration of injured natural resources and is intended to expedite the start of restoration in the Gulf in advance of the completion of the injury assessment process. The Framework Agreement provides a mechanism through which the Trustees and BP can work together "to commence implementation of early restoration projects that will provide meaningful benefits to accelerate restoration in the Gulf as quickly as practicable" prior to the resolution of the Trustees' natural resource damages claim. Early restoration is not intended to and does not fully address all injuries caused by the Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill. Restoration beyond early restoration projects will be required to fully compensate the public for natural resource losses, including recreational use losses, from the Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill.

The Trustees have actively solicited public input on restoration project ideas through a variety of mechanisms, including public meetings, electronic communication, and creation of a Trustee-wide public Web site and database to share information and receive public project submissions. Their key objective in pursuing early restoration is to secure tangible recovery of natural resources and natural resource services for the public's benefit while the longer term process of fully assessing injury and damages is under way. The Trustees released, after public review of the drafts, the Phase I ERP/EA (which included eight early restoration projects) and the Phase II ERP/ER (which included an additional two projects) in April and December 2012, respectively. After public review, the Trustees released the

Phase III ERP/PEIS, which included an additional 44 early restoration projects, on June 26, 2014. Subsequently, the Trustees approved the Phase III ERP/PEIS in a Record of Decision on October 31, 2014.

On May 20, 2015, the Trustees made available to the public the Draft Phase IV Early Restoration Plan and Environmental Assessments (Draft Phase IV ERP/EA) for review and comment. The public comment period lasted from May 20 until July 6, 2015. Six public meetings were held by the Trustees to facilitate public comment on the Draft Phase IV ERP/EA. The Trustees proposed 10 additional early restoration projects in Phase IV to address injuries from the Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill. The 10 projects contained in this Final Phase IV ERP/EA are consistent with the Programmatic ERP and PEIS included in the Final Phase III ERP/PEIS previously developed by the Trustees. The Trustees proposed these projects while continuing to work with BP to develop other potential early restoration projects in accordance with the Framework Agreement.

Overview of the Final Phase IV ERP/EA

The Final Phase IV ERP/EA is being released in accordance with the Oil Pollution Act (OPA), the Natural Resource Damage Assessment (NRDA) regulations found in the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) at 15 CFR 990, the National Environmental Policy Act (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.), and the Framework for Early Restoration Addressing Injuries Resulting from the Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill. The Final Draft Phase IV ERP/EA includes 10 Early Restoration projects proposed by the Trustees. The total estimated cost for proposed Phase IV projects is approximately \$134 million. The proposed projects are listed as follows:

- Texas Rookery Islands
- Restore Living Shorelines and Reefs in Mississippi Estuaries
- Bike and Pedestrian Use Enhancements at Davis Bayou, Mississippi District, Gulf Islands National Seashore
- Bon Secour National Wildlife Refuge Trail Enhancement Project, Alabama
- Osprey Restoration in Coastal Alabama
- Point aux Pins Living Shoreline
- Shell Belt and Coden Belt Roads Living Shoreline
- Seagrass Recovery Project at Gulf Islands National Seashore, Florida District
- Sea Turtle Early Restoration
- Pelagic Longline Bycatch Reduction Project

Details on the proposed projects are provided in the Final Phase IV ERP/EA. The Final Phase IV ERP/EA also includes a notice of change and supporting analysis for one Phase III Early Restoration Project, “Enhancement of Franklin County Parks and Boat Ramps—Eastpoint Fishing Pier Improvements.” The proposed restoration projects are intended to continue the process of using early restoration funding to restore natural resources, ecological services, and recreational use services injured or lost as a result of the Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill. The Trustees considered hundreds of projects leading to the identification of these 10 projects and considered both ecological and recreational use restoration projects to restore injuries caused by the Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill, addressing both the physical

and biological environment, as well as the relationship people have with the environment. The early restoration actions in the Final Phase IV ERP/EA are not intended to and do not fully address all injuries caused by the spill or provide the extent of restoration needed to make the public and the environment whole. The Trustees may propose additional early restoration projects in the future.

Administrative Record

The documents comprising the Administrative Record can be viewed electronically at the following locations:

- <http://www.doi.gov/deepwaterhorizon>; or
- <http://losco-dwh.com/AdminRecord.aspx>.

Authority

The authority of this action is the Oil Pollution Act of 1990 (33 U.S.C. 2701 et seq.), the implementing Natural Resource Damage Assessment regulations found at 15 CFR 990, the Louisiana Oil Spill Prevention and Response Act [La. R.S. §§30:2451-2496 (2010)], and the implementing Natural Resource Damage Assessment Regulations found at La. Admin. Code 43:101 et seq.

Kyle Graham
Executive Director

1509#001

POTPOURRI

**Department of Natural Resources
Office of Conservation**

Orphaned Oilfield Sites

Office of Conservation records indicate that the Oilfield Sites listed in the table below have met the requirements as set forth by Section 91 of Act 404, R.S. 30:80 et seq., and as such are being declared Orphaned Oilfield Sites.

Operator	Field	District	Well Name	Well Number	Serial Number
Cliffs Drilling Company	Washington	L	Thistlethwaite	001	150433 (30)
Emerson Oil Corp	Port Barre	L	Sibille	005	21176
C. A. Hillburn	Caddo Pine Island	S	Forrester Downer	001	25251
United Southern Resources Inc.	Monroe	M	Strother	003	179683
United Southern Resources Inc.	Monroe	M	M J & G Savage	001	181303
United Southern Resources Inc.	Monroe	M	M J & G Savage	002	181304
United Southern Resources Inc.	Monroe	M	Strother 85-A	001	201207