

Overview of RESTORE Act and Council Activities

November 16, 2016



Topics

- **RESTORE Act**
- **Gulf Coast Ecosystem Restoration Council**
- **Funding**
- **Council-Selected Restoration Component (Bucket 2)**
- **Spill Impact Component (Bucket 3)**
- **Ongoing Activities**
- **Websites to Stay up to Date**



April 2010





RESTORE Act - 2012

Subtitle F—Gulf Coast Restoration

SEC. 1601. SHORT TITLE.

This subtitle may be cited as the “Resources and Ecosystems Sustainability, Tourist Opportunities, and Revived Economies of the Gulf Coast States Act of 2012”.

RESTORE Council

New Federal entity with membership comprised of:

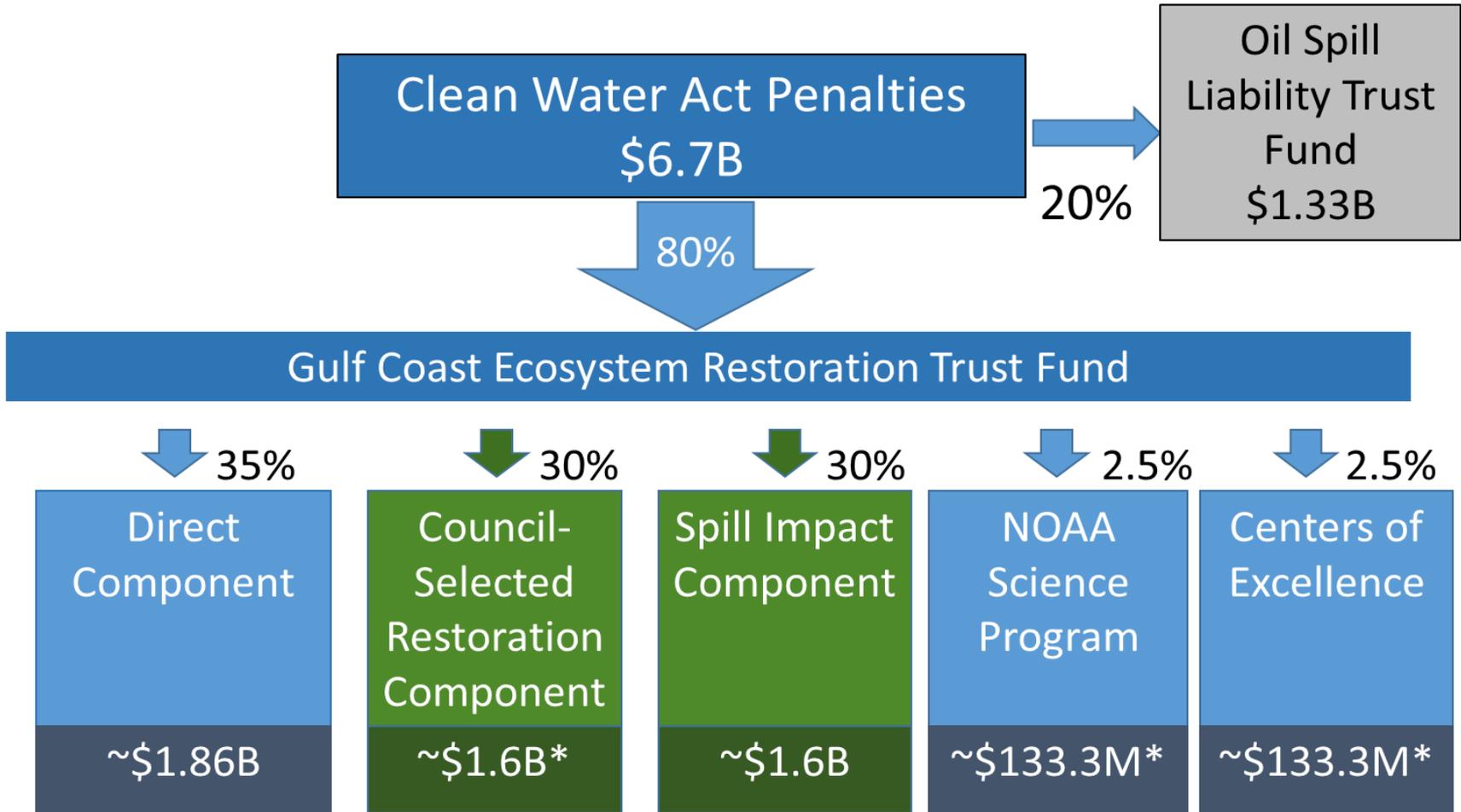
- 5 Gulf States (TX, LA, MS, AL, FL)
- 6 Federal (EPA and Depts of Commerce, Agriculture, Homeland Security, Interior, Army)
- Chair: Dept of Agriculture (USDA)



USFWS- Ryan Hagerty



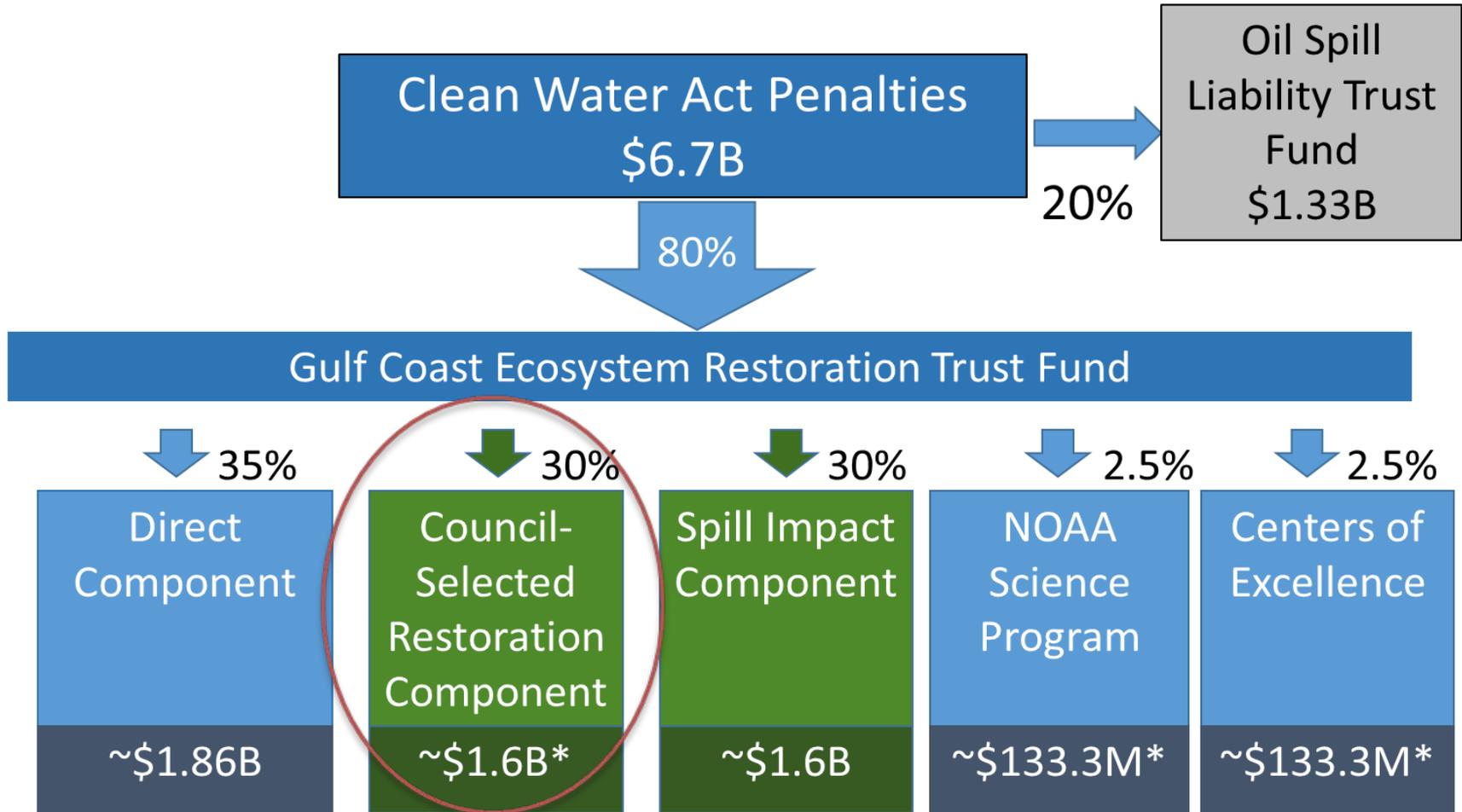
Allocation of RESTORE Act Funds



*Supplemented by interest generated by the Trust fund (50% RESTORE Council, 25% Science Program, 25% COE)



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Council-Selected Restoration Component (Bucket 2)

4 Priority Criteria from the Act:

- Greatest contribution to restoring & protecting natural resources
- Large-scale
- Build upon existing restoration plans or programs
- Long-term resilience to areas most impacted by DWH oil spill

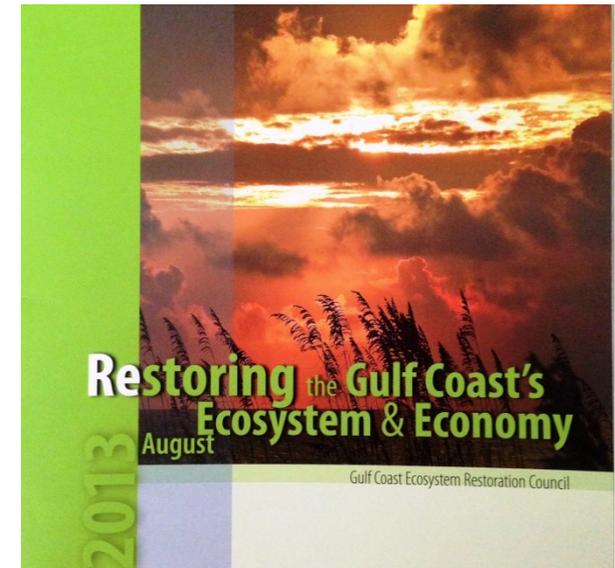
Council is to:

- Restore the Gulf “without regard to geographic location”
- Develop and fund a prioritized list of specific projects and programs



Initial Comprehensive Plan

1. Restore and Conserve Habitat
2. Restore Water Quality
3. Replenish and Protect Living Coastal and Marine Resources
4. Enhance Community Resilience
5. Restore and Revitalize the Gulf Economy



Published August 2013



Initial Funded Priorities List

December 9, 2015 – Council approved Initial FPL

\$156.6 million in restoration activities

- 10 key watersheds
- Gulf-wide programs

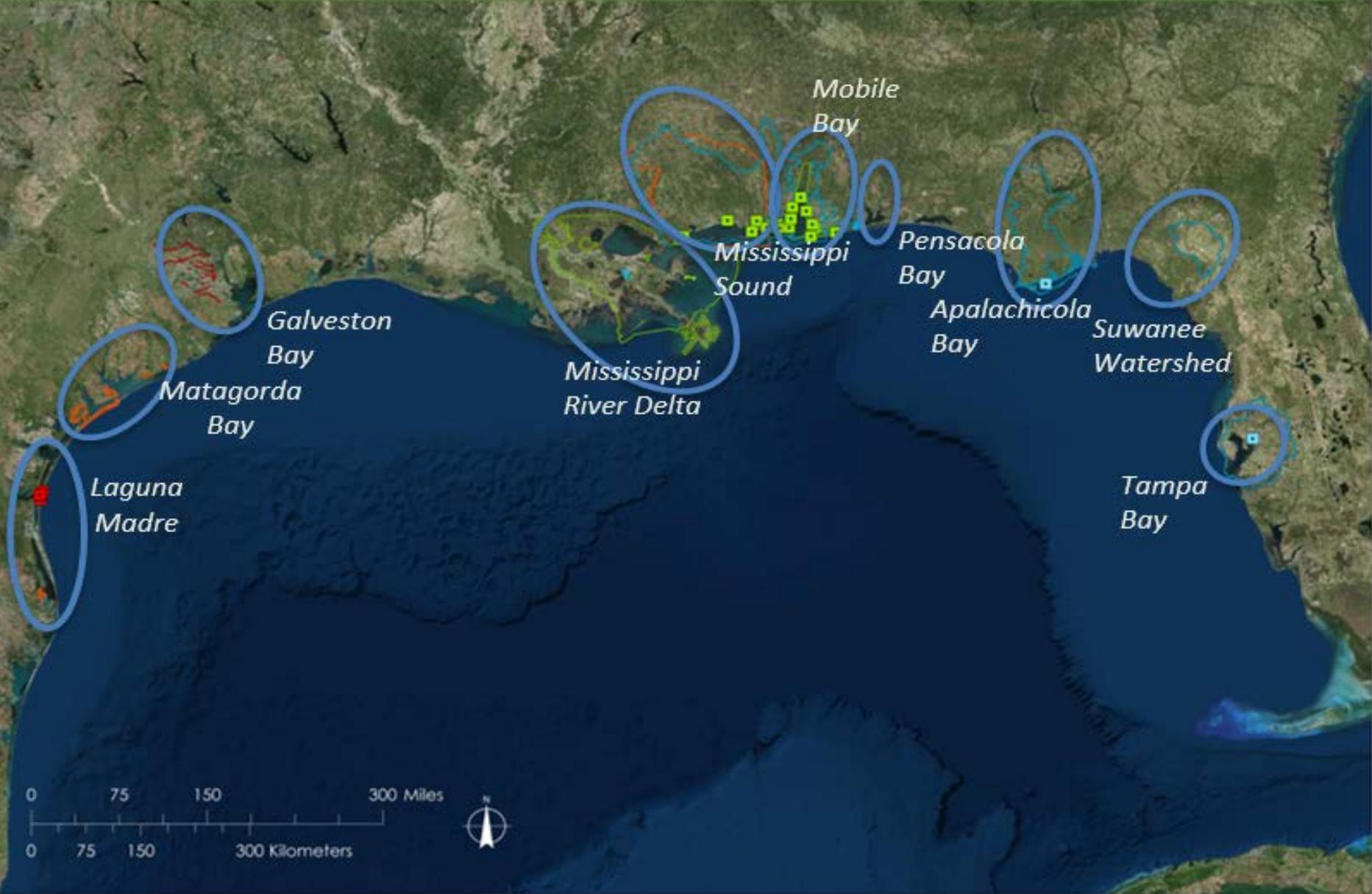
Prioritizes 12 activities for possible future funding



Gulf Coast
Ecosystem
Restoration
Council

Projects on the FPL:

Restore, Protect, and Rebuild Projects in Key Watersheds across the Gulf Coast





Highlights of Initial FPL



Robert Smith/Photobiologist.com

- Restore over 200,000 acres
- Conserve ~18,485 acres
- Eliminate the use of 16,000 lbs/yr of fertilizer & reduce pollutant loads by 60,000 lbs/yr
- Plug 11 abandoned oil & gas wells
- Backfill 16.5 miles of oil & gas canals
- Invest in Gulf-wide science, coordination, planning, & restoration training programs



FPL Projects Approved for Funding

Laguna Madre, TX Watershed/Estuary

[Bahia Grande Coastal Corridor](#)

[Plug Abandoned Oil and Gas Wells](#)

[Bahia Grande Wetland System Restoration](#)

Matagorda Bay, TX Watershed/Estuary

[Matagorda Bay System Priority Landscape Conservation](#)

Galveston Bay, TX Watershed/Estuary

[Bayou Greenways](#)

[Texas Beneficial Use/Marsh Restoration](#)

Mississippi River Delta, LA Watershed/Estuary

[Jean Lafitte Canal Backfilling](#)

[West Grand Terre Beach Nourishment and Stabilization](#)

[Golden Triangle Marsh Creation](#)

[Biloxi Marsh Living Shoreline](#)

[Mississippi River Reintroduction into Maurepas Swamp](#)

[Lowermost Mississippi River Management](#)

[Bayou Dularge Ridge, Marsh & Hydrologic Restoration](#)



FPL Projects Approved for Funding

Mississippi Sound, MS Watershed/Estuary

[Deer Island Beneficial Use Site](#)

[Strategic Land Protection, Conservation, and Enhancement of Priority Gulf Coast Landscapes](#)

[SeaGrant Education and Outreach](#)

[The Mississippi Sound Estuarine Program](#)

[Enhancing Opportunities for Beneficial Use of Dredge Sediments](#)

Mobile Bay, AL Watershed/Estuary

[Coastal Alabama Comprehensive Watershed Restoration Planning Project](#)

[Alabama Living Shorelines Program](#)

[Comprehensive Living Shoreline Monitoring](#)

[Alabama Submerged Aquatic Vegetation Restoration & Monitoring Program](#)

[Marsh Restoration in Fish River, Weeks Bay, Oyster Bay & Meadows Tract](#)

[Mobile Bay National Estuary Program](#)

[Upper Mobile Bay Beneficial Use Wetland Creation Site](#)

[Enhancing Opportunities for Beneficial Use of Dredged Sediments](#)



FPL Projects Approved for Funding

Pensacola Bay, FL Watershed/Estuary

[Pensacola Bay Living Shoreline - Phase I](#)

[Beach Haven - Joint Stormwater & Wastewater Improvement Project - Phase II](#)

[Bayou Chico Contaminated Sediment Removal- Planning, Design, and Permitting](#)

Apalachicola Bay, FL Watershed/Estuary

[Apalachicola Watershed Agriculture Water Quality Improvements](#)

[Tate's Hell Strategy 1](#)

[Money Bayou Wetlands Restoration](#)

[Apalachicola Bay Oyster Restoration](#)

Suwannee Watershed, FL Watershed/Estuary

[Suwannee River Partnership Irrigation Water Enhancement Program](#)

Tampa Bay, FL Watershed/Estuary

[Palm River Restoration Project Phase II, East McKay Bay](#)

[Robinson Preserve Wetlands Restoration](#)

[Tampa Bay National Estuary Program](#)



FPL Projects Approved for Funding

Gulf-wide

[Council Monitoring & Assessment Program Development](#)

[GOMA Coordination](#)

[Strategic Conservation Assessment Framework](#)

[Baseline Flow, Gage Analysis & On-Line Tool to Support Restoration](#)

[Gulf Coast Conservation Reserve Program](#)

[Gulf of Mexico Conservation Enhancement Grant Program](#)

[Gulf of Mexico Habitat Restoration via Conservation Corps Partnerships](#)

[Gulf of Mexico Estuary Program](#)



Draft 2016 Comprehensive Plan Update

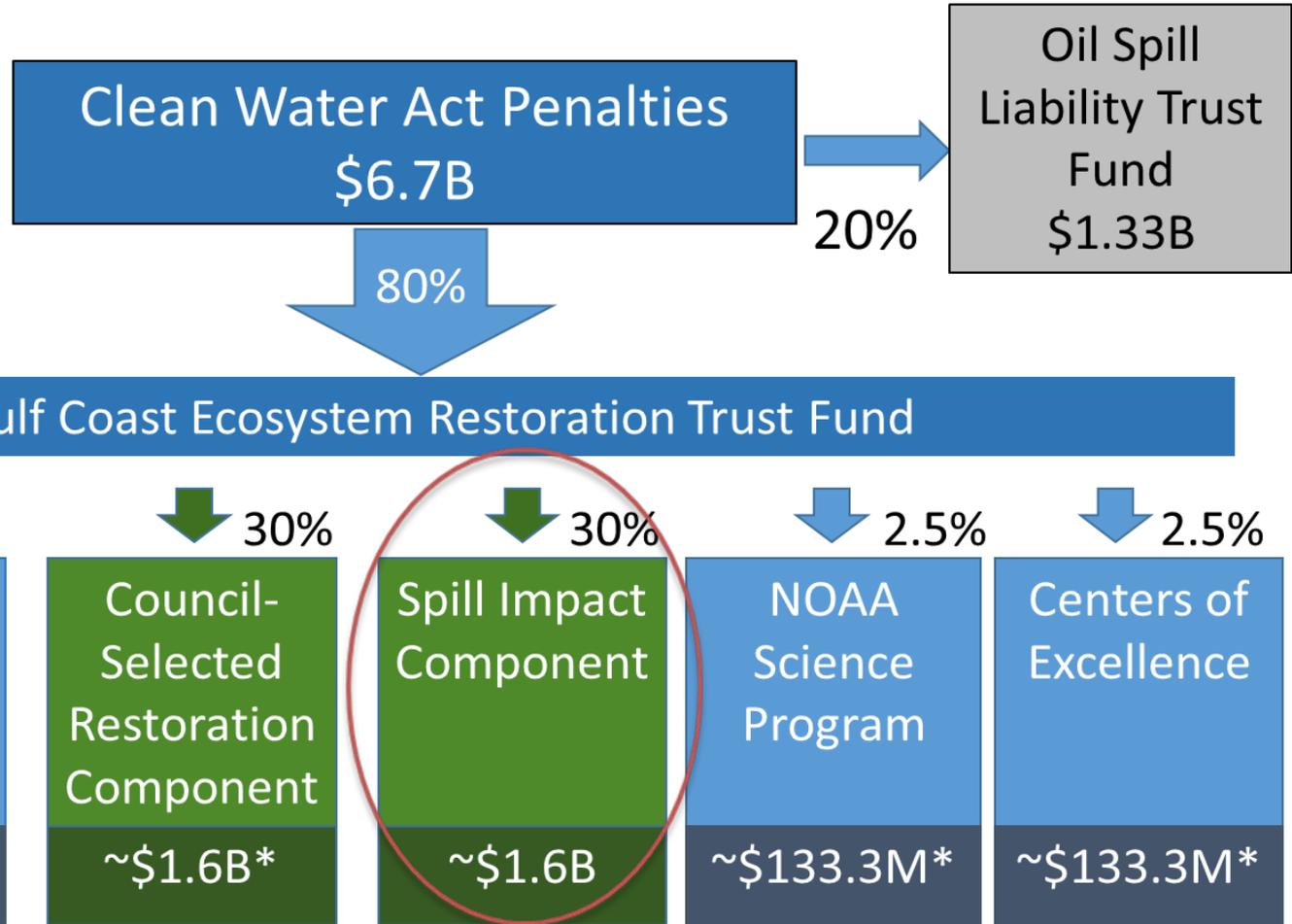
Vision

A healthy and productive Gulf ecosystem achieved through collaboration on strategic restoration projects and programs.

- Council-sponsored collaboration meetings and workshops:
 - Produce more effective projects and programs
 - Leverage resources
 - Coordinate with other funding streams
- Proposed addition of Water Quantity to Water Quality Goal



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State Expenditure Plans

Spill Impact Component (Bucket 3) funds are disbursed according to a formula established by Council as mandated by Act.

Each State submits a State Expenditure Plan (SEP) to the Council Chair for approval.



SEP – Eligible Activities

- Restoration and protection of natural resources...
- Mitigation of damage to fish, wildlife, and natural resources
- Implementation of a federally-approved plans
- Workforce development
- State parks in coastal areas
- Infrastructure projects
- Flood protection
- Planning assistance
- Administrative costs
- Promotion of tourism
- Promotion of seafood



Spill Impact Component

Spill Impact Component

40% based on miles of oiled shoreline in each State

40% based on inverse proportion of distance from DWH rig to middle of oiled shoreline in each State

20% based on average county population of coastal counties in each State

Percentage Allocations by State

(December 9, 2015 Council rule)

Louisiana:	34.59%
Alabama:	20.40%
Mississippi:	19.07%
Florida:	18.36%
Texas:	7.58%



Future Activities

In 2017, the Council will:

- Continue issuing Grants and IAAs for FPL projects and award funding to Council member project sponsors
- Review Planning SEPs and SEPs
- Begin issuing grants for activities in Council-approved PSEPs and/or SEPs
- Collaborate with Partners to build next FPL
- Promote regulatory efficiency and transparency



How Do I Hear About Projects and Opportunities?

RESTORE Council: <https://restorethegulf.gov/>

Texas

<https://www.restorethetexascoast.org/>

Louisiana

<https://www.coastal.la.gov>

Mississippi

<http://www.restore.ms/>

Alabama

<http://www.restorealabama.org/>
<http://www.alabamacoastalrestoration.org/>

Florida

<http://www.dep.state.fl.us/deepwaterhorizon/>
<http://www.fl-counties.com/gulf-consortium>

Natural Resource Damage Assessment

<http://www.gulfspillrestoration.noaa.gov/>

National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) Gulf Environmental Benefit Fund

<http://www.nfwf.org/gulf/Pages/home.aspx>

Funding Opportunities

<http://www.gulfofmexicoalliance.org/announcements/funding/>

DWH Project Tracker

<http://www.dwhprojecttracker.org/>



Extra Info Slides....



Clean Water Act Civil Penalties

2013 Transocean - \$1 Billion

- \$800 Million to Trust Fund

2015 Anadarko - \$159.5 Million

- \$127.7 Million to Trust Fund

2016 BP - \$5.5. Billion

- \$4.4 Billion to Trust Fund
- *Payable over 15 years*