

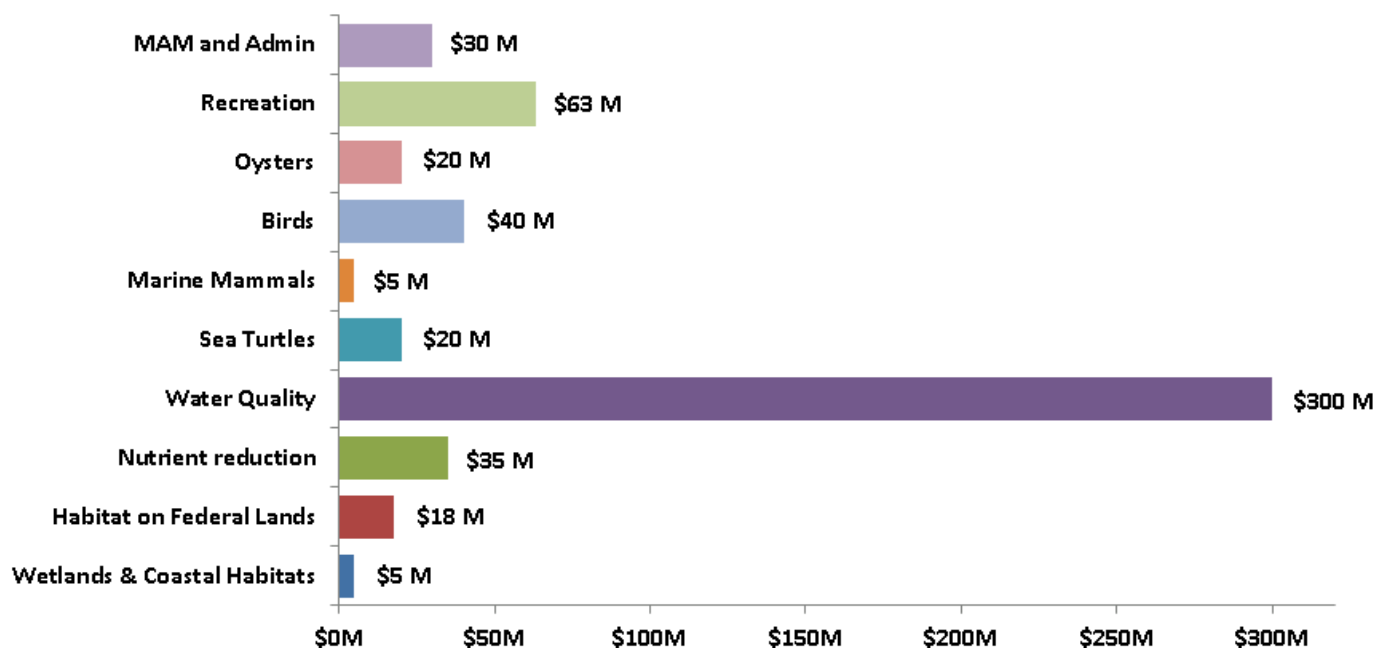
Natural Resource Restoration in Florida

In April 2016, a federal court approved a settlement among the United States, five Gulf states, and BP. Under that settlement, BP agreed to pay up to \$8.8 billion for natural resource damages. Florida will receive approximately \$680 million of that money. Below we explain how the money will be spent, who is in charge, what has happened in Florida so far, and how you can participate.

How will the natural resource damages money be spent?

Of the \$680 million, around \$144 million has already been allocated to restoration projects through the early restoration process (see our [“Overview of the Natural Resource Damage Assessment Process”](#) fact sheet for more information on early restoration). For a list of projects that have been funded, [click here](#) (scroll to the bottom of the page). That leaves \$536 million for future projects.

The \$536 million will be split among 9 different restoration types and monitoring, adaptive management, and administration (MAM and Admin) as follows:



Who is in charge?

The natural resource restoration program in Florida is being managed by the Florida Trustee Implementation Group (Florida TIG), which consists of a group of federal and state representatives. When making decisions, the TIG must reach consensus. That means that both the state trustees (who must agree as a group) and the federal trustees (who must also agree as a group) must agree to the decision.

The members of the Florida TIG are as follows:

State Members	Federal Members
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Florida Department of Environmental Protection• Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• U.S. Department of the Interior• National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration• U.S. Environmental Protection Agency• U.S. Department of Agriculture

Where are we now?

The Florida TIG has yet to release a draft restoration plan. In November 2016, it notified the public that it was accepting project ideas for its first restoration plan, focusing on four restoration types: (1) habitat on federal lands; (2) nutrient reduction; (3) water quality; and (4) recreational opportunities. The public had until December 5, 2016 to submit ideas.

How can I participate in Florida?

There are different ways you can participate. These include:

- **Attend public meetings:** The Florida TIG will host a meeting for the public at least once a year.
- **Suggest project ideas:** The public can suggest project ideas (e.g. on the [trustees' website](#)). Note that, even if project ideas were not submitted in time for the first plan, they will still be considered for future restoration plans. The public will be notified when the TIG is starting restoration planning, and may be updated on those efforts.
- **Comment on draft restoration plans:** The public will have the opportunity to comment on draft restoration plans as they are released.
- **Other engagement opportunities:** The restoration projects may trigger other laws and regulations that provide the public with opportunities to engage.
- **Sign up for updates:** To keep informed about what's happening in the Florida TIG (and the rest of the natural resource restoration program), you can sign up for updates at www.gulfspillrestoration.noaa.gov (scroll down the page to "Sign up to receive the latest updates").



For more information about the Florida TIG, and to find current participation opportunities, visit the Florida TIG's web page at: www.gulfspillrestoration.noaa.gov/restoration-areas/florida. You can also contact a representative of the Florida TIG, Heather Thomas, at Heather.Thomas@dep.state.fl.us.