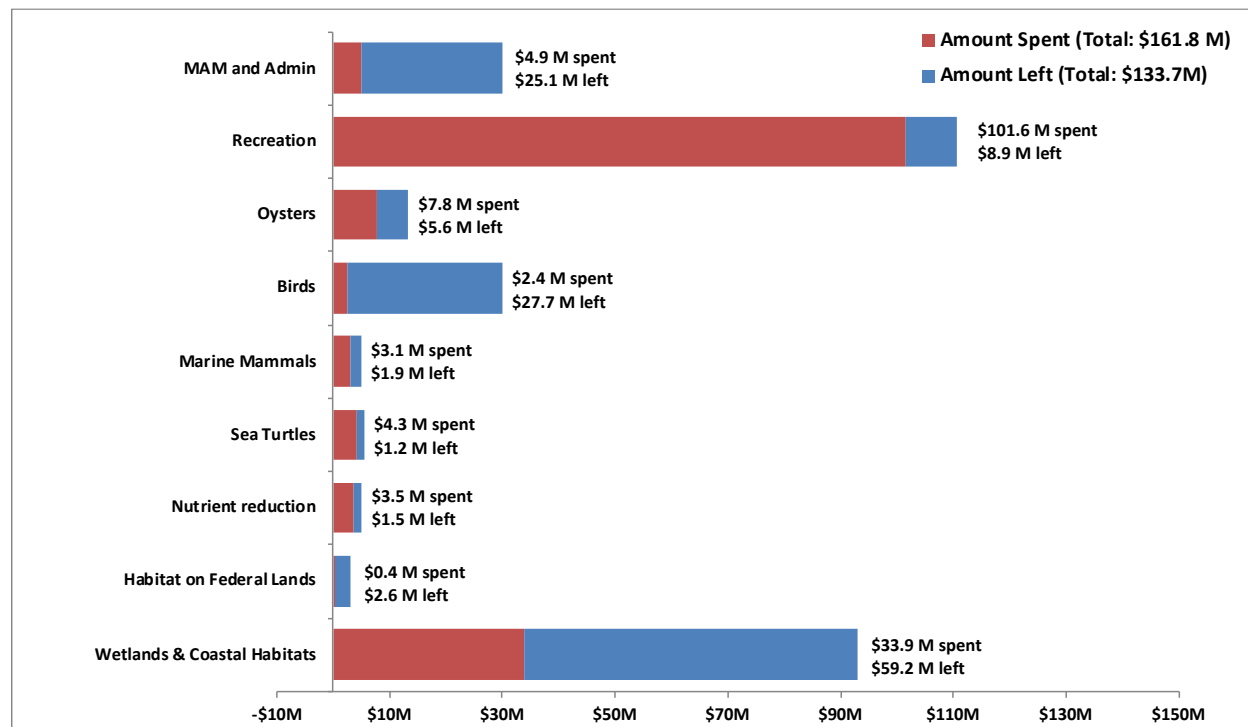


# Natural Resource Restoration in Alabama

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. Alabama will receive approximately \$296 million of that money. Below we explain how the money will be spent, who is in charge, what has happened in Alabama so far, and how you can participate.

## How will the natural resource damages money be spent?

The \$296 million will be split among 8 different restoration types and monitoring, adaptive management, and administration (MAM and Admin) as follows:



Note that almost \$162M has already been allocated to restoration projects and planning, as well as MAM and Admin costs. That leaves approximately \$134 M.

## Who is in charge?

The natural resource restoration program in Alabama is being managed by the Alabama Trustee Implementation Group (Alabama 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 Alabama TIG are as follows:

State Members	Federal Members
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources</li> <li>Geological Survey of Alabama</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>U.S. Department of the Interior</li> <li>National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration</li> <li>U.S. Environmental Protection Agency</li> <li>U.S. Department of Agriculture</li> </ul>

## Where are we now?

In December 2016, the Alabama TIG released its first “Draft Restoration Plan I and Environmental Impact Statement.” The [plan](#) was finalized in April 2017, and proposed to fund an initial six recreation projects costing an estimated \$70.7 million. In September 2018, the Alabama TIG notified the public that it had released its second restoration plan, which included 22 restoration alternatives costing approximately \$35 million. This [plan](#) focused on seven different restoration types, including: (1) wetlands, coastal and nearshore habitat; (2) water quality; (3) sea turtles; (4) marine mammals; (5) birds; (6) oysters; and (7) monitoring and adaptive management. In December of 2018, the Alabama TIG announced that it had begun planning restoration activities for 2019, including the development of a third Restoration Plan. The Alabama TIG solicited comments from the public through January 25, 2019 for projects aimed at providing and enhancing recreation opportunities and birds.

## How can I participate in Alabama?

There are different ways you can participate. These include:

- **Attend public meetings:** The Alabama 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 two restoration plans, they will still be considered for future 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 Alabama TIG, as well as the rest of the natural resource restoration program, you can sign up for updates at [www.gulfspillrestoration.noaa.gov](http://www.gulfspillrestoration.noaa.gov) (scroll down the page to sign up).



For more information about the Alabama TIG, and to find current participation opportunities, visit the Alabama TIG’s web page at: [www.gulfspillrestoration.noaa.gov/restoration-areas/alabama](http://www.gulfspillrestoration.noaa.gov/restoration-areas/alabama). You can also contact a representative of the Alabama TIG at [altig@dcnr.alabama.gov](mailto:altig@dcnr.alabama.gov).