OCTOBER 2014

DEEPWATER HORIZON OIL SPILL NRDA TRUSTEES

Early Restoration, Phase III

Assess Plan Restore

A guide to projects and planning contained in the Final Programmatic and Phase III Early Restoration Plan and Early Restoration Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement

On April 20, 2011, one year after the *Deepwater Horizon* oil spill, BP agreed to provide up to $1 billion toward early restoration projects in the Gulf of Mexico. Since then, we have worked with the public and BP to identify and implement suitable projects so restoration of the Gulf can begin prior to the conclusion of the complete damage assessment.

This guide offers an overview of our strategic approach to early restoration planning and the projects in Phase III. Both the planning component and the projects, which are expected to cost roughly $627 million, are described in greater detail in the Final Programmatic and Phase III Early Restoration Plan and Early Restoration Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (Final Phase III ERP/PEIS). You can find it online or in these community libraries and offices.

We received thousands of comments before preparing the Final Phase III ERP/PEIS and reviewed and carefully considered them as explained in Chapter 13. Your input—provided through the internet, the mail, and during public meetings held across the Gulf this past winter—was instrumental in shaping this stage of early restoration.

We have prepared a Record of Decision, which documents our approval of the Final Phase III ERP/PEIS. The next step is to implement the projects.

The *Deepwater Horizon* Oil Spill NRDA Trustees

APRIL 20, 2010 — *Deepwater Horizon* explodes, killing 11 workers. Millions of gallons of oil spill into the Gulf of Mexico.

APRIL 2011 — BP agrees to provide $1 billion for early restoration.

APRIL 2012 — Phase I early restoration $62 million SEE REPORT

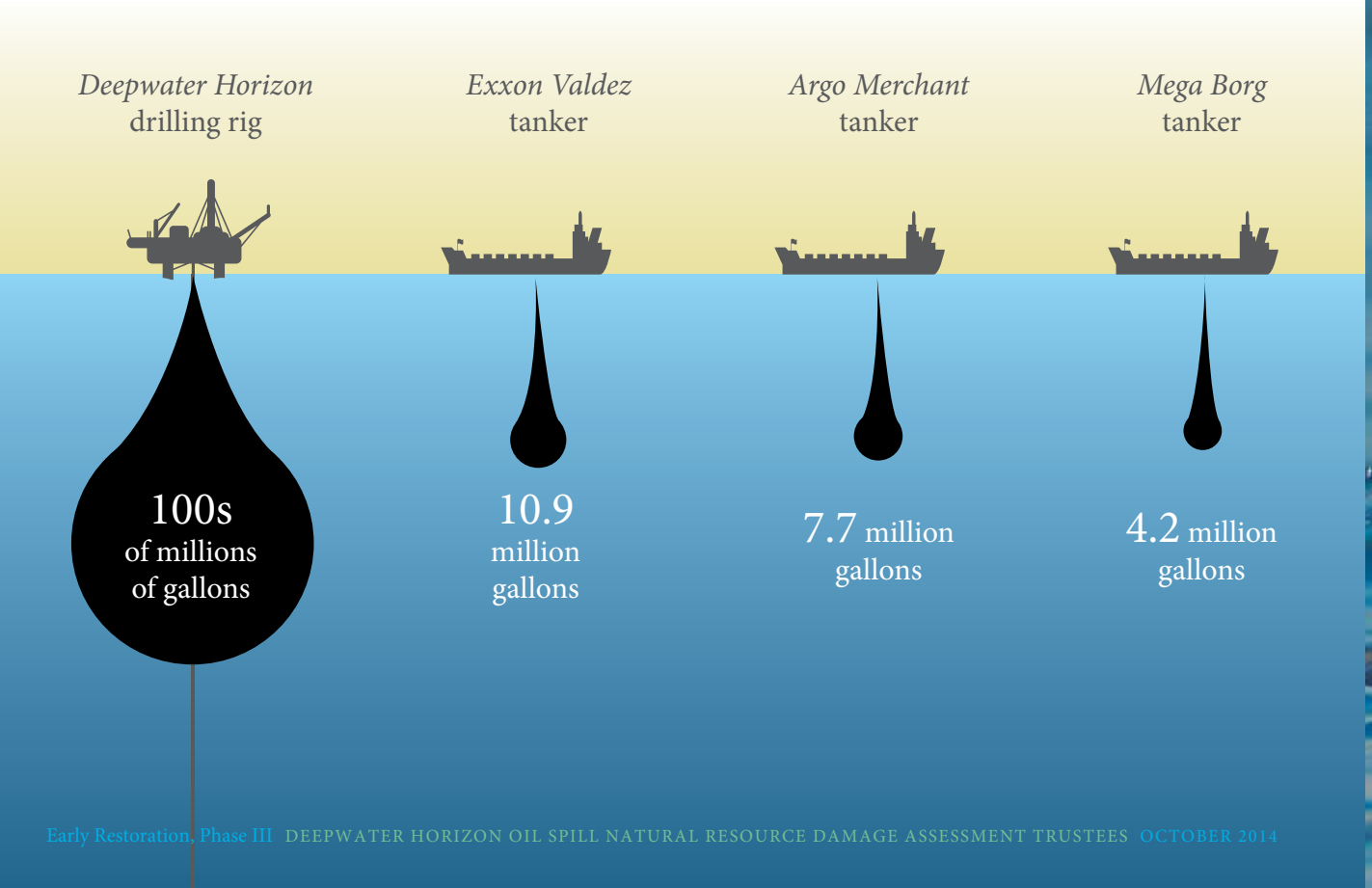
DECEMBER 2012 — Phase II early restoration $9 million SEE REPORT

JUNE 2014 — Phase III early restoration $627 million and ERP/PEIS SEE PLAN

OCTOBER 2014 — Phase III Record of Decision SEE MORE

Early restoration begins the process of recovery

Early restoration allows us to get to work as quickly as possible to restore the Gulf. Given the magnitude of the spill, we know that it will take time to evaluate the full extent of the injuries. Meanwhile, we are poised to begin Phase III of early restoration; projects selected in Phases I and II are currently underway or completed.



What projects are included in the final Phase III plan?

There are 44 projects for Phase III.

Projects	Location	Estimated Cost*
Freeport Artificial Reef Project	TX	$2,155,365
Matagorda Artificial Reef Project	TX	$3,552,398
Mid/Upper Texas Coast Artificial Reef-Ship Reef	TX	$1,919,765
Sea Rim State Park Improvements	TX	$210,100
Galveston Island State Park Beach Redevelopment	TX	$10,745,060
Louisiana Outer Coast Restoration	LA	$318,363,000
Louisiana Marine Fisheries Enhancement, Research, and Science Center	LA	$22,000,000
Hancock County Marsh Living Shoreline Project	MS	$50,000,000
Restoration Initiatives at the INFINITY Science Center	MS	$10,400,000
Popp's Ferry Causeway Park	MS	$4,757,000
Pascagoula Beach Front Promenade	MS	$3,800,000
Alabama Swift Tract Living Shoreline	AL	$5,000,080
Gulf State Park Enhancement Project	AL	$85,505,305
Alabama Oyster Cultch Restoration	AL	$3,239,485
Beach Enhancement Project at Gulf Island National Seashore	FL	$10,836,055
Gulf Islands National Seashore Ferry Project	FL	$4,020,000
Florida Cat Point Living Shoreline Project	FL	$775,605

*includes funding for contingencies

Continued next page

continued...

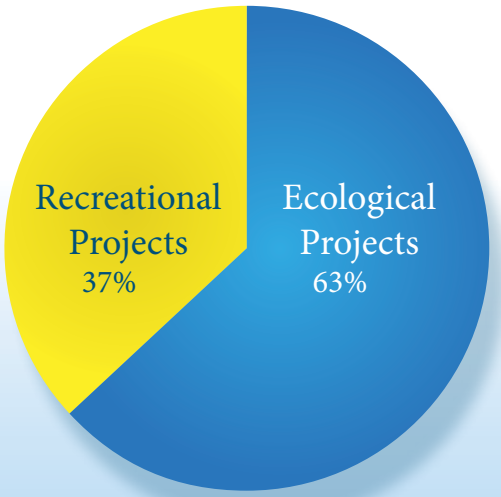
Projects	Location	Estimated Cost*
Florida Pensacola Bay Living Shoreline Project	FL	$10,828,063
Florida Seagrass Recovery Project	FL	$2,691,867
Perdido Key State Park Beach Boardwalk Improvements	FL	$588,500
Big Lagoon State Park Boat Ramp Improvement	FL	$1,483,020
Bob Sikes Pier Parking and Trail Restoration	FL	$1,023,990
Florida Artificial Reefs	FL	$11,463,587
Florida Fish Hatchery	FL	$18,793,500
Scallop Enhancement for Increased Recreational Fishing Opportunity in the Florida Panhandle	FL	$2,890,250
Shell Point Beach Nourishment	FL	$882,750
Perdido Key Dune Restoration Project	FL	$611,234
Florida Oyster Cultch Placement Project	FL	$5,370,596
Strategically Provided Boat Access Along Florida's Gulf Coast	FL	$3,248,340
Walton County Boardwalks and Dune Crossovers	FL	$386,291
Gulf County Recreation Projects	FL	$2,118,600

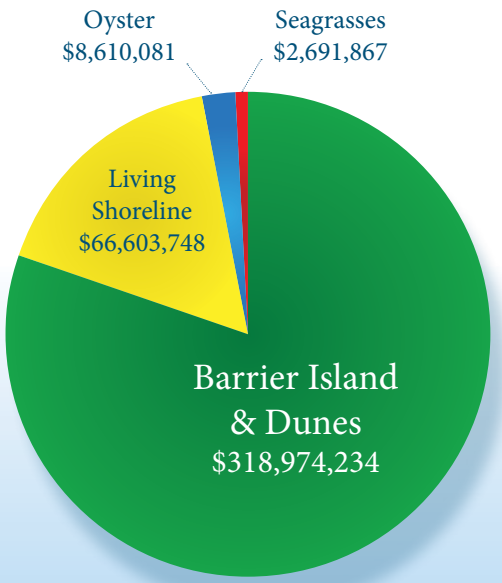
Projects	Location	Estimated Cost*
Bald Point State Park Recreation Areas	FL	$470,800
Enhancement of Franklin County Parks and Boat Ramps	FL	$1,771,385
Apalachicola River Wildlife and Environmental Area Fishing and Wildlife Viewing Access Improvements	FL	$262,989
Navarre Beach Park Gulfside Walkover Complex	FL	$1,221,847
Navarre Beach Park Coastal Access	FL	$614,630
Gulf Breeze Wayside Park Boat Ramp	FL	$309,669
Developing Enhanced Recreational Opportunities on the Escribano Point Portion of the Yellow River Wildlife Management Area	FL	$2,576,365
Norriego Point Restoration and Recreation Project	FL	$10,228,130
Deer Lake State Park Development	FL	$588,500
City of Parker-Oak Shore Drive Pier	FL	$993,649
Panama City Marina Fishing Pier, Boat Ramp, and Staging Docks	FL	$2,000,000
Wakulla Mashes Sands Park Improvements	FL	$1,500,000
Northwest Florida Estuarine Habitat Restoration, Protection, and Education- Fort Walton Beach	FL	$4,643,547

*includes funding for contingencies.

TOTAL $626,841,317

Phase III projects at a glance



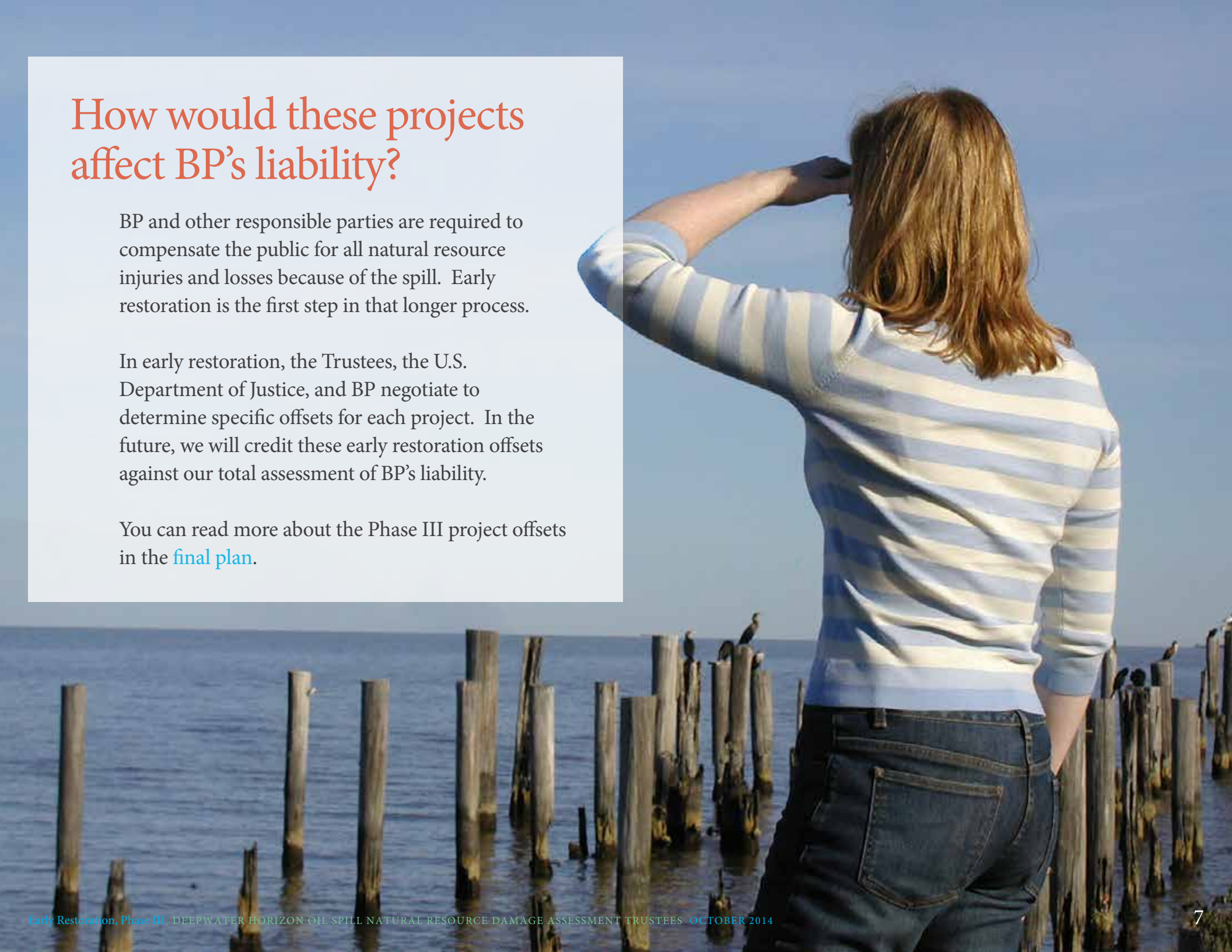


How would these projects affect BP's liability?

BP and other responsible parties are required to compensate the public for all natural resource injuries and losses because of the spill. Early restoration is the first step in that longer process.

In early restoration, the Trustees, the U.S. Department of Justice, and BP negotiate to determine specific offsets for each project. In the future, we will credit these early restoration offsets against our total assessment of BP's liability.

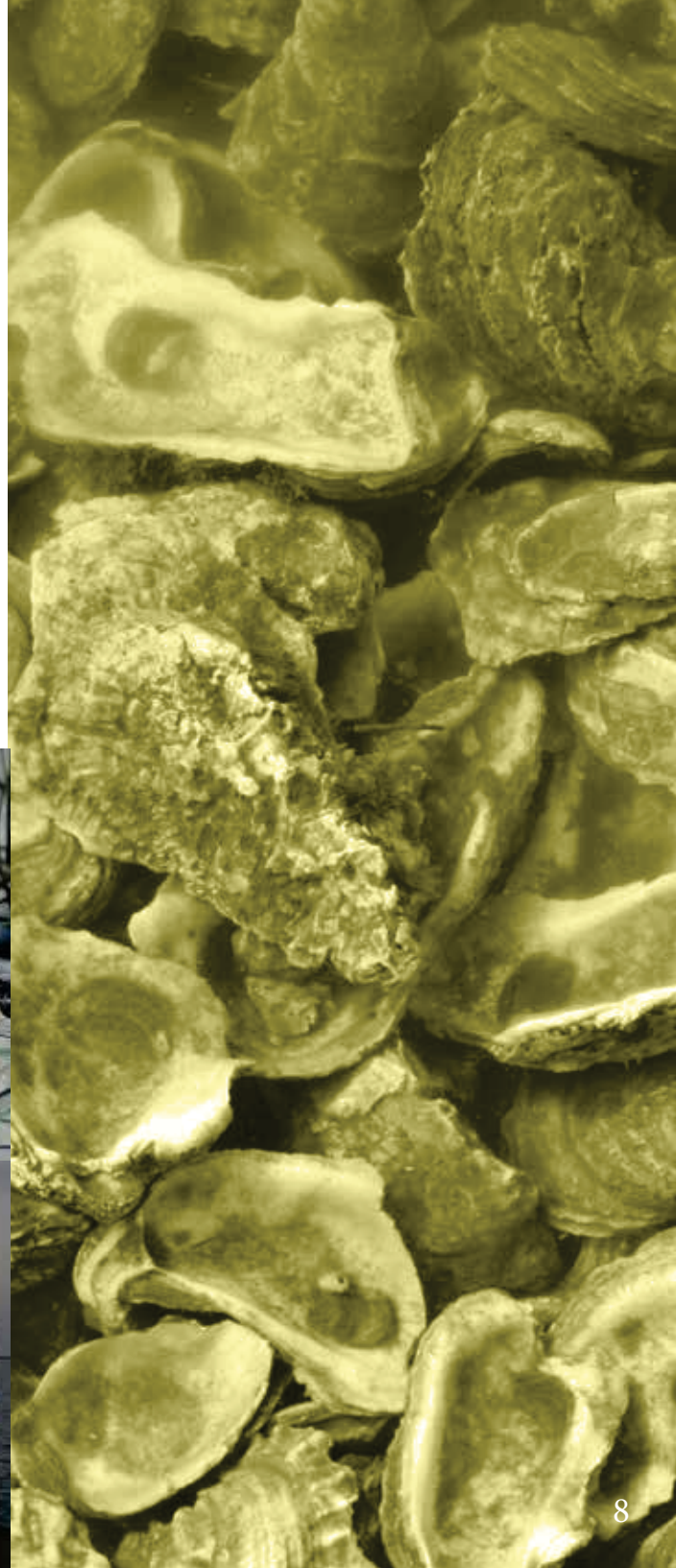
You can read more about the Phase III project offsets in the final plan.



How would these projects help to restore the Gulf?

Some of the projects will restore barrier islands, dunes, marshes, shorelines, and oyster beds. Others, such as boat ramps and park enhancements, seek to address the lost recreational use of natural resources.

Together, these projects will help the Gulf continue to recover from a range of injuries sustained during the spill.



Our strategy for early restoration

We agree with many of you who feel that more needs to be done to restore the Gulf than is considered in our early restoration plans. To do this, we need additional time to determine the full extent of injuries and losses and to identify reliable restoration methods.

We are, therefore, focusing on 12 types of projects that are most suitable for development during early restoration.

These 12 early restoration project types are designed to restore ecological and recreational use losses resulting from the spill; we analyzed the environmental impacts of these project types in the early restoration programmatic environmental impact statement, which can be found in the final plan.

We evaluated the consequences of taking no action, implementing only ecological projects; implementing only recreational projects, or implementing both ecological and recreational projects.

After careful consideration and your input, we are ready to implement both ecological and recreational projects. This strategy will address a variety of injuries caused by the spill and contribute to our goal of restoring the Gulf.

For a complete explanation of how each Phase III project aligns with one or more of the 12 project types, please see Table 7.1 in the final plan.

EARLY RESTORATION PROJECT TYPES

- Create and improve wetlands
- Protect shorelines and reduce erosion
- Restore barrier islands and beaches
- Restore and protect submerged aquatic vegetation
- Conserve habitat
- Restore oysters
- Restore and protect finfish and shellfish
- Restore and protect birds
- Restore and protect sea turtles
- Enhance public access to natural resources for recreational use
- Enhance recreational experiences
- Promote environmental and cultural stewardship, education and outreach

We have laid a solid foundation for our current and future early restoration projects. Follow our progress on www.gulfspillrestoration.noaa.gov and continue to submit your project ideas.

Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill NRDA Trustees, Early Restoration, Phase III
October 2014