Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill: Programmatic and Phase III Early Restoration Plan and Early Restoration Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement

Abstract: In accordance with the Oil Pollution Act of 1990 (OPA) and the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), the Federal and State natural resource trustee agencies (Trustees) have prepared a Programmatic and Phase III Early Restoration Plan and Early Restoration Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (Phase III ERP/PEIS). The Phase III ERP/PEIS considers programmatic alternatives to restore natural resources, ecological services, and recreational use services injured or lost as a result of the *Deepwater Horizon* oil spill. The restoration alternatives are comprised of early restoration project types; the Trustees additionally propose forty-four specific early restoration projects that are consistent with the proposed early restoration program alternatives. The Trustees have developed restoration alternatives and projects to utilize funds for early restoration being provided under the Framework for Early Restoration Addressing Injuries Resulting from the *Deepwater Horizon* Oil Spill (Framework Agreement). Criteria and evaluation standards under the OPA natural resource damage assessment regulations and the Framework Agreement guided the Trustees' consideration of programmatic restoration alternatives. The Phase III ERP/PEIS evaluates these restoration alternatives and projects under criteria set forth in the OPA natural resource damage assessment regulations and the Framework Agreement. The Phase III ERP/PEIS also evaluates the environmental consequences of the restoration alternatives and projects under NEPA.

Lead Agency: U.S Department of the Interior

Cooperating Agencies:

Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality
Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources
Geological Survey of Alabama
Florida Department of Environmental Protection
Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission
Louisiana Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority
Louisiana Oil Spill Coordinator's Office
Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality
Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries
Louisiana Department of Natural Resources
Texas Parks and Wildlife Department
Texas General Land Office
Texas Commission on Environmental Quality National
Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
U.S. Department of Agriculture
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

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Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill Natural Resource Damage Assessment

Programmatic and Phase III Early Restoration Plan and Early Restoration Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement

June 2014

DWH-AR0212190

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

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 – MC252), suffered a blowout, caught fire, and subsequently sank in the Gulf of Mexico (the Gulf). Tragically, 11 workers were killed and 19 injured. This incident resulted in discharges of oil and other substances into the Gulf from the rig and the submerged wellhead. The *Deepwater Horizon* Oil Spill is one of the largest oil spills in U.S. history (hereafter referred to as "the Spill," which includes activities conducted in response to the spilled oil). The Spill discharged millions of barrels of oil over a period of 87 days. In addition, well over 1 million gallons of dispersants[1] 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 to the environment as a result of the Spill.

The U.S. Coast Guard responded and directed federal efforts to contain and clean up the Spill. The scope, nature, and magnitude of the Spill was unprecedented, causing impacts to coastal and oceanic ecosystems ranging from the deep ocean floor, through the oceanic water column, to the highly productive coastal habitats of the northern Gulf, including estuaries, shorelines, and coastal marshes. Affected resources include ecologically, recreationally, and commercially important species and their habitats in the Gulf and along the coastal areas of Texas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama, and Florida. These fish and wildlife species and their supporting habitats provide a number of important ecological and human use services.

Pursuant to the Oil Pollution Act (OPA), 33 United States Code (U.S.C.) § 2701 *et seq*. and the laws of individual affected states, federal and state agencies, Indian tribes and foreign governments shall act as trustees on behalf of the public to assess injuries to natural resources and their services that result from an oil spill incident, and to plan for restoration to compensate for those injuries. 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 (hereafter collectively referred to as "restoration"). This process of injury assessment and restoration planning is referred to as Natural Resource Damage Assessment (NRDA). OPA defines "natural resources" to include land, fish, wildlife, biota, air, water, ground water, drinking water supplies and other such resources belonging to, managed by, held in trust by, appertaining to, or otherwise controlled by the United States (including the resources of the Exclusive Economic Zone), any State or local government or Indian tribe, or any foreign government (33 U.S.C. § 2701(20)).

[1] Dispersants do not remove oil from the ocean. Rather, they are used to help break large globs of oil into smaller droplets that can be more readily dissolved into the water column.

The Federal Trustees are designated pursuant to section 2706(b)(2) of OPA (33 U.S.C. 2706(b)(2)) and Executive Orders 12777 and 13626. The following federal agencies are the designated natural resource Trustees under OPA for this Spill:[2]

- The United States Department of the Interior (DOI), as represented by the National Park Service (NPS), United States Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS), and Bureau of Land Management;
- The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), on behalf of the United States Department of Commerce;
- The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA); and
- The United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

State Trustees are designated by the governor of each state pursuant to section 2706(b)(3) of OPA (U.S.C. § 2706(b)(3)). The following state agencies are designated natural resources Trustees under OPA and are currently acting as Trustees for the Spill:

- Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD), Texas General Land Office (TGLO) and Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ);
- The State of Louisiana's Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority (CPRA), Oil Spill Coordinator's Office (LOSCO), Department of Environmental Quality (LDEQ), Department of Wildlife and Fisheries (LDWF) and Department of Natural Resources (LDNR);
- The State of Mississippi's Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ);
- The State of Alabama's Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (ADCNR) and Geological Survey of Alabama (GSA);and
- The State of Florida's Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) and Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC).

This document (Final Phase III ERP/PEIS), prepared jointly by State and Federal Trustees, serves as a Final Programmatic Early Restoration Plan and Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement and a Final Phase III Early Restoration Plan and associated environmental analyses.

This Final Programmatic ERP and PEIS is intended to guide the development and evaluation of Early Restoration projects for the potential use of the remaining funds available for Early Restoration. It frames and helps to inform Early Restoration actions and identifies a range of Early Restoration alternatives and project types that could be applied at this time and in future phases of Early Restoration planning. The PEIS may also serve as the base document from which to tier subsequent environmental compliance evaluation for future Early Restoration plans.

The Final Phase III Early Restoration Plan proposes 44 specific projects that are consistent with the Final Programmatic Early Restoration Plan, and which are supported by evaluation of the potential environmental impacts of the proposed projects.

[2] The U.S. Department of Defense is a trustee under OPA of natural resources at its Gulf Coast facilities potentially affected by the Spill but is not a member of the Trustee Council and did not participate in the preparation of this document.

After the release of the Draft Phase III ERP/PEIS on December 6, 2013, the Trustees held a public comment period pursuant to OPA (33 U.S.C. § 2706(c)(5)) and National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA; 40 C.F.R. § 1506.6) requirements to seek public review and comment on the Programmatic and Phase III Early Restoration Plan and PEIS. In response to requests from the public, the public comment period was extended to 75 days and closed on February 19, 2014. During that time, the Trustees maintained a web-based comment submission site, P.O. Box, and email address and hosted nine public meetings:

- December 16, 2013: Mobile, Alabama
- December 17, 2013: Long Beach, Mississippi
- January 14, 2014: Belle Chasse, Louisiana
- January 15, 2014: Thibodaux, Louisiana
- January 16, 2014: Lake Charles, Louisiana
- January 21, 2014: Port Arthur, Texas
- January 22, 2014: Galveston, Texas
- January 23, 2014: Corpus Christi, Texas
- February 3, 2014: Pensacola, Florida

This Final Phase III ERP/PEIS reflects revisions to the Draft Phase III ERP/PEIS arising from public comments; progress on compliance with other laws, regulations, and Executive Orders; and continuing Trustee project development and consideration of potentially relevant information. Key changes made between the Draft and Final Phase III ERP/PEIS are identified below.

Framework Agreement

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 Spill. This Early Restoration agreement, entitled "Framework for Early Restoration Addressing Injuries Resulting from the *Deepwater Horizon* Oil Spill" (Framework Agreement), represents a preliminary step toward the restoration of injured natural resources. 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.

The Early Restoration planning process is part of the NRDA but is also shaped in part by the Framework Agreement. Under the Framework Agreement, a proposed Early Restoration project may be funded only if all of the Trustees, the U.S. Department of Justice, and BP agree on, among other things, the amount of funding to be provided by BP and the "NRD Offsets" (explained later in this document) that will be credited for that project against BP's liability for NRD resulting from the Spill. The need for project-specific agreements with BP inevitably affects which projects are practical to pursue in the Early Restoration process.

Early Restoration is not intended to fully compensate the public for all natural resource injuries and losses, including recreational use losses, from the Spill. The Trustees have engaged the public in a separate process to address longer-term restoration (for example, see Section 1.3 of the accompanying Final Phase III ERP/PEIS). Because final determinations of injury will not be completed for some time, it is premature to say now what proportion of any particular resource injury or loss would be addressed by

any Early Restoration project, including those proposed in this Final Phase III ERP/PEIS. Ultimately, the responsible parties are obligated to compensate the public for the full scope of natural resource injuries caused by the Spill, including the cost of assessment and restoration planning.

Natural Resource Damage Assessment Restoration Planning

Restoration activities are intended to restore or replace habitats, species, and services to their baseline condition (primary restoration), and to compensate the public for interim losses from the time natural resources are injured until they recover to baseline conditions (compensatory restoration). To meet these goals, the restoration activities need to produce benefits that are related, or have a nexus, to natural resources injured and service losses resulting from the Spill.

Natural resource services include the ecological and recreational services that natural resources provide. Examples of ecological services include nutrient cycling, food production for other species, habitat provision, and other services that natural resources provide for each other. Recreational use services include (but are not limited to) recreational activities that make "direct" use of natural resources (e.g., boating, nature photography, education, fishing, swimming, and hiking).[3] For the purposes of this document, the term "natural resource services" includes ecological and recreational use services.

NRDA restoration planning is designed to evaluate potential injuries to natural resources and natural resource services; to use that information to determine whether and to what extent restoration is needed; to identify potential restoration actions to address that need; and to provide the public with an opportunity to review and comment on the proposed restoration alternatives. Restoration planning has two basic components: (1) injury assessment and (2) restoration selection. The goal of injury assessment is to determine the nature and extent of injuries to

RESTORATION TERMS DEFINED

Restoration: Any action that restores, rehabilitates, replaces, or acquires the equivalent of the injured natural resources.

Baseline: The condition of the natural resources and services that would have existed had the incident not occurred

Primary Restoration: Any action, including natural recovery, that returns injured natural resources and services to baseline.

Compensatory Restoration: Any action taken to compensate the public for interim losses of natural resources and services from the date of injury until recovery.

Natural Resource Services: The functions performed by a natural resource for the benefit of another natural resource (ecological services) and/or the public (including recreational services).

[3] Natural resources can provide a variety of "direct" and "indirect" services to the public. "Indirect" services to the public can be seen, for example, in the value the public holds for natural resources independent of their own use of such resources (e.g., by contributing to the protection of natural resources that they may not directly "use" but want to preserve for future generations). For the purposes of this document, the Trustees focus on the recreational service "subset" of human use services. This approach is intended only to clarify the lost public resource uses that the Trustees are focused on in planning for Early Restoration. Lost recreational use injuries are readily apparent at this stage of the injury assessment and are an appropriate focus of Early Restoration. The Trustees reserve the right to seek compensation for all human use impacts arising from the Spill, consistent with OPA and OPA NRDA regulations.

natural resources and services. The goal of restoration selection is to evaluate the need for and type of restoration required based on the injury assessment. Under the NRDA regulations, Trustees must identify a reasonable range of restoration alternatives, evaluate and select the preferred alternative(s), and develop a Draft (for public comment) and Final Restoration Plan. Each restoration alternative considered must address specific injuries associated with the incident. Ultimately, Trustees seek to implement restoration projects expected to fully compensate the public for losses of natural resources and services resulting from the Spill.

Early Restoration Programmatic Approach

For the purpose of accelerating meaningful restoration of injured natural resources and their services resulting from the Spill, the Trustees propose to continue implementation of Early Restoration in accordance with OPA and using funds made available in the Framework Agreement. Given the potential magnitude and breadth of further Early Restoration, the Trustees elected to prepare a Programmatic Early Restoration Plan (Programmatic ERP) under OPA to analyze alternative approaches to continuing Early Restoration and to consistently guide remaining Early Restoration decisions. A programmatic approach assists the Trustees and the public in evaluation of proposed projects and in development and evaluation of future Early Restoration projects.

The regulations that guide natural resource damage assessments under OPA require that restoration planning actions undertaken by Federal Trustees comply with the NEPA, 42 U.S.C. § 4321 et seq., and the regulations guiding its implementation at 40 C.F.R. Part 1500. NEPA and its implementing regulations outline the responsibilities of federal agencies, including the preparation of environmental analysis, such as an environmental impact statement (EIS).

A federal agency may prepare a programmatic EIS (PEIS) to evaluate broad actions (40 C.F.R. § 1502.4(b); *see* Forty Most Asked Questions Concerning CEQ's National Environmental Policy Act Regulations, 46 Fed. Reg. 18026 (1981)). When a federal agency prepares a PEIS, the agency may "tier" subsequent narrower environmental analyses on site-specific plans or projects from the PEIS (40 C.F.R. § 1502.4(b); 40 C.F.R. §1508.28). Federal agencies are encouraged to tier subsequent narrower analyses from a PEIS to eliminate repetitive discussions of the same issues and to focus on the actual issues ripe for decision at each level of environmental review (40 C.F.R. § 1502.20).

A PEIS may consider multiple related federal actions that may encompass a large geographic scale or that constitute a suite of similar programs, both of which apply to the joint state and federal Early Restoration effort for natural resources and services that were impacted by the Spill. The Trustees elected to prepare a programmatic EIS to support analysis of the environmental consequences of the Programmatic ERP, to consider the multiple related actions that may occur as a result of Early Restoration, and to allow for a better analysis of cumulative impacts of potential actions. The affected environment analyzed in this final document includes the northern Gulf of Mexico region and its physical and biological environments, and the human uses and socioeconomics of that area (see Chapter 3 – The Affected Environment).

For the Programmatic ERP, the Trustees developed a set of project types for inclusion in programmatic alternatives, consistent with the desire to seek a diverse set of projects providing benefits to a broad

array of potentially injured resources.[4] Ultimately, this process resulted in the inclusion of 12 project types in the programmatic alternatives evaluated for Early Restoration in this document, including:

1. Create and Improve Wetlands
2. Protect Shorelines and Reduce Erosion
3. Restore Barrier Islands and Beaches
4. Restore and Protect Submerged Aquatic Vegetation
5. Conserve Habitat
6. Restore Oysters
7. Restore and Protect Finfish and Shellfish
8. Restore and Protect Birds
9. Restore and Protect Sea Turtles
10. Enhance Public Access to Natural Resources for Recreational Use
11. Enhance Recreational Experiences
12. Promote Environmental and Cultural Stewardship, Education and Outreach

Additional project types were considered by the Trustees, but not evaluated in detail at this time, because the Trustees do not currently consider them appropriate for Early Restoration. For example, while the Trustees are concerned about and continue to evaluate potential Spill-related injuries to marine mammals and to components of the deep benthic environment (e.g., deep sea corals, mesophotic reefs, and deep soft bottom sediment habitat), additional time and effort are needed to enhance Trustee understanding of such injuries and to identify appropriate, reliable restoration methods.

While the 12 project types can be combined in numerous ways to develop programmatic alternatives, the Trustees consider and evaluate the following four programmatic alternatives in this document:

1. Alternative 1: No Action (no additional Early Restoration at this time);
2. Alternative 2: Contribute to Restoring Habitats and Living Coastal and Marine Resources (project types 1-9 above);
3. Alternative 3: Contribute to Providing and Enhancing Recreational Opportunities (project types 10-12 above); and
4. Alternative 4: Contribute to Restoring Habitats, Living Coastal and Marine Resources, and Recreational Opportunities (project types 1-12 above).

The Trustees believe that these alternatives and project types are consistent with relevant evaluation criteria and provide a reasonable range for consideration and evaluation. Each project type is described under the relevant alternative in Chapter 5, and the Trustees' preferred alternative is Alternative 4, as identified in this Final Phase III ERP/PEIS. The environmental analysis of the Programmatic ERP and PEIS alternatives can be found in Chapter 6.

[4] Project type names, descriptions, and the resources benefitted are not necessarily indicative of NRD Offsets agreed upon with BP for any particular project pursuant to the Framework Agreement. Offset types and the relationship to projects proposed in this DERP are described in Chapters 8-12 of this document. Future proposed projects, even if similar to those proposed herein or within the same project type, may bear different proposed NRD Offsets.

Early Restoration Project Selection Process

The Trustees developed the Early Restoration project selection process to be responsive to the purpose and need for conducting Early Restoration. Figure ES-1 depicts the general Early Restoration project solicitation and selection process. In summary, Early Restoration project selection is a step-wise process comprised of: (1) project solicitation, (2) project screening, (3) negotiation with BP, and (4) public review and comment.

Restoration Project Solicitation

Public input is an integral part of NEPA, OPA, and the Spill restoration planning effort, and is an important means for ensuring that the Trustees consider relevant information and concerns of the public. Following the Spill, the Trustees established websites to provide information to the public about injury and restoration processes.[5] Public solicitation of restoration projects has been ongoing since the Notice of Intent to Conduct Restoration Planning for the Spill was published in 2010.

Following adoption of the Framework Agreement in April 2011, the Trustees invited the public to provide restoration project ideas through a variety of mechanisms, including public meetings and internet-accessible databases. The Trustees received hundreds of proposals, all of which can be viewed online at several web pages.[6] The Trustees conducted a public scoping process soliciting comments regarding the above-stated programmatic Early Restoration approach June 4 through August 2, 2013, after publication of a Notice of Intent. A record of the public meetings and input opportunities is available at http://www.gulfspillrestoration.noaa.gov. A summary of comments received in response to the Notice of Intent to Conduct Scoping will be available in the Administrative Record.

[5] The Trustees established the following websites:

- NOAA, Gulf Spill Restoration, available at http://www.gulfspillrestoration.noaa.gov/
- DOI, Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill Response, available at http://www.fws.gov/home/dhoilspill/
- Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill, available at http://www.tpwd.state.tx.us/landwater/water/environconcerns/damage_assessment/deep_water_horizon.phtml/
- Louisiana, Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill Natural Resource Damage Assessment, available at http://losco-dwh.com/
- Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality, Natural Resource Damage Assessment, available at http://www.restore.ms/
- Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, NRDA Projects, available at http://www.alabamacoastalrestoration.org
- Florida Department of Environmental Protection, Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill Response and Restoration, available at http://www.dep.state.fl.us/deepwaterhorizon/default.htm

[6] See www.gulfspillrestoration.noaa.gov, http://losco-dwh.com, http://www.restore.ms, http://www.tpwd.state.tx.us/landwater/water/environconcerns/damage_assessment/deep_water_horizon.phtml http://www.outdooralabama.com/nrdaprojects/ http://www.deepwaterhorizonflorida.com http://www.gulfspillrestoration.noaa.gov/restoration/give-us-your-ideas/.

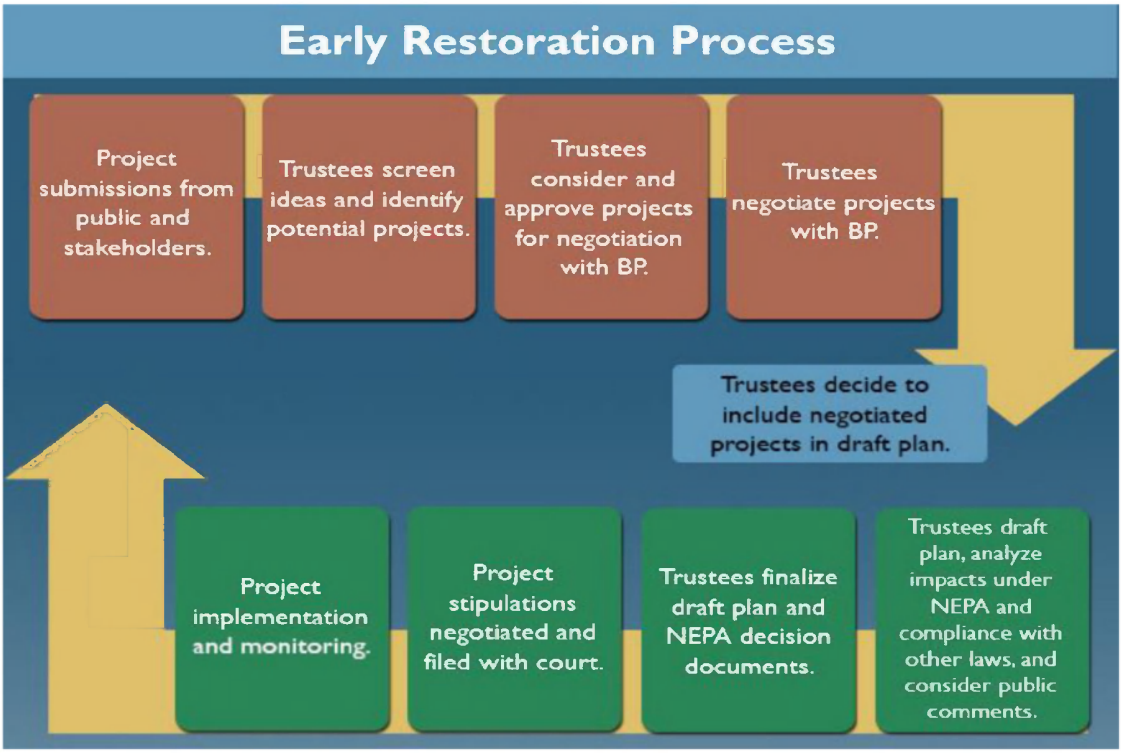

Figure ES-1. General Early Restoration project selection process.

The Trustees have addressed and continue to address NRDA, the restoration planning process and potential restoration projects at public meetings, venues, and meetings with many non-governmental organizations and other stakeholders. The Trustees continue to solicit restoration ideas via the web and continue to consider existing and new project proposals as part of the restoration planning process.

Early Restoration Evaluation Criteria

In evaluating Early Restoration programmatic alternatives and specific restoration projects, the Trustees used criteria included in the NRDA regulations and the Framework Agreement, as well as factors that are otherwise key in planning or affecting Early Restoration, including those associated with other laws, regulations, and programs. Chapter 2 contains a detailed discussion of various evaluation criteria. Chapter 5 provides a detailed evaluation of the consistency of the proposed alternatives with programmatic criteria, and Chapters 8-12 provide project-specific information addressing each project's consistency with project evaluation criteria identified in Chapter 2. Additional Trustee-specific information on Trustee screening is included in each of Chapters 8-12.

Severability of Proposed Phase III Early Restoration Projects

In the Final Phase III ERP/PEIS, the Trustees consider 44 specific Early Restoration projects costing approximately $627 million along with a broader, programmatic plan and PEIS that encompass not only the proposed Phase III projects but also the remainder of the Early Restoration process. In general, the proposed Phase III projects presented in this Final Phase III ERP/PEIS are independent of each other and may be selected independently by the Trustees. A decision not to select one or more of the proposed projects in the Final Phase III ERP should not affect either the programmatic elements of the plan or the Trustees' selection of the remaining Phase III Early Restoration projects.

Proposed Phase III Early Restoration Projects

The Trustees are proposing a set of Phase III Early Restoration projects totaling approximately $627 million in estimated projects costs (including contingencies). Ecological projects comprise $396.9 million (63%) of this total, and recreational projects comprise the remaining $230 million (37%). Within the ecological project category, barrier island restoration and dune projects account for $319 million of estimated project costs, followed by living shoreline ($66.6 million), oyster ($8.6 million), and seagrasses ($2.7 million). Project information and environmental analyses for proposed Phase III Early Restoration projects are included in Chapters 8-12.

Table ES-1. Summary of Phase III Early Restoration projects.

PROJECT CATEGORY	ESTIMATED COST FOR ALL PROPOSED PROJECTS IN THAT CATEGORY (includes potential contingencies)[7]
Barrier Islands and Dunes	$318,974,234
Recreational	$230,318,372
Living Shoreline	$66,603,748
Oyster	$8,610,081
Seagrasses	$2,691,867
Total	**$627,198,302**

Table ES-2 lists the 44 proposed Phase III projects, identifies the state in which each is located or proximate, and relates each project back to the project type(s) and programmatic alternatives noted above. Proposed projects are organized by Gulf state, from west to east. The ultimate decision to select each of these projects for implementation will be a consensus decision by all Trustees, and will be made in a future Record of Decision. Based on the analysis in this document, including consideration of public comments, the Trustees prefer the proposed action as described in the project summary for each of the 44 projects, and thus prefer the set of 44 projects for Phase III Early Restoration.

Unless otherwise noted, state Trustees will be the project management leads for proposed projects located in their states. Projects highlighted in gray below have undergone design, cost, or Offset modification between the Draft Phase III ERP/PEIS and the Final Phase III ERP/PEIS; see Chapters 8-12 for more details. Figure ES-2 below identifies the location of each Phase III project.

[7] Actual costs may differ depending on future contingencies, but will not exceed the amount shown without further agreement between the Trustees and BP.

Table ES-2. Proposed Phase III Early Restoration Projects: Relationship to Programmatic Alternatives.

	PROPOSED PROJECT	LOCATION	COST (including potential contingencies)[8]	ALTERNATIVE 4									ALTERNATIVE 3		
				ALTERNATIVE 2											
				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	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
1	Freeport Artificial Reef	TX	$2,155,365											X	
2	Matagorda Texas Artificial Reef	TX	$3,552,398[4]											X	
3	Mid/Upper Texas Coast Artificial Reef - Ship Reef[1]	TX	$1,919,765[4]											X	
4	Sea Rim State Park Improvements	TX	$210,100										X	X	
5	Galveston Island State Park Beach Redevelopment	TX	$10,745,060										X	X	
6	Louisiana Outer Coast Restoration	LA[2]	$318,363,000			X									
7	Louisiana Marine Fisheries Enhancement, Research, and Science Center	LA	$22,000,000											X	X
8	Hancock County Marsh Living Shoreline Project	MS	$50,000,000	X	X										
9	Restoration Initiatives at the INFINITY Science Center	MS	$10,400,000										X	X	X
10	Popp's Ferry Causeway Park	MS	$4,757,000										X	X	X
11	Pascagoula Beach Front Promenade	MS	$3,800,000										X	X	
12	Alabama Swift Tract Living Shoreline	AL	$5,000,080		X										
13	Gulf State Park Enhancement Project	AL	$85,505,305										X	X	X
14	Alabama Oyster Cultch Restoration	AL	$3,239,485						X						
15	Beach Enhancement Project at Gulf Island National Seashore	FL[3]	$10,836,055											X	
16	Gulf Islands National Seashore Ferry Project	FL[3]	$4,020,000										X		
17	Florida Cat Point Living Shoreline Project	FL	$775,605	X	X										
18	Florida Pensacola Bay Living Shoreline Project	FL	$10,828,063	X	X										
19	Florida Seagrass Recovery Project	FL	$2,691,867				X								
20	Perdido Key State Park Beach Boardwalk Improvements	FL	$588,500										X	X	
21	Big Lagoon State Park	FL	$1,483,020										X	X	

[8] Actual costs may differ depending on future contingencies, but will not exceed the amount shown without further agreement between the Trustees and BP.

				ALTERNATIVE 4											
				ALTERNATIVE 2									ALTERNATIVE 3		
	PROPOSED PROJECT	LOCATION	COST (including potential contingencies)[8]	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	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
	Boat Ramp Improvement														
22	Bob Sikes Pier Parking and Trail Restoration	FL	$1,023,990										X	X	
23	Florida Artificial Reefs	FL	$11,463,587										X	X	
24	Florida Fish Hatchery	FL	$18,793,500										X	X	
25	Scallop Enhancement for Increased Recreational Fishing Opportunity in the Florida Panhandle	FL	$2,890,250										X	X	
26	Shell Point Beach Nourishment	FL	$882,750											X	
27	Perdido Key Dune Restoration Project	FL	$611,234			X									
28	Florida Oyster Cultch Placement Project	FL	$5,370,596						X						
29	Strategically Provided Boat Access Along Florida's Gulf Coast	FL	$3,248,340										X	X	
30	Walton County Boardwalks and Dune Crossovers	FL	$743,276										X	X	
31	Gulf County Recreation Projects	FL	$2,118,600										X	X	
32	Bald Point State Park Recreation Areas	FL	$470,800										X	X	
33	Enhancements of Franklin County Parks and Boat Ramps	FL	$1,771,385										X	X	X
34	Appalachicola River Wildlife and Environmental Area Fishing and Wildlife Viewing Access Improvements	FL	$262,989										X	X	
35	Navarre Beach Park Gulfside Walkover Complex	FL	$1,221,847										X	X	
36	Navarre Beach Park Coastal Access	FL	$614,630										X	X	
37	Gulf Breeze Wayside Park Boat Ramp	FL	$309,669										X	X	
38	Developing Enhanced Recreational Opportunities at the Escribano Point Portion of the Yellow River Wildlife Management Area	FL	$2,576,365										X	X	X
39	Norriego Point Restoration and Recreation Project	FL	$10,228,130										X	X	X
40	Deer Lake State Park Development	FL	$588,500										X	X	
41	City of Parker – Oak Shore Drive Pier	FL	$993,649										X	X	

	PROPOSED PROJECT	LOCATION	COST (including potential contingencies)[3]	ALTERNATIVE 4											
				ALTERNATIVE 2									ALTERNATIVE 3		
				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	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
42	Panama City Marina Fishing Pier, Boat Ramp and Staging Docks	FL	$2,000,000										X	X	
43	Wakulla Marshes Sands Park Improvements	FL	$1,500,000										X	X	
44	Northwest Florida Estuarine Habitat Restoration, Protection and Education – Fort Walton Beach	FL	$4,643,547										X	X	X
TOTAL			$626,998,302												

[1] As described in more detail in Chapter 8, the Trustees include an alternative (the Corpus Artificial Reef Project) to the Mid/Upper Texas Coast Artificial Reef Ship Reef Project, to be implemented in the event the Ship Reef Project becomes technically infeasible (e.g., an appropriate ship cannot be acquired with available funding). The Corpus Artificial Reef Project "Alternative" has its own project description, description of Affected Environment and analysis of environmental consequences in Chapter 8; is categorized within the same Programmatic Alternative as the Ship Reef Project; and would provide similar Offsets.

[2] One component of this proposed project would be implemented on federally managed lands and managed by DOI.

[3] These proposed projects would be implemented on federally managed lands and managed by DOI.

[4] In Texas, the combined cost of the Matagorda and Mid/Upper Texas Coast Ship Artificial Reef projects increased by $200,000, a less than 3% increase, to cover marine archaeological and environmental compliance requirements for the projects.

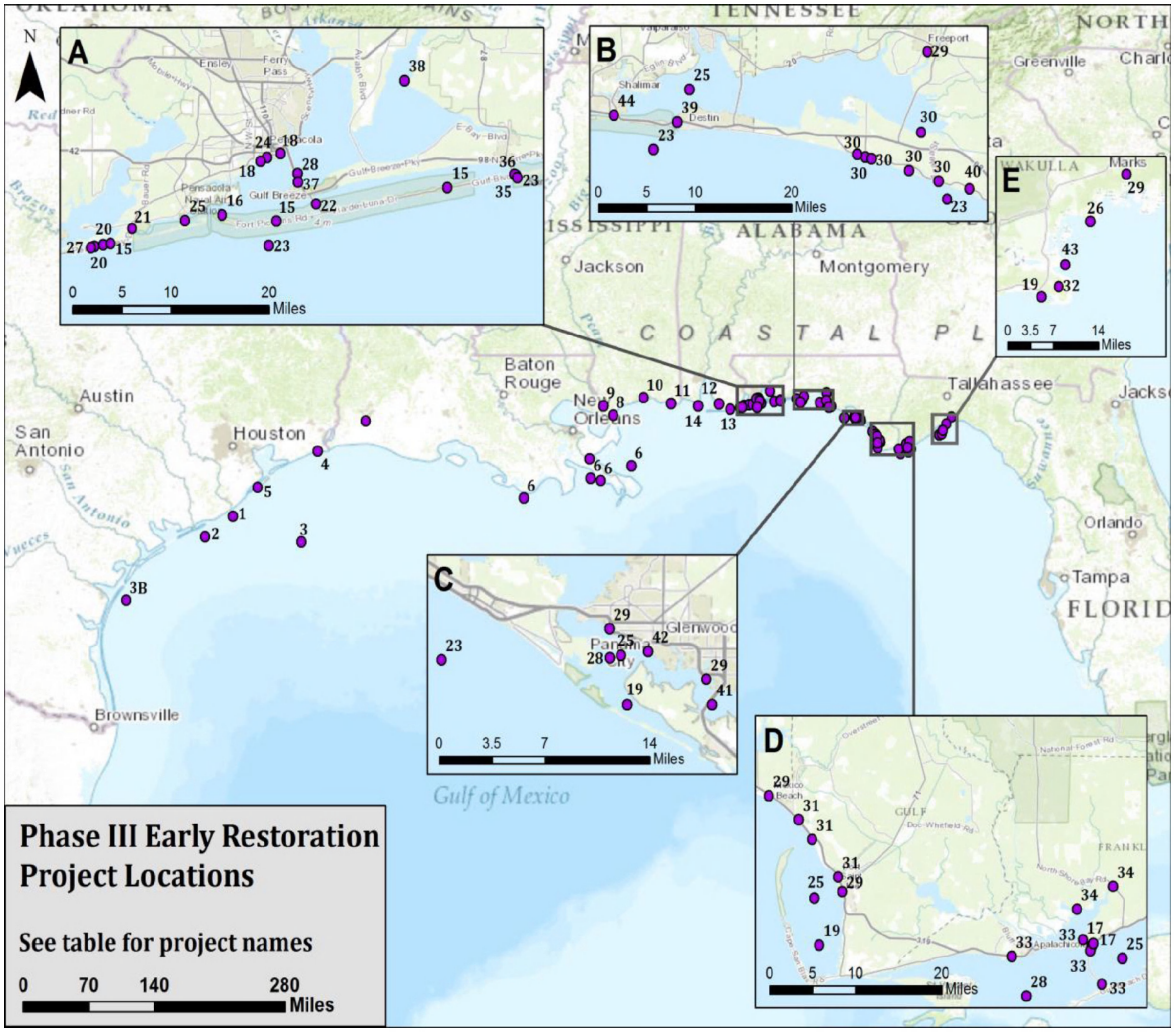

Figure ES-2. Phase III Early Restoration Project Locations

Main Map Panel			Map Inset B	
1	Freeport Artificial Reef		23	Florida Artificial Reefs *
2	Matagorda Artificial Reef		25	Scallop Enhancement for Increased Recreational Fishing Opportunity in the Florida Panhandle *
3	Mid/Upper Texas Coast Artificial Reef - Ship Reef		29	Strategically Provided Boating Access Along Florida's Gulf Coast *
3B	Mid/Upper Texas Coast Artificial Reef - Corpus Artificial Reef (Alternative)		30	Walton County Boardwalks and Dune Crossovers *
4	Sea Rim State Park Improvements		39	Norriego Point Restoration and Recreation Project
5	Galveston Island State Park Beach Redevelopment		40	Deer Lake State Park Development
6	Louisiana Outer Coast Restoration *		44	Northwest Florida Estuarine Habitat Restoration, Protection and Education- Fort Walton Beach
7	Louisiana Marine Fisheries Enhancement, Research, and Science Center *		Map Inset C	
8	Mississippi Hancock County Marsh Living Shoreline Project		19	Florida Seagrass Recovery Project *
9	Restoration Initiatives at the INFINITY Science Center		23	Florida Artificial Reefs *
10	Popp's Ferry Causeway Park		25	Scallop Enhancement for Increased Recreational Fishing Opportunity in the Florida Panhandle *
11	Pascagoula Beach Front Promenade		28	Florida Oyster Cultch Placement *
12	Alabama Swift Tract Living Shoreline		29	Strategically Provided Boating Access Along Florida's Gulf Coast *
13	Gulf State Park Enhancement Project		41	City of Parker - Oakshore Drive Pier
14	Alabama Oyster Cultch Restoration		42	Panama City Marina Fishing Pier, Boat Ramp, and Staging Docks
Map Inset A			Map Inset D	
15	Beach Enhancement Project at Gulf Islands National Seashore *		17	Florida Cat Point Living Shoreline *
16	Gulf Islands National Seashore Ferry Project		19	Florida Seagrass Recovery Project *
18	Florida Pensacola Bay Living Shoreline Project *		25	Scallop Enhancement for Increased Recreational Fishing Opportunity in the Florida Panhandle *
20	Perdido Key State Park Beach Boardwalk Improvements *		28	Florida Oyster Cultch Placement *
21	Big Lagoon State Park Boat Ramp Improvement		29	Strategically Provided Boating Access Along Florida's Gulf Coast *
22	Bob Sikes Pier Parking and Trail Restoration		31	Gulf County Recreation Projects *
23	Florida Artificial Reefs *		33	Enhancement of Franklin County Parks and Boat Ramps *
24	Florida Fish Hatchery		34	Apalachicola River Wildlife and Environmental Area Fishing and Wildlife Viewing Access Improvements *
25	Scallop Enhancement for Increased Recreational Fishing Opportunity in the Florida Panhandle *		Map Inset E	
27	Perdido Key Dune Restoration Project		19	Florida Seagrass Recovery Project *
28	Florida Oyster Cultch Placement *		26	Shell Point Beach Nourishment
35	Navarre Beach Park Gulfside Walkover Complex		29	Strategically Provided Boating Access Along Florida's Gulf Coast *
36	Navarre Beach Park Coastal Access and Dune Restoration		32	Bald Point State Park Recreation Areas
37	Gulf Breeze Wayside Park Boat Ramp		43	Wakulla County Mashes Sands Park Improvements
38	Developing Enhanced Recreational Opportunities on the Escribano Point Portion of the Yellow River Wildlife Management Area			* multiple project locations

Areas of Controversy

NEPA regulations (40 CFR Section 1502.12) require that a summary of an EIS identify areas of controversy on the environmental effects of proposed actions, including issues raised by agencies and the public. During the public comment period, many comments were received regarding the Draft Phase III ERP/PEIS. Chapter 13 of this document, Public Comment on Draft Phase III ERP/PEIS and Responses, contains a summary of the public comment process as well as the comments received and the Trustees' responses.

In general, multiple comments raised concerns related to the potential environmental effects resulting from proposed recreational use projects. Specifically cited were recreational project effects on biological resources, land use concerns related to past uses and water quality, provision of public services, and the potential for increased demand on fisheries resources.

These issues were considered in the preparation of this Phase III ERP/PEIS and are addressed in Chapter 13, the responses to comments. Sections of the document that have been revised to address areas of potential controversy, as well as other concerns, are described in the summary of key changes below.

Issues to be Resolved

Compliance consultations with federal agencies have not been completed for all the projects proposed in this Phase III ERP/PEIS. As these consultations occur, the Trustees will need to ensure that all required permits are obtained and that all Best Management Practices and Conservation Measures are implemented prior to project initiation.

For example, as more detailed engineering and design is pursued, the trustees will need to finalize the determination of whether and what type of permits are required under the Clean Water Act and/or Rivers and Harbors Act. For those projects, the USACE will then need to determine whether to grant permits under Section 404 of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (Clean Water Act, 33 U.S.C. §§ 1251 et seq.) and/or Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act. Consultations also need to be completed for many projects pursuant to Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (16 U.S.C. §§ 470 et seq.).

Document Organization and Decisions to be Made

Consistent with the purpose and need and proposed actions identified above, this Final Phase III ERP/PEIS is divided into the following chapters:

- **Chapter 1 (Introduction, Purpose and Need, and Public Participation)**: Introductory information and context for this document,
- **Chapter 2 (Early Restoration Process and Status)**: Background, process and status information for Early Restoration efforts to date,
- **Chapter 3 (Affected Environment)**: Information describing the affected environment within which Early Restoration activities are expected to take place,
- **Chapter 4 (The *Deepwater Horizon* Oil Spill Natural Resource Injury Assessment)**: A summary of the status of *Deepwater Horizon* Oil Spill Natural Resource Injury Assessment efforts,
- **Chapter 5 (The Proposed Early Restoration Programmatic Plan: Development and Evaluation of Alternatives):** Descriptions of Early Restoration programmatic alternatives considered by the

Trustees - including a "No Action" alternative and three action alternatives - and identification of a preferred alternative,

- **Chapter 6 (Environmental Consequences of Alternatives)**: An evaluation of those alternatives, including their expected environmental consequences,
- **Chapter 7 (Introduction to Proposed Phase III Early Restoration Projects)**: Identification of proposed projects and brief, summary information about them,
- **Chapters 8-12 (Evaluation of Proposed Phase III Restoration Projects: [State]:** OPA and NEPA analyses related to the 44 specific projects proposed by the Trustees for implementation in Phase III of Early Restoration, including a discussion of cumulative impacts. Chapters 8, 9, 10, 11 and 12 provide this information for proposed projects in Texas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama, and Florida, respectively.
- **Chapter 13 (Public Comment on the Draft Phase III ERP/PEIS and Responses)**: Details on the public comment process and a summary of comments and Trustee responses.

This document is intended to provide the public and decision-makers with information and analysis on the Trustees' proposal to proceed with (1) identification of a preferred Early Restoration program (Alternative 4 is identified as preferred in this Final Phase III ERP/PEIS) and (2) selection and implementation of up to 44 individual proposed Phase III Early Restoration projects (the proposed action described in the "project summary" in this Final Phase III ERP/PEIS is preferred for each of the 44 projects).

The Trustees are proposing 44 projects for Phase III Early Restoration, totaling approximately $627 million in estimated projects costs (including contingencies). Table ES-2 lists the 44 proposed Phase III projects, identifies the state in which each is located or proximate, and relates each project back to the project type(s) and programmatic alternatives noted above. Proposed projects are organized by Gulf state, from west to east. Unless otherwise noted, state Trustees will be the project management leads for proposed projects located in their states. Projects highlighted in gray in the table above have undergone design, cost, or Offset modification between the Draft Phase III ERP/PEIS and the Final Phase III ERP/PEIS; see Chapters 8-12 for more details. Figure ES-2 above identifies the location of each Phase III projects. Based on the analysis in this document, including consideration of public comments, the Trustees prefer the proposed action as described in the project summary for each of the 44 projects, and thus prefer the 44 projects for Phase III Early Restoration.

Summary of Benefits and Adverse Impacts of Programmatic Alternatives

Table ES-3 provides an overview of potential impacts to key resource areas for each alternative, by project type. The information presented in the table represents the range of impacts estimated for each resource (e.g., minor to moderate) based on specific project-type-level analyses. Specific impacts of Alternatives, when implemented, would depend on where individual projects may occur, the timing of proposed construction and other activities, and the scale of the proposed activities. This table provides a basis for comparing the ranges for the environmental impacts of the alternatives.

While most resources are expected to experience benefits across all alternatives, the Table does not identify benefits relative to potential adverse impacts, i.e., it is not intended to represent "net" benefits attributed to individual project types or alternatives. Adverse impacts for all Alternatives range from No Effect to Major impacts, depending on the resource. Impacts to habitats, hydrology and water quality,

and noise are anticipated to be higher in Alternatives 3 and 4 than in Alternative 2. Adverse impacts that affect socioeconomics are expected to range from minor to moderate under Alternatives 3 and 4, as opposed to minor under Alternative 2.

Trustees note that there are differences in environmental consequences that could result from recreational use project types as compared to ecological project types. Tables ES-3 presents a range of potential impacts (e.g., minor to moderate) for each alternative, as, particularly for Alternative 4, the relative amount of recreational use restoration and ecological restoration that may ultimately occur are not known at this time. Project-specific analyses in Chapters 8 - 12 and in any future tiered analyses will describe the specific impacts associated with the specific proposed projects.

Table ES-3. Benefits and Adverse Impacts of Alternatives by Resource and Alternative

Resources	Sub-Resources	Duration	Alternative 1	Alternative 2		Alternative 3		Alternative 4	
Geology and Substrates	Upland Geology and Soil; Nearshore Coastal Geology and Sediment	Short Term	0	2		2		2	
		Long Term	0	2	B	2	B	2	B
Hydrology and Water Quality	Freshwater and Coastal Water Environments	Short Term	0	2	B	2		2	
		Long Term	0	1	B	1		1	B
Air Quality	-	Short Term	0	2		2		2	
		Long Term	0	0		1		1	
Noise	-	Short Term	0	4		4		4	
		Long Term	0	0		2		2	
Habitats	Wetlands, Barrier Islands; Beaches and Dunes; Submerged Aquatic Vegetation; Other Habitats in the Coastal Environment of the Northern Gulf of Mexico	Short Term	0	2		2		2	
		Long Term	0	2	B	2	B	2	B
Living Coastal and Marine Resources	Nearshore Benthic Communities; Oysters; Pelagic Microfaunal Communities; Sargassum; Finfish; Sea Turtles; Marine Mammals; Birds; Terrestrial Wildlife	Short Term	0	2		2		2	
		Long Term	0	2	B	2	B	2	B
Socioeconomics and Environmental Justice*	-	Short Term	0	B		B		B	
		Long Term	0	B		1	B	1	B
Cultural Resources **	-	Short Term	0	2		2		2	
		Long Term	0	2	B	2	B	2	B
Infrastructure	-	Short Term	0	4		4		4	
		Long Term	0	4	B	1	B	4	B
Land and Marine Management	National and State Parks; Refuges and WMAs; Land Trusts; Marine Protected Areas	Short Term	0	2		2		2	
		Long Term	0	B		B		B	

Resources	Sub-Resources	Duration	Alternative 1	Alternative 2	Alternative 3	Alternative 4
Tourism and Recreation Use	Wildlife Observation; Hunting; Beach and Waterfront (swimming, sightseeing, etc.); Boating; Recreational Fishing; Tourism; Museums, Cultural Resources, and Education Centers	Short Term	0	2	2	2
		Long Term	0	B	B	B
Fisheries and Aquaculture	Commercial Fishing; Shellfish Fishery; Seafood Processing and Sales; Aquaculture	Short Term	0	2	2	2
		Long Term	0	B	B	B
Marine Transportation	-	Short Term	0	1	1	1
		Long Term	0	B	B	B
Aesthetics and Visual Res.	-	Short Term	0	4	2	4
		Long Term	0	2 B	2 B	2 B
Public Health and Safety, including Flood and Shoreline	-	Short Term	0	1	1	1
		Long Term	0	B	1 B	1 B

Notes: The Trustees note that there are differences in environmental consequences that could result from recreational use project types as compared to ecological project types. Tables 6-3 and 6-4 present a range of potential impacts (e.g., minor to moderate) for each alternative, as, particularly for Alternative 4, the relative amount of recreational use restoration and ecological restoration that may ultimately occur are not known at this time. Project-specific analyses in Chapters 8 - 12 and in any future tiered analyses will describe the specific impacts associated with the specific proposed projects. The rating system reflects the range of impacts that could occur to each resource by project type. It is important to note that all techniques within a project type would not necessarily have the same level of impacts on resources. That is, some techniques could have no effect on the specific resource area. In a few cases, possible but rare or improbable impacts are described in the text, but are not shown in the Exhibit. In particular, refer to the Hydrology and Water Quality section for Project Type 10 (Enhance Public Access to Natural Resources for Recreational Use), and the Living Coastal and Marine Resources and Habitats discussions for Project Types 10 (Enhance Public Access to Natural Resources for Recreational Use) and 11 (Enhance Recreational Experiences). Specific impacts would depend on where individual projects may occur, the timing of proposed construction and other activities, and the scale of the proposed activities. Thus, the above summary describes generally the level and type of effects anticipated from project types to resources. Because this PEIS identifies a number of types of potential projects that may occur, a range of impacts is anticipated. More specific descriptions of impacts can be found in the text.

* Note that Socioeconomics and Environmental Justice are combined under a single heading in this table and the following analysis. However, consistent with EO 12898, benefits to Environmental Justice were not evaluated in this document; hence the findings summarized in this table reflect only socioeconomic considerations.

**Project types under all Alternatives could lead to long-term beneficial impacts through the identification of cultural resources. Cultural or historical sites that may otherwise have been unknown or unprotected may benefit from the NHPA Sectio106 review process that could require it be avoided and preserved in its natural state. In this manner, some information may be retrieved and future impacts could be avoided. Although minor to moderate adverse effects could occur if cultural resources are present at project sites involving dredge, fill or ground-disturbing activities, a Section 106 consultation would be completed prior to implementation of these activities and appropriate avoidance and mitigation measures would be implemented prior to commencement of ground disturbing activities.

Summary of Benefits and Adverse Impacts of Phase III Projects[9]

Texas

Freeport Artificial Reef Project

The proposed Freeport Artificial Reef Project would increase the amount of reef materials in a currently permitted artificial reef site, the George Vancouver (Liberty Ship) Artificial Reef, approximately 6 miles from Freeport, Texas. The current reef site is permitted for 160 acres, but only has materials in 40 acres. The project would place predesigned concrete pyramids in the remaining portions of the permitted area onto sandy substrate at a water depth of 55 feet.

The NEPA analysis of the environmental consequences suggests that minor adverse impacts to some resource categories and no moderate to major adverse impacts are anticipated to result. This restoration project would enhance recreational fishing opportunities. The Trustees have completed consultations and reviews under the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act, Endangered Species Act, Migratory Bird Treaty Act, Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act, Marine Mammal Protection Act, Clean Water Act, Rivers and Harbors Act, and the Coastal Zone Management Act. Compliance with the National Historic Preservation Act has been initiated.

Matagorda Artificial Reef Project

The proposed Matagorda Artificial Reef Project would create a new artificial reef site approximately 10 miles offshore of Matagorda County, Texas. The project would create a new artificial reef within the 160-acre permitted area, through deployment of predesigned concrete pyramids onto sandy substrate at a water depth of 60 feet.

The NEPA analysis of the environmental consequences suggests that minor adverse impacts to some resource categories and no moderate to major adverse impacts are anticipated to result. This restoration project would enhance recreational fishing opportunities. The Trustees have completed consultations and reviews under the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act, Endangered Species Act, Migratory Bird Treaty Act, Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act, Marine Mammal Protection Act, Clean Water Act, Rivers and Harbors Act, and the Coastal Zone Management Act. Compliance with the National Historic Preservation Act has been initiated.

Mid/Upper Texas Coast Artificial Reef - Ship Reef Project

The proposed Ship Reef Project would create a new artificial reef site in deep waters of the Gulf of Mexico, about 67 miles south-southeast of Galveston, Texas. The project would create an artificial reef by sinking a ship that is at least 200 feet long within the 80-acre permitted reef site, in waters that are

[9] In addition to the consultations and reviews described in each project summary below, the Trustees note that under the Coastal Barrier Resources Act (CBRA), a federal agency proposing to spend funds within the Coastal Barrier Resources System must consult with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to determine whether the proposed federal expenditure meets one of the CBRA exceptions or is otherwise subject to restrictions. The Service has reviewed the Early Restoration projects subject to the CBRA and is currently engaged in intra-Service consultation to confirm that exceptions to the CBRA's funding restrictions apply to those projects.

approximately 135 feet deep. The ship will be cleaned of hazardous substances to meet EPA criteria, as well as pass all required Federal and State inspections, including EPA, TPWD, and USCG.

The NEPA analysis of the environmental consequences suggests that minor adverse impacts to some resource categories and no moderate to major adverse impacts are anticipated to result. This restoration project would enhance recreational fishing and diving opportunities. The Trustees have completed consultations and reviews under the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act, Migratory Bird Treaty Act, Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act, Marine Mammal Protection Act, Clean Water Act, Rivers and Harbors Act, and the Coastal Zone Management Act. Compliance with the National Historic Preservation Act and the Endangered Species Act has been initiated.

Mid/Upper Texas Coast Artificial Reef - Corpus Artificial Reef Project

The proposed Corpus Artificial Reef Project would increase the amount of reef materials in a currently permitted artificial reef site, approximately 11 miles from Packery Channel (near Corpus Christi Bay, Texas). The current reef site is permitted for 160 acres, but only has materials in the northwest quadrant and in the center of the permitted area. The project would place predesigned concrete pyramids in the remaining portions of the 160-acre permitted area (about 115 acres) onto sandy substrate at a water depth of 73 feet.

The NEPA analysis of the environmental consequences suggests that minor adverse impacts to some resource categories and no moderate to major adverse impacts are anticipated to result. This restoration project would enhance recreational fishing opportunities. The Trustees have completed consultations and reviews under the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act, Endangered Species Act, Migratory Bird Treaty Act, Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act, Marine Mammal Protection Act, Clean Water Act, Rivers and Harbors Act, and the Coastal Zone Management Act. Compliance with the National Historic Preservation Act has been initiated.

Sea Rim State Park Improvements

The proposed Sea Rim State Park project would build two wildlife viewing platforms (Fence Lake and Willow Pond), a comfort station, and a fish cleaning shelter in the Park.

The NEPA analysis of the environmental consequences suggests that minor adverse impacts to some resource categories and no moderate to major adverse impacts are anticipated to result. This restoration project would enhance visitor use and enjoyment of Park resources. The Trustees have completed consultations and reviews under the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act, Endangered Species Act, Migratory Bird Treaty Act, Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act, Marine Mammal Protection Act, and the Coastal Zone Management Act. Compliance with the National Historic Preservation Act, Clean Water Act, and Rivers and Harbors Act has been initiated.

Galveston Island State Park Beach Redevelopment

The proposed Galveston Island State Park project would redevelop the beach side of the Park by building new facilities, including multi-use campsites, tent campsites, beach access boardwalks, equestrian facilities, as well as restroom and shower facilities.

The NEPA analysis of the environmental consequences suggests that minor adverse impacts to some resource categories, moderate short-term impacts to tourism and recreational use, and no major adverse impacts are anticipated to result. This restoration project would enhance visitor use and enjoyment of Park resources. The Trustees have completed consultations and reviews under the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act, Endangered Species Act, Migratory Bird Treaty Act, Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act, Marine Mammal Protection Act, Clean Water Act, Rivers and Harbors Act, and the Coastal Zone Management Act. Compliance with the National Historic Preservation Act has been initiated.

Louisiana

Louisiana Marine Fisheries Enhancement, Research, and Science Center

The Louisiana Marine Fisheries Enhancement, Research, and Science Center ("the Center") would establish state of the art facilities to responsibly develop aquaculture-based techniques for marine fishery management. The proposed project would include two sites (Calcasieu Parish and Plaquemines Parish) with the shared goals of fostering collaborative multi-dimensional research on marine sport fish and bait fish species; enhancing stakeholder involvement; and providing fisheries extension, outreach, and education to the public. Specifically, the project would provide Louisiana with an important management tool for monitoring the long term health of wild populations of popular recreation marine species by developing the ability to release known numbers of marked juveniles into pre-determined habitats as part of well-designed studies that would allow for measurement and detection of changes in wild populations of marine sport fish species. The Center would also establish living laboratories to support a variety of marine fisheries outreach and educational activities for the public.

NEPA analysis of the environmental consequences suggests that minor adverse impacts to some resource categories and no moderate to major adverse impacts are anticipated to result. The project would provide long-term benefits by supporting the State of Louisiana's ongoing management of its saltwater sport fishery. The proposed facilities would support research, hatchery production of sport fish and baitfish, and public education and outreach. The Trustees have completed consultations or reviews under the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act, the Endangered Species Act, the Coastal Zone Management Act, the Migratory Bird Treaty Act, the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act, and the Marine Mammal Protection Act. Compliance with the National Historic Preservation Act and the Clean Water Act has been initiated and will be completed prior to implementation.

Louisiana Outer Coast Restoration A – Caillou Lake Headlands

Restoration at the Caillou Lake Headlands location would occur on Whiskey Island, a barrier island in the Isle Dernieres reach of the Terrebonne Basin barrier shoreline. Construction would utilize hydraulically dredged sediments to create beach, dune, and back-barrier marsh habitats. This proposed project would continue restoration work on Whiskey Island, as portions of Whiskey Island have been restored during the past 15 years using funds received through the 1990 Coastal Wetland Planning, Protection and Restoration Act (CWPPRA).

DOI has adopted the LCA Integrated Feasibility Study and Final EIS for the Terrebonne Basin Barrier Shoreline Restoration to fulfill DOI's NEPA requirements for analysis of the Caillou Lake Headlands restoration location and finds that it complies with CEQ and DOI requirements for adopting NEPA analyses prepared by other agencies.

Analysis of the environmental consequences of the proposed action (as described in the adopted EIS) suggest that while there would be minor adverse impacts to some resource categories, there would be no long-term moderate to major adverse impacts as a result of the project. The project would provide long-term benefits by restoring barrier island habitats. This project will be implemented in accordance with all applicable laws and regulations. The Trustees have completed consultations or reviews under the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act, the Migratory Bird Treaty Act, the Marine Mammal Protection Act, the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act, and the Coastal Zone Management Act, and other applicable federal statutes. Consultation under the ESA is complete for all listed species and their critical habitats. A conference has been initiated to evaluate potential impacts to the proposed red knot. Compliance with National Historic Preservation Act and the Clean Water Act and Rivers and Harbors Act has been initiated and will be completed prior to implementation.

Louisiana Outer Coast Restoration B – Chenier Ronquille Barrier Island

The proposed restoration on Chenier Ronquille Island would repair the breaches in the shoreline and prevent creation of new breaches over the 20-year project life, while reestablishing and increasing the island's longevity via dune and marsh creation. Additionally, the project would restore the shoreline, dune, and back-barrier marsh to increase island habitat utilized by essential fish and wildlife species both on the barrier headland and in quiescent bays.

DOI has independently evaluated the 2013 Environmental Assessment for the Chenier Ronquille Barrier Island Restoration Project (Chenier Ronquille EA), BA-76, prepared by NOAA (2013), and finds that it complies with CEQ and DOI requirements for adopting NEPA analyses prepared by other agencies.

Analysis of the environmental consequences of the proposed action (as described in the adopted EA) suggest that while there would be minor adverse impacts to some resource categories, there would be no long-term moderate to major adverse impacts as a result of the project. The project would provide long-term benefits by restoring barrier island habitats. The Trustees have completed consultations or reviews under the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act, the Migratory Bird Treaty Act, the Marine Mammal Protection Act, the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act, and the Coastal Zone Management Act, the Clean Water Act and Rivers and Harbors Act. Consultation under the Endangered Species Act has been completed for all species except West Indian manatee and the proposed red knot. Consultation has been reinitiated and a conference has been requested. Compliance with National Historic Preservation Act requirements has been initiated and will be completed prior to implementation.

Louisiana Outer Coast Restoration C – Shell Island

Restoration at the Shell Island (East and West Lobes) location would occur on Shell Island West and the western portion of Shell Island East, two barrier islands located along the southern margin of the

Barataria Basin in Plaquemines Parish). Construction of Shell Island would utilize hydraulically dredged sediments to create beach, dune, and back-barrier marsh habitats.

DOI has adopted the LCA Barataria Basin Barrier Shoreline Restoration Final Integrated Construction Report and Final EIS to fulfill DOI's NEPA requirements for analysis of the Shell Island (East and West Lobes) location of the Louisiana Outer Coast Restoration project.

Analysis of the environmental consequences of the proposed action (as described in the adopted EIS) suggest that while there would be minor adverse impacts to some resource categories, there would be no long-term moderate to major adverse impacts as a result of the project. The project would provide long-term benefits by restoring barrier island habitats. The Trustees have completed consultations or reviews under the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act, the Migratory Bird Treaty Act, the Marine Mammal Protection Act, the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act, the Coastal Zone Management Act, the Clean Water Act and the Rivers and Harbors Act. Compliance under the Endangered Species Act (ESA) has generally been completed. However, ESA consultation has been reinitiated to address West Indian manatee, review status and baseline for piping plover and a conference has been requested. Compliance with National Historic Preservation Act requirements has been initiated and will be completed prior to implementation.

Louisiana Outer Coast Restoration D – North Breton Island

The proposed project—located at the southern end of the Chandeleur Island chain in Louisiana—would rebuild and re-establish portions of North Breton Island by restoring sand and sediment into the North Breton Island system. This project is intended to restore the island's physical and ecological functions by creating beach, dune and marsh habitats to support nesting brown pelicans, terns, skimmers and gulls—four bird groups injured by the Spill.

The NEPA analysis of the environmental consequences suggests that minor adverse impacts are anticipated to all potentially affected resources except "Protected Species", where a short term moderate adverse impact is anticipated to piping plover and red knot due to construction and dredging related disturbances. No moderate to major adverse impacts are anticipated to result to all other resources. The project would provide long-term benefits by restoring barrier island habitats. The Trustees have completed consultations or reviews under the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act, the Endangered Species Act, the Migratory Bird Treaty Act, the Marine Mammal Protection Act, the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act, and the Coastal Zone Management Act. Compliance with National Historic Preservation Act, the Clean Water Act and the Rivers and Harbors Act has been initiated and will be completed prior to implementation.

Hancock County Marsh Living Shoreline Project

The proposed Hancock County Marsh Living Shoreline project is intended to employ living shoreline techniques including natural and artificial breakwater material and marsh creation to reduce shoreline erosion by dampening wave energy while encouraging reestablishment of habitat that was once present in the region. The project would provide for construction of up to 5.9 miles of living shoreline, approximately 46 acres of marsh creation, and 46 acres of subtidal oyster reef would be created in Heron Bay to increase secondary productivity in the area. The project would include shoreline erosion

reduction, creation of habitat for secondary productivity, and protection and creation of salt marsh habitat.

NEPA analysis of the environmental consequences suggests that there would be long-term moderate impacts to geology and substrates, and there would be minor to moderate short term adverse impacts to other resource categories. The project would provide long-term benefits by creating approximately 46 acres of salt marsh, 46 acres of oyster habitat, and approximately 5.9 miles (19.9 acres) of reef. The Trustees have completed consultations or reviews under the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act, Endangered Species Act, Migratory Bird Treaty Act, Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act, Marine Mammal Protection Act, and the Coastal Zone Management Act. Compliance with the National Historic Preservation Act, Clean Water Act, and Rivers and Harbors Act has been initiated.

Restoration Initiatives at the INFINITY Science Center

The project is intended to restore lost recreational use by providing increased access to coastal estuarine habitats, wildlife viewing areas, and educational features. The project would enhance and expand a state-of-the-art interactive science, education, interpretive, and research center for use by visitors seeking to experience and learn about the coastal natural resources of the Gulf of Mexico. The project also would serve as a launching point for a comprehensive scenic byway trail system that can take visitors to beaches and tidal coastal estuarine environments.

NEPA analysis of the environmental consequences suggests that while there may be minor adverse impacts to some resource categories, there would be no long-term moderate to major adverse impacts as a result of the project. The project would provide long-term benefits by providing enhanced access to coastal resources and educational opportunities via the Heritage Trail-Possum Walk/Outdoor Education Center and state-of-the-art exhibits at the INFINITY Science Center. The Trustees have completed consultations or reviews under the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act, Endangered Species Act, Migratory Bird Treaty Act, Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act, Marine Mammal Protection Act, and the Coastal Zone Management Act. Compliance with the National Historic Preservation Act, Clean Water Act, and Rivers and Harbors Act has been initiated.

Popp's Ferry Causeway Park: Project Description

The project is intended to restore lost recreational opportunities through the enhancement of increased access to coastal estuarine habitats and wildlife viewing areas. The project would enhance the public's use and/or enjoyment of natural resources by constructing an educational interpretive center, nature trails, piers, and other recreational enhancements that would enhance visitor access to the adjacent coastal estuarine environment and provide opportunities for visitors to fish, crab, and observe nature.

NEPA analysis of the environmental consequences suggests that while there may be minor adverse impacts to some resource categories, there would be no long-term major adverse impacts as a result of the project. The project would provide long-term benefits by providing enhanced access to coastal resources and educational opportunities in the park, fishing piers, boardwalks, a marsh overlook, and interpretive center. The Trustees have completed consultations or reviews under the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act, Endangered Species Act, Migratory Bird Treaty Act, Bald and

Golden Eagle Protection Act, Marine Mammal Protection Act, and the Coastal Zone Management Act. Compliance with the National Historic Preservation Act, Clean Water Act, and Rivers and Harbors Act has been initiated.

Pascagoula Beachfront Promenade

The proposed Pascagoula Beachfront Promenade project is intended to restore lost recreational opportunities resulting from the Spill and related response actions. This project would enhance recreational shoreline access via the construction of a lighted concrete beachfront pedestrian pathway adjacent to a sand beach in Pascagoula, Mississippi. Project funds would be used to complete a two-mile, 10-ft.-wide lighted concrete pathway complete with amenities. This Early Restoration project proposal would fund a portion (8,200 ft.) of the 10-ft. wide promenade, a portion of which has already been constructed.

For the Proposed Action, DOI adopted the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) EA entitled "Environmental Assessment and Finding of No Significant Impact for HUD-funded Proposals, Pascagoula Beach Promenade Project" (HUD 2011). The DOI regulations also provide that, when a proposed action differs from the proposed action contained in the adopted EA, DOI may augment the adopted EA to make it consistent with the proposed action (see 43 C.F.R. 46.320). This supplemental NEPA analysis provided in this document augments the existing HUD EA. This supplemental analysis considers any additional environmental impacts that would result from the elements of the Phase III Proposed Action that are not described and analyzed in the adopted HUD EA. These elements include an additional 500 ft. of concrete pathway at the upper reaches of the existing pathway on Pascagoula Beach, and proposed visitor amenities that are proposed for the entire pathway in the amenity area along 8,200 linear ft. of boardwalk.

The environmental consequences (adopted EA and supplemental analysis) suggest that while there would be minor adverse impacts to some resource categories, there would be no long-term moderate to major adverse impacts as a result of the project. The project would provide long-term benefits by providing enhanced shoreline access via the promenade and associated amenities. The Trustees have completed consultations or reviews under the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act, Endangered Species Act, Migratory Bird Treaty Act, Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act, Marine Mammal Protection Act, and the Coastal Zone Management Act. Compliance with the National Historic Preservation Act, Clean Water Act, and Rivers and Harbors Act has been initiated.

Alabama

Swift Tract Living Shorelines

The proposed Alabama Swift Tract Living Shoreline project is intended to employ living shoreline techniques that utilize natural and/or artificial breakwater material to stabilize shorelines along an area in the eastern portion of Bon Secour Bay, Alabama. As the lead implementing Trustee, NOAA would create breakwaters to dampen wave energy and reduce shoreline erosion while also providing habitat and increasing benthic secondary productivity. The project would provide for construction of up to 1.6 miles of breakwaters in Bon Secour Bay adjacent to the 615 acre Swift Tract parcel, which is part of the Weeks Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve (NERR). Over time, the breakwaters are expected to

develop into reefs that support benthic secondary productivity, including, but not limited to, bivalve mollusks, annelid worms, shrimp, and crabs.

NEPA analysis of the environmental consequences suggests that while minor adverse impacts to some resource categories would be expected, no moderate to major adverse impacts are anticipated to result. The project would provide long-term benefits by creating approximately 1.6 miles of reefs. The Trustees have completed consultations and reviews under the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act, Endangered Species Act, Migratory Bird Treaty Act, Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act, and Marine Mammal Protection Act. Compliance with the National Historic Preservation Act, has been initiated, and needs to be completed for the Coastal Zone Management Act, the Clean Water Act, and Rivers and Harbors Act.

Gulf State Park Enhancement Project

The proposed Gulf State Park Enhancement Project would implement ecologically-sensitive improvements to Gulf State Park (GSP) including: (1) rebuilding the Gulf State Park Lodge and Conference Center; (2) building an Interpretive Center; (3) building a Research and Education Center; (4) visitor enhancements including trail improvements and extensions, overlooks, interpretive kiosks and signage, rest areas, bike racks, bird watching blinds, or other visitor enhancements; and (5) ecological restoration and enhancement of degraded dune habitat.

NEPA analysis of the environmental consequences suggests that while minor adverse impacts to some resource categories may occur, no major adverse impacts are anticipated to result. The potential for moderate adverse impacts was identified for traffic and transportation related impacts; however, mitigation measures would be implemented to reduce these impacts to a minor level. No other resources were identified as having potential moderate impacts. The project would provide long-term benefits by providing increased recreational and interpretive opportunities within GSP, as well as implementing additional dune restoration and enhancement within the park. The Trustees have completed consultations and reviews under the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act, Endangered Species Act, Migratory Bird Treaty Act, Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act, Marine Mammal Protection Act, Clean Water Act, Rivers and Harbors Act, and the Coastal Zone Management Act. Compliance with the National Historic Preservation Act has been initiated.

Alabama Oyster Cultch Restoration

The proposed Alabama Oyster Cultch Restoration project would include placing approximately 30,000 – 40,000 cubic yards of suitable oyster shell cultch over approximately 319 acres of subtidal habitat in Mobile County, Alabama, near other oyster reefs currently managed by the ADCNR. The objective of this project is to enhance oyster biomass through the selective placement of oyster cultch in Alabama's estuarine waters. Cultch placements promote the settlement and growth of oyster spat and have been successful in producing new oysters in Alabama.

NEPA analysis of the environmental consequences suggests that while minor adverse impacts to some resource categories may occur, no moderate to major adverse impacts are anticipated to result. The project would provide long-term benefits by creating new habitat for oysters and other species, which would in turn provide multiple ecosystem benefits. The Trustees have completed consultations and

reviews under the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act, Endangered Species Act, Migratory Bird Treaty Act, Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act, Marine Mammal Protection Act, Clean Water Act, Rivers and Harbors Act, and the Coastal Zone Management Act. Compliance with the National Historic Preservation Act has been initiated.

Florida

Beach Enhancement Project at Gulf Islands National Seashore

The proposed Beach Enhancement at Gulf Islands National Seashore project involves removing fragments of asphalt and road-base material (limestone aggregate and some chunks of clay) that have been scattered widely over the Fort Pickens, Santa Rosa, and Perdido Key areas of the Florida District of Gulf Islands National Seashore, managed by the National Park Service, and replanting areas, as needed, where materials are removed. The asphalt- and road-base-covered conditions are clearly unnatural and impact the visitor experience both aesthetically and physically in these National Seashore lands. This project would enhance the visitor experience in the cleaned-up areas.

Final NEPA analysis of the environmental consequences suggests that while minor adverse impacts may occur to some resource categories, and short-term moderate impacts may occur to soundscapes during project implementation, no major adverse impacts are anticipated to result. The project would enhance and increase the public's use and enjoyment of the natural resources by improving the beach at the Gulf Islands National Seashore. The Trustees have completed consultations or reviews under the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act, Endangered Species Act, Migratory Bird Treaty Act, Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act, Marine Mammal Protection Act, and the Coastal Zone Management Act. Compliance with the National Historic Preservation Act, Clean Water Act, and Rivers and Harbors Act has been initiated.

Gulf Islands National Seashore Ferry Project

The proposed Gulf Islands National Seashore Ferry Project involves the purchase of up to three ferries to be used to ferry visitors (no automobiles) between the City of Pensacola, Pensacola Beach, and the Fort Pickens area of the Seashore in Florida. Additionally analyzed are the connected actions of: constructing two passenger queuing areas – one with a small ticketing facility; constructing a floating dock near Plaza de Luna, a landing, and a ramp between the two in one area; and constructing an additional floating dock at Quietwater Beach. These connected actions would *not* be funded with project funds. A viable ferry service to this area of the Seashore would allow visitors to enjoy the Seashore not only if the road were to be destroyed again, but also by providing alternative options for visitor access.

NEPA analysis of the environmental consequences suggests that while minor adverse impacts may occur to some resource categories, no moderate to major adverse impacts are anticipated to result. The project would enhance and increase the public's use and enjoyment of the natural resources by facilitating the establishment of a ferry service between the City of Pensacola, Pensacola Beach, and the Gulf Islands National Seashore. The Trustees have completed consultations or reviews under the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act, Endangered Species Act, Migratory Bird Treaty Act, Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act, Marine Mammal Protection Act, and the Coastal Zone

Management Act. Compliance with the National Historic Preservation Act, Clean Water Act, and Rivers and Harbors Act has been initiated.

Florida Cat Point Living Shoreline Project

The proposed Cat Point (Franklin County) Living Shoreline project is intended to employ living shoreline techniques that utilize natural and/or artificial breakwater material to reduce shoreline erosion and provide habitat off Eastpoint, Florida. Combining these objectives, this project would create breakwaters to reduce wave energy, increase benthic secondary productivity, and create approximately 1 acre of salt marsh habitat. Proposed activities include expanding an existing breakwater by creating up to 0.3 miles of new breakwater that will provide reef habitat and creating salt marsh habitat.

NEPA analysis of the environmental consequences suggests that while minor adverse impacts may occur to some resource categories, no moderate to major adverse impacts are anticipated to result. The project would provide long-term benefits by creation of approximately 1 acre of salt marsh, and approximately 0.3 miles of living shoreline. The Trustees have completed consultations and reviews under the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act, Endangered Species Act, Migratory Bird Treaty Act, Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act, Marine Mammal Protection Act, and the Coastal Zone Management Act. Compliance with the National Historic Preservation Act, Clean Water Act, and Rivers and Harbors Act has been initiated.

Florida Pensacola Bay Living Shoreline Project

The proposed Pensacola Bay Living Shorelines project is intended to employ living shoreline techniques that utilize natural and/or artificial breakwater material to reduce shoreline erosion and provide habitat at two sites within a portion of Pensacola Bay. This project would create reefs to reduce wave energy, increase benthic secondary productivity, and create salt marsh habitat. Proposed activities include constructing breakwaters that will provide reef habitat and creating salt marsh habitat at both sites. In total, approximately 18.8 acres of salt marsh habitat and 4 acres of reefs would be created.

NEPA analysis of the environmental consequences suggests that while minor adverse impacts may occur to some resource categories, no moderate to major adverse impacts are anticipated to result. The project would provide long-term benefits by creation of approximately 18.8 acre of salt marsh, and approximately 4 acres of reefs. The Trustees have completed consultations and reviews under the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act, Endangered Species Act, Migratory Bird Treaty Act, Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act, Marine Mammal Protection Act, and the Coastal Zone Management Act. Compliance with the National Historic Preservation Act, Clean Water Act, and Rivers and Harbors Act has been initiated.

Florida Seagrass Recovery Project

The proposed Florida Seagrass Recovery project will address boat damage to shallow seagrass beds in the Florida panhandle by restoring scars located primarily in turtle grass (Thalassia testudinum) habitats located in St. Joseph Bay Aquatic Preserve in Gulf County, with additional potential sites in Alligator Harbor Aquatic Preserve in Franklin County, and St. Andrews Aquatic Preserve, in Bay County. A boater outreach and education component of the project will install non-regulatory Shallow Seagrass Area signage, update existing signage and buoys where applicable, and install educational signage and

provide educational brochures about best practices for protecting seagrass habitats at popular boat ramps in St. Joseph Bay, Alligator Harbor, and St. Andrews Bay.

NEPA analysis of the environmental consequences suggests that while minor adverse impacts may occur to some resource categories, no moderate to major adverse impacts are anticipated to result. The project would provide long-term benefits by restoring approximately 2 acres of seagrass habitat. The Trustees have completed consultations and reviews under the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act, Endangered Species Act, Migratory Bird Treaty Act, Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act, Marine Mammal Protection Act, and the Coastal Zone Management Act. Compliance with the National Historic Preservation Act, Clean Water Act, and Rivers and Harbors Act has been initiated.

Perdido Key State Park Beach Boardwalk Improvements

The proposed Perdido Key project would improve a number of existing boardwalks in Perdido Key State Park in Escambia County. The proposed improvements include removing and replacing six existing boardwalks leading to the beach from two public access areas.

NEPA analysis of the environmental consequences suggests that while minor adverse impacts may occur to some resource categories, no moderate to major adverse impacts are anticipated to result. The project would enhance and/or increase recreational beach use opportunities by improving beach access. The Trustees have completed consultations and reviews under the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act, Endangered Species Act, Migratory Bird Treaty Act, Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act, Marine Mammal Protection Act, and the Coastal Zone Management Act. Compliance with the National Historic Preservation Act, Clean Water Act, and Rivers and Harbors Act has been initiated.

Big Lagoon State Park Boat Ramp Improvement

The proposed Big Lagoon State Park project would involve enhancing an existing boat ramp and surrounding facilities in the Big Lagoon State Park in Escambia County. These improvements would include adding an additional lane to the boat ramp, expanding boat trailer parking, improving traffic circulation at the boat ramp, and providing a new restroom facility to connect the park to the Emerald Coast Utility Authority (ECUA) regional sanitary sewer collection system.

NEPA analysis of the environmental consequences suggests that while minor adverse impacts may occur to some resource categories may occur, no moderate to major adverse impacts are anticipated to result. The project would enhance and/or increase recreational boating and fishing opportunities by improving the existing boat ramp area. The Trustees have completed consultations and reviews under the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act, USFWS Endangered Species Act, Migratory Bird Treaty Act, Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act, Marine Mammal Protection Act, and the Coastal Zone Management Act. Compliance with the National Historic Preservation Act, NMFS Endangered Species Act, Clean Water Act, and Rivers and Harbors Act has been initiated.

Bob Sikes Pier, Parking and Trail Restoration

The proposed Bob Sikes Pier Restoration project would improve access to a fishing pier in the Pensacola area in Escambia County as well as enhancing the quality of the experience for its recreational users. The proposed improvements include renovating parking areas, enhancing bicycle/pedestrian access, and aesthetic improvements to the surrounding area.

NEPA analysis of the environmental consequences suggests that while minor adverse impacts may occur to some resource categories, no moderate to major adverse impacts are anticipated to result. The project would enhance and/or increase recreational fishing and beach use opportunities by improving access to the existing fishing pier and the associated beach access trail. The Trustees have completed consultations and reviews under the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act, Endangered Species Act, Migratory Bird Treaty Act, Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act, Marine Mammal Protection Act, and the Coastal Zone Management Act. Compliance with the National Historic Preservation Act, Clean Water Act, and Rivers and Harbors Act has been initiated.

Florida Artificial Reef Creation and Restoration

The proposed Florida Artificial Reef Creation and Restoration project would place artificial reefs in permitted areas in Escambia, Santa Rosa, Okaloosa, Walton, and Bay Counties.

NEPA analysis of the environmental consequences suggests that while minor adverse impacts may occur to some resource categories, no moderate to major adverse impacts are anticipated to result. The project would enhance and/or increase recreational fishing opportunities by increasing the number of artificial reefs in state waters. The Trustees have completed consultations and reviews under the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act, USFWS Endangered Species Act, Migratory Bird Treaty Act, Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act, Marine Mammal Protection Act, and the Coastal Zone Management Act. Compliance with the National Historic Preservation Act, NMFS Endangered Species Act, Clean Water Act, and Rivers and Harbors Act has been initiated.

Florida Gulf Coast Marine Fisheries Hatchery/Enhancement Center

The proposed Florida Gulf Coast Marine Fisheries Hatchery/Enhancement Center project would involve constructing and operating a saltwater sportfish hatchery in Pensacola, Florida.

NEPA analysis of the environmental consequences suggests that while minor adverse impacts may occur to some resource categories, no moderate to major adverse impacts are anticipated to result. The project would enhance and/or increase recreational fishing opportunities by producing and releasing highly sought-after sportfish species. The Trustees have completed consultations and reviews under the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act, USFWS Endangered Species Act, Migratory Bird Treaty Act, Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act, Marine Mammal Protection Act, and the Coastal Zone Management Act. Compliance with the National Historic Preservation Act, NMFS Endangered Species Act, Clean Water Act, and Rivers and Harbors Act has been initiated.

Scallop Enhancement for Increased Recreational Fishing Opportunity in the Florida Panhandle

The proposed Scallop Enhancement for Increased Recreational Fishing Opportunity in the Florida Panhandle project would involve enhancing local scallop populations in targeted areas in the Florida Panhandle. The proposed improvements include the harvesting and redistribution of naturally-occurring juvenile scallops supplemented with stocking from a commercial scallop hatchery.

NEPA analysis of the environmental consequences suggests that while minor adverse impacts may occur to some resource categories, no moderate to major adverse impacts are anticipated to result. The project would enhance and/or increase recreational fishing opportunities by increasing scallop populations. The Trustees have completed consultations and reviews under the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act, Endangered Species Act, Migratory Bird Treaty Act, Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act, Marine Mammal Protection Act, and the Coastal Zone Management Act. Compliance with the National Historic Preservation Act, Clean Water Act, and Rivers and Harbors Act has been initiated.

Shell Point Beach Nourishment

The proposed Florida Shell Point Beach Nourishment project would involve the renourishment of Shell Point Beach in Wakulla County. The proposed improvements include the placement of approximately 15,000 cubic yards of sand on the county owned section of the beach from an approved upland borrow area to restore the width and historic slope/profile of this beach.

Draft NEPA analysis of the environmental consequences suggests that while minor adverse impacts may occur to some resource categories, no moderate to major adverse impacts are anticipated to result. The project would enhance and/or increase recreational beach use opportunities by improving the county owned section of the beach. The Trustees have completed consultations and reviews under the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act, Endangered Species Act, Migratory Bird Treaty Act, Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act, Marine Mammal Protection Act, and the Coastal Zone Management Act. Compliance with the National Historic Preservation Act, Clean Water Act, and Rivers and Harbors Act has been initiated.

Perdido Key Dune Restoration Project

The proposed Florida Perdido Key Dune Restoration project would restore appropriate dune vegetation to approximately 20 acres of degraded beach dune habitat in Perdido Key, Florida, including habitat used by the federally endangered Perdido Key Beach Mouse. The project would consist of planting appropriate dune vegetation (e.g., sea oats, panic grasses, cord grasses, sea purslane, beach elder) approximately 20 – 60' seaward of the existing primary dune to provide a buffer to the primary dune and enhance dune habitats. In addition, gaps in existing dunes within the project area will be re-vegetated to provide a continuous dune structure.

NEPA analysis of the environmental consequences suggests that while minor adverse impacts may occur to some resource categories, no moderate to major adverse impacts are anticipated to result. The project would provide long-term benefits by restoring and enhancing approximately 20 acres of degraded dune habitat. The Trustees have completed consultations and reviews under the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act, Endangered Species Act, Migratory Bird Treaty Act,

Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act, Marine Mammal Protection Act, and the Coastal Zone Management Act. Compliance with the National Historic Preservation Act, Clean Water Act, and Rivers and Harbors Act has been initiated.

Florida Oyster Cultch Placement Project

The proposed Florida Oyster Cultch project would enhance and improve the oyster populations in Pensacola Bay, Andrew Bay and Apalachicola Bay. The proposed improvements include the placement of a total of 42,000 cubic yards of suitable cultch material over 210 acres of previously constructed oyster bars for the settling of native oyster larvae and oyster colonization in three Florida Bays.

NEPA analysis of the environmental consequences suggests that while minor adverse impacts may occur to some resource categories, no moderate to major adverse impacts are anticipated to result. The project would provide long-term benefits by promoting reef development for oysters by restoring approximately 210 acres of existing oyster reef habitat. The Trustees have completed consultations and reviews under the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act, Endangered Species Act, Migratory Bird Treaty Act, Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act, Marine Mammal Protection Act, and the Coastal Zone Management Act. Compliance with the National Historic Preservation Act, Clean Water Act, and Rivers and Harbors Act has been initiated.

Strategically Provided Boat Access along Florida's Gulf Coast: Project Description A (City of Mexico Beach Marina Project)

The proposed Strategically Provided Boat Access along Florida's Gulf Coast (City of Mexico Beach Marina) project would improve the existing Mexico Beach Canal Park boat ramp in the City of Mexico Beach. The proposed improvements include replacing the boardwalk dock with a concrete surface and increasing the width, removing and replacing eighteen existing finger piers, and replacement of the existing retaining wall.

NEPA analysis of the environmental consequences suggests that while minor adverse impacts may occur to some resource categories, no moderate to major adverse impacts are anticipated to result. The project would enhance and/or increase recreational boating and fishing opportunities by improving the boat ramp area. The Trustees have completed consultations and reviews under the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act, USFWS Endangered Species Act, Migratory Bird Treaty Act, Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act, Marine Mammal Protection Act, Clean Water Act, Rivers and Harbors Act, and the Coastal Zone Management Act. Compliance with the National Historic Preservation Act and the NMFS Endangered Species Act has been initiated.

Strategically Provided Boat Access along Florida's Gulf Coast: Project Description B (Panama City St. Andrews Marina Docking Facility Expansions)

The proposed Strategically Provided Boat Access along Florida's Gulf Coast (Panama City St. Andrews Marina Docking Facility Expansions) project would improve the existing St. Andrews Marina docking facility in Panama City. The proposed improvements include adding three boat slips, replacing the boat ramp, and replacing a fixed wooden dock with a concrete floating dock.

NEPA analysis of the environmental consequences suggests that while minor adverse impacts may occur to some resource categories, no moderate to major adverse impacts are anticipated to result. The project would enhance and/or increase recreational boating and fishing opportunities by improving the marina. The Trustees have completed consultations and reviews under the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act, USFWS Endangered Species Act, Migratory Bird Treaty Act, Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act, Marine Mammal Protection Act, and the Coastal Zone Management Act. Compliance with the National Historic Preservation Act, NMFS Endangered Species Act, Clean Water Act, and Rivers and Harbors Act has been initiated.

Strategically Provided Boat Access along Florida's Gulf Coast: Project Description C (City of Parker, Donaldson Point Boat Ramp Improvements)

The Strategically Provided Boat Access along Florida's Gulf Coast: City of Parker, Donaldson Point Boat Ramp Improvements project component has been dropped from the Final Phase III ERP/PEIS.

Strategically Provided Boat Access along Florida's Gulf Coast: Project Description D (City of Parker, Earl Gilbert Dock and Boat Ramp Improvements)

The proposed Strategically Provided Boat Access along Florida's Gulf Coast (City of Parker Earl Gilbert Dock and Boat Ramp Improvements) project would improve the existing Earl Gilbert dock and boat ramp in the City of Parker. The proposed work includes improving the existing dock and expanding the existing parking.

NEPA analysis of the environmental consequences suggests that while minor adverse impacts may occur to some resource categories, no moderate to major adverse impacts are anticipated to result. The project would enhance and/or increase recreational boating and fishing opportunities by improving the boat ramp area. The Trustees considered public comment and information relevant to environmental concerns bearing on the proposed actions or their impacts. The Trustees' determination on selection of the project will be included in the Record of Decision. The Trustees have completed consultations and reviews under the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act, USFWS Endangered Species Act, Migratory Bird Treaty Act, Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act, Marine Mammal Protection Act, and the Coastal Zone Management Act. Compliance with the National Historic Preservation Act, NMFS Endangered Species Act, Clean Water Act, and Rivers and Harbors Act has been initiated.

Strategically Provided Boat Access along Florida's Gulf Coast: Project Description E (City of Port St. Joe, Frank Pate Boat Ramp Improvements)

The proposed Strategically Provided Boat Access along Florida's Gulf Coast (City of Port St. Joe Frank Pate Boat Ramp Improvements) project would improve the existing Frank Pate boat ramp in the City of Port St. Joe. The proposed improvements include constructing an additional boarding dock, boat trailer parking, access drive, staging area, and a fish cleaning station.

NEPA analysis of the environmental consequences suggests that while minor adverse impacts may occur to some resource categories, no moderate to major adverse impacts are anticipated to result. The project would enhance and/or increase recreational boating and fishing opportunities by improving the boat ramp area. The Trustees have completed consultations and reviews under the Magnuson-Stevens

Fishery Conservation and Management Act, USFWS Endangered Species Act, Migratory Bird Treaty Act, Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act, Marine Mammal Protection Act, and the Coastal Zone Management Act. Compliance with the National Historic Preservation Act, NMFS Endangered Species Act, Clean Water Act, and Rivers and Harbors Act has been initiated.

Strategically Provided Boat Access along Florida's Gulf Coast: Project Description F (City of St. Marks Boat Ramp Improvements)

The proposed Strategically Provided Boat Access along Florida's Gulf Coast (City of St. Marks Boat Ramp Improvements) project would improve the existing City of St. Marks boat ramp. The proposed improvements include adding a boarding dock to the one-lane boat ramp.

NEPA analysis of the environmental consequences suggests that while minor adverse impacts may occur to some resource categories, no moderate to major adverse impacts are anticipated to result. The project would enhance and/or increase recreational boating and fishing opportunities by improving the boat ramp area. The Trustees have completed consultations and reviews under the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act, USFWS Endangered Species Act, Migratory Bird Treaty Act, Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act, Marine Mammal Protection Act, and the Coastal Zone Management Act. Compliance with the National Historic Preservation Act, NMFS Endangered Species Act, Clean Water Act, and Rivers and Harbors Act has been initiated.

Strategically Provided Boat Access along Florida's Gulf Coast: Project Description G (Walton County, Choctaw Beach Boat Ramp Improvements)

The Strategically Provided Boat Access along Florida's Gulf Coast: Walton County, Choctaw Beach Boat Ramp Improvements project component has been dropped from the Final Phase III ERP/PEIS.

Strategically Provided Boat Access along Florida's Gulf Coast: Project Description H (Walton County, Lafayette Creek Boat Dock Improvements)

The proposed Strategically Provided Boat Access along Florida's Gulf Coast (Walton County Lafayette Creek Boat Dock Improvements) project would improve the existing Lafayette Creek boat dock in Walton County. The proposed improvements include expanding the dock by 400 feet at the boat ramp to accommodate larger vessels and additional vessels.

NEPA analysis of the environmental consequences suggests that while minor adverse impacts may occur to some resource categories, no moderate to major adverse impacts are anticipated to result. The project would enhance and/or increase recreational boating and fishing opportunities by improving the boat ramp area. The Trustees have completed consultations and reviews under the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act, USFWS Endangered Species Act, Migratory Bird Treaty Act, Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act, Marine Mammal Protection Act, and the Coastal Zone Management Act. Compliance with the National Historic Preservation Act, NMFS Endangered Species Act, Clean Water Act, and Rivers and Harbors Act has been initiated.

Walton County Boardwalks and Dune Crossovers all Components (Ed Walline Beach Access Improvements, Gulfview Heights Beach Access Improvements, Grayton Dunes Beach Access Boardwalk Improvements, Dothan Beach Access Boardwalk Improvements, Palms of Dune Allen West Beach Access Improvements, and Bayside Ranchettes Park Improvements

The proposed Walton County Ed Walline Beach Access Improvements project would improve the Ed Walline regional beach access facility in Walton County. The proposed improvements include replacing pavilions and restroom fixtures and updating all interior plumbing.

The proposed Walton County Boardwalks and Dune Crossovers: Gulfview Heights Beach Access Improvements project would improve the Gulfview Heights beach access facility in Walton County. The proposed improvements include replacing restroom fixtures, updating all interior plumbing, and repairing all soffits on pavilions.

The proposed Walton County Boardwalks and Dune Crossovers: Grayton Dunes Beach Access Boardwalk Improvements project would improve the Grayton Dunes beach access and boardwalk facility in Walton County. The proposed improvements include replacing the dune walkover allowing beach visitors to access the beach.

The proposed Walton County Boardwalks and Dune Crossovers: Dothan Beach Access Boardwalk Improvements project would improve the Dothan Beach Access Boardwalk in Walton County. The proposed improvements include replacing the dune walkover allowing beach visitors to access the beach.

The proposed Walton County Boardwalks and Dune Crossovers: Palms of Dune Allen West Beach Access Improvements project would improve the Palms of Dune Allen West beach access facility in Walton County. The proposed improvements include constructing a dune walkover, allowing beach visitors to access the beach.

The proposed Walton County Boardwalks and Dune Crossovers: Bayside Ranchettes Park Improvements project would improve the Bayside Ranchettes Park in Walton County. The proposed improvements include constructing a parking area, a picnic table, a dock, and steps into the water allowing access to the bay.

NEPA analysis of the environmental consequences suggests that while minor adverse impacts may occur to some resource categories, no moderate to major adverse impacts are anticipated to result. These projects would enhance and/or increase recreational beach use opportunities by improving beach access and by improving recreational opportunities at parks. The Trustees have completed consultations and reviews under the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act, Endangered Species Act, Migratory Bird Treaty Act, Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act, Marine Mammal Protection Act, and the Coastal Zone Management Act. Compliance with the National Historic Preservation Act, Clean Water Act, and Rivers and Harbors Act has been initiated.

Gulf County Recreation Projects: Highland View Boat Ramp

The proposed Highland View Boat Ramp project would improve the existing Highland View boat ramp in Gulf County. As part of this project, the amenities at this boat ramp site would be upgraded. No work to

the ramp itself if planned. This work would include some renovations to the existing pier structure such as replacing planking and side bumpers. Expanding the pier footprint is not anticipated and no new piling placement is expected. Additional work would include renovating and expanding the existing informal sand parking area to provide a more stable long-term surface. In addition, current project plans call for providing some sort of restroom facilities (e.g., a port-a-potty).

NEPA analysis of the environmental consequences suggests that while minor adverse impacts may occur to some resource categories, no moderate to major adverse impacts are anticipated to result. This project would enhance and/or increase recreational boating and fishing opportunities by improving the boat ramp area. The Trustees have completed consultations and reviews under the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act, USFWS Endangered Species Act, Migratory Bird Treaty Act, Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act, Marine Mammal Protection Act, and the Coastal Zone Management Act. Compliance with the National Historic Preservation Act, NMFS Endangered Species Act, Clean Water Act, and Rivers and Harbors Act has been initiated.

Gulf County Recreation Projects: Indian Pass Boat Ramp

The Gulf County Recreation Projects: Indian Pass Boat Ramp project component was dropped from the Final Phase III ERP/PEIS.

Gulf County Recreation Projects: Improvements at Beacon Hill Veterans' Memorial Park

The proposed Gulf County Recreation Project – Improvements at Beacon Hill Veterans' Memorial Park project would improve and enhance the existing facilities at the Beacon Hill Veterans' Memorial Park Gulf County. The proposed project will improve the park, including: the construction of a small amphitheater, pavilions, upgrade/replace existing restrooms and possible development of a nature trail and additional area for vehicle parking.

NEPA analysis of the environmental consequences suggests that while minor adverse impacts may occur to some resource categories, no moderate to major adverse impacts are anticipated to result. The project would enhance and/or increase recreational beach use opportunities by improving the park. The Trustees have completed consultations and reviews under the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act, Endangered Species Act, Migratory Bird Treaty Act, Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act, Marine Mammal Protection Act, and the Coastal Zone Management Act. Compliance with the National Historic Preservation Act, Clean Water Act, and Rivers and Harbors Act has been initiated.

Gulf County Recreation Projects: Windmark Beach Fishing Pier Improvements

The proposed Gulf County Recreation Project – Windmark Beach Fishing Pier Improvements project would construct a fishing pier at Windmark Beach in Gulf County. The proposed improvements include constructing a fishing pier into the Gulf of Mexico.

NEPA analysis of the environmental consequences suggests that while minor adverse impacts may occur to some resource categories, no moderate to major adverse impacts are anticipated to result. The project would enhance and/or increase recreational fishing opportunities by constructing a fishing pier. The Trustees have completed consultations and reviews under the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery

Conservation and Management Act, USFWS Endangered Species Act, Migratory Bird Treaty Act, Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act, and the Coastal Zone Management Act. Compliance with the NMFS Endangered Species Act, Marine Mammal Protection Act, National Historic Preservation Act, Clean Water Act, and Rivers and Harbors Act has been initiated.

Bald Point State Park Recreation Areas

The proposed Bald Point State Park Recreation Areas project would improve the existing visitor areas at Bald Point State Park in Franklin County. The project activity would involve constructing a visitor day-use area including picnic pavilions, a restroom with an aerobic treatment system and associated septic system drainfield, and an integrated system of boardwalks providing access through the area to a new floating dock, and a canoe/kayak launch area on Chaires Creek.

NEPA analysis of the environmental consequences suggests that while minor adverse impacts may occur to some resource categories, no moderate to major adverse impacts are anticipated to result. The project would enhance and/or increase recreational boating and beach use opportunities by improving the existing visitor areas. The Trustees have completed consultations and reviews under the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act, Endangered Species Act, Migratory Bird Treaty Act, Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act, Marine Mammal Protection Act, and the Coastal Zone Management Act. Compliance with the National Historic Preservation Act, Clean Water Act, and Rivers and Harbors Act has been initiated.

Enhancement of Franklin County Parks and Boat Ramps: (Abercrombie Boat Ramp Project, Waterfront Park, Indian Creek Park, Eastpoint Fishing Pier Improvements, and St. George Island Fishing Pier Improvements)

The Enhancement of Franklin County Parks and Boat Ramps: Abercrombie Boat Ramp Project component is being dropped from the Final Phase III ERP/PEIS.

The proposed Enhancement of Franklin County Parks and Boat Ramps – Waterfront Park project would improve the existing Waterfront Park in Apalachicola. The proposed improvements include enhancing existing parking and adjacent tie-up docks to enhance water access. In addition an existing onsite building would be enhanced to serve as an information center and dockmaster office.

The proposed Enhancement of Franklin County Parks and Boat Ramps – Indian Creek Park project would improve the existing Indian Creek Park boat launch facility in Franklin County. The proposed improvements include constructing restroom facilities, connecting them to an existing central wastewater facility nearby, and renovating the existing boat ramp, bulkhead, and parking area to enhance water access.

The proposed Enhancement of Franklin County Parks and Boat Ramps – Eastpoint Fishing Pier Improvement project would add restroom facilities to the base of the existing public East Point Fishing Pier in Franklin County. The proposed improvements include not only constructing new restrooms, but a holding tank that would be pumped out regularly. In addition, signage will be installed/updated to provide users of the ramp with information on sensitive species and areas and appropriate actions to take with species interactions (e.g., what to do if a sea turtle or nesting migratory bird is encountered). The proposed improvements include constructing additional docks to enhance water access.

The proposed Enhancement of Franklin County Parks and Boat Ramps – St. George Island Fishing Pier Improvements project would enhance the existing public St. George Island public Fishing Pier in Franklin County. The proposed improvements include constructing restrooms and a holding tank that would be pumped out regularly since there is no central wastewater facility on the island. The proposed improvements also include renovating the existing bulkhead that leads up to the pier and protects the road to the pier.

NEPA analysis of the environmental consequences suggests that while minor adverse impacts may occur to some resource categories, no moderate to major adverse impacts are anticipated to result. These projects would enhance and/or increase recreational fishing and boating opportunities by improving the existing boat ramp area, fishing piers, and the waterfront park. The Trustees have completed consultations and reviews under the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act, USFWS Endangered Species Act, Migratory Bird Treaty Act, Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act, and the Coastal Zone Management Act. Compliance with the NMFS Endangered Species Act, Marine Mammal Protection Act, National Historic Preservation Act, Clean Water Act, and Rivers and Harbors Act has been initiated.

Apalachicola River Wildlife and Environmental Area Fishing and Wildlife Viewing Access Improvements (Cash Bayou and Sand Beach)

The Apalachicola River Wildlife and Environmental Area Fishing and Wildlife Viewing Access Improvements Cash Bayou project would improve public access at Cash Bayou in the Apalachicola River Wildlife and Environmental Area. The proposed improvements include constructing a fishing and wildlife observation structure and parking area.

The Apalachicola River Wildlife and Environmental Area Fishing and Wildlife Viewing Access Improvements: Sand Beach project would improve public access at Sand Beach in the Apalachicola River Wildlife and Environmental Area. The proposed improvements include constructing an elevated boardwalk that would be built on an existing, periodically wet interpretative trail.

NEPA analysis of the environmental consequences suggests that while minor adverse impacts may occur to some resource categories, no moderate to major adverse impacts are anticipated to result. These projects would enhance and/or increase recreational use and wildlife viewing opportunities by improving access to the wildlife and environmental area. The Trustees have completed consultations and reviews under the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act, USFWS Endangered Species Act, Migratory Bird Treaty Act, Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act, Marine Mammal Protection Act, and the Coastal Zone Management Act. Compliance with the National Historic Preservation Act, NMFS Endangered Species Act, Clean Water Act, and Rivers and Harbors Act has been initiated.

Navarre Beach Park Gulfside Walkover Complex, Coastal Access and Dune Restoration

The Navarre Beach Park Coastal Access project would improve access for the public seeking to access the beach and water of Santa Rosa Sound from the existing pavilion/parking lot areas. In addition, construction of a new canoe/kayak launch would increase access opportunities to the waters of the

sound for recreational boaters. The enhancement of the recreational experience from these infrastructure improvements would also be complemented by the restoration of a roughly 1 acre parcel of degraded dune habitat in the project area.

The Navarre Beach Park Gulfside Walkover Complex project would enhance access to the shoreline at Navarre Beach Park to enhance recreational use of the natural resources. The proposed improvements include constructing an entrance, driveway, and parking area; constructing a restroom facility; constructing pavilions with boardwalk connections; lifeguard tower; and constructing a dune walkover that will provide access to the beach.

NEPA analysis of the environmental consequences suggests that while minor adverse impacts to some resource categories, no moderate to major adverse impacts are anticipated to result. These projects would enhance and/or increase recreational boating and beach use opportunities by constructing new infrastructure for recreational opportunities and by improving beach access. The Trustees have completed consultations and reviews under the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act, USFWS Endangered Species Act, Migratory Bird Treaty Act, Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act, Marine Mammal Protection Act, and the Coastal Zone Management Act. Compliance with the National Historic Preservation Act, NMFS Endangered Species Act, Clean Water Act, and Rivers and Harbors Act has been initiated.

Gulf Breeze Wayside Park Boat Ramp

The Gulf Breeze Wayside Park Boat Ramp Improvements project would improve the existing boat ramp at Wayside Park in the City of Gulf Breeze, Santa Rosa County, FL. The proposed improvements include repairing the existing boat ramp and seawall cap, constructing a public restroom facility, and repairing and enhancing the parking area to improve access.

NEPA analysis of the environmental consequences suggests that while minor adverse impacts to some resource categories, no moderate to major adverse impacts are anticipated to result. The project would enhance and/or recreational boating and fishing opportunities by improving the boat ramp area. The Trustees have completed consultations and reviews under the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act, USFWS Endangered Species Act, Migratory Bird Treaty Act, Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act, Marine Mammal Protection Act, and the Coastal Zone Management Act. Compliance with the National Historic Preservation Act, NMFS Endangered Species Act, Clean Water Act, and Rivers and Harbors Act has been initiated.

Developing Enhanced Recreational Opportunities on the Escribano Point Portion of the Yellow River Wildlife Management Area

The Developing Enhanced Recreational Opportunities on the Escribano Point Portion of the Yellow River Wildlife Management Area project would improve public access and enjoyment of natural resources at the Escribano Point portion of the Yellow River Wildlife Management Area. The proposed improvements include a one-time assessment and mapping activities necessary for developing the site for outdoor recreation purposes, hurricane debris removal and road repair, constructing an entrance kiosk, information facilities, parking facilities, interpretive facilities, fishing facilities, picnicking facilities, primitive camping sites, wildlife viewing areas, and bear-proof containers for trash and food storage.

NEPA analysis of the environmental consequences suggests that while minor adverse impacts to some resource categories, no moderate to major adverse impacts are anticipated to result. The project would enhance and/or increase recreational use and wildlife viewing opportunities by improving the recreational use of the land. The Trustees have completed consultations and reviews under the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act, Endangered Species Act, Migratory Bird Treaty Act, Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act, Marine Mammal Protection Act, and the Coastal Zone Management Act. Compliance with the National Historic Preservation Act, Clean Water Act, and Rivers and Harbors Act has been initiated.

Norriego Point Restoration and Recreation Project

The Norriego Point Restoration and Recreation project would involve stabilizing, enhancing and re-establishing recreational activities available at Norriego Point. Improvements would include constructing erosion control structures and new park amenities including a picnic pavilion with restrooms, showers, and drinking fountains; educational signage; a multi-use trail; bike racks; and vehicle parking along the access road adjacent to the park land.

NEPA analysis of the environmental consequences suggests that while minor adverse impacts to some resource categories, no moderate to major adverse impacts are anticipated to result. The project would enhance and/or increase recreational boating and beach use opportunities by stabilizing and re-establishing Norriego Point. The Trustees have completed consultations and reviews under the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act, USFWS Endangered Species Act, Migratory Bird Treaty Act, Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act, Marine Mammal Protection Act, and the Coastal Zone Management Act. Compliance with the National Historic Preservation Act, NMFS Endangered Species Act, Clean Water Act, and Rivers and Harbors Act has been initiated.

Deer Lake State Park Development

The Deer Lake State Park Development project would improve the existing visitor areas at Deer Lake State Park in Walton County. The proposed improvements would include adding a paved access road, parking, picnic shelters, restroom facilities, plantings (trees, grass, shrubs), and necessary utilities (water, sewer, and electrical).

NEPA analysis of the environmental consequences suggests that while minor adverse impacts to some resource categories, no moderate to major adverse impacts are anticipated to result. The project would enhance and/or increase recreational beach use opportunities by improving the park's visitor area. The Trustees have completed consultations and reviews under the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act, Endangered Species Act, Migratory Bird Treaty Act, Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act, Marine Mammal Protection Act, and the Coastal Zone Management Act. Compliance with the National Historic Preservation Act, Clean Water Act, and Rivers and Harbors Act has been initiated.

City of Parker- Oak Shore Drive Pier

The City of Parker Oak Shore Drive Pier project would construct a fishing pier at Oak Shore Drive in the City of Parker, Bay County Florida. The proposed work includes construction of a 500 foot long fishing pier.

NEPA analysis of the environmental consequences suggests that while minor adverse impacts to some resource categories, no moderate to major adverse impacts are anticipated to result. The project would enhance and/or increase recreational fishing opportunities by constructing a fishing pier. The Trustees have completed consultations and reviews under the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act, Migratory Bird Treaty Act, USFWS Endangered Species Act, Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act, and the Coastal Zone Management Act. Compliance with the NMFS Endangered Species Act, Marine Mammal Protection Act, National Historic Preservation Act, Clean Water Act, and Rivers and Harbors Act has been initiated.

Panama City Marina Fishing Pier, Boat Ramp, and Staging Docks

The Panama City Marina Fishing Pier, Boat Ramp, and Staging Docks project would provide additional recreational fishing opportunities for the public in Panama City in Bay County. The proposed improvements include constructing a 400-foot long pier, replacing a poorly functioning boat ramp, and constructing new staging docks associated with the boat ramp at the Panama City Marina.

NEPA analysis of the environmental consequences suggests that while minor adverse impacts to some resource categories, no moderate to major adverse impacts are anticipated to result. The project would enhance and/or increase recreational boating and fishing opportunities by improving the city's marina The Trustees have completed consultations and reviews under the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act, USFWS Endangered Species Act, Migratory Bird Treaty Act, Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act, and the Coastal Zone Management Act. Compliance with the NMFS Endangered Species Act, Marine Mammal Protection Act, National Historic Preservation Act, Clean Water Act, and Rivers and Harbors Act has been initiated.

Wakulla Mashes Sands Park Improvements

The Wakulla County Mashes Sands Park Improvements project would improve recreation areas at the Wakulla County Mashes Sands Park. The proposed improvements include constructing observation platforms, boardwalks, and walking paths, improving the boat ramp area, and picnic areas, renovating the parking area, and the restroom facility, and constructing a canoe/kayak launch site.

NEPA analysis of the environmental consequences suggests that while minor adverse impacts to some resource categories, no moderate to major adverse impacts are anticipated to result. The project would enhance and/or increase recreational boating and beach use opportunities by improving the recreational opportunities at the park. The Trustees have completed consultations and reviews under the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act, USFWS Endangered Species Act, Migratory Bird Treaty Act, Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act, Marine Mammal Protection Act, and the Coastal Zone Management Act. Compliance with the National Historic Preservation Act, NMFS Endangered Species Act, Clean Water Act, and Rivers and Harbors Act has been initiated.

Northwest Florida Estuarine Habitat Restoration, Protection and Education- Fort Walton Beach

The proposed Northwest Florida Fort Walton Beach Educational Boardwalk project would construct new boardwalks and connect them to existing boardwalks as well as conducting several small natural resource and habitat enhancement projects in Fort Walton Beach. The proposed improvements include

constructing a new educational and interactive boardwalk, expansion of an existing intertidal oyster reef, and restoration of a degraded salt marsh.

NEPA analysis of the environmental consequences suggests that while minor adverse impacts to some resource categories, no moderate to major adverse impacts are anticipated to result. The project would enhance and/or increase recreational use opportunities by improving the boardwalks and enhancing adjoining natural resources and habitat. The Trustees have completed consultations and reviews under the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act, USFWS Endangered Species Act, Migratory Bird Treaty Act, Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act, Marine Mammal Protection Act, and the Coastal Zone Management Act. Compliance with the National Historic Preservation Act, NMFS Endangered Species Act, Clean Water Act, and Rivers and Harbors Act has been initiated.

Summary of Key Changes between the Draft and Final Phase III ERP/PEIS

To facilitate public review of this Final Phase III ERP/PEIS, the Trustees identify the following key changes that have occurred since the Draft Phase III ERP/PEIS:

- Updating Chapter 3 to reflect comments received on the Affected Environment,
- Updating Chapter 4 to reflect comments received on the status of the Trustees' injury assessment, and to reflect new understanding of the assessed injury,
- Providing additional analysis of project types not considered for further evaluation at this time as part of the programmatic alternatives in Chapter 5,
- Adding an evaluation of collateral injury under the NRDA regulations to the Chapter 5 analysis of programmatic alternatives and to the projects in Chapters 8-12,
- Adding Table 6-3, "Benefits and Adverse Impacts of Alternatives by Resource and Project Type", and adding more details on Best Management Practices to Chapter 6,
- Including a discussion of control and prevention of invasive species' impacts to Chapter 6 and Chapters 8-12, as applicable,
- Updating progress on compliance consultations for proposed Phase III projects in Chapters 8-12 as applicable,
- Updating the "Performance Criteria, Monitoring and Maintenance" sections of proposed Phase III projects in Chapters 8-12, as applicable,
- Expanding the Cumulative Impacts sections of Chapters 8-12,
- Increasing the combined cost of the Texas Matagorda and Mid/Upper Texas Coast Ship Artificial Reef projects by $200,000 (< 3% increase) to cover the marine archaeological and environmental compliance requirements for these projects.
- Modifying a number of Phase III projects in Florida as follows (see Chapter 12 for additional details):
    - Navarre Beach Park Gulfside Walkover Complex: the project footprint has been relocated to remove the need for an incidental take permit for state protected birds from the state;
    - Gulf County Recreation Projects: the Indian Pass Boat Ramp project component has been removed and the funds have been incorporated into the Windmark Fishing Pier project component to construct additional boardwalks to address environmental issues;

- Enhancements of Franklin County Parks and Boat Ramps: the Abercrombie Boat Ramp project component has been removed and the funds have been distributed to the Waterfront Park Improvement, Indian Creek Boat Ramp, St. George Island Fishing Pier project components to address accessibility issues, stormwater management issues, environmental permitting issues, and alternative piling installation technique;
- Strategically Provided Boat Access Along Florida's Gulf Coast: the Walton County Choctaw Beach and the City of Parker-Donaldson Point boat ramp components have been removed and the funds have been distributed to City of Parker-Earl Gilbert Boat Ramp and the Mexico Beach Marina project components to address stormwater management issues, alternative piling installation technique, and accessibility issues; and

- Adding Chapter 13 (Public Comment on the Draft Phase III ERP/PEIS and Responses).