



RESTORE ACT

Resources and Ecosystems Sustainability, Tourist Opportunities and Revived Economics of the Gulf Coast States Act 2012

- ◆ RESTORATION & PROTECTION OF NATURAL RESOURCES
- ◆ IMPLEMENTATION OF NATIONAL ESTUARY MANAGEMENT PLANS
- ◆ WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT AND JOB CREATION
- ◆ INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS BENEFITTING ECOLOGICAL RESOURCES
- ◆ COASTAL FLOOD PROTECTION
- ◆ PROMOTION OF TOURISM AND SEAFOOD CONSUMPTION

With the passage of the RESTORE Act, opportunities for meaningful efforts to revitalize and buffer the Gulf of Mexico waters and natural resources from the harmful effects of potential oil spills are now possible. Legislation provides for a distribution formula of administrative and civil penalties assessed under the Federal Water Pollution Control Act by parties responsible for the spill to the states and their respective political jurisdictions with a coastline contiguous to the Gulf of Mexico.

These penalties can be used by the affected counties along the Gulf of Mexico, including Hernando County, for a wide range of projects within the following categories: restoration, creation, and/or protection of natural resources; mitigation for natural resource damages or losses; implementation of National Estuary program management plans; workforce development and job creation; infrastructure projects benefitting the economy or ecological resources (ports); Coastal flood protection; planning assistance; promotion of tourism and seafood consumption.

Projects may have either a local or regional impact. The Board of County Commissioners will use a set of guiding principles that match the RESTORE Act federal categories when approving projects for funding consideration.



GUIDING PRINCIPLES

1. Provide positive environmental, economic or societal benefits.
2. Be consistent with local government comprehensive plans.
3. Incorporate other funding partners to further leverage grant resources as possible.
4. Promote water dependent tourism activities.