



RESTORE Act

Direct Component Overview & Guidelines

PROJECT GOALS

The Hernando County Board of County Commissioners has endorsed the following goals for use of RESTORE Act Direct Component funds. Projects and programs to implement these goals, to the extent feasible, should (1) provide and/or contribute to countywide and/or regional environmental and/or economic benefits, and (2) utilize a collaborative approach emphasizing environmental stewardship and sustainable practices.

All projects must benefit the Gulf of Mexico ecosystem through one or more of the five goals:

1. Preserve, Restore and Conserve Habitat
2. Protect and Restore Water Quality
3. Replenish and Protect Living Coastal and Marine Resources, Springs, Ecosystems, and Habitat that is critical to the Gulf Coast
4. Enhance Community Resilience
5. Build and Revitalize the Gulf Economy including activities that promote Tourism, Ecotourism and Recreation

ELIGIBLE ACTIVITIES

1. Restoration/protection of natural resources, ecosystems, fisheries, marine and wildlife habitats, beaches, and coastal wetlands of the Gulf Coast region
2. Mitigation of damage to fish, wildlife, and natural resources
3. Implementation of a federally approved marine, coastal or comprehensive conservation management plan, including fisheries monitoring
4. Workforce development and job creation

5. Improvements to or on state parks located in coastal areas affected by the Deepwater Horizon oil spill
6. Infrastructure projects benefitting the economy or ecological resources, including port infrastructure
7. Coastal flood protection and related infrastructure
8. Promotion of tourism in the Gulf Coast region, including recreational fishing
9. Promotion of the consumption of seafood harvested from the Gulf Coast region

PRIORITIES (not in order of priority)

- Protect, conserve, and/or restore native habitats including springs protection
- Provide stormwater or surface water quality improvements including the prevention of erosion and sedimentation that may impact waterways that connect to the gulf
- Reduce withdrawal of potable water from the aquifer
- Create policies, programs, and or mechanisms to remediate environmental and/or economic damages
- Protect against future environmental and/or economic vulnerability
- Provide climate change/sea-level rise planning, adaptation and/or related community engagement
- Provide flood and storm protection to infrastructure and other publically owned assets that consider resilience and changing sea levels
- Diversify and improve the economy including tourism and recreational opportunities
- Promote sustainable recreational fishing and consumption of seafood dependent on the gulf ecosystem and/or protect or promote working waterfronts
- Provide groundwater quality improvements