



RESTORE Act

Direct Component Ranking Criteria

The project selection and ranking process is a critical step to determine which submitted projects will receive priority funding in the Multi-Year Implementation Plan (MYIP). Eleven ranking criteria have been recommended and will include points for how well projects meet select County Comprehensive Plan element goals, RESTORE Act eligible activities and County priorities. Other criteria address regional benefits, partnerships, project benefit longevity and matching funds.

1. Restoration and protection of the natural resources, springs, spring runs, groundwater resources, ecosystems, waterways designated as Outstanding Florida Waters (OFW), upland habitats that contribute to waterways that drain to the Gulf, fisheries, marine, and wildlife habitats, beaches, and coastal wetlands of the Gulf Coast Region
2. Mitigation of damage to fish, wildlife and natural resources, including erosion and sedimentation of waters that feed the Gulf and improve water quality
3. Implementation of a federally-approved marine, coastal, springs protection, or comprehensive conservation management plan, including fisheries monitoring
4. Workforce development and job creation
5. Improvements to or on State parks or County recreation areas located in coastal areas or waterways and rivers that drain to the Gulf
6. Infrastructure projects benefitting the economy (including port infrastructure and projects that increase access to recreational opportunities) or ecological resources, springs protection, or groundwater protection
7. Coastal flood protection and the preservation of habitat in flood zones, coastal surge areas and floodways
8. Projects (including infrastructure development) that promote tourism in the Gulf Coast Region, including promotion of recreational fishing, swimming, bird watching, passive recreation and kayaking
9. Promotion of the consumption of seafood harvested from the Gulf Coast Region and projects that provide or benefit marine habitat
10. Project fund match
11. Project timing