

RESTORE ACT FUNDS - MS Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ)

Basic Overview: The RESTORE Act dedicates 80 percent of Clean Water Act administrative and civil penalties paid to the United States by responsible parties in connection with the Deepwater Horizon oil spill to the Gulf Region for ecological and economic recovery efforts. The money is set aside in a Trust Fund overseen by the Treasury Department. Projects and programs funded through the RESTORE Act will generate investments in economic development, tourism promotion, and science-based natural resource restoration in the states impacted by the spill — Alabama, Florida, Louisiana, Mississippi and Texas. The RESTORE Act divides the funds into five “buckets” and sets parameters for how the funds are spent.

Currently, Bucket 3 is the Spill Impact Component, which is available to cities and counties for ecological and economic restoration. Eligible activities include:

- Restoration and protection of natural resources, ecosystems, fisheries, marine and wildlife habitats, beaches and coastal wetlands
- Mitigation of damage to fish, wildlife and natural resources.
- Workforce development and job creation
- Improvements to state parks located in coastal areas
- Infrastructure projects benefitting the economy or ecological resources that support community resilience
- Coastal flood protection and related infrastructure
- Planning and admin costs
- Promotion of tourism on the Gulf Coast, including recreational fishing
- Promotion of the consumption of seafood harvested from the Gulf Coast Region