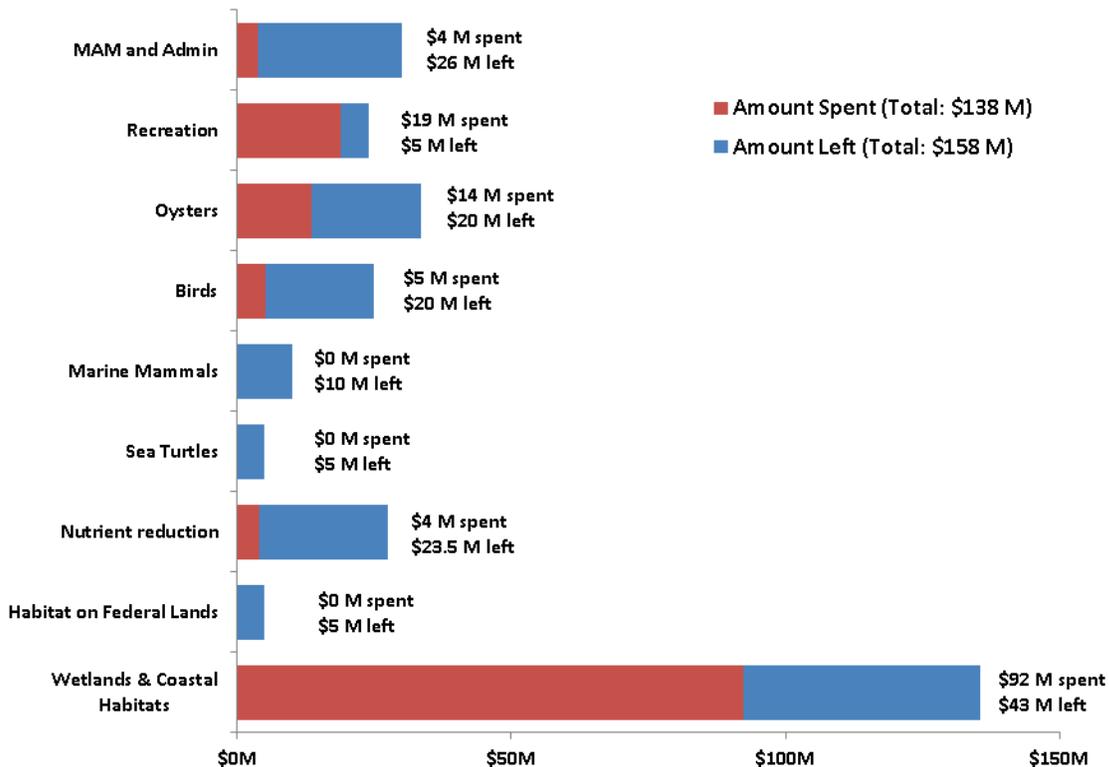


Natural Resource Restoration in Mississippi

In April 2016, a federal court approved a settlement among the United States, five Gulf states, and BP. Under that settlement, BP agreed to pay up to \$8.8 billion for natural resource damages. Mississippi will receive approximately \$296 million of that money. Below we explain how the money will be spent, who is in charge, what has happened in Mississippi so far, and how you can participate.

How will the natural resource damages money be spent?

The \$296 million will be split among 8 different restoration types and monitoring, adaptive management, and administration (MAM and Admin) as follows:



Note that around \$138 M has already been allocated to restoration projects, as well as MAM and Admin costs. That leaves approximately \$158 M.

Who is in charge?

The natural resource restoration program in Mississippi is being managed by the Mississippi Trustee Implementation Group (Mississippi TIG), which consists of a group of federal and state representatives. When making decisions, the TIG must reach consensus. That means that both the state trustee and the federal trustees (who must agree as a group) must agree to the decision.

The members of the Mississippi TIG are as follows:

State Member	Federal Members
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality	<ul style="list-style-type: none">U.S. Department of the InteriorNational Oceanic and Atmospheric AdministrationU.S. Environmental Protection AgencyU.S. Department of Agriculture

Where are we now?

In December 2016, the Mississippi TIG released its “Draft 2016-2017 Restoration Plan/ Environmental Assessment.” This was the first restoration plan the TIG released. The plan proposed to fund an initial three projects, costing an estimated \$21.5 million. This money will come out of the funds for three different restoration types: (1) wetlands, coastal and nearshore habitats; (2) birds; and (3) nutrient reduction. The [plan](#) was finalized in July 2017.

How can I participate in Mississippi?

There are different ways you can participate. These include:

- Attend public meetings:** The Mississippi TIG will host a meeting for the public at least once a year. The last meeting took place in November 2017.
- Suggest project ideas:** The public can suggest project ideas (e.g., on the [trustees’ website](#)). The public will be notified when the TIG is starting restoration planning, and may be updated on those efforts.
- Comment on draft restoration plans:** The public will have the opportunity to comment on draft restoration plans as they are released (as with the first draft restoration plan).
- Other engagement opportunities:** The restoration projects may trigger other laws and regulations that provide the public with opportunities to engage.
- Sign up for updates:** To keep informed about what’s happening in the Mississippi TIG (and the other restoration processes in Mississippi), you can sign up for updates at www.restore.ms (scroll down the page to “Sign up to receive email updates about Restoration News”).



For more information about the Mississippi TIG, and to find current participation opportunities, visit the Mississippi TIG’s web page at: www.gulfspillrestoration.noaa.gov/restoration-areas/mississippi. You can also contact a representative of the Mississippi TIG at mississippiTIG@deq.state.ms.us.