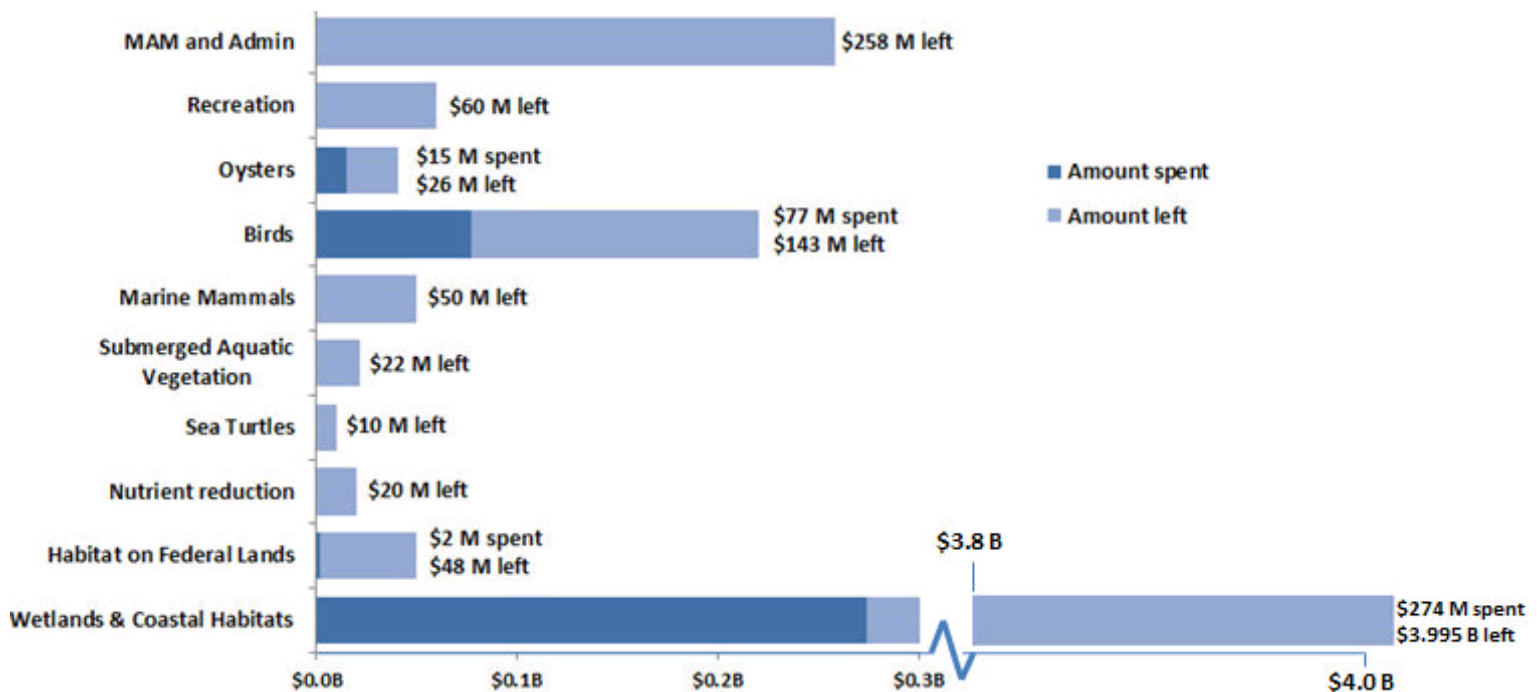


Natural Resource Restoration in Louisiana

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. Louisiana will receive \$5 billion of that money. Below we explain how the money will be spent, who is in charge, what has happened in Louisiana so far, and how you can participate.

How will the natural resource damages money be spent?

The \$5 billion will be split among 9 different “restoration types” and monitoring, adaptive management, and administration (MAM and Admin) as follows:



Note that approximately \$369 million has already been allocated to restoration projects. That leaves about \$4.631 billion for future projects.

Who is in charge?

The natural resource restoration program in Louisiana is being managed by the Louisiana Trustee Implementation Group (Louisiana 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 trustees (who must agree as a group) and the federal trustees (who must also agree as a group) must agree to the decision.

The members of the Louisiana TIG are as follows:

State Members	Federal Members
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• LA Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority• LA Oil Spill Coordinator's Office• LA Dept. of Environmental Quality• LA Dept. of Wildlife and Fisheries• LA Dept. of Natural Resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• U.S. Department of the Interior• National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration• U.S. Environmental Protection Agency• U.S. Department of Agriculture

Where are we now?

In October 2016, the Louisiana TIG released its "[Draft Restoration Plan #1](#)." The plan proposed to fund the engineering and design of six initial projects, costing an estimated \$22.3 million. This money will come out of the funds for three different restoration types: (1) wetlands, coastal and nearshore habitats; (2) habitat on federal lands; and (3) birds. The [final plan](#) was released in January 2017.

How can I participate in Louisiana?

There are different ways you can participate. These include:

- **Attend public meetings:** The Louisiana TIG will host a meeting for the public at least once a year.
- **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.
- **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 Louisiana TIG (and the rest of the natural resource restoration program), you can sign up for updates at www.gulfspillrestoration.noaa.gov (scroll down the page to "Sign up to receive the latest updates").



For more information about the Louisiana TIG, and to find current participation opportunities, visit the Louisiana TIG's web page at: www.gulfspillrestoration.noaa.gov/restoration-areas/louisiana. You can also contact a representative of the Louisiana TIG at latig@la.gov.