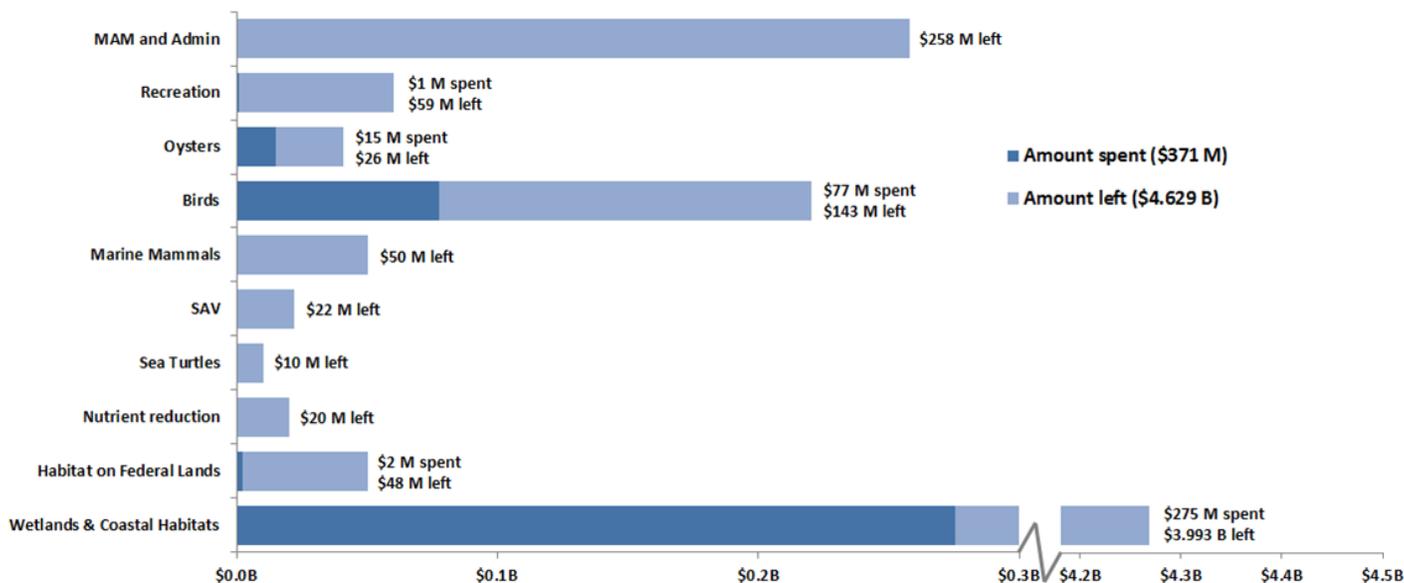


# Natural Resource Restoration in Louisiana

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 \$371 M has already been allocated to restoration projects and planning. That leaves about \$4.629 B.

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

## Where are we now?

In January 2017, the Louisiana TIG released its "[Final Restoration Plan #1](#)," which funds the engineering and design of six initial projects. In December 2017, the Louisiana TIG released two plans for public review and comment: (1) [Draft Restoration Plan to Provide and Enhance Recreational Opportunities](#) (comments are due Feb. 2, 2018); and (2) [Draft Strategic Restoration Plan for Barataria Basin](#) (comments are due Feb. 5, 2018).

## 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 (as with the two latest plans the TIG 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](http://www.gulfspillrestoration.noaa.gov) (scroll down the page to sign up).



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](http://www.gulfspillrestoration.noaa.gov/restoration-areas/louisiana). You can also contact a representative of the Louisiana TIG at [latig@la.gov](mailto:latig@la.gov).