

POTENTIAL DEEPWATER HORIZON OIL SPILL RESTORATION PROJECTS: PROVIDING INFORMATION TO ASSIST WITH PROJECT ASSESSMENT

W-24 - CLAIM ON DEP LIST

To help you propose projects to the State of Florida's Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), we developed this project submission form. You are not required to complete this form to submit a project. However, completion of the form will help DEP gather the information required to completely and accurately evaluate a project against the selection and evaluation criteria. Where appropriate in the form, please provide references to any additional supporting information.

Project Name: *(Include project number from DEP's existing list of submitted projects, if applicable.)*

GULF TRACE RESTORATION-

Contact Information:

Richard Harrell 164 Gulf Shore Drive Santa Rosa Beach, FL 32459 Tel: 850-231-5714

Location for Project Implementation: *(For example, city and county, GIS coordinates if known.)*

Gulf Trace Development – South Walton County - Off County Road 30A

Two (2) miles west of Seaside

Brief Project Narrative: *(Describe what the project will do.)*

1. Gulf Trace is a community of approximately 81 homes situated on three sides by Florida State Park and on the fourth and South side the Gulf of Mexico. Gulf Trace is being certified as a “turtle friendly” community as part of the turtle friendly beach program through the Florida Sea Grant Program. Guidance, funding assistance, and approval was obtained by the Sea Turtle Conservancy and the local University of Florida Sea Grant Extension Agent. Gulf Trace plans to continue its efforts to insure a friendly and safe environment for nesting turtles and their hatched offspring.
2. During the months succeeding the Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill, BP designated inspection crews, by foot and in trucks, patrolled up and down our small beach day after day ... week after week. At one point over 20 BP personnel were involved. (The group at Seaside having been sent down to Gulf Trace. All this time trucks carrying inspectors, lavatories, food and materials traversed the beach continually.
3. The constant traffic resulted in deep furrows being carved in the sand. (We have photographic evidence). It is believed that this constant loosening of the sand combined with successive sea surges, brought about by BP foot and truck traffic was an intrusion upon the habitats of that wildlife as well as being an intrusion upon human beachgoers.
4. The beach damage not only affected the appearance and utilization of the beach by bathers and fishers, but more importantly, reduced the available nesting area available for the sea turtles and made Gulf Trace a less attractive location for their nesting.

Estimated Project Costs: *(Describe the costs of the project, including any assumptions for contingency and ongoing operations and maintenance. Identify other available funding sources such as matching funds, in kind contributions or state or federal dollars. If possible, attach a schedule of anticipated costs, by year, over the anticipated project life.)*

\$400,000 (Four Hundred Thousand Dollars)

Trucks of sand would unload at beachside and front loaders would transport the sand to the areas of beach most affected. Other Gulf Trace restoration projects will be accomplished, such as street resurfacing, replacing two street lights with solar powered amber lights and re-building beach access walkover.

Anticipated Project Outcome with Respect to Screening Criteria

S1. Technically and administratively feasible: *(Briefly describe the critical technologies involved and any relevant past experience with similar projects.)*

This type of beach restoration has been done in other communities in South Walton County to repair damage, namely, The Retreat. Other planned projects will improve the vitality of the Gulf Trace neighborhood.

S2. Provides environmental benefits: *(Briefly describe the nature, magnitude, and timing of any environmental benefits attributable to the project and any potential environmental costs associated with implementing or maintaining the project, e.g., loss of a habitat or conversion of habitat from one type to another during implementation.)*

This remedial action would insure the continued success of the Gulf Trace Beach as a Turtle Friendly Community.

S3. Does not conflict with any ongoing or planned response or remediation work: *(Briefly describe ongoing response activities in the project implementation area, if any, and why the project does or does not interfere with that work.)*

No interference.

S4. Complies with applicable and relevant federal, state, local, and tribal laws and regulations: *(No information is needed for this screening criteria.)*

Anticipated Project Outcome with Respect to Evaluation Criteria

E1. Will restore, rehabilitate, or replace a natural resource or service¹ believed/demonstrated to have been injured as a result of the Deepwater Horizon oil spill or associated response activities: *(Briefly describe the nature of any relationship between the new/improved resources or services and those adversely impacted by the oil spill.)*

See S2 Above

E2. Is located in, or nearby, resources or services injured by the deepwater horizon spill: *(Briefly describe where the project would be implemented with respect to past/ongoing remediation work.)*

¹ In this form, "Services" (or "natural resource services") refers to the functions performed by a natural resource for the benefit of another natural resource and/or the public. Services can be "ecological services" – physical, chemical or biological functions that one natural resource provides for another (such as provision of food) – or "human services" – the use of natural resources used by humans that provide value to the public (such as hunting and fishing).

E3. Is ready for implementation, e.g., design, permitting, and necessary impacts assessments have been completed: *(Briefly describe where in the permitting process the project stands along with an estimated date of when the project can be implemented if it is not currently ready.)*

Project implementation can begin anytime. Hopefully in time for 2013 hatching season. Permit approval is expected week of February 11, 2013.

E4. Is cost effective: *(Briefly describe why you think the project is cost effective. Discuss whether this project is more cost effective than alternative projects which would provide similar resource or service benefits.)*

Any other way to repair the beach would involve dredging equipment and sending sand ashore by tubes.

Cost would be a minimum of \$1,000,000. (One million dollars).

E5. Has a high potential for long-term success as demonstrated by incorporating established/reliable methods and technologies: *(Briefly describe if/how critical methods and technologies that will be used to implement the project could be considered reliable or proven.)*

Repair of beaches has been an acceptable approach in Florida for many years. Guidance by experts in beach technical aspects will be followed.

E6. Is likely to provide benefits rapidly following implementation: *(Briefly describe the anticipated change in benefits anticipated over time.)*

We would expect increased hatching activity by sea turtles and a friendlier environment for shore birds such as sea gulls, willets, pelicans and osprey. All of which will make Gulf Trace and South Walton a more popular place to live and visit for people who appreciate the beauty of Wildlife.

E7. Has a high likelihood of public acceptance: *(Briefly describe evidence to support the given answer based on surveys or results and assessments from past projects. Known or likely opposition to a project should be recognized.)*

In view of the unusual labor and funds invested thus far in making Gulf Trace a wildlife friendly location, for instance substituting 256 sea turtle friendly amber lights for undesirable white lights visible from the beach. The owners welcomed the project and participated in the project.

This prior lighting project and necessary labor was accomplished by the homeowners of Gulf Trace with enthusiasm and pride.

Gulf Trace Residents are looking forward to accomplishing this next phase of Wildlife enhancement.

WE WANT YOUR INPUT!

Submit this form via email to Jessica Kanes at Jessica.Kanes@dep.state.fl.us . If you have any questions or concerns about the process for submitting a project, please contact:

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A current summary of projects is accessible through the Florida DEP's website at <http://www.dep.state.fl.us/deepwaterhorizon/projects.htm> (click on "View the list of restoration project ideas").