

Priority 4 (1-3):

Land Acquisition – Intercoastal Waterway – Mooring Field & Shelter (4-1)

Land Acquisition – Highland View – Butler Bay Wayside Park (4-2)

Land Acquisition – Cape San Blas – Boat Ramp Construction (4-3)

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

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.)*

G8: Recreation Projects – Land Acquisition (Mooring Field) PRIORITY #4-1

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

Gulf County

Intercoastal Waterway

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

This project will allow for purchase of property on the Intercoastal Canal to construct a mooring field/"safe harbor" in a protected waterway, and public facilities that can be utilized by boaters. The mooring field will provide a safe harbor for boaters needing to wait out the storm.

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.)*

The estimated cost of this project is \$2,000,000.00. This includes purchase of the property and construction of the mooring field and restroom/picnic facilities.

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.)*

The County will locate and purchase property located on the canal (ICW). Once the purchase is complete, the County will obtain the necessary permits to construct the mooring field and facility.

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.)*

The largest benefit will be in providing a safe harbor and facility for boaters. There will be no negative impacts to the environment, and the associated environmental costs will be permitting of the project.

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.)*

The project location will be on the Intercoastal Waterway, north of B.P.'s previous staging area in Gulf County. The Vessels of Opportunity utilized the County's boat ramp in Highland View (which is also located on the intercoastal waterway) and staged in that area. This project will provide a mooring field and shelter for boaters, and will not conflict with any response or remediation work.

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.)*

The Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill detrimentally affected tourism and the fishing industry in Gulf County. Not only tourists, but locals as well, were deterred from fishing and/or eating seafood. The Bay is one of the County's major assets and is heavily utilized by tourists and locals for food and recreation. This project will provide a safe harbor/mooring area and shelter for boaters.

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.)*

This project is located on the Intercoastal Canal that leads to St. Joseph Bay. It will be north of the previous B.P. staging area which was located on the Intercoastal Waterway in the area where it joins St. Joseph Bay. All areas of St. Joseph Bay, Cape San Blas and Indian Pass were heavily monitored during the oil spill, and boom was placed across the mouth of the bay where it intersects with the Gulf of Mexico at the point of the Peninsula.

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.)*

The County will locate and purchase property on the Intercoastal Waterway. Once that is complete, the permits for the dredge and site work will be obtained and construction will begin.

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.)*

This project is very cost effective in that it will provide a safe place for boaters to moor, and a facility where boaters can seek shelter and utilize restrooms facilities. With the current economic conditions, property and materials can be obtained at a lower cost, and County employees can assist in the construction process.

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.)*

St. Joseph Bay and the Gulf of Mexico will always be utilized by boaters. When the Port of Port St. Joe is complete, the number of boats will drastically increase as well. A mooring field located up the Intercoastal Canal that can provide a safe harbor during storms and as a resting point will be even more critical. The facilities will also be a welcome site for boaters who have been traveling via waterways for several days.

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

Benefits to the County will be realized immediately upon acquisition of this property. Once the permits are obtained, the County will construct the mooring field and shelter.

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.)*

The mooring field will be especially important in the summer when thunderstorms appear (and pass over) suddenly. It will provide a safe place for boaters to moor boats and seek shelter.

There is no known opposition to this project.

WE WANT YOUR INPUT!

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

Rebecca Wintering
Environmental Specialist III
3900 Commonwealth Boulevard, MS 235
Tallahassee, FL 32399
Rebecca.Wintering@dep.state.fl.us

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").

Florida Department of Environmental Protection - DWH Restoration Projects

Project Title:

County, Municipality, or Agency:

DATE:

Cost Items	Cost Estimate
Planning	
Contracts Land Acquisition	500,000
Feasibility	
Engineering & Design ¹ + Permitting	100,000
Planning Administration ²	
[other] Title Work, Closing Costs, etc.	50,000
Planning Subtotal	650,000
Construction	
Contracts ³ Mooring Field, Shelter, Restrooms	1,250,000
Construction Administration	100,000
[other]	
Construction Subtotal	1,350,000
Monitoring	
Contracts	
Monitoring Administration	
[other]	
Monitoring Subtotal	
Project Cost	
TOTAL	2,000,000

¹ includes data collection, design, permitting, landrights, bid documentation prep, etc. necessary to bring a project to contract readiness

² Administration costs for each section include overhead and indirect costs to conduct that portion of project implementation

³ Should include construction cost detail such as projected unit costs for each construction item, mob/demob, plantings, and any corrective actions (if applicable)

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

G8: Recreation Projects – Land Acquisition (Butler Bay Park) PRIORITY #4-2

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

Gulf County

Lat. 29.845338

Long. -85.326008

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

This project includes purchase of property located on U.S. Highway 98 (approximately 5.6 acres), adjacent to St. Joseph Bay, to construct a wayside park facility in the Highland View area. Gulf County's boating and fishing industry was detrimentally affected due to the threat of oil being disseminated through various marine species and on the coast, and this facility will provide an area for locals and visitors to enjoy the bay area.

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.)*

The estimated cost of this project is \$3,000,000.00. This includes purchase of the property and construction of a parking area, restrooms and picnic facilities.

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.)*

The County will negotiate with the property owner to purchase this property (currently for sale). Once the purchase is complete, the property will be improved to serve as Butler Bay Park. The County recently received a grant to improve Salinas Park Bayside at Cape San Blas, and that project has been successfully completed.

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.)*

The largest benefit will be in providing a public access point to St. Joseph Bay from U.S. Highway 98. Currently, many locals and tourists park along the side of the road to access the bay in that area to harvest mullet, crabs and to wade-fish. This project will provide them with a much safer parking area, and will provide facilities that will be nearer the water and further from the busy highway. There will be no negative impacts to the environment, and the associated environmental costs will be permitting of the project.

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.)*

This project location is in an area west of B.P.'s previous staging area in Gulf County. The Vessels of Opportunity utilized the County's boat ramp in Highland View and staged in that area, so fishermen were deterred from fishing there due to the high volume of boat traffic. This project will not conflict with any response or remediation work.

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.)*

The Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill detrimentally affected tourism in Gulf County. Not only tourists, but locals as well, were deterred from fishing and/or eating seafood. The bay is one of the County's major assets and is heavily utilized by tourists and locals for food and recreation. This project will provide the County with a wayside park that includes all necessary amenities and, being visible from U.S. Highway 98, will encourage those who may just be passing through to stop and enjoy what Gulf County has to offer.

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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.)*

This project is located adjacent to St. Joseph Bay on U.S. Highway 98, which is approximately 1.2 miles from the Highland View boat ramp area where the B.P. staging site was located. All areas of St. Joseph Bay, Cape San Blas and Indian Pass were heavily monitored during the oil spill, and boom was placed across the mouth of the bay where it intersects with the Gulf of Mexico.

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.)*

The property is currently for sale by the owner. The County will negotiate with the seller to purchase the property. Once that is complete, the permits for the site work will be obtained and construction will begin.

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.)*

This project is very cost effective in that it will provide a wayside park with direct access to St. Joseph Bay. Property located on any waterway is extremely hard to obtain, and since the property is for sale, this would be a prime location for the project. With the current economic conditions, property and materials can be obtained at a lower cost, and County employees can assist in the construction process.

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.)*

St. Joseph Bay is well known to fishermen around the Country, and previous reports will show the staggering number of tourists that visited Gulf County during the summer months prior to the oil spill. Many years ago, it was not rare to see wayside parks in towns along the Gulf of Mexico. Today, much of the beach scenery is blocked from view by condominiums, townhouses and hotels. Constructing a wayside park will ensure that visitors and locals have a public access point right on the water.

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

Benefits to the County will be realized immediately upon acquisition of this property. Once construction is complete, it can be seen and accessed from U.S. Highway 98, which is the major route through Gulf County.

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.)*

This property is a currently vacant except for a small fishing pier. It is in an area where locals cast nets for mullet, catch blue crabs and bait fish, and many who wade-fish for trout and redfish. This has also become popular with tourists, and the park will provide a safer, more comfortable area to enjoy these activities. There is no known opposition to this project.

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Environmental Specialist III
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