



GULF OF MEXICO ALLIANCE PROJECT SUMMARY

PROVIDED BY: GULF OF MEXICO ALLIANCE
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FUNDING REQUEST: \$467,500/year for 5 years = \$2,337,500 total

PROJECT SUMMARY: The proposed project provides programmatic support for the Gulf of Mexico Alliance's collaborative partnership to coordinate restoration-related activities among the various agencies, organizations, resource managers, scientists, consultants, and industry experts in the region. The Gulf of Mexico Alliance proposes to conduct the coordination through its priority issue teams that are well-established and in direct alignment with the goals of the Gulf Coast Ecosystem Restoration Council's Comprehensive Plan.

NEED: Many agencies and organizations throughout the region implement restoration projects as part of their core mission and coordination is necessary in order to achieve maximum efficiency and reduced duplication.

HOW IS THE PROJECT FOUNDATIONAL? Coordination provided by the Gulf of Mexico Alliance provides the initial core steps in addressing a concern that restoration projects and programs conducted in the Gulf are not being coordinated to maximum efficiency. While Council-level activities are highly coordinated by the RESTORE Council, the Gulf of Mexico Alliance provides the venue for on-the-ground resource managers, scientists, consultants, and industry experts to communicate and collaborate on a regular basis regarding the activities that are being conducted by many regional partners.

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES: The Gulf of Mexico Alliance's goal is to maintain an effective communication and collaboration network among the agencies and organizations in the region performing restoration-related activities, whether as a result of the Deepwater Horizon oil spill or other, non-oil spill related efforts.

Specifically, the objectives are to:

- Coordinate communication among each other as well as others in the region
- Reduce duplication of effort
- Enhance leveraging opportunities
- Streamline implementation efforts
- Incorporate best available science
- Develop a standing list of ongoing activities

It is anticipated that through the Gulf of Mexico Alliance's priority issue teams, participants will share ideas, express concerns, exchange lessons learned, leverage resources, and explore best available science.



DELIVERABLES: The outcome resulting from the coordination provided by the Gulf of Mexico Alliance includes a network of industry experts and resource managers that shares best practices and communicates regularly about implementation and research needs. Deliverables include reports identifying the following:

- On-going list of projects being implemented either as a result of DWH-funded settlements or other non-DWH project efforts (an online feature could be added as appropriate);
- Projects that may have overlap and duplicity with recommendations for solutions to leverage resources; and
- Regional initiatives that may impact or inform restoration.

IMPLEMENTATION: The Gulf of Mexico Alliance proposes to utilize its established structure and priority issue teams to implement the regional coordination. This includes regular team conference calls, annual meetings, and project tracking.

LIKELIHOOD OF SUCCESS: The core mission of the Gulf of Mexico Alliance is to facilitate communication, reduce duplication, and enhance leveraging opportunities for the ecological and economic health of the Gulf. Because the Gulf of Mexico Alliance has been providing this type of collaboration since 2004, it is in a unique position to coordinate such a collaborative network through its well-established structure that is in direct alignment with the program goals of the Council's Comprehensive Plan.

BENEFITS TO THE RESTORE COUNCIL AND TO THE COMMUNITY: Through the priority issue teams and the larger partner network as a whole, agencies and organizations involved in restoration activities will be better informed and able to make project implementation decisions with the maximum available information regarding on-going efforts in the region. As a result, priorities can be aligned, activities can be planned with minimal duplication, and leveraging opportunities can be identified.

BUDGET: The overall budget request is \$467,500 per year for five years (or \$2,337,500 total) as detailed below:

<u>Category</u>	<u>Cost Per Year</u>	<u>Cost for 5 years</u>
GOMA Management		
- salary	\$0	\$0
- regional meetings	\$100,000	\$500,000
- DWH Project Tracker	\$25,000	\$125,000
- communications	\$0	\$0
Sub-Awards		
- Habitat Restoration	\$50,000	\$250,000
- Water Quality	\$50,000	\$250,000
- Coastal & Marine Resources	\$50,000	\$250,000
- Community Resilience	\$50,000	\$250,000
- Data & Monitoring	\$50,000	\$250,000
- Outreach & Engagement	\$50,000	\$250,000
Indirect (10%)	\$42,500	\$212,500
Total	\$467,500	\$2,337,500