

US EPA ARCHIVE DOCUMENT



Restoration of a National Treasure - The Gulf of Mexico - “America’s Sea”

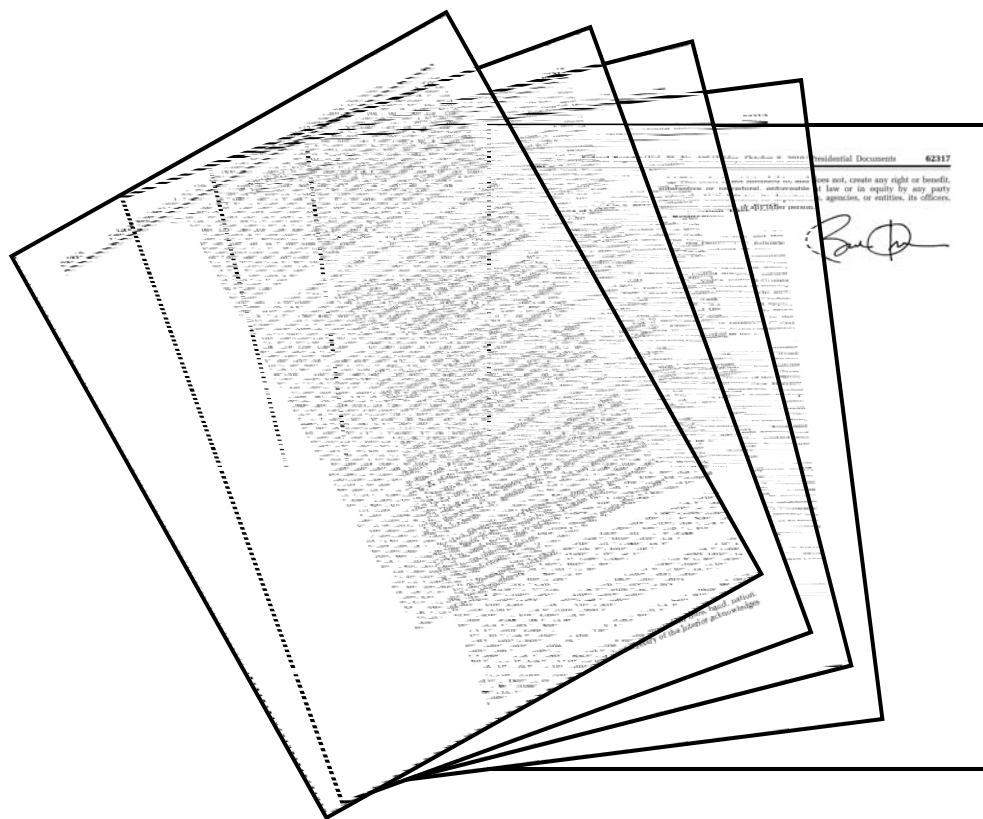


Bryon Griffith

Gulf of Mexico Ecosystem Restoration Task Force

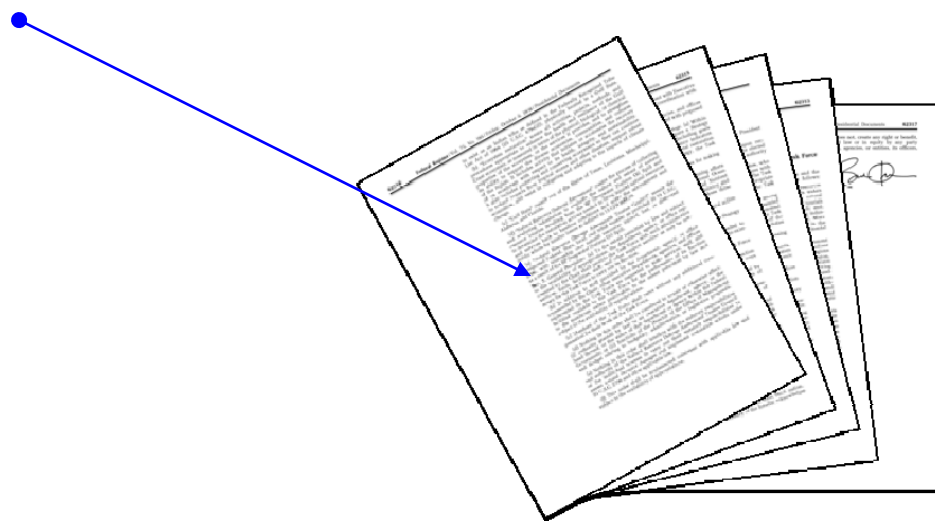


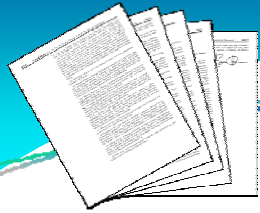
“The Gulf Coast is a national treasure. Its natural resources are an important economic engine for the entire United States; its waters sustain a diverse and vibrant ecosystem; and the Gulf’s culture, natural beauty, and historic significance are unique.”



**Executive Order 13554 of
October 5, 2010
Establishing the Gulf Coast
Ecosystem Restoration Task
Force**

*“To effectively address the damage caused by the BP Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill, address the longstanding ecological decline, and begin moving toward a more resilient Gulf Coast ecosystem, **ecosystem restoration is needed.**”*



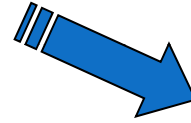
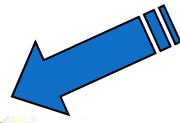


Legislative & Executive Branch Integration

**Incident
Recovery**



**Ecosystem
Restoration**



**Emergency
Response /
Incident
Recovery
(OPA 90):**

**Ecosystem
Restoration
(E.O. 13554):**



Emergency
Response /
Incident
Recovery
(OPA 90):

Incident Recovery

(BP Deepwater
Horizon Oil Spill)

- Deep Water
Horizon Spill
Response





Emergency
Response /
Incident
Recovery
(OPA 90):

Incident Recovery

(BP Deepwater
Horizon Oil Spill)

- Deep Water
Horizon Spill
Response
- Natural
Resource
Damage
Assessment





Emergency
Response /
Incident
Recovery
(OPA 90):

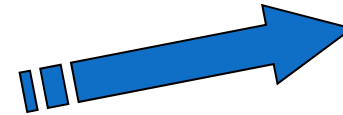
Incident Recovery

(BP Deepwater
Horizon Oil Spill)

- Deep Water
Horizon Spill
Response
- Natural
Resource
Damage
Assessment
- Economic
Impact
Recovery



Ecosystem Restoration



Ecosystem Restoration (E.O. 13554):

- Habitat
- Land Loss



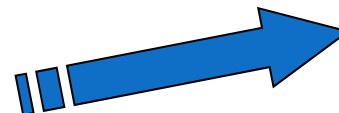
100+ Years of Land Change for Coastal Louisiana





Emergency Response / Incident Recovery (OPA 90):

Ecosystem Restoration

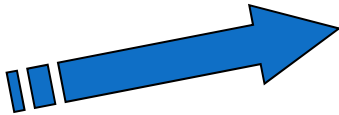


Ecosystem Restoration (E.O. 13554):

- Habitat
- Land Loss
- Water Quality



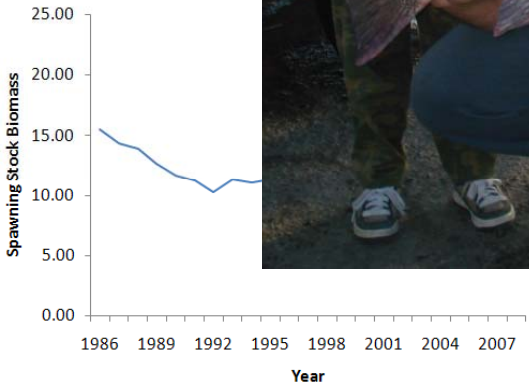
Ecosystem Restoration



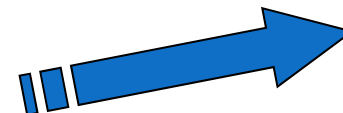
Ecosystem Restoration (E.O. 13554):

- Habitat
- Land Loss
- Water Quality
- Fisheries

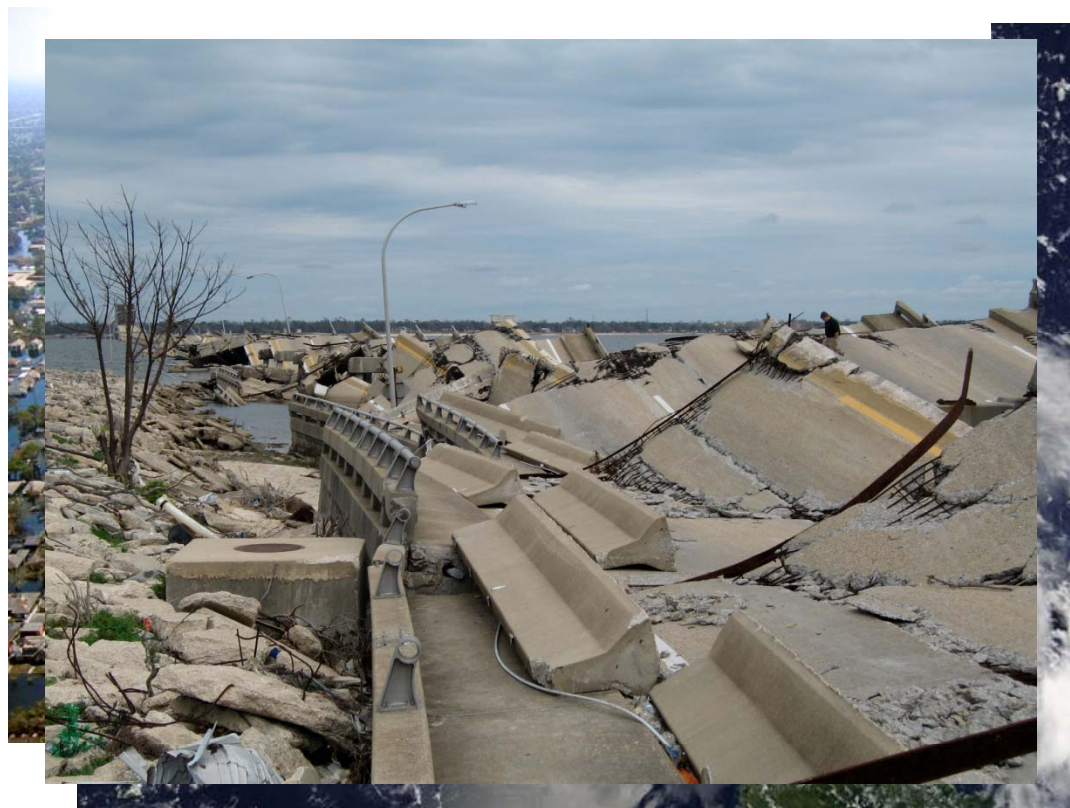
NOAA FISHERIES SERVICE



Ecosystem Restoration



Ecosystem Restoration (E.O. 13554):



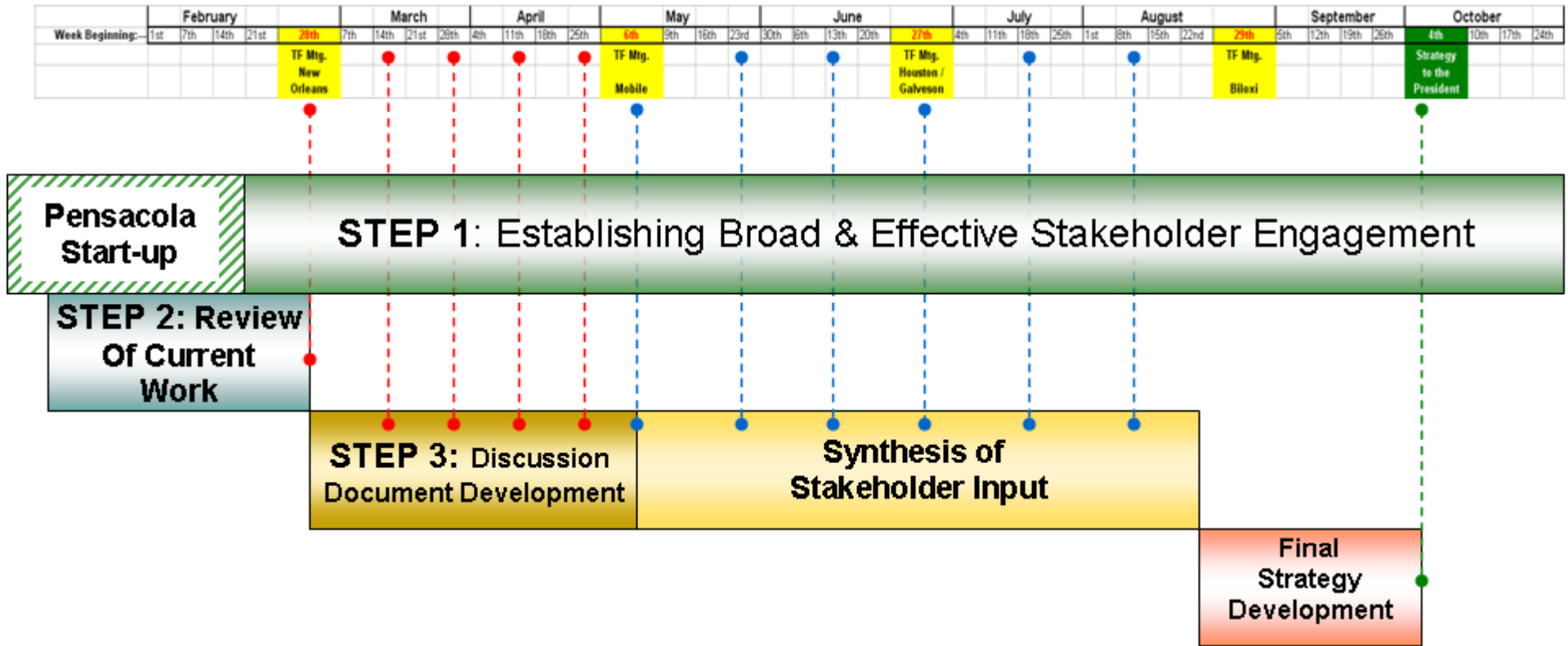
- Habitat
- Land Loss
- Water Quality
- Fisheries
- Climate Adaptation
- Sustainable Communities



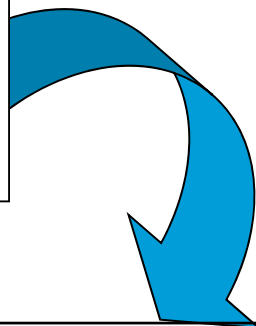
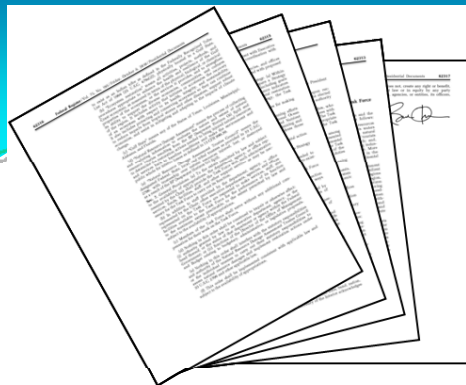
The Key Initial Challenge

On **(October 4, 2011)**, this Task Force will submit to the President a **Gulf of Mexico Regional Ecosystem Restoration Strategy**.

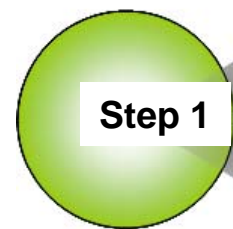
Strategy Development Schedule:



Step 1 – Establish Broad and Effective Stakeholder Engagement



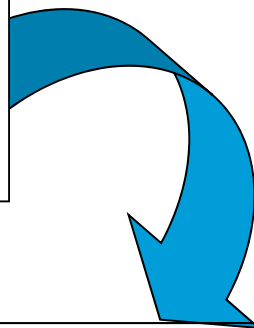
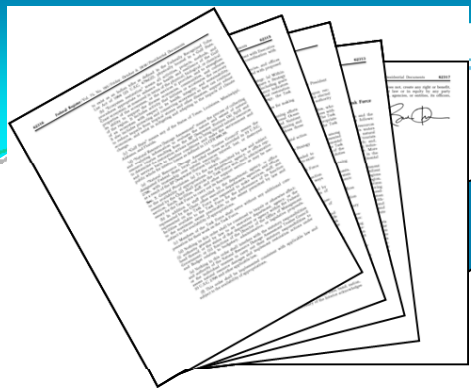
Engage stakeholders throughout the region in the development of the strategy



Integration of Stakeholder Input:

- Public - NGOs
- Local Govt.
- Academia
- Business & Ind.
- Communities

Step 1 – Establish Broad and Effective Stakeholder Engagement



Integration of Stakeholder Input:

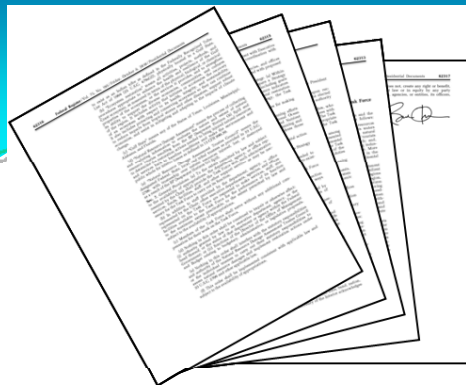
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- Business & Ind.
- Communities

Strategy Development Schedule:

Week Beginning	February				March				April				May				June				July				August				September				October							
	1st	7th	14th	21st	28th	7th	14th	21st	28th	4th	11th	18th	25th	1st	8th	15th	22nd	29th	6th	13th	20th	27th	4th	11th	18th	25th	1st	8th	15th	22nd	29th	6th	13th	20th	27th	4th				
					TF Mtg. New Orleans								TF Mtg. Mobile								TF Mtg. Houston / Galveson								TF Mtg. Biloxi								Strategy to the President			

Pensacola Start-up

STEP 1: Establishing Broad & Effective Stakeholder Engagement

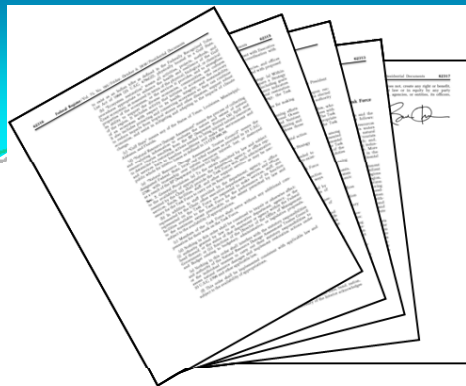


Step 2 – Assess What is Currently Being Done to Address Restoration

In developing the Strategy, the Task Force Shall:

Consider existing research and ecosystem restoration planning efforts in the region

Step 2 – Assess What is Currently Being Done to Address Restoration

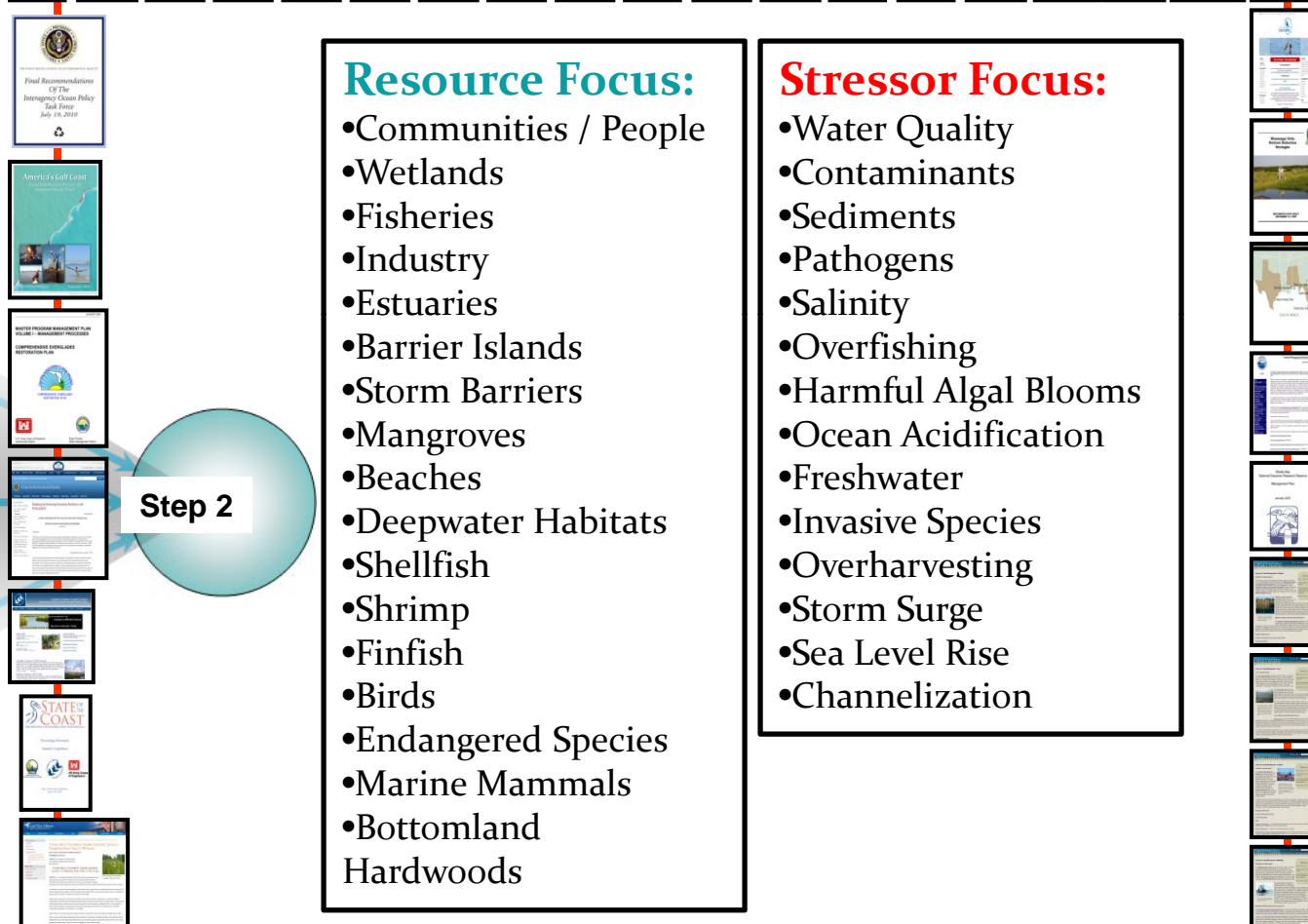


Synthesis of Existing Restoration Plans / Programs

National

Regional

Local



Resource Focus:

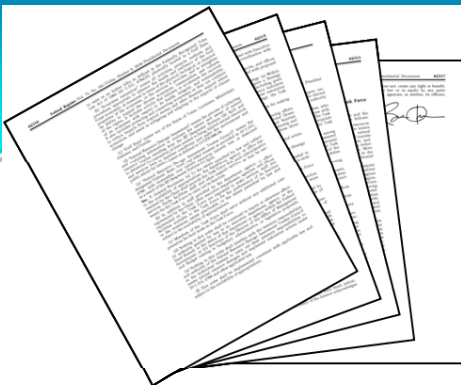
- Communities / People
- Wetlands
- Fisheries
- Industry
- Estuaries
- Barrier Islands
- Storm Barriers
- Mangroves
- Beaches
- Deepwater Habitats
- Shellfish
- Shrimp
- Finfish
- Birds
- Endangered Species
- Marine Mammals
- Bottomland Hardwoods

Stressor Focus:

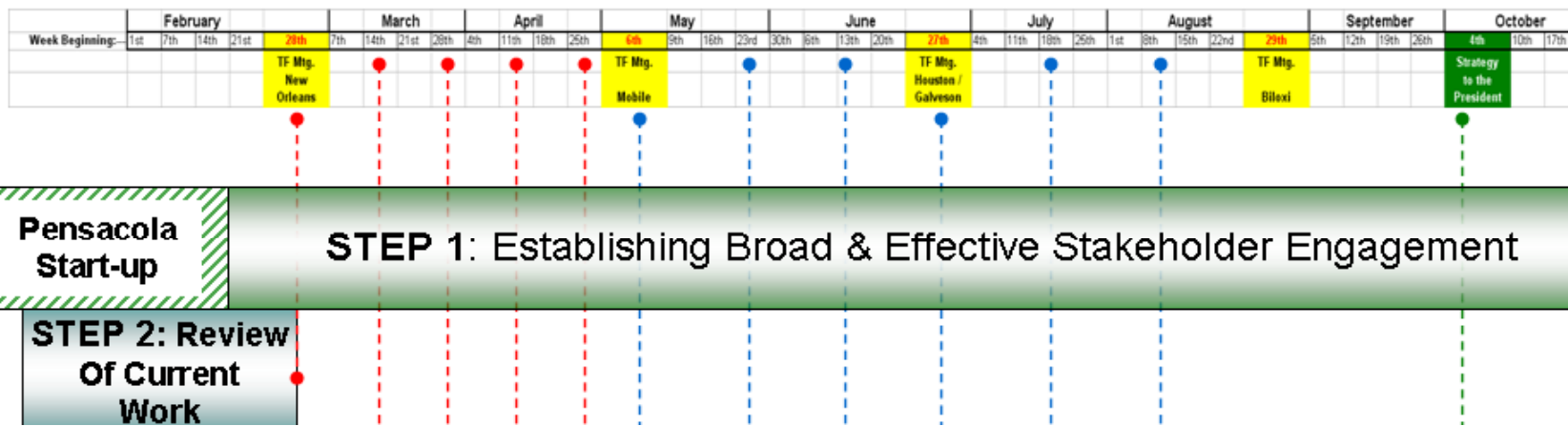
- Water Quality
- Contaminants
- Sediments
- Pathogens
- Salinity
- Overfishing
- Harmful Algal Blooms
- Ocean Acidification
- Freshwater
- Invasive Species
- Overharvesting
- Storm Surge
- Sea Level Rise
- Channelization



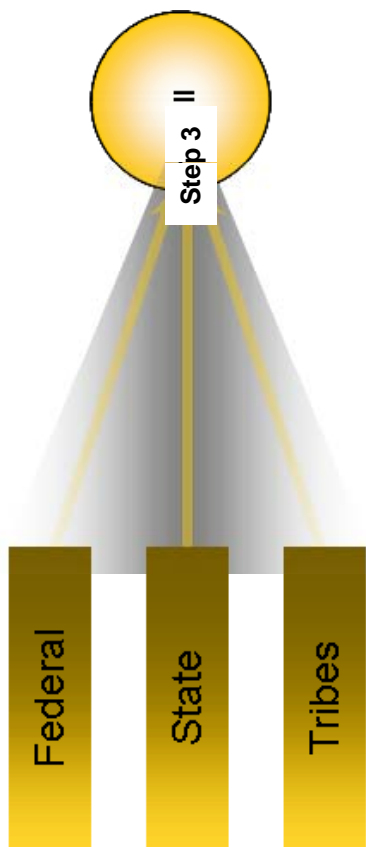
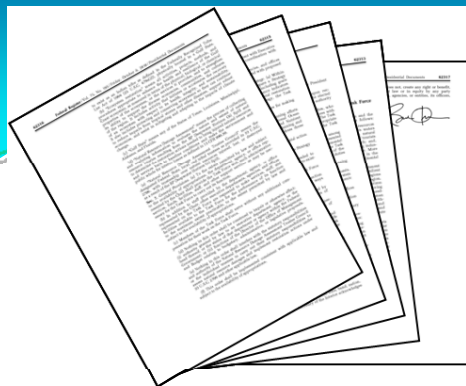
Step 2 – Assess What is Currently Being Done to Address Restoration



Strategy Development Schedule:



Step 3 – Coordinate and Integrate Federal, State and Tribal Priorities - (Discussion Document)



Integration of Federal, State and Tribal Priorities

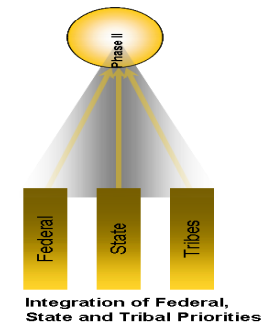
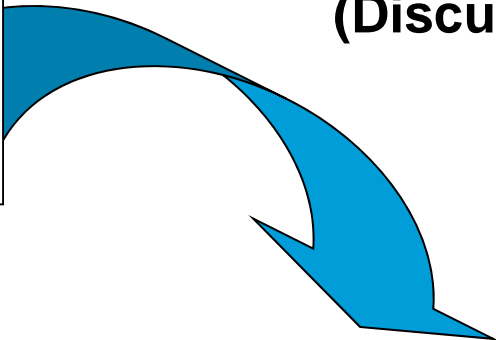
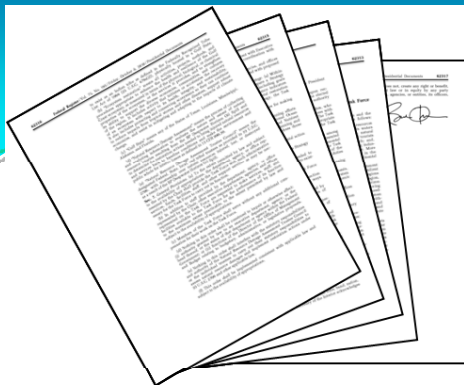
Identify monitoring, research, and scientific assessments needed to support decision making;

Evaluate existing monitoring programs and gaps in current data collection;

Define ecosystem restoration goals and describe milestones;

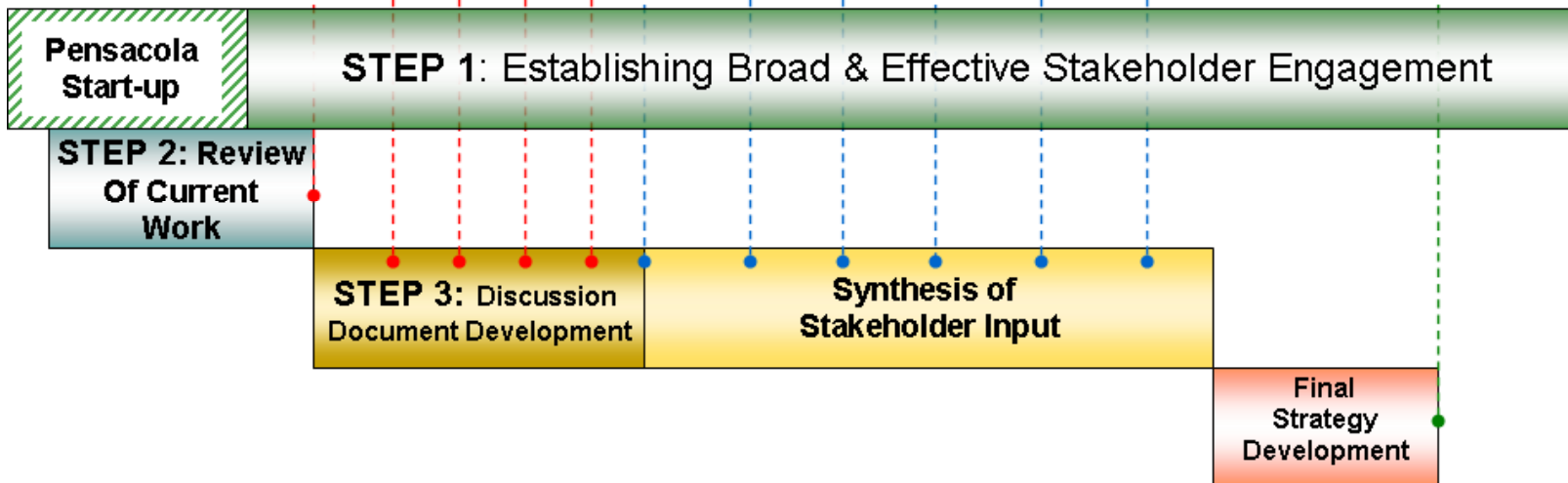
Identify major policy areas where Coordinated intergovernmental action is necessary;

Step 3 – Coordinate and Integrate Federal, State and Tribal Priorities - (Discussion Document)

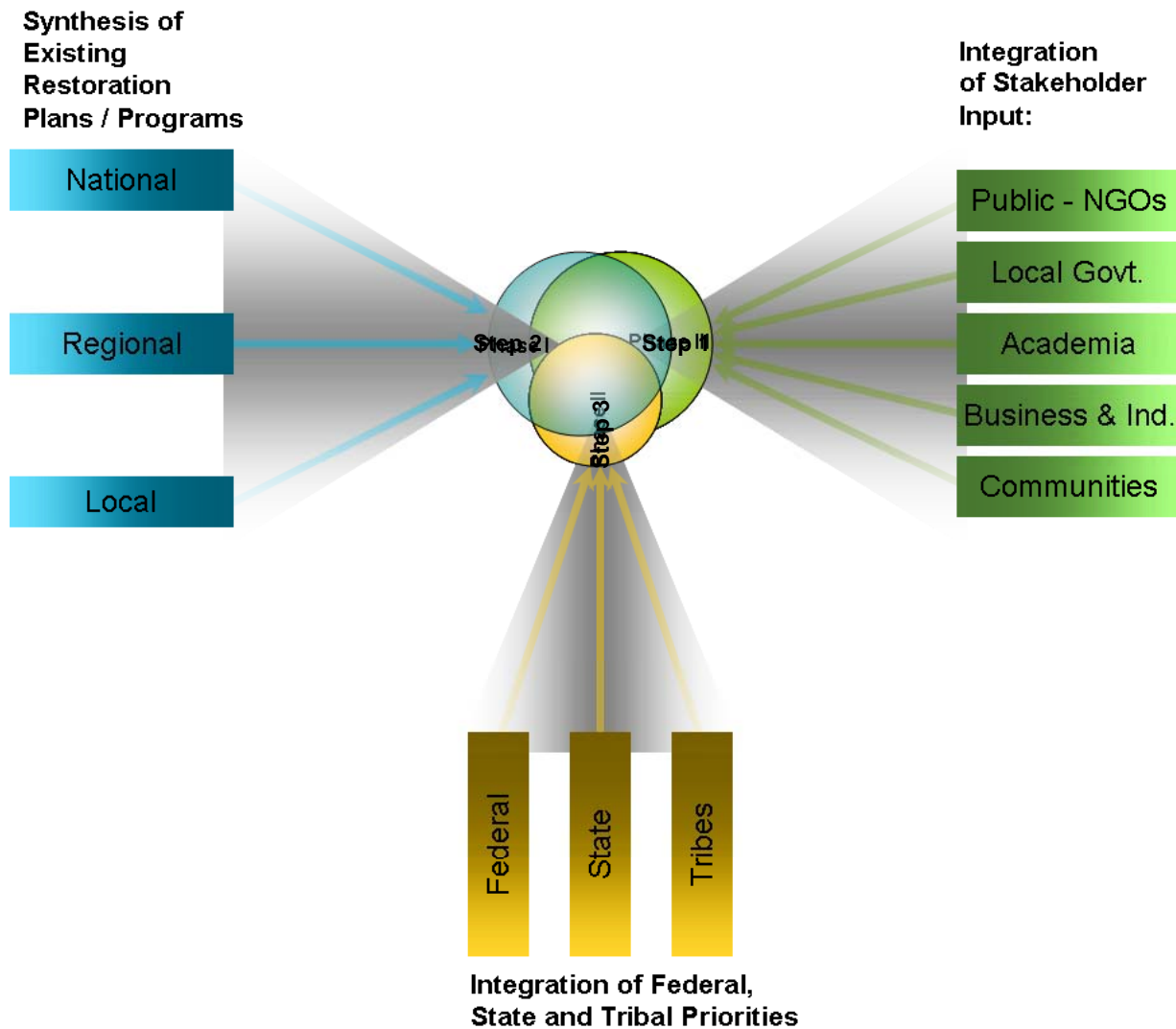


Strategy Development Schedule:

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					TF Mtg. New Orleans								TF Mtg. Mobile												TF Mtg. Houston / Galveston											TF Mtg. Biloxi												Strategy to the President							



Merger of the Three Steps will Reveal Shared Priorities and Capacities:





**The Strategy will Focus on
Shared Priorities and the Supporting Actions and
Tactics Most Capable of Advancing
Gulfwide Restoration**