

US EPA ARCHIVE DOCUMENT

Gulf Coast Ecosystem Restoration Strategy **Tribal Consultation and Coordination Plan**

Background information on Gulf Coast Ecosystem Restoration Task Force and Strategy

The Gulf Coast Ecosystem Restoration Task Force (the Task Force) was created by President Obama through an Executive Order on October 5, 2010, and is the result of a recommendation made in Secretary Mabus' report on long term recovery following the Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill. EPA chairs this Task Force and is thus spearheading the tribal coordination and consultation.

Secretary of the Navy Ray Mabus made several recommendations in his report "America's Gulf Coast: A Long Term Recovery Plan after the Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill," including the establishment of a task force to coordinate Gulf restoration activities and develop a comprehensive, Gulf-wide restoration strategy to address these issues.

Within one year of the Executive Order, by October 4, 2011, the Task Force is charged with development of a Restoration Strategy (the Strategy) that proposes a Gulf Coast ecosystem restoration agenda. The Task Force is directed to:

- Define ecosystem restoration goals and describe milestones towards reaching those goals;
- Consider existing research and ecosystem restoration planning efforts;
- Identify major policy areas where coordinated actions between government agencies is needed; and
- Evaluate existing research and monitoring programs and gaps in data collection.

Potentially affected tribes and impacts

The Strategy development is an evolving process that may result in government policies and decisions that will affect tribes in the Gulf of Mexico. The Strategy would likely lead to budget and priority planning to address Gulf Coast Ecosystem restoration. Given that the Strategy may result in government action, policies or decisions that affect tribes, EPA is initiating this communication and consultation process to obtain input on the priorities and perspectives of tribes, with a focus on Gulf State tribes.

Government-to-Government Coordination and Consultation Process

The Task Force will conduct consultation and coordination throughout the Strategy development process from the date of this letter to September 30, 2011, when the Strategy comment period ends (see table titled "Tribal Consultation Process and Timeline"). EPA will utilize the EPA Tribal Portal (www.epa.gov/tribal) to disseminate background information and documents for review and solicit comments from interested tribes during the consultation and coordination process.

EPA will invite input on documents outlining the Strategy approach and priorities as they are developed and posted to the EPA Tribal Portal. EPA will also seek guidance on how to incorporate views from non-government stakeholders obtained in the stakeholder engagement sessions that will be occurring concurrently with the tribal consultation. Comments will be accepted throughout the consultation and coordination period via the Tribal Portal. Final comments are due by September 30, 2011.

EPA will set up coordination and consultation webinars, face-to-face meetings and/or teleconferences with interested tribes.

Tribal Coordination and Consultation Process and Timeline

Dates	Event	Contact Information
May – September 30, 2011	Posting of all relevant information to EPA Tribal Portal, including background information and documents for review and comment.	EPA Tribal Portal: www.epa.gov/tribal or contact: Angela Bandemehr, 202-564-1427 or Bandemehr.angela@epa.gov
TBD during May – September 30, 2011	Coordination and consultation with tribes via face-to-face meetings and/or teleconferences; meeting invitations to be sent via mail, fax, email.	Contact Angela Bandemehr, 202-564-1427 Bandemehr.angela@epa.gov
June 1 , 2-4 pm EDT July 19, 2-4 pm EDT	Webinar: Gulf Coast Restoration Strategy Development	Registration options: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Online: Go to the following links -- June 1, 2-4 pm, go to https://www2.gotomeeting.com/register/415291538 July 19, 2-4 pm, go to https://www2.gotomeeting.com/register/915892355 After registering you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the Webinar. • Contact Angela Bandemehr, 202-564-1427, Bandemehr.angela@epa.gov. The webinar teleconference line is: 866-299-3188, access code 2025641427. This number can also be used by those not able to participate via webinar. For more information on the webinars, go to www.epa.gov/tribal .
May – September 30, 2011	Submit comments Final due date for comments: September 30, 2011	Submittal options: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Email : gulfcoasttaskforce@epa.gov • EPA Tribal Portal: www.epa.gov/tribal • Mail: Gulf Coast Ecosystem Restoration Task Force Woodrow Wilson Center G1-1 Mail Code 1101 R 1300 Pennsylvania Avenue Washington, DC 20460