

US EPA ARCHIVE DOCUMENT



Public and Non-Governmental Organizations Session

Commenter's Affiliation	Comment
NGO	OC is a science based approach; how will the Task Force utilize this approach to ensure science is incorporated? Need a science-based, ecosystem approach to strategy development.
LGO	Where will money come from to fund the science? State doesn't anticipate any legislation will be passed in near future.
General Public	Would the Executive Order have been signed if not for the Deepwater Horizon spill? Use the spill as a mechanism to get communities involved in restoration projects across the geography.
General Public	Has BP set aside money for science? Part of this process should inform and provide information to BP for their future activities: how to prevent another spill, or what to do if another spill happens. Should have / develop technology (science to determine effects of spill) for deep water drilling.
General Public	Support National Estuary Programs around the Gulf. Ensure that they are involved in the implementation of the strategy.
LGO	Research needs to be done to see post-spill events - fishery health. Ensure that we have adequate research/information on impacts to juvenile/adult fish, for example, from upstream to the gulf to support education, regulations. Work to stop dumping pollutants upstream.
NGO	Should not just focus on land issues. Florida should focus / prioritize water quality.
Business and Industry	In restoration process, don't forget about monitoring, existing environment, jobs, training, et cetera.



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NGO	Provide training and continue standards from past projects to new projects.
LGO	Monitoring and restoration activities should be compartmentalized to share from federal agencies down to local level (group, club, activist). Ensure that monitoring/restoration is organized in a manner that the regional/local restoration projects can fit into the larger scheme to participate in restoration. Set up a database that folks across the Gulf can go to, to sign up to implement a project.
NGO	Main priority - coordination among all efforts (NRDA, clean-up crews, surveyors, restoration activities). Notify local entities for local knowledge.
NGO	Impediments - lack of NRDA data impedes ability to conduct restoration efforts. Release NRDA results so local land managers can act on issues to clean-up and restore.
NGO	Actions - use organization's tools/information for restoration activities (their database).
NGO	Do a better job building partners to inventory bird populations.
NGO	Ensure that birds' nests are protected as restoration actions take place under NRDA and beyond.
NGO	Two views - Gulf-wide Issues / Regional Issues - need site specifics, direct funds toward regional groups for regional issues; aids with impediments. Start with existing State plans and build on/integrate them into strategy development. Grants for regional reviews (empower and fund).



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NGO	Water quality should be a priority; large return on investment. Other activities dependent on water quality for recovery. Doing water quality improvement projects gets you farther than habitat restoration projects - restoring water quality allows restoration of natural processes to occur. Regional approach for nutrient standards within local systems.
General Public	Note our local losses (wetland acres) compared with very large losses in Louisiana. Should be a priority to slow losses or have consensus on competing plans to address large decline in Louisiana. Prioritize restoration of Louisiana wetlands - restore marshes, redirect Mississippi flows. Ensure adequate sediment flow/water quality improvements into the Gulf to support Louisiana wetland restoration.
NGO	Reduce risk of industry damage to landscape. Risk assessment of industry.
NGO	Better emergency contingency plans. Need regional plans / advisory boards to implement restoration activities.
NGO	Key issues - oversight of future leases (industry). Develop financial incentives for business transition to clean energy.
Academia	Ensure restoration is in check with sea level rise.
Academia	Need improved understanding and mapping of hard bottom communities, fishery resources, increased understanding of currents (surface, deepwater), how living resources interact. Ensure that mapping to the West Florida shelf is completed.
NGO	Biofuels - what happened to 2009 funding / legislation to help local entrepreneurs in biofuels development? Develop a bio-diesel market for the state of Florida.



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General Public	Should we be using Deepwater Horizon to solve local issues? Should not use this as an opportunity to fund nonrelated activities - siphoning funds from where incident should be concentrating efforts. Oil spill restoration versus local funding by using money for unfunded projects.
General Public	Focus on Gulf to appeal to local citizens, keep average / local person involved, maintain interest. Develop simple concepts for non-scientist to get folks interested and involved in Gulf coast restoration, and keep all engaged.
General Public	Disinterest in spill by citizens. Main stream media stops reporting - loss of interest. Media should be reporting post crisis. This would prompt citizens to react. Need to educate public of concerns. Need to have more of political interest involvement, time to act is now not in future.
General Public	Need industry accountability.
General Public	Is there a communication manager / outreach person / media specialist?
LGO	Priority - restoration, environmental recovery, baseline of natural resources, knowledge base to help prioritize. Address the lack of baseline information to do the restoration. Use NEP data to help support the work.
LGO	Key action - Ensure environmental repair and protection of ecosystems that support fisheries. Place resources in place for protection of natural resources for future.
General Public	Chesapeake Bay as a model (failed). EPA needed to step in for nutrient loading. Don't need to focus on farmers unless they have incentives.



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General Public	Address issues to protect Gulf by informing farming community how it affects them.
NGO	Priority - land use around resource. Acquire lands, buy property to protect bays, beaches, and estuaries. Support the Florida Rivers Fund. Boost land acquisition through conservation easements, protect sensitive habitats. More collaborative approach to protect water quality, wildlife, ocean health.
General Public	Favorable time to acquire lands because of economy.
LGO	Ensure that there is an economic link to the restoration that happens. In order to increase people to do environmental good there needs to be incentives. Economic gain for individual. Know problem, need to get people to act on it.
NGO	Avoid doom and gloom - nobody intentionally tries to harm environment. Give people a reason for hope.
NGO	Deep water environments - lack data to quantify their impact and their value. Need this information to determine importance of offshore environments and restore these habitats.
NGO	Ensure that you build a science-based program with metrics.
NGO	Too much reliance on political boundaries when doing restoration, and not enough on using science to guide decision-making.
Business and Industry	Where are funds coming from for this task force for restoration - BP? Do the sound environmental practices have an economic result / outcome / consequence?



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NGO	Ensure that ecosystem services are built into the restoration program in the strategy.
General Public	Develop a small grants funding program to provide support a the local level. Local programs have had a large impact locally. Critical to water quality and local health.
General Public	Should direct funding from BP to address damage caused by spill and clean-up efforts to areas directly affected. Need to develop a way/recommendations to spend the money to implement the strategy.