

October 2020

BP Oil Disaster:
Restoration & Recovery

STATUS OF GULF RESTORATION FUNDING PROCESSES IN MISSISSIPPI



Status of Gulf Restoration Funding Processes

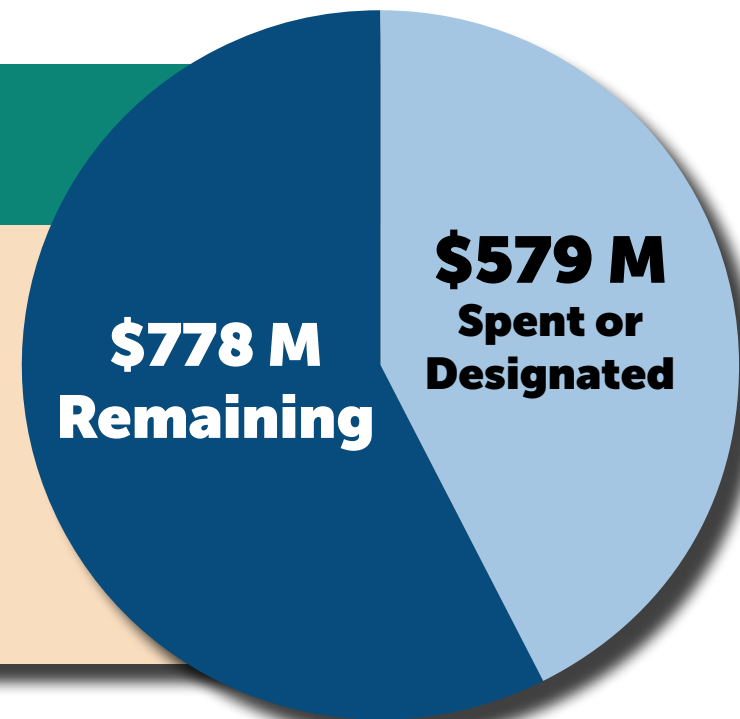
Under criminal plea agreements and a 2016 civil settlement among BP, the U.S. government, and the five Gulf states, around **\$1.357 billion** is slated to go to the state of Mississippi to restore it.

This money is flowing through three main processes: **the Natural Resource Damage Assessment (NRDA), the RESTORE Act, and the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF).**

HOW MUCH HAS BEEN SPENT ON RESTORATION SO FAR?

As of September 15, 2020, around \$579 million of this money already has been spent on, or designated for, specific restoration projects, programs, and planning.

That means approximately \$778 million remains to be spent.

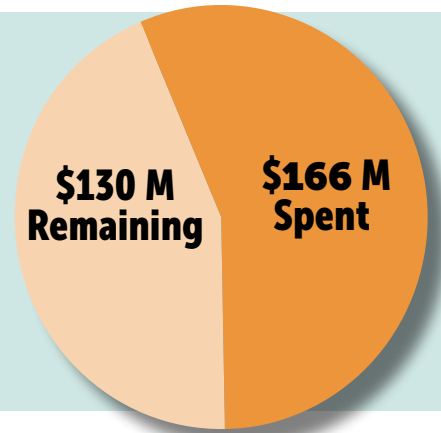


\$1.357 Billion

Natural Resource Damage Assessment (NRDA)

\$296 Million

The natural resource damage assessment is a process focused on restoring natural resources injured by the BP oil spill disaster. Money can be used for natural resource projects and “loss of use” projects (e.g., to compensate for recreational opportunities lost because of the spill).

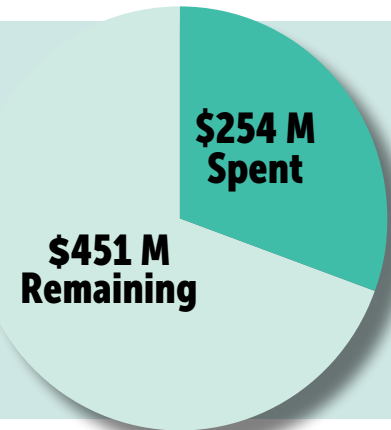


The RESTORE Act

\$705 Million

The RESTORE Act is a law that sends settlement money to the Gulf for restoration and recovery. Money can be used for environmental and economic restoration projects, as well as research activities.

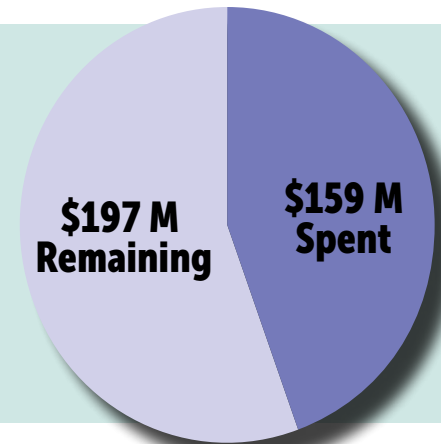
*Includes the state's allocation through RESTORE Pots 1, 3, and 5 only



National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF)

\$356 Million

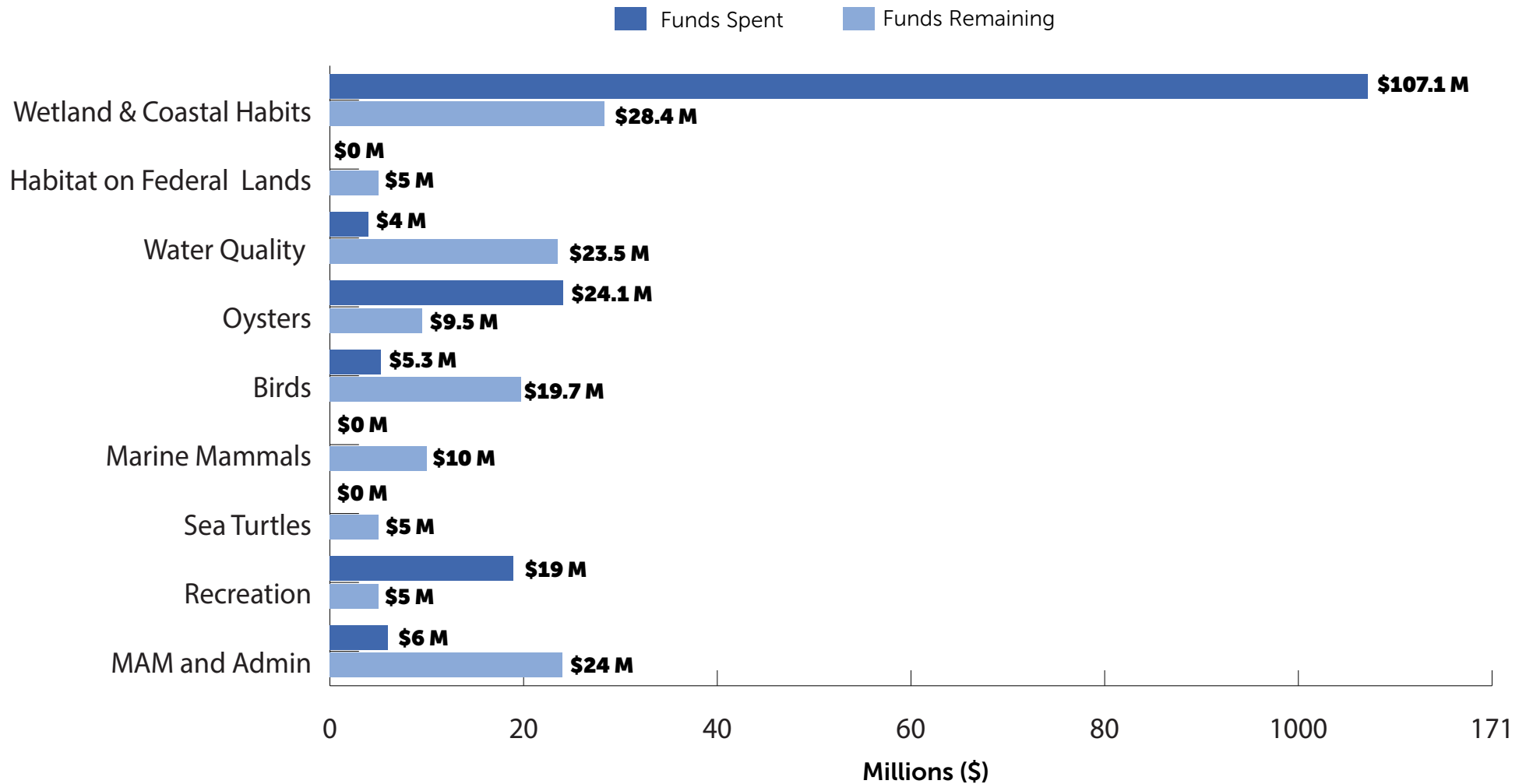
The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation is a nonprofit organization that is tasked with distributing some of the settlement monies. Money can be used for barrier islands and natural resource projects.



Here we use the term “spent” for money that already has been spent on or designated for projects, programs, and planning.

HOW WILL THE NATURAL RESOURCE DAMAGES MONEY BE SPENT?

The \$296 million will be split among 8 different restoration types and monitoring, adaptive management, and administration (MAM and Admin) as follows:



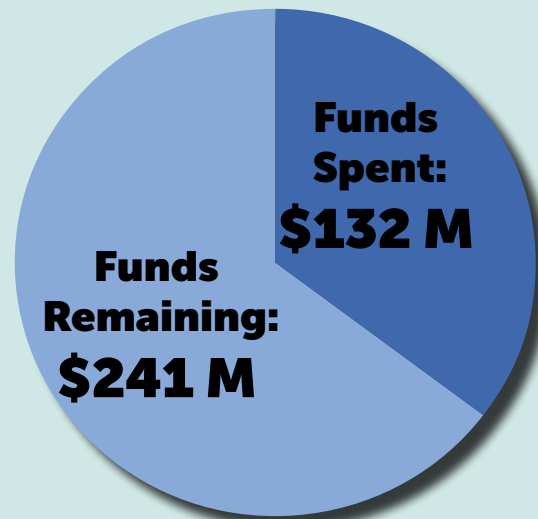
As of September 15, 2020, approximately **\$166 M** has been committed to restoration projects and planning, leaving about **\$130 M** to be spent by Mississippi's NRDA trustees.

RESTORE ACT IN MISSISSIPPI

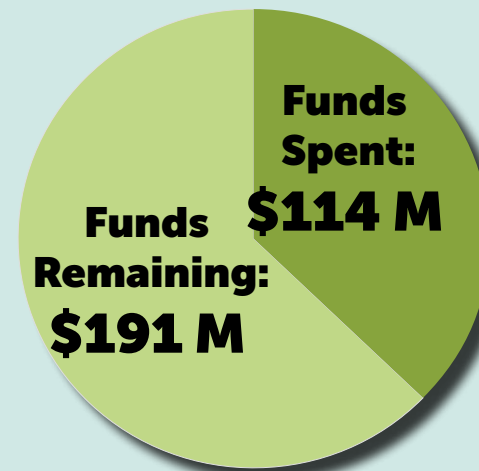
As of June 19, 2020, approximately **\$254 million** has been spent out of the \$705 million designated to Mississippi from the RESTORE Act. This means **\$451 million** is remaining.

Under the RESTORE Act, money flows to states through different “pots” in different amounts. For Mississippi, the RESTORE Act provides for up to **\$373 M** through Pot 1 (Direct Component) and up to **\$305 M** through Pot 3 (Spill Impact Component).

RESTORE Pot 1



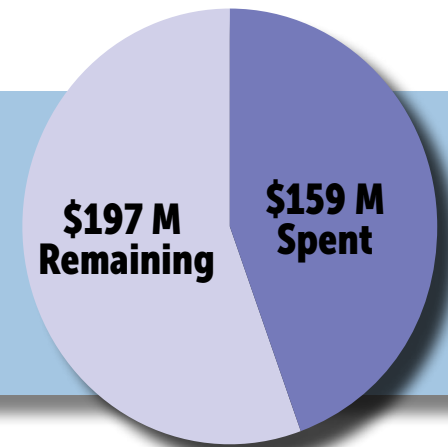
RESTORE Pot 3



For Mississippi, an allocation of \$27 million also has been allocated through **Pot 5 (Centers of Excellence)**, of which the state has spent almost \$8 million.

NATIONAL FISH AND WILDLIFE FOUNDATION IN MISSISSIPPI

As of June 19, 2020, out of the \$356 million allocated to NFWF for projects in Mississippi, **\$159 million** has been spent on 25 restoration projects. This means there is approximately **\$197 million** remaining.



Since 2014, NFWF has dedicated just under **\$13 million** to assessing the populations of reef fish in coastal Mississippi and nearshore Gulf waters.

Just under **\$8 million** has been dedicated to support Mississippi's Coastal Bird Stewardship Program, which focuses on nesting habitat enhancements and stewardship for key species at 22 coastal sites.



WHO IS IN CHARGE, AND HOW CAN I PARTICIPATE?

NRDA

The natural resource restoration program in Mississippi is being managed by the Mississippi Trustee Implementation Group (TIG), a group of federal and state representatives. When making decisions, the TIG must reach consensus. That means that both the state trustees (who must agree as a group) and the federal trustees (who must also agree as a group) must agree to the decision.

To participate in Mississippi's NRDA process, you can:

- **Attend public meetings** — The Mississippi TIG hosts a meeting for the public at least once a year.
- **Suggest project ideas** — The public can suggest project ideas (e.g., on the trustees' website).
- **Comment on draft restoration plans** — The public will have the opportunity to comment on draft restoration plans as they are released.

RESTORE

The processes for selecting and approving RESTORE projects vary by pot. To participate in Mississippi's RESTORE process for Pots 1 and 3, you can:

- **Submit** project ideas to the Mississippi DEQ.
- **Review and comment** on multi-year implementation plans or state expenditure plans when they become available for public comment.
- **Attend** any public meetings including the annual Restoration Summit.

To participate in Mississippi's RESTORE process for Pot 5, you can **provide input on research priorities** when the Centers for Excellence Program (CEP) asks for public feedback; there also may be opportunities to review and comment on CEP rules and policies.

NFWF

While NFWF decides which projects to fund, it must follow the terms set out in the criminal settlements. These require NFWF to, among other things, consult with state and federal resource managers "to identify projects and to maximize the environmental benefits of such projects."

To participate in the NFWF process in Mississippi, the public may **suggest project ideas** through Mississippi's state resource managers (MDEQ).

