



State of Louisiana

JEFF LANDRY
GOVERNOR

May 18, 2026

St. Martin Parish Library
201 Porter Street
St. Martinville, LA 70582

*Re: Louisiana Trustee Implementation Group Draft Phase 2 Restoration Plan and
Environmental Assessment #8.1: East Orleans Landbridge Restoration and Racoon
Island Restoration (Draft RP/EA #8.1)*

Dear Sir or Madam,

Listed below are links the public can use to learn more about the above referenced plan and options for providing comments.

1. Materials available on the Gulf Spill Restoration website at
<https://gulfspillrestoration.noaa.gov/media/document/2026-la-tigdraft-rpea8.1>
 - Draft RP/EA #8.1 Restoration Plan
 - Draft RP/EA #8.1 Executive Summary
 - Draft RP/EA #8.1 Fact Sheet

2. Methods to provide public comments on the Draft RP/EA #8.1
 - Portal to provide online public comment:
<https://parkplanning.nps.gov/LATIGRP8-1>.
 - Written comments can be mailed to U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 341 N. Greeno RD, Suite A, Fairhope, AL 36532. To be considered, mailed comments must be postmarked on or before June 17, 2026.
 - Public Comments will be taken during the June 8, 2026 public webinar.
Register here:
<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/6286767149787473248>

The federal and state Trustee agencies that comprise the Louisiana Trustee Implementation Group work to make the environment and public whole from natural resource injuries from the April 2010 *Deepwater Horizon* oil spill. The Louisiana Trustee Implementation Group has released this plan for public review and comment. The public comment period on the Draft RP/EA #8.1 is May 18 – June 17, 2026. Please make the information provided in this letter available to anyone that requests it so they can access the documents at the repository during the public comment period.

The draft plan proposes two preferred project alternatives to restore injuries to wetlands, coastal, and nearshore habitats caused by the *Deepwater Horizon* oil spill. The East Orleans Landbridge Restoration Project preferred alternative would create approximately 1,320 acres of marsh habitat and will construct approximately 14,867 linear feet of shoreline protection. Habitat restoration would be accomplished by dredging and utilization of sediment from Lake St. Catherine. The Raccoon Island Restoration preferred alternative would create approximately 102 acres of beach and dune habitat along with approximately 308 acres of marsh habitat, including important bird nesting habitats.

Following the 30-day public comment period, the Louisiana Trustee Implementation Group will review comments received. We anticipate releasing the Final Restoration Plan and Environmental Assessment during the fall of 2026.

Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at 225-342-4708.

Sincerely,



Beth Mathews Golden
Executive Staff Officer
Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority