

# RESTORE ACT Direct Component Multiyear Plan Narrative

## Department of the Treasury

OMB Approval No. 1505-0250

**Directions: Use this form for the Initial Multiyear Plan and any subsequent amendments to an accepted Multiyear Plan. For amendments, include only new and/or materially modified activities.**

Multiyear Plan Version (Initial or Amendment Number):	Initial
Date of Initial Multiyear Plan Acceptance:	
Date of Last Multiyear Plan Revision Acceptance:	

Eligible Applicant Name:	Manatee County Government
Name and Contact Information of the Person to be contacted (POC) on matters concerning this Multiyear Implementation Plan:	
POC Name:	Nan Summers
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NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION:
1. A description of each activity, including the need, purpose, objective(s), milestones and location. Include map showing the location of each activity.
<p><i>“From the fines and forfeitures of the Deepwater Horizon oil rig explosion made available to Manatee County, we propose diverse projects which strengthen our natural resources, improve the quality of our rivers and bays, and enhance appreciation of our coastal fishing economy”</i></p> <p><i>Charlie Hunsicker, Director, Manatee County Parks and Natural Resources Division</i></p> <p>Of the ten categories of Direct Component project eligibility, Manatee County focused on the following five categories, and selected the project proposal best matched to each category:</p> <p><u>Restoration and protection of the natural resources, ecosystems, fisheries, marine and wildlife habitats, beaches and coastal wetlands of the Gulf Region:</u> <b>Robinson Preserve Restoration</b></p> <p><u>Workforce development and job creation:</u> <b>Natural Resources Workforce Development</b></p> <p><u>Coastal flood protection and related infrastructure:</u> <b>Coastal Watershed Program</b></p> <p><u>Promotion of tourism in the Gulf Coast Region, including promotion of recreational fishing:</u> <b>Florida Maritime Museum Facility Enhancement</b></p> <p><u>Promotion of the consumption of seafood harvested from the Gulf Coast Region:</u> <b>Gulf Shellfish Institute Sea Farm to Table</b></p> <p>Although the projects have different leaders, organizations, partners, objectives and measurable outcomes, we are working as one integrated team. Our extensive level of coordination, including a dedicated collaboration website, regular in-person meetings and ongoing team updates, will leverage professional expertise and funding sources to achieve the</p>

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greatest possible impact for Manatee County's RESTORE projects. Maps of all the projects are included on the RESTORE website main page and in an interactive format on the RESTORE Public Engagement Portal, which is linked to the webpage.

### **Project: Robinson Preserve Restoration**

Need: Robinson Preserve Expansion Phase III completes this multimillion dollar project underway by Manatee County and numerous project partners to transform 150 acres of fallow farmland overtaken by invasive exotic plants, into a masterwork of environmental stewardship.

Objective: The project includes restoring desirable native vegetation on the upland habitats with passive-use recreational amenities and a state-of-the-art educational facility nestled in a canopy of mature trees. The expansion will complement the existing trails and amenities, bringing the total size of Robinson Preserve to over 630 acres by filling a gap in funding to complete this final phase.

#### Milestones:

1. Pre-planting Site Preparation: resulting in site prepared for receipt of plants (Estimated 6-24 months from start)
2. Plant installation (direct seeding and planting) resulting in time zero condition for restored plant diversity (Estimated 6-12 months after #1)
3. Post-planting habitat establishment period adaptive management resulting in ultra low-maintenance established habitat trending towards restoration goal. (Estimated 24-36 months after #2)

### **Project: Natural Resources Workforce Development**

Need: The Natural Resources Workforce Development program is needed to address the critical shortage of applied, competency-based, training programs that develop qualified natural resource management technicians

#### Objectives:

- 1) To provide a pathway/pipeline for the development of conservation land management technicians who are fully trained and capable of carrying out all tasks and projects associated with natural areas land management.
- 2) Improve Management of Conservation Lands in Manatee County to reduce the risk of wildfire to nearby homes and property and increase ecological function through changes to vegetation structure that will allow affected areas to more fully support the appropriate suite of flora and fauna.

#### Milestones: Project Years (1-5):

*0-3 months:* 1) Recruit candidates and complete onboarding process ("Ranger 1" classification)

*Years (1-5):* 2) Implement five-year curriculum including: Natural Areas training Academy, Florida Forest Service/National Wildfire Coordinating Group coursework, Florida Master Naturalist program (432 contact hrs)

3) Rotational Mentorship Training with Parks and Natural Resources Department staff (2,900 hrs)

**Project: Coastal Watershed Program**

Need: Assess drainage of coastal urban areas of Manatee County for long term drainage improvements. That were developed early, under old flood and drainage standards and before drainage systems protected the water quality of creeks, rivers and bays.

Objective: Determine long term drainage needs for fourteen older urban coastal areas identified for this program.

Milestones: Projects in three areas are already underway in various stages of completion. Projects are envisioned as a one- or two-year assessment, followed by the construction of drainage system improvements to provide flood, drainage and water quality protection meeting current standards. Projects will be launched at the rate of one or two per year with all fourteen areas completed during the program lifetime.

**Project: Florida Maritime Museum Facility Enhancement**

Need: Expand facility capacity to increase tourism programming for the museum and its Folk School through restoring underutilized historic buildings and site amenities.

Objectives:

- 1) Provide a safe, habitable interior for the historic Burton Store to include multi-purpose space for a diversity of maritime related skills classes, a maritime research library, a comfortable conditioned space for visitors and climate-controlled collection storage for maritime artifacts, archives, and books
- 2) Add a historically compatible shed overhang to the Pillsbury Boat Shop that will be used for boat building, net making and repair, fishing and preparation of equipment and outdoor cooking.
- 3) Enhance utilization of Minnie Lake for educational programs like fishing and cast netting demonstrations and classes through the addition of a dock and improvements to its pump and aeration systems.

Milestones:

- 1) Complete renovations for all three components
- 2) Meet or exceed The Folk School at Florida Maritime Museum 3 year business plan
- 3) Achieve paid class attendance of 300 participants anticipated in 2017
- 4) Track zip codes of participants to analyze and increase ratios of tourists to residents

**Project: Gulf Shellfish Institute Sea Farm to Table**

Need: Bolster the local economy and improve coastal water quality by solving current obstacles to shellfish farming through applied research and outreach.

Objective: Increase production of clams, oysters and scallops to protect and enhance our coastal ecosystem; restore local shellfish populations; increase the supply of sustainably-produced, high quality seafood; and create jobs.

Milestones: Prioritization of research will be determined with shellfish industry input and could include any or all of the following specific focuses:

- Red tide monitoring and mitigation
- Identification of water quality issues

- Increasing sunray venus seed production
- Improving restoration techniques for scallops and clams
- Utilization of native clams to offset effects of climate changes
- Investigating the use of native clams to facilitate seagrass growth
- Coordinating regional restoration efforts

2. How the applicant made the multiyear plan available for 45 days for public review and comment, in a manner calculated to obtain broad-based participation from individuals, businesses, Indian tribes, and non-profit organizations, such as through public meetings, presentations in languages other than English, and postings on the Internet. The applicant will need to submit documentation (e.g., a copy of public notices) to demonstrate that it made its multiyear plan available to the public for at least 45 days. In addition, describe how each activity in the multiyear plan was approved after consideration of all meaningful input from the public and submit documentation (e.g., a letter from the applicant's leadership approving submission of the multiyear plan to Treasury or a resolution approving the applicant's multiyear plan).

A public work session with the County Board of Commissioners was held January 31, 2017 to review the proposed projects, process and budgets for RESTORE Funded programs. Media also covered this event.

A press conference was held May 8, 2017 at the Florida Maritime Museum to announce Manatee County's proposed Direct Component spending plan. Team leaders from each project were available to discuss their program with media and public, along with project site tours and program demonstrations. The specially created public RESTORE portal was showcased.

This portal, accessed via a new landing page on the County website, includes overview videos describing the objectives of each project, interactive GIS Storymaps showing locations and proximity of each project, brief surveys and comment boxes for each project, narrative texts, and additional ways for the public to gain more information and to become involved.

Posters publicizing these resources will be displayed at all the County libraries. Organizations are encouraged to request live presentations during their meetings, where ample time for discussion is available. Pilot presentations were made and all requests will be tracked.

A social media campaign has also been created where electronic participation invitations are distributed to organizations who then distribute them to their mailing lists, which greatly increases reach and frequency. Completed surveys include zip codes for data analysis of county residents, regional, state and even international respondents.

3. How each activity included in the applicant's multiyear plan matrix meets all the requirements under the RESTORE Act, including a description of how each activity is eligible for funding based on the geographic location of each activity and how each activity qualifies for at least one of the eligible activities under the RESTORE Act.

**Project: Robinson Preserve Restoration**

Robinson Preserve Expansion Phase III is an eligible activity because this project consists of habitat restoration with methods based on the best available science. This work consists directly of restoration and protection of the natural resources, ecosystems, wildlife habitats, and coastal wetlands of the Gulf Coast Region. This project is located in Manatee County, Florida being undertaken by Manatee County Government, a direct component eligible applicant

**Project: Workforce Development**

The Natural Resources Workforce Development project is proposed under the fourth category of eligible activities: "Workforce Development and Job Creation". Manatee County

Government, an eligible applicant, is seeking to use funds dispersed under the RESTORE act to address the critical shortage of applied, competency-based, training programs that develop natural resource management technicians.

**Project: Coastal Watershed Program**

This activity is focused on improving the performance of drainage systems within coastal urban areas of Manatee County and is an eligible activity under the "Coastal Flood Protection and related infrastructure" category.

**Project: Florida Maritime Museum Facility Enhancement**

The three components of the Clerk of Circuit Court's request for the Florida Maritime Museum, meet all the requirements under the Restore Act under the category "Promotion of Tourism in the Gulf Coast Region, Including Promotion of Recreational Fishing". It will directly increase tourism for Manatee County and the Historic Fishing Village of Cortez. The grant funding will be managed by the Clerk of Circuit Court's Historical Resources Department and the Grant Management Department to ensure that all purchasing, hiring and reporting of grant funds are done within Restore Act requirements.

**Project: Gulf Shellfish Institute Sea Farm to Table**

This project involves several RESTORE Act activities under the category of: "Promotion of the Consumption of Seafood Harvested from the Gulf Coast Region" and will address the following objectives:

1. Result in measurable improvements to local ecosystems
2. Mitigate damage to local shellfish populations
3. Increase workforce development and result in job creation
4. Increase availability and consumption of locally grown seafood

This effort will be focused on the Southwest coast of Florida, an area that contains three estuaries of national importance: Tampa Bay, Sarasota Bay and Charlotte Harbor. Manatee County is centrally located in this region and has an ideal climate and environment for growing local shellfish species that are commercially and ecologically important.

4. Criteria the applicant will use to evaluate the success of the activities included in the multiyear plan matrix in helping to restore and protect the Gulf Coast Region impacted by the Deepwater Horizon oil spill.

**Project: Robinson Preserve** Restoration's Expansion Phase III success will be measured spatially, in acres, of habitat improved from baseline conditions by conducting qualitative monitoring within the work areas. This monitoring is a crucial part of the Habitat Establishment Period Adaptive Management (HEPAM) strategy that will be employed to guide the development of each proposed habitat type towards its restoration goal. The overall restoration goal is to attain a stable "maintenance phase", capable of sustaining the ecological improvements to be gained through this "project phase" investment, using normal habitat maintenance, comparable to that of established habitats. This "maintenance phase" is a condition in which existing County resources are capable of managing baseline threats of invasive species incursion and application of prescribed fire as necessary in pyrogenic habitats.

**Project: Workforce Development**

Success measures for the Natural Resources Workforce Development include the following:

- 1) The number of enrollees. We expect to enroll a minimum of nine individuals for the five year program
- 2) Contact Hours (Classroom-430): The program provides 430 hours of classroom based training.
- 3) Contact Hours (Mentor-lead apprenticeship-2,930): The program will provide hands on apprenticeship style training in four key areas: 1.) Invasive Plant Control & Habitat Restoration 2.) Rx Fire operations 3.) GPS GIS technology and 4.) Visitor Services

**Project: Coastal Watershed Program**

Program success will be measured through the annual Storm Water Management Plan assessment required by Manatee County's municipal stormwater system permit (aka NPDES-MS4 permit) and data collected by the Parks and Natural Resources Department monitoring programs.

**Project: Florida Maritime Museum Facility Enhancement**

The needs of The Folk School at Florida Maritime Museum were identified through a thorough process of preparing a business plan, including classes such as canning, crocheting, quilting, shellcraft, memoir writing and photograph preservation. Our business plan reflects that The Folk School at Florida Maritime Museum will reach about 300 participants its first year. The Folk School at Florida Maritime Museum will keep records of class attendance and also the home zip code of participants. This will help to determine how many attendees are based locally and how many are visitors to the community contributing to tourism.

**Project: Gulf Shellfish Institute Sea Farm to Table**

Success of this program will be measured, at a minimum, in the following ways:

1. Water filtering capacity of shellfish added to local waters
2. Increase in abundance of natural populations of shellfish
3. Increase in the number of local businesses and workers producing shellfish
4. Increase in the production and value of shellfish produced locally

5. How the activities included in the multiyear plan matrix were prioritized and list the criteria used to establish the priorities.

The process for reviewing projects followed a sequential analysis of the following criteria:

- a. Eligibility within the established RESTORE Act project categories
- b. Project team leadership expertise in relation to the eligible category
- c. Existing track record of success in similar projects of scope, completion and impact
- d. Demonstrated partnering competence and ability to leverage funding resources
- e. Long-term, measurable project impact
- f. Administrative capacity to comply with federal grant requirements

6. If applicable, describe the amount and current status of funding from other sources (e.g., other RESTORE Act contribution, other third party contribution) and provide a description of the specific portion of the project to be funded by the RESTORE Act Direct Component.

**Project: Robinson Preserve Restoration's** total estimated cost for ecological improvements (not including property acquisition, or human amenities such as trails, restrooms, and nature center) for all phases of the Robinson Preserve Project is \$5,712,219.60. Most of this was re-grading the damaged former agricultural fields to create valuable coastal saltwater habitats and prepare uplands for future restoration (Phase II and IIB). The total estimated need in funding for Robinson Preserve Phase III is 1,187,300.00 as of March 9, 2017. Based on current estimates for Phase IIB and the funding that dedicated from other funding partners the estimated need is \$600,000 for successful completion of the Robinson Preserve Expansion Project. Anticipated funding for Phase III is through an existing signed agreement with the Southwest Florida Water Management District's Cooperative Funding Initiative (assuming costs for Phase IIB construction are at budget estimates) at \$257,000 and a dedicated amount of \$271,000 through the Environmental Protection Agency being distributed through the Tampa Bay Estuary Program (Pot 2).