

RESTORE Council Approves \$18.9 Million Grant for Marsh Work

The RESTORE Council recently approved an \$18.9 million grant for creating and restoring marsh across the Mississippi Gulf Coast. The Beneficial Use of Dredge Material for Marsh Creation and Restoration program will support the restoration and protection of natural resources, ecosystems, fisheries, marine and wildlife habitats, beaches, and coastal wetlands by creating new marsh and restoring and enhancing existing marsh through the beneficial use of dredge materials. The grant is administered by MDEQ.

This funding leverages and supports other comprehensive marsh and habitat restoration efforts from other *Deepwater Horizon* oil spill related funding streams for projects such as the Round Island project in Jackson County and the Hancock County Marsh Living Shoreline.

“The approval of this program is a key component of our overall marsh creation strategy, and I am pleased we can move forward into implementation of this project,” said MDEQ Executive Director Chris Wells.

These funds are part of the RESTORE Act’s Spill Impact Component or “Bucket 3.” In the RESTORE Act for Bucket 3 funds, 30 percent is divided among the Gulf States to implement state expenditure plans which can include activities such as planning, ecosystem restoration, tourism promotion, and infrastructure projects.