

# ALABAMA STATE EXPENDITURE PLAN (SEP)

## Project #29: Planning Grant to Amend State Expenditure Plan

### Project Description/Summary

a) This project will develop one or more amended State Expenditure Plan(s) to identify eligible Spill Impact Component activities as additional funds become available. Broad-based participation will be obtained from individuals, businesses, and organizations in the Gulf Coast region of Alabama. ADCNR will use a website portal to solicit project suggestions from the public and employ a project selection process to assure a consistent review of all projects submitted. ADCNR will also engage a consultant to serve as a technical expert and to complete detailed evaluations of each supported project. Finally, using information obtained in the technical review, the Alabama Gulf Coast Recovery Council will approve a slate of projects for inclusion in the amended SEP(s). ADCNR will then develop the amended plan and publish it for public review and comment for at least 45 days through the website, email distribution, and a public meeting.

a. **Need:** As additional Spill Impact Component funds become available, amendments to Alabama's existing SEP will be necessary to identify and fund additional eligible activities.

**Purpose:** The purpose of this project is to provide planning assistance to develop amended SEP(s) for the State of Alabama.

**Objective:** The objective of this planning grant is to develop amended Alabama State Expenditure Plan(s).

b. This project is located in the Gulf Coast region and will be implemented in Baldwin and Mobile Counties in Alabama.

c. This project is anticipated to begin on 7/1/19 and end on 6/30/2024.

d. This project will be implemented by the Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources.

b) Projects included in amended State Expenditure Plan(s) will remain consistent with RESTORE Act eligible activities and the Comprehensive Plan goals and objectives, thereby contributing to the overall economic and ecological recovery of the Gulf Coast Region.

### Eligibility and Statutory Requirements

This activity is located in the Gulf Coast Region and is eligible for Spill Impact Component funding under Category #8 – Planning Assistance (primary).

### Comprehensive Plan Goals and Objectives

This project is consistent with the following Comprehensive Plan goals:

- Goal 1: Restore and Conserve Habitat – Restore and conserve the health, diversity, and resilience of key coastal, estuarine, and marine habitats;

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- Goal 2: Restore Water Quality and Quantity – Restore and protect water quality of the Gulf Coast region’s fresh, estuarine, and marine water;
- Goal 3: Replenish and Protect Living Coastal and Marine Resources – Restore and protect healthy, diverse, and sustainable living coastal and marine resources;
- Goal 4: Enhance Community Resilience – Build upon and sustain communities with capacity to adapt to short- and long-term changes; and
- Goal 5: Restore and Revitalize the Gulf Economy – Enhance the sustainability and resiliency of the Gulf economy.

This project supports the following Comprehensive Plan objectives:

- Objective 1: Restore, Enhance, and Protect Habitats – Restore, enhance, and protect the extent, functionality, resiliency, and sustainability of coastal, freshwater, estuarine, wildlife, and marine habitats;
- Objective 2: Restore, Improve, and Protect Water Resources – Restore, improve, and protect the Gulf Coast region’s fresh, estuarine, and marine water resources by reducing or treating nutrient and pollutant loading; and improving the management of freshwater flows, discharges to and withdrawals from critical systems;
- Objective 3: Protect and Restore Living Coastal and Marine Resources – Restore and protect healthy, diverse, and sustainable living coastal and marine resources including finfish, shellfish, birds, mammals, reptiles, coral, and deep benthic communities;
- Objective 4: Restore and Enhance Natural Processes and Shorelines – Restore and enhance ecosystem resilience, sustainability, and natural defenses through the restoration of natural coastal, estuarine, and riverine processes, and/or the restoration of natural shorelines;
- Objective 5: Promote Community Resilience – Build and sustain Gulf Coast communities’ capacity to adapt to short- and long-term natural and man-made hazards, particularly increased flood risks associated with sea-level rise and environmental stressors. Promote ecosystem restoration that enhances community resilience through the re-establishment of non-structural, natural buffers against storms and flooding;
- Objective 6: Promote Natural Resource Stewardship and Environmental Education – Promote and enhance natural resource stewardship efforts that include formal and informal educational opportunities, professional development and training, communication, and actions for all ages; and
- Objective 7: Improve Science-Based Decision-Making Processes – Improve science-based decision-making processes used by the Council.

### Major Milestones

- a) Milestone 1: Alabama Council completes project selection process
- b) Milestone 2: Alabama Council votes on eligible projects
- c) Milestone 3: Draft Amended SEP released for public comment

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- d) Milestone 4: Final Amended SEP adopted and submitted to Federal Council

### Success Criteria/Metrics/Outcomes

The anticipated outcome of the Planning Grant to Amend the State Expenditure Plan (SEP) will be:

- The development of one or more amended SEPs to fund activities in the Gulf Coast Region of Alabama as additional funds are deposited in the Gulf Coast Restoration Trust Fund.

**Table 30. Proposed Projects Success Criteria/Metrics/Outcomes**

<b>Activity</b>	<b>Anticipated Project Success Criteria/Metrics</b>	<b>Short-term outcome</b>	<b>Long-term outcome</b>
Develop one or more amended State Expenditure Plans	Number of SEPs developed and approved	Amended SEP(s) with eligible projects, programs, and activities	Economic and ecological recovery of the Gulf Coast Region

### Monitoring and Evaluation

- a) Insure Alabama Council adheres to project selection process
- b) Semi-annual reporting to address activities associated with developing amended SEP(s)

### Best Available Science

A Best Available Science (BAS) review is required for programs and activities that would restore and protect the natural resources, ecosystems, fisheries, marine and wildlife habitats, beaches, coastal wetlands, and economy of the Gulf Coast. The primary focus of this project is to develop an amended Alabama State Expenditure Plan(s); therefore, BAS does not apply.

### Budget/Funding

- a) Estimated cost of the project and amount to be requested from Spill Impact Component Funds: \$300,000 (100% - Planning).
- b) No other funding sources are anticipated at this time.

### Partnerships/Collaboration (if applicable)

Not applicable at this time.

### 2. Leveraged Resources (if applicable)

Not applicable at this time.

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Funds Used As Non-Federal Match (if applicable)

Not applicable at this time.

Other

Not applicable at this time.