Restoring Natural Resources After Oil Spills

Trustees Release Draft Regional Restoration Plan to Restore Injured Resources

State of Louisiana and Federal natural resource trustees are soliciting public comments on a draft Regional Restoration Plan to restore natural resources injured by oil spills. This draft Region 2 Plan is the first of nine regional plans to be developed under the statewide Louisiana Regional Restoration Planning Program.

The State of Louisiana, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, and U.S. Department of the Interior have developed a statewide program to expedite restoration of injured resources and reduce the cost of Natural Resource Damage Assessments-the process by which trustee agencies assess and restore resources injured by oil spills.

Region 2 encompasses all or part of the following parishes Ascension, Assumption, Jefferson, Lafourche. Orleans, Plaquemines, St. Bernard. St. Charles, St. James, and St. John the Baptist. The draft Plan describes the affected environment, biological resources, and associated habitat types, as well as the natural resources/services that are likely to be injured by an incident, appropriate restoration types for each of the potentially injured resources/services, and available restoration projects that have been identified to date. Another key feature of the draft Region 2 Plan is the determination of a representative unit cost to restore pre-dominant habitat types in the region as part of a cash settlement. The proposed predominant habitat types in Region 2 are coastal herbaceous wetlands, oyster reefs, and coastal-forested wetlands.

For more information and/or to receive a copy of the draft Plan, please visit www.darp.noaa.gov or contact one of the following individuals:

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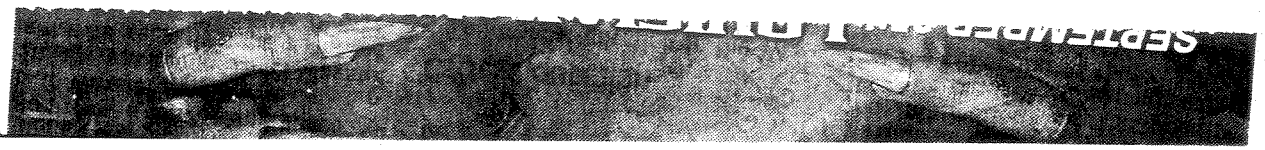
The draft Region 2 Plan will be released on or before September 23, 2003. Written comments should be submitted to William Conner by October 23, 2003, at the address listed above.

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