

Explanation of Evaluation Form

Pre-screening

1. Project will be pre-screened to see if it aligns with the "Allowable Uses" as provided in the RESTORE Act. Those projects that do not meet at least one of the "Allowable Uses" will not be considered. Projects that are simply "educational" will not be considered.
2. If project is eligible for other funding sources ((i.e. 319 Grants, WRDA, etc) that can be utilized in the next 3 years, project will not be considered. This was something that was considered in the evaluation of projects by the NEP working group that developed the Southwest Florida Regional Ecosystem Restoration Plan. However, in the NEP working group, it was just scored differently based on the projects eligibility for other funding—it was not excluded from applying for RESTORE Act funding. The intent here is to pick projects that may not have access to any other source of funding-i.e. could the project be funded by 319 grant monies or WRDA funding? If the project has already received other funding (even 319 grant monies), hopefully, the proposer is only asking to fund the “unfunded” portions of the project with RESTORE monies and the other funding would be used as a match. Bottom line—the project would be excluded if they had never applied for other eligible funding before trying to apply for RESTORE monies. This would use RESTORE monies to their fullest and not fund projects that could be funded elsewhere.
3. Project must align with one of the Communities Eligible Needs County's as established within the Guiding Principles set forth by the Board of County Commissioners on 2/26/2013 and are listed here.

Ranking

4. Allowable Uses

Allowable Uses a-g are those as identified within the RESTORE Act. Allowable Use " h" is a combination of 2 distinct uses listed in the Act: "Promotion of tourism in the Gulf Coast region, including recreational fishing", and "Promotion of the consumption of seafood harvested from the Gulf Coast region." The Act also lists "Planning Assistance" and "Administrative costs of complying with the Act".

If the project meets the Allowable Use, it is awarded the entire point amount provided.

5. Quality of the Project

Intended to score the overall quality of the project proposal in how complete the proposal is structured to plan for a successful outcome. Points are scored to reflect the completeness of the proposal, the establishment of realistic deadlines, the ability of the project to meet its goals, the difficulty of receiving required permits, and the readiness of the project to be started.

6. Combined benefits

Does project align with another existing or proposed project so that when combined together the benefit of both is greater than the sum of each (i.e. $1 + 1 = 3!$)

7. Matching Funds

Project is awarded points based on the amount of matching funds (either in-kind or cash) being provided. The higher the match, the more points awarded, up to 25 points. The Evaluation sheet is programmed to make this calculation prorating the maximum score of 25 points based on percentage match.

8. Enhances access to coastal resources

Projects that create or enhance existing access to coastal resources. Examples may include artificial reefs that bring scuba divers and fishermen to the coast; trails that provide access to or thru coastal resources; acquisition of access locations or improvements to access points.

9. Degree of positive impact on coastal resources

This is based on the projects ability to meet one of the four environmental benefits listed in the Gulf Coast Ecosystem Restoration Council Objectives contained in its draft Comprehensive plan.

Each project can be awarded up to 10 pts for each Objective

a) Restore, Enhance, and Protect Habitats – Restore, enhance and protect the extent, functionality, resiliency, and sustainability of coastal, freshwater, estuarine, wildlife, and marine habitats. These include barrier islands, beaches, dunes, coastal wetlands, coastal forests, pine savannahs, coastal prairies, submerged aquatic vegetation, oyster reefs, and shallow and deepwater corals. The types of projects and programs that could be implemented under this objective include the restoration, enhancement, creation, and protection of important coastal, freshwater, estuarine, and marine habitats, and removal of invasive species. Protection and conservation projects may be implemented through active management, acquisition, voluntary management agreements, protected area management, perpetual management, conservation easements, and other conservation activities.

b) Restore, Improve, and Protect Water Quality – 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. The types of water resource management projects and programs that could be implemented include implementation of watershed best management practices; improved agricultural and silvicultural management practices; enhanced stormwater and/or wastewater management; improved quality and quantity of freshwater flows, discharges, and withdrawals; sediment runoff management; and other foundational water quality concerns.

c) 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. The types of projects and programs that could be implemented under this objective may address recovery of threatened and endangered species, overfishing and bycatch, improved fisheries assessments, sustainable resource management of commercially and recreationally important activities (such as fishing, hunting, and wildlife watching), increased resource stocks, invasive and nuisance species management and removal, enforcement, and other protective measures.

d) 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. The types of projects and programs that could be implemented under this objective may include: removal of barriers to improve freshwater inflow and fish passage; improved sediment management (e.g., through increased beneficial use, dedicated dredging, and sediment capture structures); restoration of coastal wetlands, restoration of eroded shorelines; river diversions (also known as river re-introduction projects) and other types of hydrologic restoration; natural ridge restoration; implementation of living shoreline techniques; and other restoration techniques that address natural processes and shorelines.

10. Aligns with County Priorities

County Staff will provide technical assistance with this category to identify related initiatives.

Scoring breakdown	Benefit	Percent of Total	Section total
4a	50 Environmental	12.8%	53.8%
4b	50 Environmental	12.8%	
4c	40 Environmental	10.3%	
4d	5 Economic	1.3%	
4e	15 Environmental	3.8%	
4f	30 Both Eco and Enviro	7.7%	
4g	10 Economic	2.6%	
4h	10 Economic	2.6%	
5a	10 Other	2.6%	16.7%
5b	10 Other	2.6%	
5c	10 Other	2.6%	
5d	10 Other	2.6%	
5e	25 Other	6.4%	
6	5 Other	1.3%	1.3%
7	25 Other	6.4%	6.4%
8	20 Economic	5.1%	5.1%

9a	10	Environmental	2.6%	10.3%
9b	10	Environmental	2.6%	
9c	10	Environmental	2.6%	
9d	10	Environmental	2.6%	
10	25	Other	6.4%	6.4%
TOTAL	390			

53.8% Environmental
15.4% Economic
30.8% Other