

## Preferred Nutrient Reduction (Nonpoint Source) Restoration Projects

### Texas Trustee Implementation Group Draft Restoration Plan/Environmental Assessment #2

Nutrient pollution poses a significant threat to localized watersheds, leading to hypoxia, harmful algal blooms, habitat losses, and fish kills. The Deepwater Horizon (DWH) Trustees recognize that addressing nutrient pollution improves the overall health and resiliency of coastal ecosystems, especially in nearshore habitats. On behalf of the public, the Texas Trustee Implementation Group is proposing to implement two alternatives (projects) in the Texas Restoration Area to provide nutrient reduction benefits to the coastal environment and associated habitats injured by the DWH oil spill. Summary descriptions of the proposed projects are provided below.

#### Petronila Creek Constructed Wetlands Planning

The Petronila Creek Constructed Wetlands Planning project would include preliminary planning to construct a series of wetlands and wet ponds on a 240-acre agricultural tract adjacent to Petronila Creek, approximately 17 miles upstream of Baffin Bay in Nueces County, Texas. A feasibility study would be conducted to assess the nutrient reduction potential and efficacy and evaluate planning and implementation costs. If determined to be feasible, the 30% design would be developed, and permit applications would be submitted. The project would help intercept and treat nutrient-rich agricultural runoff to reduce water quality impacts to Baffin Bay. The estimated cost of the project is \$450,000.

#### Petronila Creek Watershed Nutrient Reduction Initiative

The Petronila Creek Watershed Nutrient Reduction Initiative would implement conservation practices on agricultural lands to improve water quality conditions within the Petronila Creek watershed in Nueces County, Texas. Outreach and financial and technical assistance would be provided to voluntary participants to develop and implement conservation practices in areas vulnerable to nutrient and sediment

runoff. The project would restore and enhance the ecological and hydrological integrity of water resources within immediate tributaries and receiving waterbodies, improving the functionality of in-stream habitats used by aquatic organisms to fulfill critical life history cycles. The estimated cost of the project is \$4,300,000.

#### Petronila Creek Constructed Wetlands Planning

Location: Nueces County  
Funding Amount: \$450,000

#### Petronila Creek Watershed Nutrient Reduction Initiative

Location: Nueces County  
Funding Amount: \$4,300,000

**Total Funding Proposed: \$4,750,000**

*For additional project information, please see the Draft Restoration Plan/Environmental Assessment #2: Restoration of Wetland, Coastal and Nearshore Habitats; Nutrient Reduction; Oysters; Sea Turtles; and Birds online at [www.gulfspillrestoration.noaa.gov/restoration-areas/texas](http://www.gulfspillrestoration.noaa.gov/restoration-areas/texas).*

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Petronila Creek in Nueces County, Texas (Texas Commission on Environmental Quality).

