

Early Restoration Phase II

\$4.6 Restoring the Night Sky project

Phase II Early Restoration Project

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The Improving Habitat Injured by Spill Response: Restoring the Night Sky project will reduce disturbance to nesting habitat for loggerhead sea turtles. The project involves multiple tasks: (1) Site-specific surveys of existing light sources for each targeted beach; (2) Coordination with site managers on development of plans to eliminate, retrofit, or replace existing light fixtures on the property or to otherwise decrease the amount of light reaching the loggerhead sea turtle nesting beach; (3) Retrofitting streetlights and parking lot lights; (4) Increased efforts by local governments to ensure compliance with local lighting ordinances; and (5) A public awareness campaign including educational materials and revision of the FWC Lighting Technical Manual to include Best Available Technology (Witherington and Martin, 2000).

Beach-nesting bird habitats were harmed by oil spill response activities. Marking sensitive nesting sites aims to protect eggs, chicks and adults. The project is located across three Gulf states: Florida, Alabama and Mississippi. In Florida, site enhancements are located in Escambia, Santa Rosa, Okaloosa, Walton, Bay, Gulf, and Franklin counties. In Alabama, sites are located in Baldwin and Mobile counties. In Mississippi, sites are located in Jackson and Harrison counties. The Department of the Interior and Florida are working together to implement this project.

Funding for this project is the result of a negotiated commitment from BP to provide \$1 billion for early restoration. To date, the agreement is the largest of its kind and represented an initial “down payment” toward fulfilling the responsible parties’ obligation to fund the complete restoration of injured natural resources.

PROJECT COST \$4.6 million

