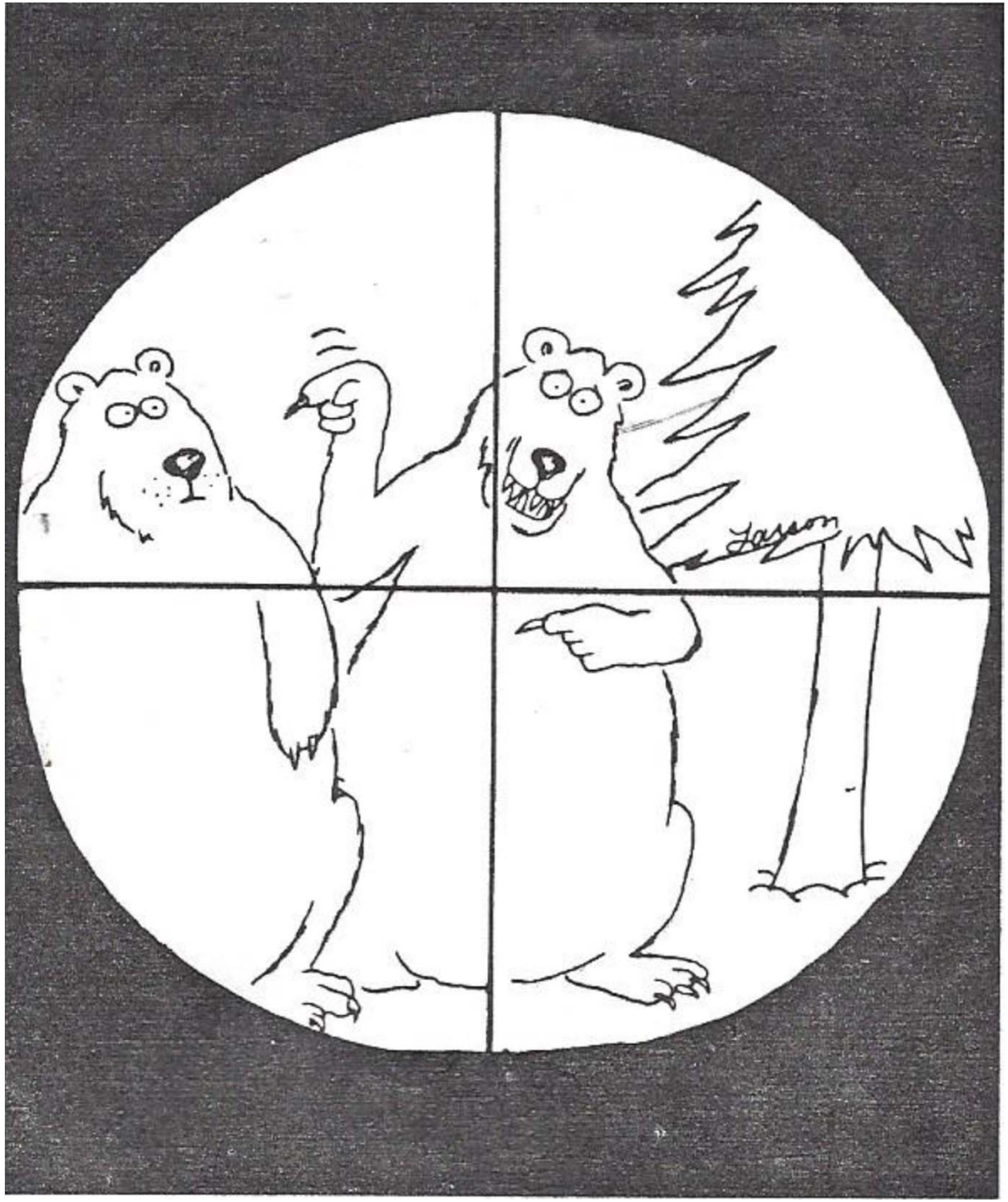
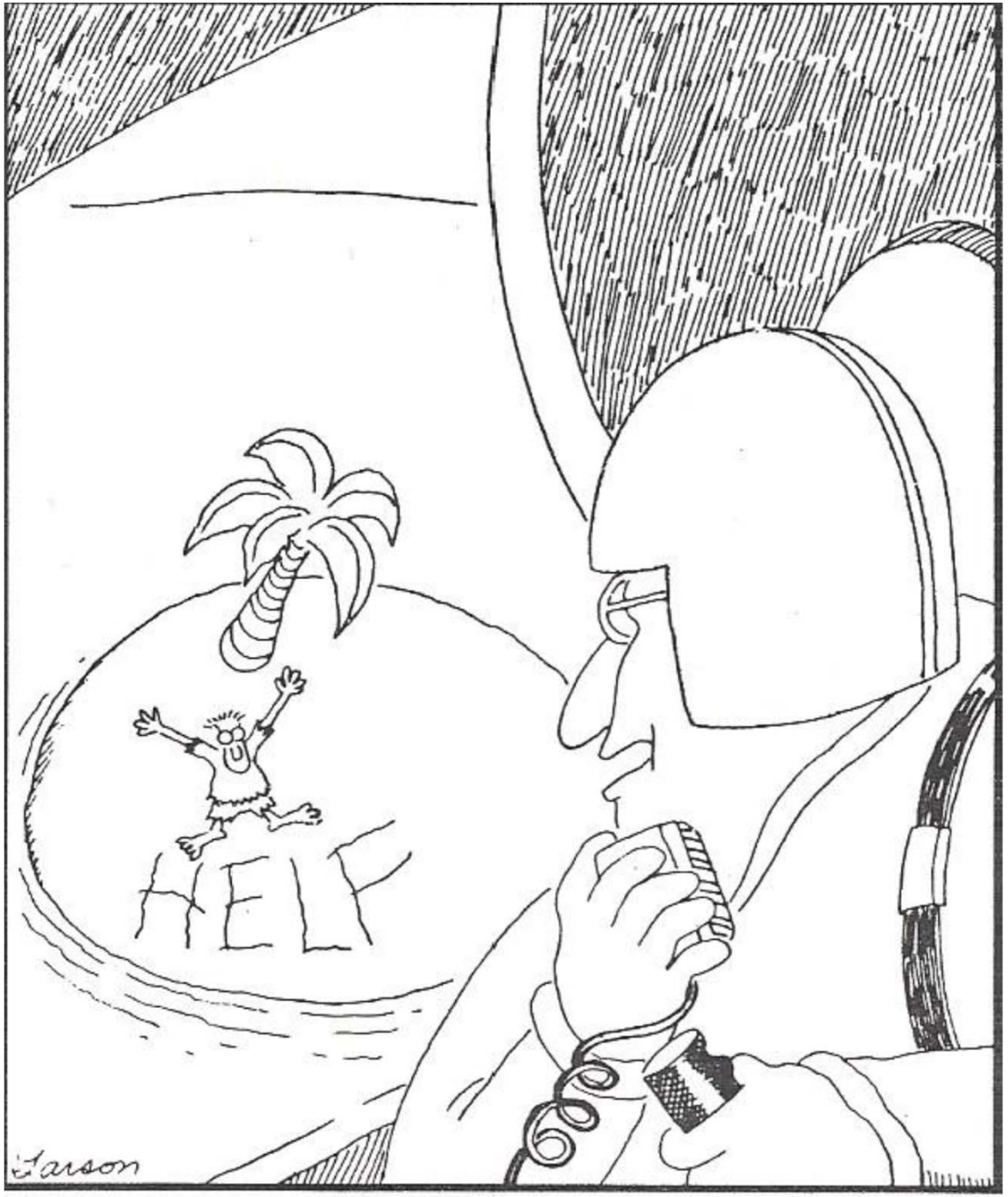
MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

MDEQ Update

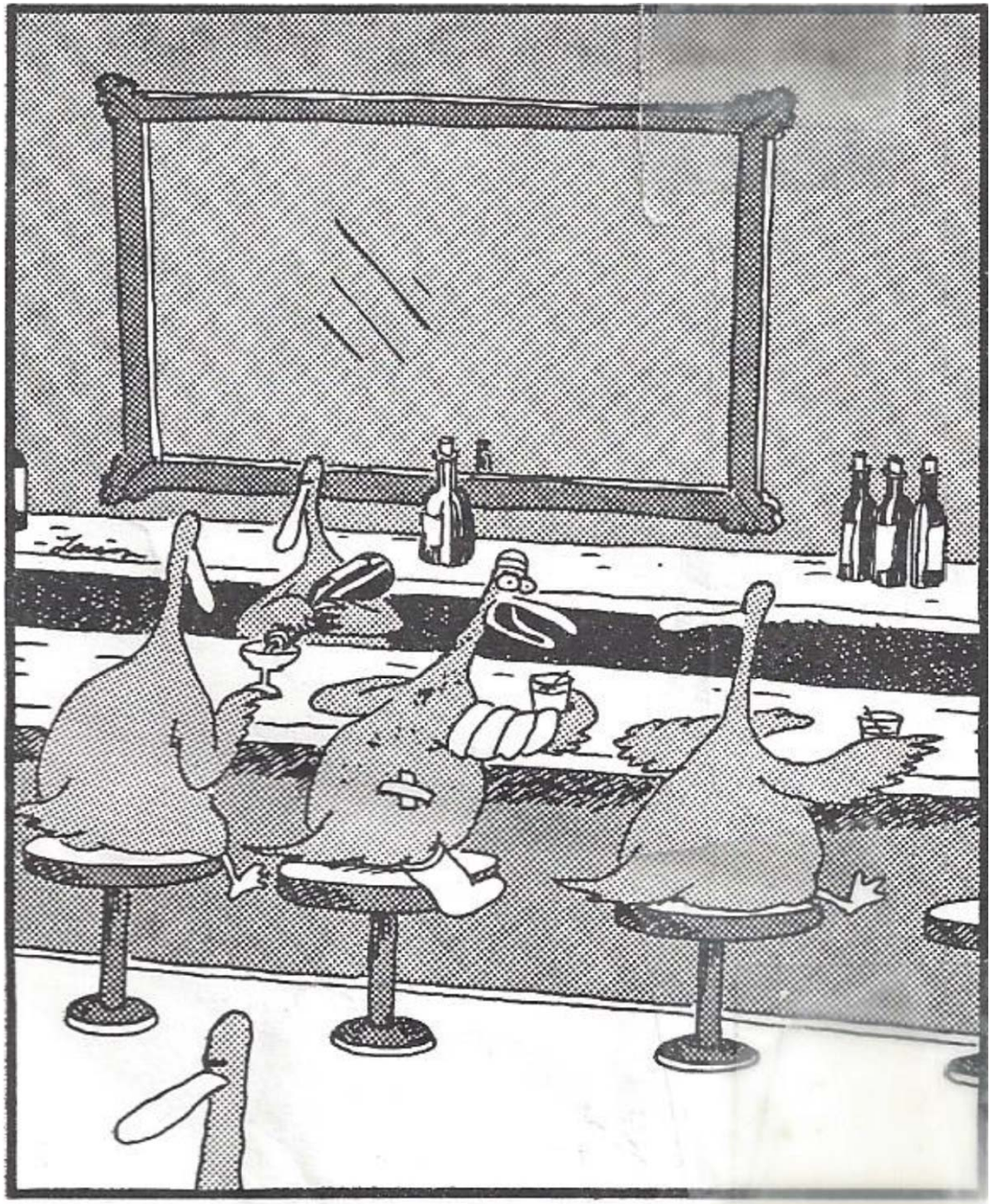
Gary Rikard

Executive Director of the Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality





"Wait! Wait! Cancel that, I guess it says 'helf.'"



"Well, hell no, I can't tell Harriet! ... First thing she's gonna ask me is what was I doin' checkin' out a decoy!"

MDEQ Update

- Oil Spill
- Budget
- Recruiting and Retention
- Re-Engineering of OPC

Where are we now?

TOTAL FOR MISSISSIPPI

$2.17 BILLION

FUNDS PREVIOUSLY ALLOCATED

$659,000,000

NRDA Early Restoration	$112.557 Million
RESTORE Act	$106 Million
NFWF	$356 Million
Initial Response	$85.58 Million

NEW FUNDS UNDER CONSENT DECREE

$1,515,000,000

NRDA	$183 Million
RESTORE Act	$582 Million
Economic Damages	$750 Million

1

Conserve and Restore Coastal Lands

2

Protect Water Resources

BENEFITS

BENEFITS

BENEFITS

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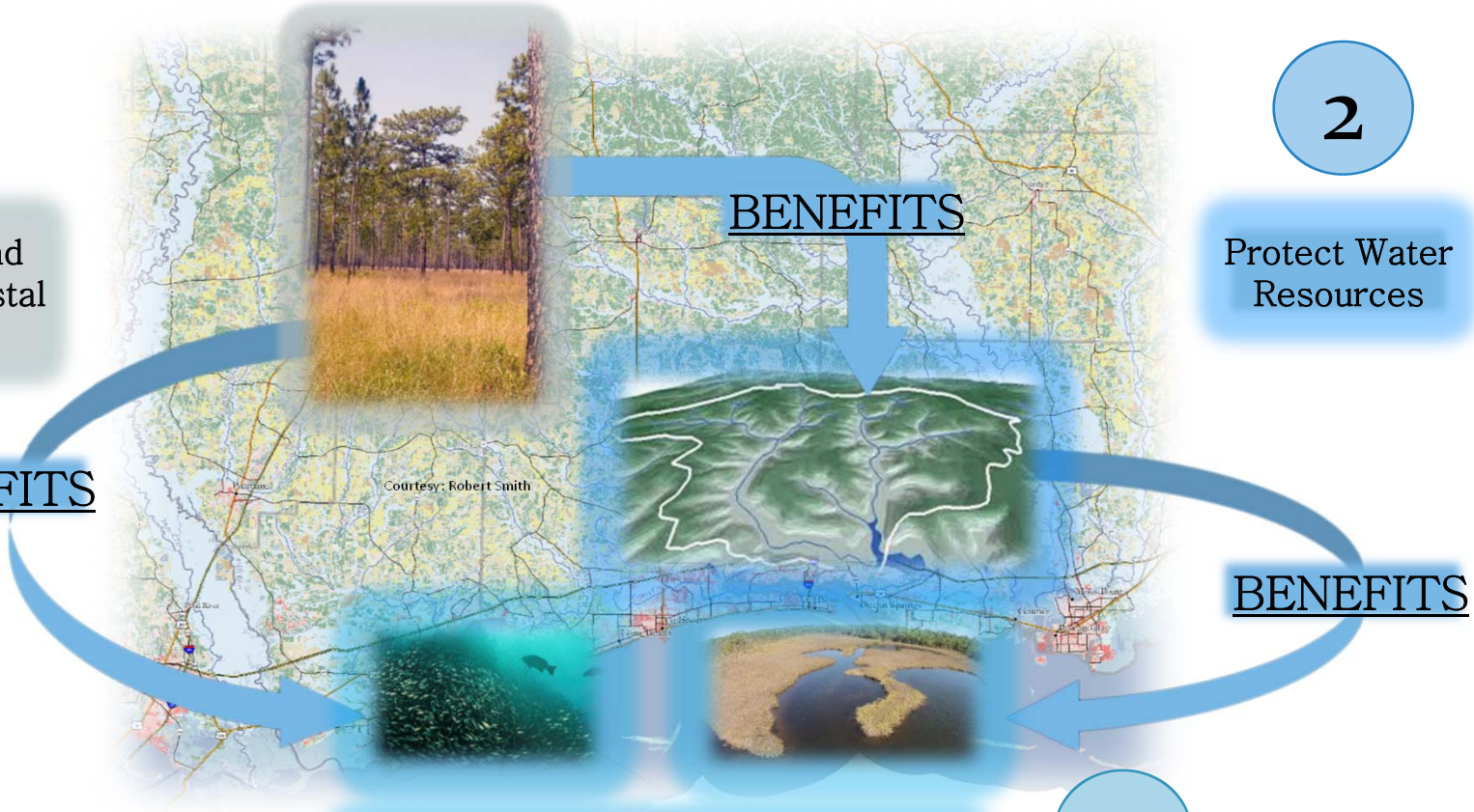
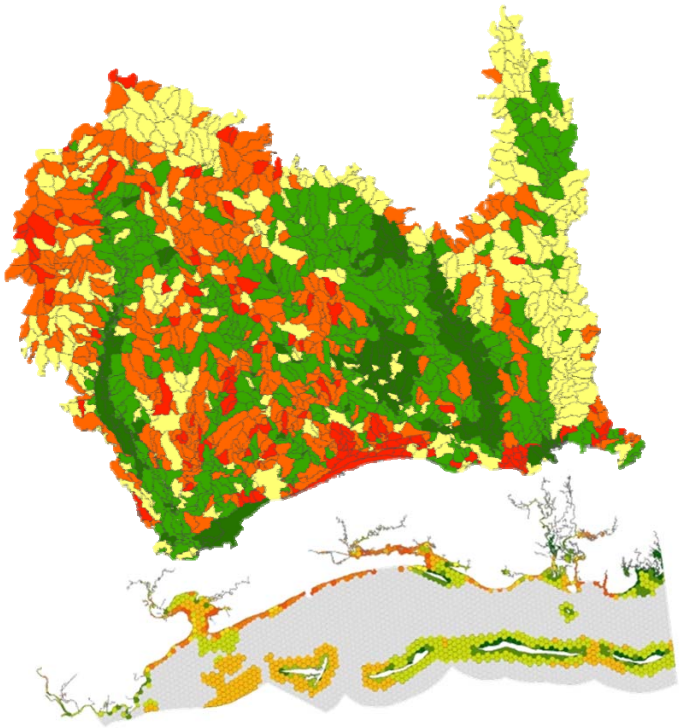


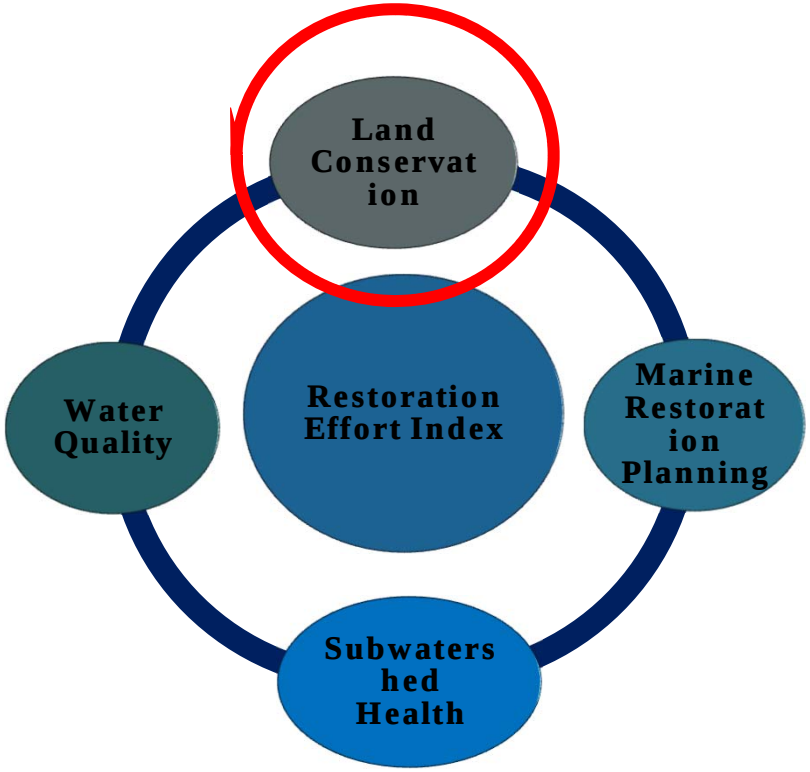
Sustaining Coastal and Marine Resources

3

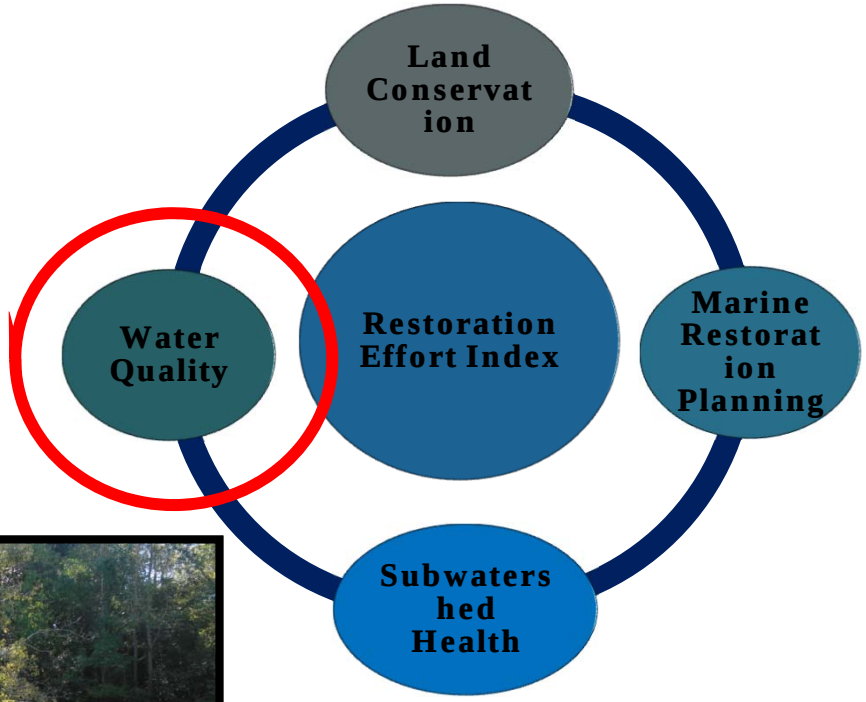
Land Conservation



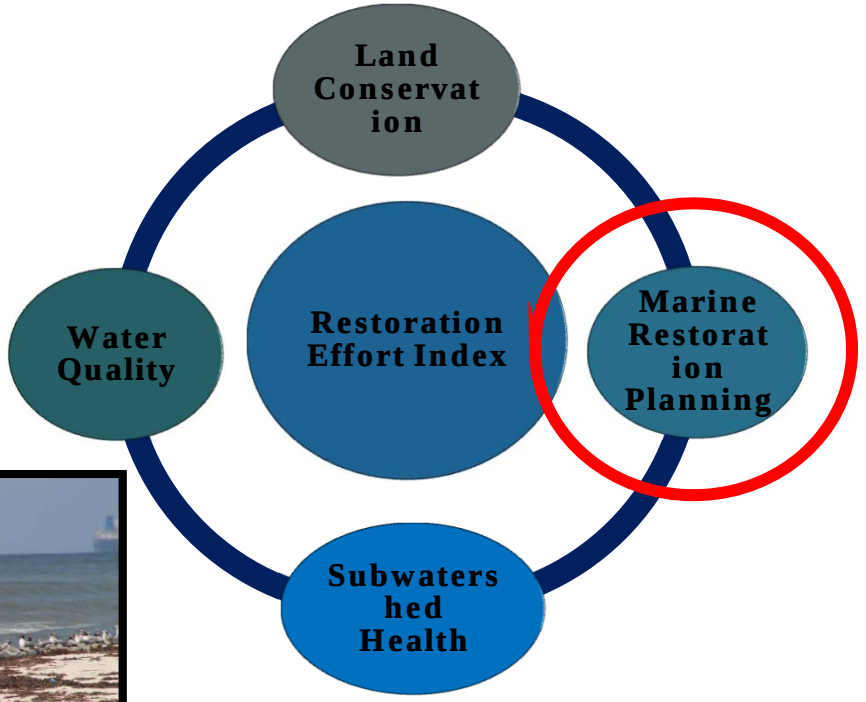
MCERT – Mississippi Comprehensive Ecosystem Restoration Tool



Water Quality



Marine Resources



Picture Credit: Becky Stowe and The Nature Conservancy

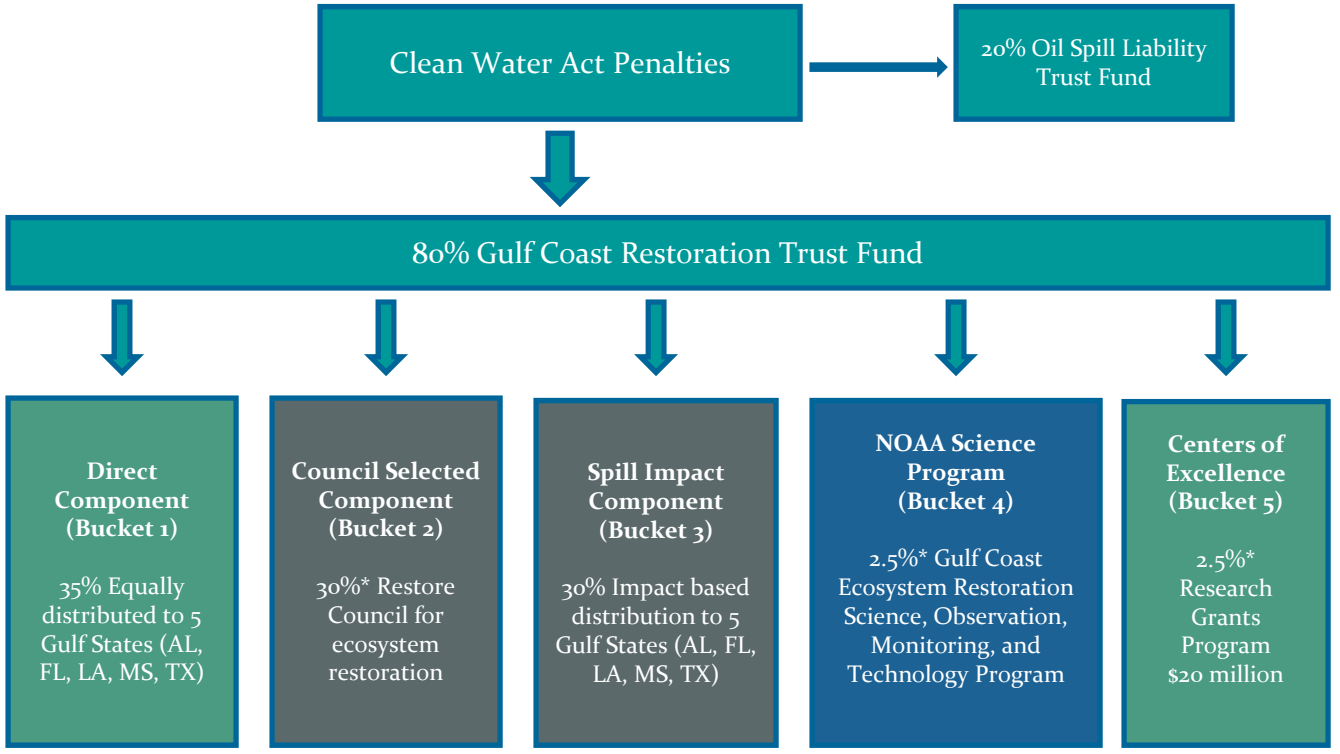
Mississippi RESTORATION

RESTORE

NRDA

NFWF

RESTORE



Supplemented by interest generated by the Trust Fund (50% to Gulf Coast Ecosystem Restoration Council, 25% to Science Program, 25% to Centers of Excellence)

Administered by the **US Treasury**

Administered by the **RESTORE Council**

Administered by **NOAA**

What can be Funded in Bucket 1?

RESTORE

Environmental
(Eco-Restoration, Research and Education)

All things habitat Restoration and conservation

Infrastructure
(Infrastructure)

Infrastructure that benefits the Gulf Economy

Economy
(Small business, Tourism, Workforce, Economic Development, Seafood)

Workforce and Economic Development that will benefit the Gulf Economy including marketing, tourism, and seafood

Bucket 2 – Council Selected Component

RESTORE

Administered by the **RESTORE Council**

Relevant Stats:

- ±$20 million available right now – Transocean Settlement
- ±$1.3 billion gulf wide – over 15 yrs with BP Settlement
- Eco-Restoration
- Competitive

Gulf Coast Ecosystem Restoration Council

Bucket 3 – Oil Spill Impact Component

RESTORE

Administered by the **RESTORE Council**

Relevant Stats:

- ±$46 million available right now – Transocean Settlement
- ±$251 million – over 15 yrs with BP Settlement
- Primarily Eco-Restoration
- 25% infrastructure cap

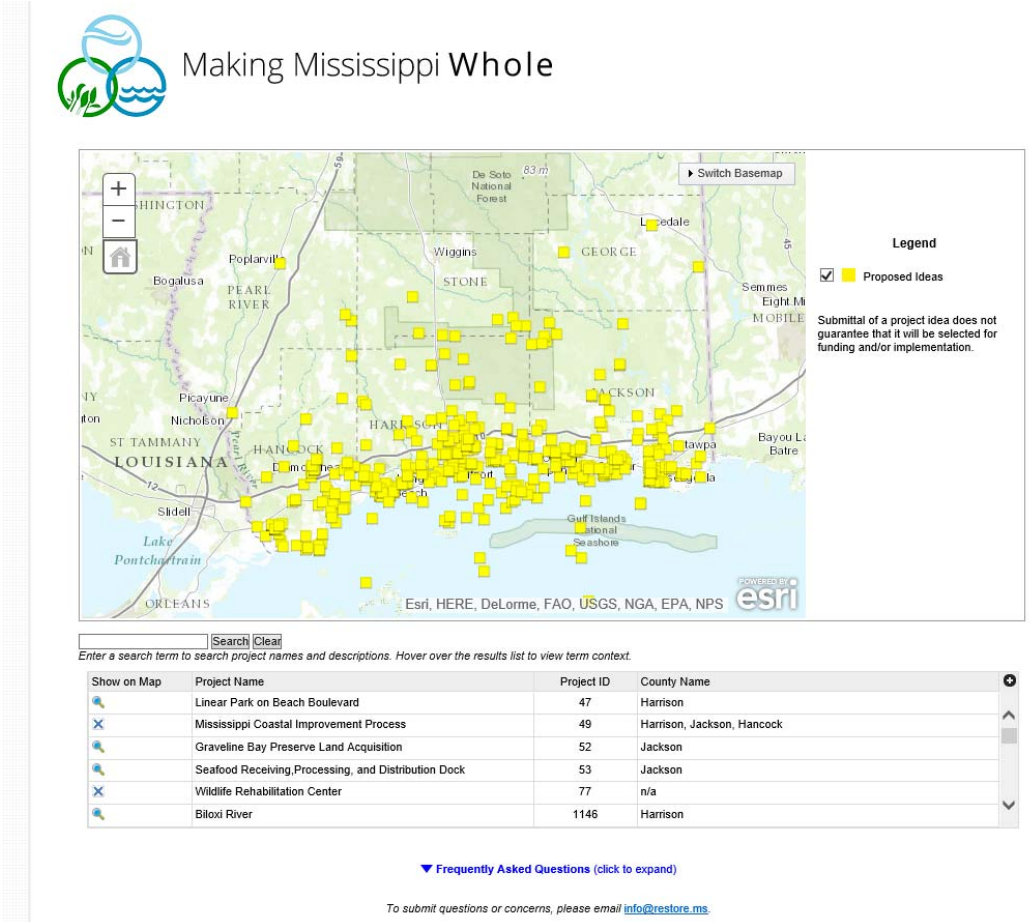
Gulf Coast Ecosystem Restoration Council

NFWF

NRDA

RESTORE.MS Portal

- Reminder all projects considered for **any** funding comes from the Portal
- Projects currently under consideration for NFWF, Bucket 1 as well as Bucket 2 came from the Portal



Budget

- $10.7 Million in General Funds
- Approximately $85 Million Agency Budget

Recruiting and Retention

- 40 % of MDEQ workforce eligible for retirement in next 5 years
- Near 15% turnover rate
- Salary Ballpark

Re-Engineering of OPC

- Division of Waste
- EPD and ECED new look

MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

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