

**SUPPORTING STATEMENT
NATURAL RESOURCE DAMAGE ASSESSMENT RESTORATION PROJECT
INFORMATION SHEET
OMB CONTROL NO. 0648-0497**

A. JUSTIFICATION

1. Explain the circumstance that make the collection of information necessary.

This request is for extension of a current information collection.

The purpose of the collection of this information is to assist state and federal Natural Resource Trustees in more efficiently carrying out the restoration planning phase of Natural Resource Damage Assessments (NRDA), in compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 ([NEPA](#)), 42 U.S.C. 4321-4370d; [40 CFR 1500](#) and other federal and local statutes and regulations as applicable. Currently, when a release or substantial threat of release of oil occurs and a NRDA is conducted, state and federal Natural Resource Trustees carry out three phases: pre-assessment, restoration planning, and restoration implementation. Traditionally, the restoration planning phase is time-consuming and expensive because Trustees must contact numerous government agencies, as well as private groups, non-governmental organization and non-profit organizations to develop a list of restoration project alternatives for each incident, a requirement before selecting suitable projects(s) to compensate the public and environment for lost services and resources. Restoration project information sheets facilitate the collection of information on a continual basis, thereby markedly shortening the time needed to generate a list of restoration alternatives following each incident. By reducing the time needed to conduct the restoration planning phase of a NRDA, the entire NRDA process becomes more efficient and habitat restoration projects will be implemented sooner.

2. Explain how, by whom, how frequently, and for what purpose the information will be used. If the information collection will disseminated to the public or used to support information that will be disseminated to the public, then explain how the collection complies with all applicable Information Quality Guidelines.

The purpose of the NRDA Restoration Project Information Sheet is to collect information on existing, planned, or proposed habitat restoration projects in a localized region. The NRDA Restoration Project Information Sheet will be provided in two formats to facilitate the information collection needs of the following: 1) the Louisiana Regional Restoration Planning program will use the original format since this form was develop specific to this program, 2) National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Fisheries Damage Assessment Remediation Restoration Program will use the fillable, track able PDF format for NRDA restoration planning process, since it will feed directly into a database and therefore is more robust for data management purposes.

The two formats for the NRDA Restoration Project Information Sheet will collect the same information, which includes:

- (a) Contact Information – Basic details necessary to identify and contact project managers such as name, title, address, organization, city state, zip code, phone and fax numbers, e-mail and URL for Web sites.
- (b) Project Information – Basic project information such as the project title, size, cost, and details on the physical location of the project site including Parish/County, watershed, and latitude/longitude.
- (c) Project Categories – Respondents have the opportunity to provide categorical identifications of project types, habitats, and resource benefits to easily describe projects.
- (d) Project Status – Basic information indicating the status of certain phases of the project, such as resource acquisition, planning/design, and permitting.
- (e) Description and Benefits – A detailed description of the project with background about the site as well as other potential benefits.
- (f) Project Partners – Details on support (e.g., planning, funding, technical assistance) provided by other organizations including partner name, contact information, and involvement.

The information collected by the NRDA Project Information sheets is available to the public online at <http://www.losco.state.la.us/>, <http://www.gulfspillrestoration.noaa.gov/>, and <http://www.darrp.noaa.gov/>.

The information collected from these forms will be used by NOAA staff and other federal and state agencies to occupy a database on an on-going basis. Following the release or substantial threat of release of oil (hereafter referred to as incident), NOAA staff and other state and federal agencies may query the database to identify potential restoration projects suitable for compensating the public and environment for the loss of services and/or resources as a result of the incident. Queries for potential projects may also be made by non-profit organizations and members of the public. The frequency of queries by agencies, organizations, and the general public will depend on the number of incidents or interest in habitat restoration.

NOAA Fisheries will retain control over the information and safeguard it from improper access, modification, and destruction, consistent with NOAA standards for confidentiality, privacy, and electronic information. See Question 10 for information about confidentiality. The information collection is designed to yield information that meets all applicable information quality guidelines. Prior to dissemination, the information will be subjected to quality control measures and pre-dissemination review pursuant to [Section 515 of Public Law 106-554](#).

3. Describe whether, and to what extent, the collection of information involves the use of automated, electronic, mechanic, or other technological techniques or other forms of information technology.

The Natural Resource Damage Assessment Restoration Project Information Sheet will be provided to government agencies, private organization, non-governmental organizations, and the general public as a hard copy and is also be available from the internet at <http://www.losco.state.la.us/>, <http://www.gulfspillrestoration.noaa.gov/>, and <http://www.darrp.noaa.gov/>. It may be developed on a personal computer (if desired); however, while electronic submission of the information is allowed, it is not required. The NRDA

Information Sheet is available as a web-based fillable form that can be submitted online, or saved and used to produce subsequent project submission.

4. Describe efforts to identify duplication.

There are no other collections that gather similar information. No duplication of efforts exists with other Federal Government information collection efforts.

5. If the collection of information involves small business or other small entities, describe the methods used to minimize burden.

The information to be collected is very basic in its nature and should not be hardship or burden for small entities to produce. A pre-formatted PDF of the data fields is provided to assist in the collection of information prior to being entered into the database. Separate requirements based on the size of the business or entity has not been developed.

6. Describe the consequences to the Federal program or policy activities if the collection is not conducted or is conducted less frequently.

This information is critical in order to pursue cost-effective planning and implementation of restoration projects. Without this information, the Trustees would need to independently request project submission ideas which could take a significant amount of time and resources.

7. Explain any special circumstances that require the collection to be conducted in a manner inconsistent with OMB guidelines.

Not Applicable.

8. Provide information on the PRA Federal Register Notice that solicited public comments on the information collection prior to this submission. Summarize the public comments received in response to the notice and describe the actions taken by the agency in response to those comments. Describe the efforts to consult with persons outside the agency to obtain their views on the availability of data, frequency of collection, the clarity of instructions and recordkeeping, disclosure, or reporting format (if any), and on the data elements to be recorded, disclosed, or reported.

A Federal Register Notice published on July 17, 2013 (78 FR 42755) solicited public comment on this renewal request. No comments were received.

NOAA contacted members of the Deepwater Horizon NRDA Trustee Council, which consists of four other federal agencies (in addition to NOAA), including the Department of Interior, Department of Defense, Department of Agriculture, and United States (U.S.) Environmental Protection Agency and five states, Alabama, Florida, Louisiana, Mississippi, and Texas, requesting feedback on the NRDA Restoration Project Information Sheet. Specifically, feedback was sought on their views on burden associated with the information collection, availability of data, data elements, and clarity of instructions. Respondents concurred with the estimates and

stated overall support of the NRDA Restoration Project Information Sheet. Furthermore, respondents concurred that the instructions were clear and information was easily accessible and searchable on the Gulf Spill Restoration website. Three respondents specifically noted the value of an extensive listing and the ability to sort or filter the list of submitted restoration project ideas in order to facilitate a review for projects submitted in their respective states. The use of the NRDA Project Information Sheet has facilitated time savings during project review due to the consistency in the type of information requested for each project idea as opposed to collating numerous dissimilar submissions.

9. Explain any decisions to provide payments or gifts to respondents, other than remuneration of contractors of grantees.

No payments, gifts, or other remuneration will be provided.

10. Describe any assurance of confidentiality provided to respondents and the basis for assurance in statute, regulation, or agency policy.

The information collection does not request any proprietary or confidential information. No confidentiality is provided.

11. Provide additional justification for any questions of a sensitive nature, such as sexual behavior or attitudes, religious beliefs, and other matters that are commonly considered private.

No questions of a sensitive nature are asked.

12. Provide an estimate in hours of the burden of the collection of information.

The three-year burden for this collection is estimated to be 2,781 hours (annualized to 927 hours) as detailed below. It is estimated that approximately 1,800 respondents will annually submit completed Natural Resource Damage Assessment Restoration Project Information Sheets with each respondent submitting an average of 1 to 2 Information Sheets for individual projects. It is estimated that approximately 2,700 annual responses will be received. At an estimated response time of 20 minutes each, this yields an estimate of 900 burden hours. Respondents can update their project submission any time once it has been entered into the database. It is expected that approximately 6% of submissions will be updated annually (162). At an estimated response time of 10 minutes each, this yields an estimate of 27 burden hours. Estimated total responses, burden hours and costs for this collection will be 2,862 responses, 927 hours and \$19,502 in labor costs annually (based on an average hourly wage of \$21.29 [U.S. Dept. of Labor, 2010*]), respectively.

Out of the 2,700 responses, it is expected 2,000 respondents annually will use the web-based data entry form to submit their project ideas. However, it should be noted that the restoration project information collected is intended to provide information to restoration practitioners throughout

*U.S. Department of Labor – Bureau of Labor Statistics. 2010. National Compensation Survey: Occupational Wages in the United States, May 2-11. Bulletin 2753 <http://www.bls.gov/ncs/ncswage2010.pdf>

the areas of collection, including those submitting the data. Therefore, the burden of data collection is expected to be offset (and in some cases exceeded) by the benefits accrued to restoration practitioners from having access to project information.

13. Provide an estimate of the total annual cost burden to the respondents or record-keeping resulting from the collection (excluding the value of the burden hours in Question 12 above).

No capital or start-up costs are expected to result from this collection by the respondents. Operations and maintenance costs are expected to be limited to Internet and computer access. It is expected that existing computer equipment and Internet connections will be used by respondents at little to no additional cost. Furthermore, it is expected the majority of respondents will submit the NRDA Project Information sheet using the web-based data entry form. If the information is submitted via electronic mail, this collection will incur no cost burden on respondents beyond the costs of response time. It is expected that no more than 25% of respondents will either use facsimile transmission or mail to submit paper data entry forms. Based upon this percentage, it is estimated half of those aforementioned respondents will use mail, resulting in a \$103.50 burden (225 respondents x \$0.46 per stamp), and the remainder of those respondents will use facsimile transmission, resulting in a \$675 burden (225 respondents x \$1.00 per page, averaging 3 pages per fax). The overall annual burden to respondents is \$778.50 (\$779).

14. Provide estimates of annualized cost to the Federal government.

One full-time employee (FTE) will devote approximately 10% of his/her time annually for oversight, QA/QC, and data imports. One contractor will devote 10% of his/her time to implement changes and maintain the application. With an annual average salary of \$80,000 for an FTE at 10% time (\$8,000), and an annual salary for a contractor of \$75,000 at 10% time (\$7,500), the annualized cost to the Federal government to conduct this information collection is estimated to be \$15,500. No significant equipment, overhead, printing or other costs should be involved with the processing of this information collection.

15. Explain the reasons for any program changes or adjustments.

There has been a significant increase in NRDA Project Information sheet submissions due to the Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill (from 165 to 2,700), and the estimated hourly burden has thus been revised from 55 to 916, and annual cost, from \$73 to \$554. However, the average response cost has decreased due to the increase in electronic submission.

16. For collections whose results will be published, outline the plans for tabulation and publication.

All data collected will be available in table form which provides a basic project description or on the internet. Proposed projects which include latitudinal and longitudinal coordinates are displayed on a map and project list. Projects which did not include the aforementioned detail are only available to view from the project list. Tabulation project descriptions include title of

project, state, county/parish, and link to view the data collected from the Natural Resource Damage Assessment Project Information Sheet.

17. If seeking approval to not display the expiration date for OMB approval of the information collection, explain the reasons why display would be inappropriate.

Not Applicable.

18. Explain each exception to the certification statement.

There are no exceptions.

B. COLLECTIONS OF INFORMATION EMPLOYING STATISTICAL METHODS

This collection does not employ statistical methods.