

Position ID

E17-47

Position Title

Gulf Coast Restoration Policy Analyst

Office Name

Office of Gulf Coast Restoration, U.S. Department of the Treasury

Portfolio Summary

The fellow will work in the Department of Treasury's Office of Gulf Coast Restoration (OGCR) with a team of people responsible for implementing programs under the Resources and Ecosystems Sustainability, Tourist Opportunities, and Revived Economies of the Gulf Coast States Act of 2012 (RESTORE Act). The primary responsibilities of the fellow include:

- assisting with the development of performance metrics to measure the success of projects funded under the Direct Component and Centers of Excellence Research Grants programs;
- working with other Gulf Coast restoration funders to ensure close coordination and synergy, and to avoid duplication;
- helping FL counties and LA parishes understand and meet environmental compliance responsibilities; and
- helping FL counties and LA parishes understand and address the best available science requirements for natural resource restoration and protection projects.

In the aftermath of the 2010 Deepwater Horizon oil spill, Congress passed the RESTORE Act which established the Gulf Coast Restoration Trust Fund in the U.S. Treasury Department. Eighty percent of the approximately \$ 6.66 billion in civil penalties to be paid under the Federal Water Pollution Control Act must be deposited in the Trust Fund, invested, and available to Gulf Coast states for programs, projects, and activities that restore and protect the ecosystem and economy of the Gulf Coast region. Treasury's Office of Gulf Coast Restoration was established in early 2014 and is responsible for implementing two grant programs and working with grantees in 5 Gulf Coast states, 20 Louisiana parishes, and 23 Florida counties – i.e., Direct Component and Centers of Excellence Research Grants.

As a new office, there are many opportunities to help build and enhance the RESTORE Act programs and to work with other Federal agencies and non-Federal organizations funding Gulf Coast research and restoration projects. Every project funded with Direct Component funds must have performance measures. At present, these measures have been set by states, parishes, and counties on a project-by-project basis. OGCR has an opportunity to help grantees to be more systematic in how they measure success such that a more comprehensive story of the results can be shared publicly. In addition, a number of Federal agencies (e.g., agencies represented on the Gulf Coast Ecosystem Restoration Council and the Natural Resource Damage Trustee Council) and non-Federal organizations (e.g., the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation and the National Academy of Sciences) have received funds related to the Deepwater Horizon oil spill. There is a significant opportunity for these agencies to work together to foster communication and cooperation to ensure that projects are at best complementary and synergistic and at least are not duplicative. Finally, many of the 23 Florida counties and 20 Louisiana parishes have small staffs and lack the experience and capacity to ensure that natural resource restoration and protection projects are based on best available science and that projects meet all the environmental requirements. Providing technical assistance will be essential to enhancing the capacity of counties and parishes.

Major topics:

- Ecosystem and economic restoration of the Gulf of Mexico region
- Performance measurement
- Environmental compliance
- Local government technical assistance

Expertise Desired

The fellow should have the following knowledge, skills, and abilities:

- Understanding of ecosystem restoration,
- Understanding of performance measurement,
- Experience with or interest in working with and providing technical assistance to local governments
- Demonstrated ability to work in teams
- Good communication skills
- Analytical skills and ability to organize information

Travel within DC (days per month)

1-2 days per month

Travel outside DC (days per month)

2 days every 2-3 months

Accepts Foreign Nationals

No