

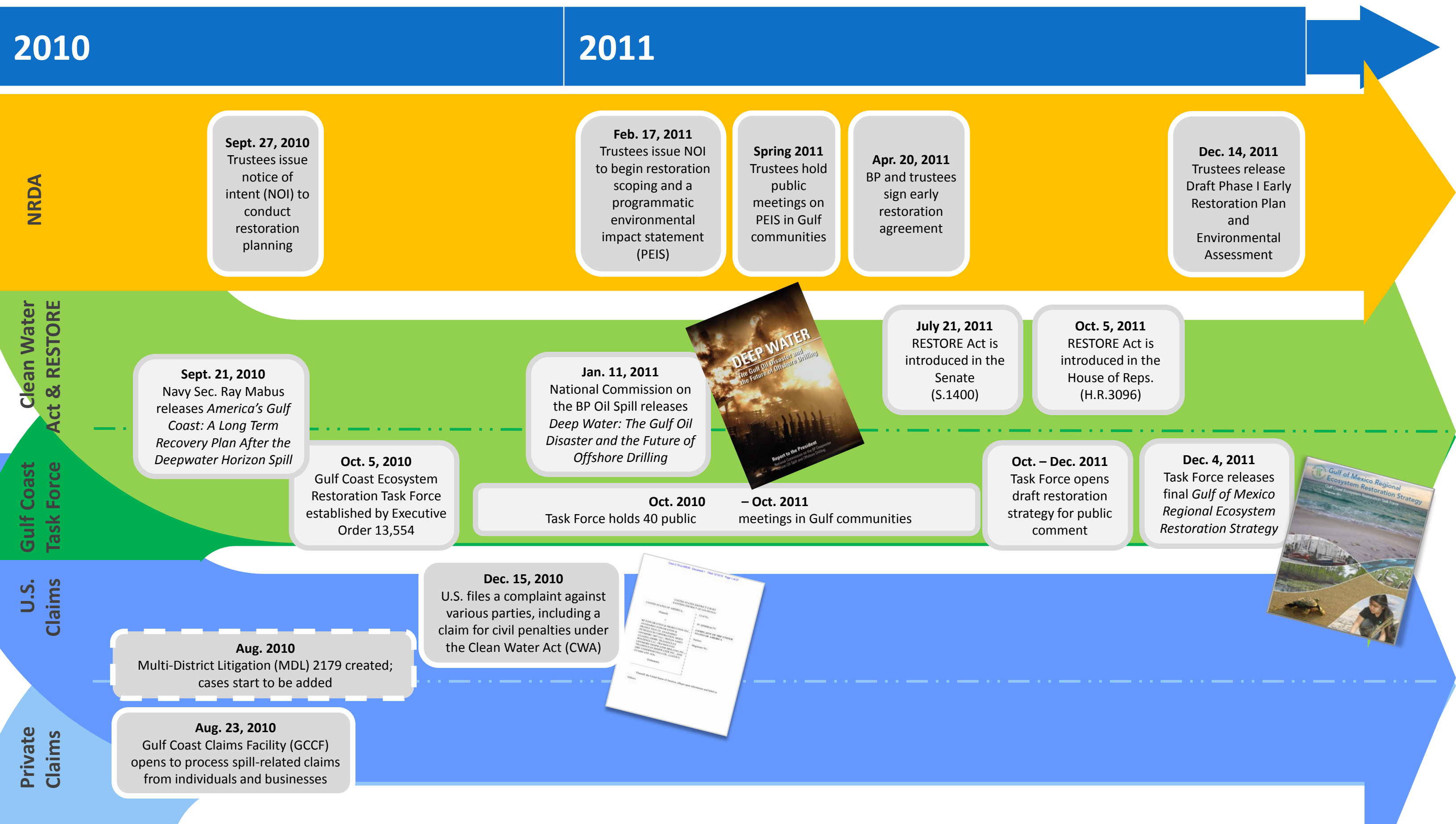
# Timeline of Past & Future Events

This resource provides a timeline of events related to three key Gulf restoration and recovery processes:

<p><b>NATURAL RESOURCE DAMAGE ASSESSMENT</b></p>	<p>Under the Oil Pollution Act, the parties responsible for an oil spill must pay to restore the natural resources damaged by it. The amount the parties must pay is determined through a legal process called a Natural Resource Damage Assessment (NRDA).</p> <p>The <i>Deepwater Horizon</i> NRDA has been in progress since 2010, and is overseen by federal and state natural resource trustees.</p>
<p><b>CLEAN WATER ACT &amp; RESTORE ACT</b></p>	<p>The parties responsible for an oil spill face civil and possibly criminal penalties for violating the Clean Water Act. The RESTORE Act, which was enacted in July 2012, diverts 80% of any civil and administrative penalties paid in connection with <i>Deepwater Horizon</i> to Gulf ecosystem and economic restoration.</p> <p>The Gulf Coast Ecosystem Restoration Council created by the RESTORE Act has replaced the Gulf Coast Ecosystem Restoration Task Force that President Obama established in October 2010.</p>
<p><b>CLAIMS &amp; LITIGATION PROCESS</b></p>	<p>The parties responsible for the oil spill must compensate people, businesses, and governments for related economic losses. In addition, individuals can file lawsuits for medical injuries caused by the oil spill or cleanup. Hundreds of lawsuits and claims have been filed.</p> <p>The U.S. Department of Justice is engaged in litigation with the parties responsible for the spill for removal costs, damages under the Oil Pollution Act, and civil penalties under the Clean Water Act. The government reserved the right to add new claims and defendants in the future.</p>



# Gulf Coast Restoration: Timeline



2010

2011

NRDA

**Sept. 27, 2010**  
Trustees issue notice of intent (NOI) to conduct restoration planning

**Feb. 17, 2011**  
Trustees issue NOI to begin restoration scoping and a programmatic environmental impact statement (PEIS)

**Spring 2011**  
Trustees hold public meetings on PEIS in Gulf communities

**Apr. 20, 2011**  
BP and trustees sign early restoration agreement

**Dec. 14, 2011**  
Trustees release Draft Phase I Early Restoration Plan and Environmental Assessment

Clean Water Act & RESTORE

Gulf Coast Task Force

U.S. Claims

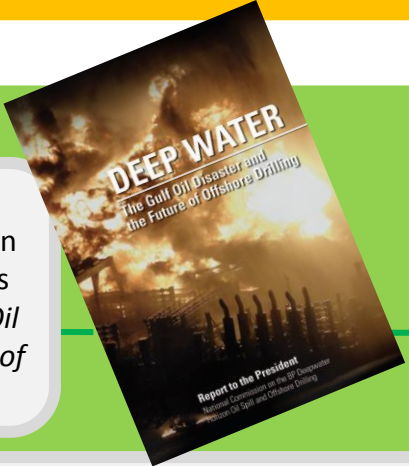
Private Claims

**Sept. 21, 2010**  
Navy Sec. Ray Mabus releases *America's Gulf Coast: A Long Term Recovery Plan After the Deepwater Horizon Spill*

**Oct. 5, 2010**  
Gulf Coast Ecosystem Restoration Task Force established by Executive Order 13,554

**Oct. 2010 – Oct. 2011**  
Task Force holds 40 public meetings in Gulf communities

**Jan. 11, 2011**  
National Commission on the BP Oil Spill releases *Deep Water: The Gulf Oil Disaster and the Future of Offshore Drilling*



**July 21, 2011**  
RESTORE Act is introduced in the Senate (S.1400)

**Oct. 5, 2011**  
RESTORE Act is introduced in the House of Reps. (H.R.3096)

**Oct. – Dec. 2011**  
Task Force opens draft restoration strategy for public comment

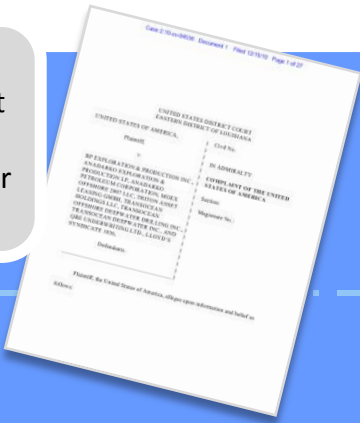
**Dec. 4, 2011**  
Task Force releases final *Gulf of Mexico Regional Ecosystem Restoration Strategy*



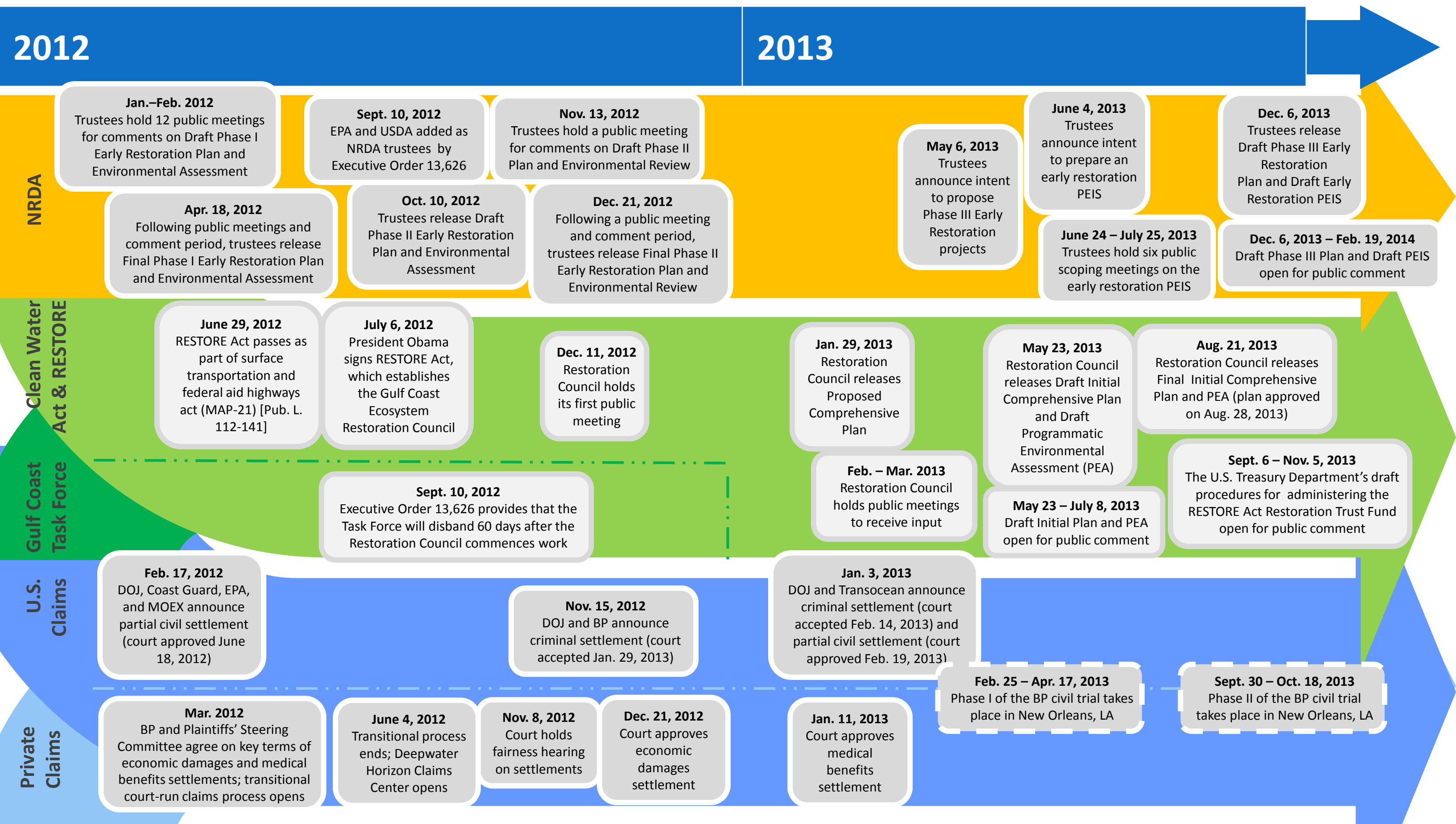
**Aug. 2010**  
Multi-District Litigation (MDL) 2179 created; cases start to be added

**Aug. 23, 2010**  
Gulf Coast Claims Facility (GCCF) opens to process spill-related claims from individuals and businesses

**Dec. 15, 2010**  
U.S. files a complaint against various parties, including a claim for civil penalties under the Clean Water Act (CWA)



# Gulf Coast Restoration: Timeline



# Upcoming Events

The following events are expected in the coming months as *Deepwater Horizon* restoration and recovery processes continue to unfold in the Gulf. The public will have the opportunity to engage in many of these.

## NATURAL RESOURCE DAMAGE ASSESSMENT

### 2014?

The Trustees will finalize the Draft Phase III Early Restoration Plan and Draft Early Restoration PEIS.

### Timing Unknown

Once released, the programmatic environmental impact statement (PEIS) for *Deepwater Horizon* restoration activities will be open for public comment.

### Timing Unknown

The amount the responsible parties will pay for natural resource restoration could be determined via settlement. If so, the “consent decree” – the court judgment approving the settlement – would be open for public comment before it is finalized.

## CLEAN WATER ACT & RESTORE

### 2014?

The U.S. Department of the Treasury will release final procedures for administering the RESTORE Act Restoration Trust Fund.

### 2014?

The Gulf Coast Ecosystem Restoration Council approved its Final Initial Comprehensive Plan on Aug. 28, 2013. The Council must next develop a 10-year funding plan and 3-year list of activities to be funded.

## CLAIMS & LITIGATION PROCESS

### Jan. 20, 2015

The third phase of the BP civil trial, which will determine Clean Water Act penalties, is scheduled to begin in New Orleans, LA.

### Timing Unknown

In the case of a settlement of Clean Water Act civil penalties (that have yet to be resolved), the “consent decree” – the court judgment approving the parties’ settlement – would be open to the public for comment before it is finalized.