



NFWF

Gulf Environmental Benefit Fund

RECIPIENT

Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources

United States Army Corps of Engineers

AMOUNT

\$4,277,600

PARTNERS

U.S. Geological Survey

LOCATION

Dauphin Island, AL

ANNOUNCEMENT DATE

November 2014

PROGRESS UPDATE

The project is on schedule and budget. All field data collection has been completed and available FEMA data has been acquired. Alternative development was initiated and the Project Team is coordinating with a Dauphin Island Watershed Planning Effort being conducted by the Mobile Bay National Estuary Program to include the current effort in their public involvement process. (August 2016)

The Gulf Environmental Benefit Fund, administered by the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF), supports projects to remedy harm and eliminate or reduce the risk of harm to Gulf Coast natural resources affected by the 2010 Deepwater Horizon oil spill. To learn more about NFWF, go to www.nfwf.org.

ALABAMA

Alabama Barrier Island Restoration Assessment

This project will build on previous studies to conduct a scientific feasibility study to assess the current and future function of Dauphin Island, develop options for restoration, and evaluate the feasibility and cost associated with restoration actions. Specifically, the assessment seeks to evaluate restoration alternatives and to better understand how various restoration alternatives can optimize the island’s resiliency to storm events, enhance wildlife habitat and bolster the island’s lifespan. The proposal will utilize the expertise of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the U.S. Geological Survey to perform a science-based, technical assessment and a review of potential restoration activities.

Dauphin Island is a strategically significant 14-mile barrier island in the northern Gulf of Mexico, serving as the only barrier island providing protection to the state of Alabama’s coastal resources. It provides valuable habitat for living coastal and marine resources and protects important Mississippi Sound resources through storm surge protection and the regulation of salinity structure for estuarine fisheries, oysters, submerged aquatic vegetation (SAV) and shrimp. The island is also a significant trans-Gulf migratory bird fall out area and provides habitat to numerous solitary and colonial beach nesting birds. This planning effort will lead to the identification of cost-effective, sustainable restoration alternative(s) for Dauphin Island.



This project is the first step in ensuring the long-term ecological functioning of Alabama’s Dauphin Island through assessment and restoration planning.