NFWF | Gulf Environmental Benefit Fund

RECIPIENT
Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission

The Trust for Public Land

AMOUNT
$1,731,000

PARTNERS
Florida Department Environmental Protection

Florida Forest Service

Eglin Air Force Base

Northwest Florida Water Management District

Florida Division of Historic Resources

LOCATION
East Bay of Pensacola Bay, FL

ANNOUNCEMENT DATE
November 2013

PROGRESS UPDATE
Nearly a mile of future access road was repaired and treated for invasive species. Planning has begun for future large scale cooperative projects. Land management activities will continue. (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.**

FLORIDA

Restoration and Management of Escribano Point Coastal Habitat: Phase I

Phase one of this project aims to improve the sustainability of, and provide long-term protection for, the coastal habitat of Escribano Point in Pensacola Bay. The strategies for achieving these conservation outcomes would include the acquisition, restoration and maintenance of high quality coastal wildlife habitat. Newly acquired Escribano Point parcels, along with existing State-owned parcels will be enhanced through prescribed burning, vegetation management and hydrologic restoration to maximize ecological value.

The Escribano Point region of the Yellow River Wildlife Management Area represents high value coastal fish and wildlife habitat located in the East Bay portion of Pensacola Bay at the confluence of the Yellow River and Black Water River. This project complements acquisition and restoration activities already underway or planned, using funding from the MOEX settlement and the Natural Resources Damage Assessment and Restoration process. The shoreline provides stopover and foraging habitat for migrating shorebird species, among which are listed species such as the piping plover, Cuban snowy plover, least tern and black skimmer. Moreover, this project will also protect the estuarine system and adjacent Blackwater Bay, which contains sea grass beds vital to fish and other marine species such as the listed Gulf sturgeon.

High-value coastal fish and wildlife habitat will be acquired, restored and maintained in the Yellow River Wildlife Management Area near Eglin Air Force Base.