



NFWF

Gulf Environmental Benefit Fund

RECIPIENT

Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality

AMOUNT

*\$1,700,104

PARTNERS

Audubon Mississippi

Mississippi Department of Marine Resources

LOCATION

Jackson, Harrison and Hancock Counties, MS

AWARD DATE

November 2013

STATUS

Closed

PROGRESS UPDATE

Project was amended in August 2016. Over the course of the project 115 volunteers were recruited and trained and contributed more than 2,500 hours. Three Audubon Coastal Bird Survey trainings were held and eight colonies were protected by signage and roping. Final reports have been submitted and this project is now closed. (February 2019)

**Project was amended in August 2016 to add \$262,100 to continue and expand stewardship and monitoring of priority bird species.*

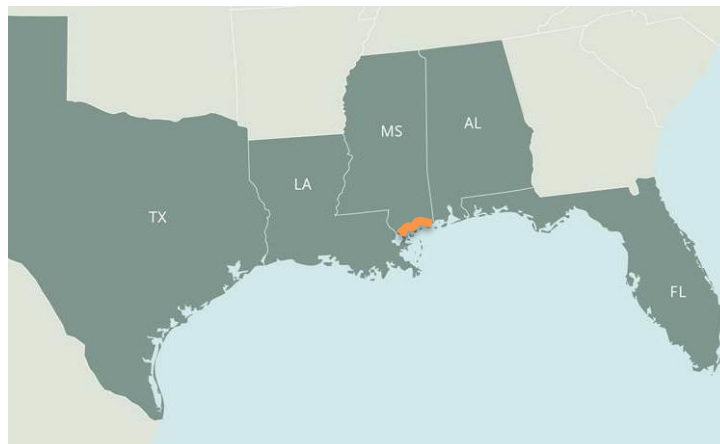
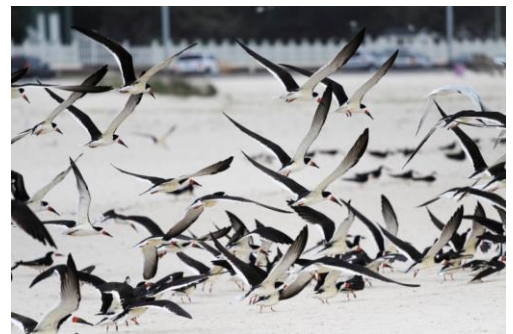
The Gulf Environmental Benefit Fund, administered by the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF), supports projects to remedy harm and eliminate or reduce the risk of harm to Gulf Coast natural resources affected by the 2010 Deepwater Horizon oil spill. To learn more about NFWF, go to www.nfwf.org.

MISSISSIPPI

Coastal Bird Stewardship Program

This project will improve Mississippi beach-nesting bird habitat negatively affected during the Deepwater Horizon oil spill through nesting habitat enhancements and stewardship activities that will result in successful nesting, hatching, and rearing of chicks. The project focuses on expanding the Audubon Coastal Bird Survey program, a year-round volunteer-driven monitoring program for shorebirds that began in the wake of the oil spill. The stewardship program focuses on 22 sites in coastal Mississippi and carry out standardized monitoring; implement best management practices to secure nesting sites and reduce human use and invasive species threats; and educate diverse audiences to increase understanding of the needs and value of coastal waterbirds.

Natural Beach habitats are dynamic environments that are stressed by ongoing human use and development. Today, coastal sensitive species are primarily located on and restricted to public lands, yet despite this seeming protection, shorebird populations continue to decline and degradation of habitat continues. This project will restore and protect coastal bird populations by reducing disturbance and restoring habitat to allow greater nesting success, and higher rates of survival. Specific target species that include migratory, breeding and resident species are strategically selected and represent different nesting and foraging strategies. Implementing restoration and protection strategies for a specific suite of birds will ensure benefits to other waterbirds and shorebirds that were affected by the spill and associated cleanup efforts.



Habitat enhancements and stewardship activities will protect the nests of approximately 1,500 coastal waterbirds.