



NFWF

Gulf Environmental Benefit Fund

RECIPIENT

Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality

AMOUNT

\$21,582,200

PARTNERS

Mississippi Department of Marine Resources

Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries and Parks

LOCATION

Hancock, Harrison and Jackson counties

ANNOUNCEMENT DATE

November 2014

PROGRESS UPDATE

Meetings have taken place to review and discuss GIS data that has been gathered to date. The United States Army Corps of Engineers and Mississippi Department of Marine Resources have requested the data, as well. Preliminary engineering and design began for phase II, marsh fill, at Round Island. Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality continues to gather data on dredge fill and logistics. Construction of the Round Island berm is getting underway. (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.

MISSISSIPPI

Utilization of Dredge Material for Marsh Restoration in Coastal Mississippi

This project is the first step in the development of a comprehensive, multi-year program to expand the beneficial utilization of dredge material to restore coastal marsh habitat in three priority bay systems along the Mississippi Gulf Coast: St. Louis Bay, Back Bay of Biloxi, and the Pascagoula/Escatawpa system. This project will develop site selection and design criteria; establish a comprehensive, coordinated project schedule based on dredge material availability; conduct site-specific engineering, design and permitting; and construct and monitor marsh habitat. Marsh creation efforts will begin building back valuable marsh habitat.

Over many decades, these priority bays have experienced significant impacts due to shoreline erosion, storm damage, and alterations to sediment transport – contributing to the loss of thousands of acres of tidal marsh habitat. In the past, most dredge material has been disposed of offshore or in upland dredge disposal areas. This project will advance Mississippi’s beneficial use program to facilitate a cost-effective, sustainable approach to restoring and protecting significant coastal marsh and bay shorelines. Reestablishment, restoration, and protection of coastal marsh will create habitat for living coastal and marine resources, reduce erosion along bay shorelines, improve water quality and provide protection from storm surges and sea-level rise for communities and infrastructure.



This project will advance a comprehensive effort to restore coastal marsh habitat that has been lost in Mississippi.