NFWF | Gulf Environmental Benefit Fund

RECIPIENTS
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Ducks Unlimited

AWARD AMOUNT
$400,000

LOCATION
Bahia Grande, South Texas

AWARD DATE
November 2015

PROGRESS UPDATE
Full proposals have been finalized and contracting negotiations between the United States Fish and Wildlide Service and the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation are ongoing. (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.**

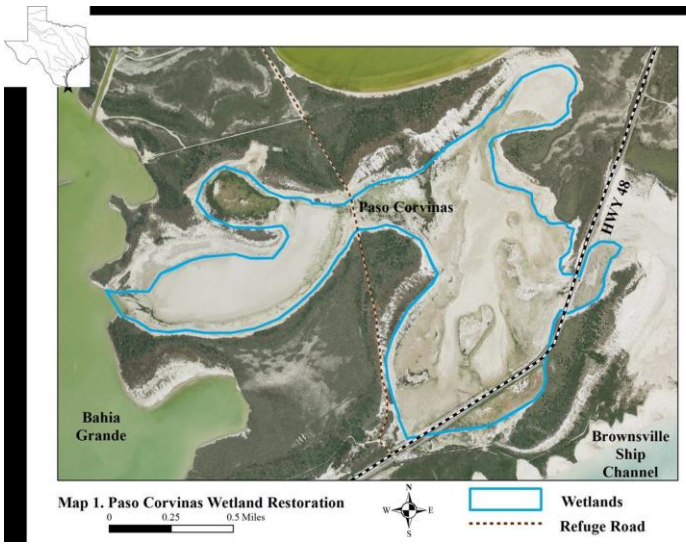
TEXAS

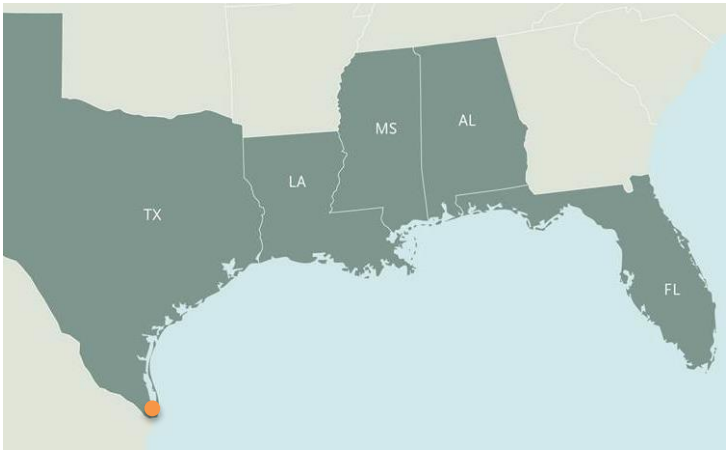
Bahia Grande Restoration – Phase I

This project will complete engineering, design and permitting for two important projects located within the Bahia Grande Unit of the Laguna Atascosa National Wildlife Refuge in south Texas. The first project seeks to restore tidal connectivity and enhance 670 acres of wetlands within Paso Corvinas. The second project will restore 36 acres of critical bird nesting islands. These rapidly eroding islands provide essential bird habitat, including supporting the largest Gull-billed tern nesting colony in the U.S.

These projects are part of a larger, multi-year effort to establish a restored hydrologic connection between the Bahia Grande wetland system and the Laguna Madre that was interrupted in the 1930's and 1950's. For nearly 70 years, the degraded wetland was a source of blowing dust, a site of massive fish kills, and a complicated natural resource problem. The suite of projects to restore the Bahia Grande will build towards the goal of restoring over 10,000 acres of critical wetland and shallow water habitat for wildlife and fisheries.

Gull-Billed Tern
Credit: Galveston Feather Fest





The engineering and design phase of these two projects will create a plan of action to drive the eventual restoration of critical wetlands and nesting islands that have been degraded for nearly 70 years.