



NFWF

# Gulf Environmental Benefit Fund

### RECIPIENTS

Ducks Unlimited

### AWARD AMOUNT

\$440,000

### PARTNERS

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

### LOCATION

Bernard National Wildlife Refuge

### AWARD DATE

November 2015

### PROGRESS UPDATE

Ducks Unlimited has finalized contracts with all project partners. Bidding for construction work will begin in September 2016 and construction is expected to start in October 2016. (August 2016)

## TEXAS

# Cow Trap Lake Bird Nesting Island Improvements

This project will enhance and complete two critical colonial waterbird and coastal seabird nesting islands within the San Bernard National Wildlife Refuge. These two islands, recently constructed by Ducks Unlimited, support several coastal bird species including priority conservation species like the Reddish egret, Black skimmer, and the Gull-billed tern. Funding for this project will allow Ducks Unlimited to make improvements on the islands by placing 6 inch layers of crushed shell, oyster, limestone, or other similar materials on the island crowns, providing suitable nesting material and reducing the growth of undesirable vegetation. Monitoring of success will commence following placement of the material.

This project will bolster populations of Gulf Coast birds by protecting and restoring critical nesting habitat within the San Bernard National Wildlife Refuge. San Bernard National Wildlife Refuge consists of more than 24,000 acres of coastal prairies and salt marshes in southern Matagorda and Brazoria counties. The Refuge offers habitat to more than 400 species of wildlife, including some 250 bird species.



Red Egret | Credit: iStock



Black Skimmer | Credit: iStock



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](http://www.nfwf.org).

This project will enhance two bird nesting islands that support species such as the Reddish egret (left) and Black skimmer (right) pictured above.