



NFWF

Gulf Environmental Benefit Fund

RECIPIENTS

The Nature Conservancy

AWARD AMOUNT

\$2,905,156

LEVERAGE AMOUNT

\$75,000

PARTNERS

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Texas General Land Office

USDA Nature Resources
Conservation Service

LOCATION

Calhoun County

AWARD DATE

November 2015

STATUS

Closed

PROGRESS UPDATE

The purchase of the 600-acre conservation easement on the Falcon Point Ranch has been completed. The management plan was developed and executed with the help of key project partners. Final reports have been submitted and the project is now closed. (November 2017)

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

Falcon Point Ranch Conservation and Wetland Restoration

This project will conserve 600 acres and complete the contiguous protection of 16,100 acres of tidal marshes and flats, intermediate and brackish wetlands, wet prairies, and shorelines on San Antonio Bay. In addition to providing protected and enhanced habitat for a variety of shorebirds and waterfowl, these areas are prime nesting grounds for the endangered whooping crane. The critical timing of this investment will head off the negative impacts of planned development that would imperil this essential coastal habitat.

This project will preserve much needed coastal and near-shore habitats along the highly productive shores of San Antonio Bay. The Texas mid-coast area provides important resources that support a diversity and abundance of birds, in particular shorebirds. Its beauty and bounty brings continual threats of development, and therefore this property has been a protection priority for conservation organizations for some time. In conjunction with this project, NRCS is restoring hydrology to important freshwater wetlands on an adjacent 11,000 acre private ranch to enhance migratory bird habitat. Overall, this investment will complement existing conservation efforts within the nearby Aransas National Wildlife Refuge and the newly protected Powderhorn Ranch.



Whooping Crane | Credit: USDA



Tidal Marsh | Credit: Falcon Point Ranch



The project will conserve habitat for many shorebirds and migratory birds that use the project area to nest, especially the above pictured whooping crane.