



# NFWF

# Gulf Environmental Benefit Fund

### RECIPIENTS

Jefferson County

### AWARD AMOUNT

\$4,500,000

### PARTNERS

Ducks Unlimited

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

Texas General Land Office

Texas Parks and Wildlife Department

Texas Water Development Board

United States Army Corps of Engineers

United States Fish and Wildlife Service

Lamar University

### LOCATION

Jefferson County, Texas

### AWARD DATE

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

## TEXAS

# Hydrologic Restoration of the Salt Bayou Watershed

This construction project will build two fresh water siphons that will restore freshwater flow to 18,000 acres of wetlands within the Salt Bayou Watershed, the largest contiguous estuarine marsh complex in Texas. The siphons will reconnect freshwater flows from north of the Gulf Intracoastal Waterway to the fragile coastal wetlands to the south. This fresh water will flush saltwater out of the wetlands and prevent erosion and conversion of marsh to open water.

Overall, this project is a component of the larger Salt Bayou Restoration Plan, an effort to restore and protect the 139,000 acre landscape that includes freshwater to estuarine marsh, coastal prairie grasslands, tidal flats, creeks and basins, and associated fish and wildlife species. The wetland habitats in the Salt Bayou Watershed provide foraging and nesting habitats for numerous species of birds along one of the most important migratory flyways in the world, as well as essential nursery habitat for ecologically, commercially, and recreationally important species of fish and invertebrates.



Siphon construction at locations, such as the above pictured, will reconnect freshwater flows across the Gulf Intracoastal Waterway.