



NFWF

Gulf Environmental Benefit Fund

RECIPIENT

Texas Parks and Wildlife Department

AMOUNT

\$189,400

LOCATION

Jefferson County, TX

ANNOUNCEMENT DATE

November 2013

PROGRESS UPDATE

Dune planting is complete and monitoring is underway. Four rows of plants were installed at differing elevations and distances from the beach. The two top rows were thought to be more insulated from tidal surge and the two bottom rows are believed to be more resistant to drought. Due mainly to a documented high tide event, slightly less than 70% of the original plantings remain. Those that remain are thriving and should be more than enough to protect the new dunes as they continue to form. (August 2016)

TEXAS

Sea Rim State Park Coastal Dune Restoration

This project restores 5.3 miles of dune habitat by planting native dune vegetation to accelerate natural dune recovery. Planting dune grass will provide immediate benefits to wildlife often seen using dune habitat at the park, including mottled ducks, marsh hawks and merlins. The project includes post-construction monitoring to determine project effectiveness. A similar project has been successfully completed at Galveston Island State Park. Sea Rim State Park is located in Jefferson County approximately 20 miles south of Port Arthur. The dune system along this stretch of the Upper Coast of Texas has been severely eroded due to the passage of several severe storms. The lack of an effective dune system increases the frequency of salt water intrusion into the coastal marsh behind the beach and has accelerated its erosion.

Restoring the integrity of the dune system is a major objective of the recently published Salt



Bayou Watershed Plan, which was prepared by an interagency working group and includes Sea Rim State Park, McFaddin National Wildlife Refuge and the J.D. Murphree Wildlife Management Area, is the largest contiguous expanse of coastal marsh in Texas. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is currently evaluating a complimentary dune restoration project in McFaddin National Wildlife Refuge immediately west of this project. This complex coastal system provides high quality habitat for several bird species affected by the spill, and also provides critical storm buffering for the Port Arthur area.



Restoration work at Sea Rim State Park will restore nearly 13 acres of barrier shoreline habitat, prevent continued erosion, and preserve critical coastal marsh habitat from salt water intrusion.

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.