



NFWF

Gulf Environmental Benefit Fund

RECIPIENT

SCENIC GALVESTON, Inc.

AMOUNT

\$4,075,000

LEVERAGE

\$1,045,000

PARTNERS

Galveston Bay Estuary Program

Galveston Bay Foundation

Texas Parks and Wildlife Department

LOCATION

West Bay of Galveston Bay, TX

ANNOUNCEMENT DATE

November 2013

PROGRESS UPDATE

SCENIC GALVESTON, has withdrawn the easement offer to the landowner and initiated a conversation about a possible fee purchase of the bulk of the ranch. A meeting was requested and a verbal offer was made. Also discussed at the meeting was the potential opportunity to purchase land now excluded from the easement at a later date. (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

West Galveston Bay Conservation Corridor Habitat Preservation

This project will acquire a permanent conservation easement on a contiguous 3,200 acre tract(s) of estuarine emergent marsh, open water, prairie depressional wetlands and upland prairie habitat. This tract is located within the West Bay Conservation Corridor in close proximity to 6,500 acres of conserved habitat. The growing aggregate of permanently protected properties comprises a habitat corridor complementary to three federal refuge system complexes in the Galveston Bay vicinity (Brazoria and San Bernard to the west and Anahuac to the east). The easement will be negotiated and held by SCENIC GALVESTON, Inc., a local conservation organization that already holds conservation titles on 3,000 acres of lands within the West Bay Conservation Corridor. The project includes limited funding for management actions on the land.

The Galveston Bay system has lost over 35,000 acres of intertidal wetland since the 1950s. The West Bay watershed is mostly undeveloped and includes 600,000 acres of agricultural and range lands. This corridor was identified as a restoration priority by the Galveston Bay Estuary Program. The population of surrounding Galveston and Brazoria counties is projected to increase by 40% by the year 2025, placing increasing development pressure on the remaining tracts of open land in Galveston County. This gently sloped coastal



complex provides accommodation space for wetlands to migrate landward as sea levels rise. This project represents a significant opportunity to preserve endangered undisturbed habitat in perpetuity for the benefit of twenty bird species of concern, including brown pelican, migratory waterfowl, neotropical migratory birds, and estuarine-dependent fishery species including shrimp, red drum, and blue crabs.



The acquisition and management of 3,200 acres in the West Bay Conservation Corridor will protect essential coastal habitat for dozens of fish and bird species.