



NFWF

Gulf Environmental Benefit Fund

TEXAS

Mad Island Marsh Preserve Shoreline Protection and Coastal Ecosystem Restoration- Phase I

This planning and engineering project was the first phase of an effort to protect over 6,000 acres of critically important coastal prairie and marsh ecosystem. The ultimate goal of the project was to install a 2.3 mile nearshore breakwater to stem the persistent erosion and habitat loss at the Nature Conservancy’s Mad Island Marsh Preserve along the mid coast of Texas in Matagorda Bay. Slowing the shoreline loss at the mouth of the Mad Island Lake Bayou is critical to maintaining the salinity gradient of this estuarine system.

The Mad Island Preserve includes approximately 7,100 acres of salt marshes, open water estuaries, freshwater and brackish lakes, wetlands and coastal prairies along a high priority area of the Texas mid coast. Mad Island Lake is an ecologically significant portion of the Mad Island system, providing crucial nursery habitat for marine life from the adjacent Matagorda Bay. The entire complex has been impacted by shoreline erosion at a rate of 5-10 feet per year since the initial construction of the Gulf Intracoastal Waterway.



Thousands of acres of critical habitat were protected when these fragile landscapes were restored.

AT A GLANCE

RECIPIENT:
The Nature Conservancy

AWARD AMOUNT:
\$104,261

PARTNERS:
Texas Parks and Wildlife Department

Texas Sea Grant

LOCATION:
Matagorda County

AWARD DATE:
November 2016

STATUS:
Closed

PROGRESS UPDATE:
Project closed July 2020.



The Gulf Environmental Benefit Fund (GEBF), administered by the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, 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 GEBF and view a comprehensive project map go to www.nfwf.org/Gulf