



NFWF

Gulf Environmental Benefit Fund

TEXAS

Bahia Grande Habitat Restoration- Phase II

This project is comprised of two components critical to the overall restoration of the Bahia Grande Unit of the Laguna Atascosa National Wildlife Refuge (NWR). The first would complete design and construction of breakwaters to protect three bird nesting islands, totaling 17 acres. These quickly eroding islands support a broad list of shrub and ground nesting waterbirds impacted by the Deepwater Horizon oil spill (herons, egrets, ibis, terns, skimmers and gulls), including what is likely the largest gull-billed tern nesting colony in the United States. The second component of this project will restore the hydrology of the Paso Corvinas wetlands, totaling 670 acres in size. Historic channelization and irrigation lead to high salinities and frequent drying out of these once highly-productive wetlands in Paso Corvinas. This project will re-establish a natural flow of waters through the Paso Corvinas, restoring what were historically productive coastal wetlands. This project is the next phase of two 2015 GEBF projects, which funded the creation of 30% engineering and design plans for both projects.

These projects and earlier GEBF investments are a part of a larger, multi-year effort to establish a restored hydrologic connection between the Bahia Grande wetland system and the Laguna Madre that was interrupted in the 1930's and 1950's. For nearly 70 years, the degraded wetland was a source of blowing dust, a site of massive fish kills, and a complicated natural resource problem. A suite of projects funded by NRDA, RESTORE and other funding programs, as well as NFWF, are building towards the goal of restoring over 10,000 acres of critical wetland and shallow water habitat for wildlife and fisheries, making it one of the largest estuary restoration projects in North America.



This project will restore and protect the feeding area of various bird species, like the gull-billed tern pictured above.

AT A GLANCE

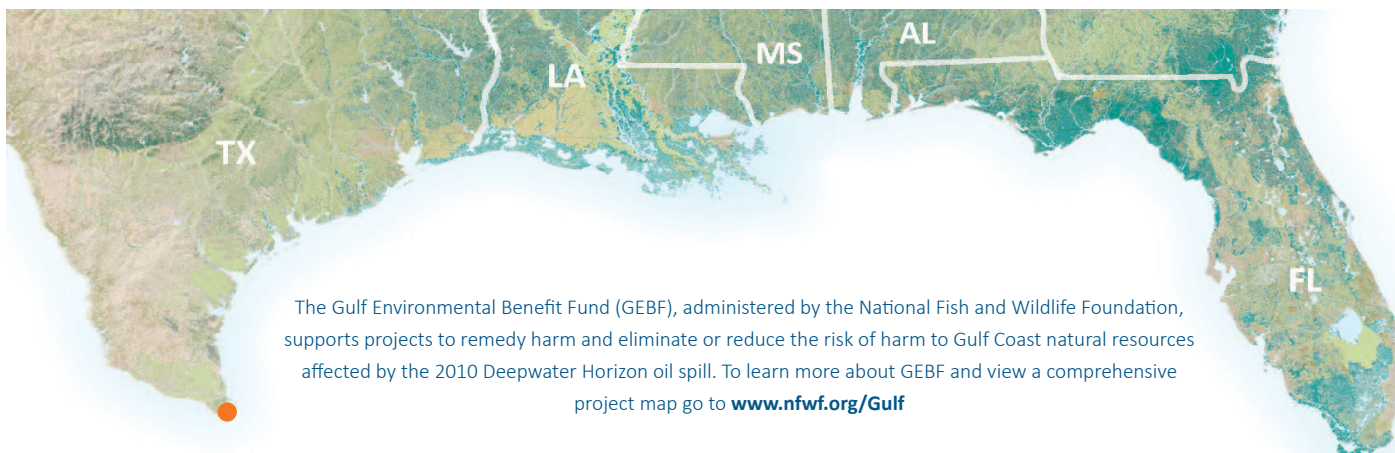
RECIPIENT:
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

AWARD AMOUNT:
\$5,640,000

LOCATION:
Cameron County

AWARD DATE:
November 2020

STATUS:
Awarded



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