



NFWF

Gulf Environmental Benefit Fund

MISSISSIPPI

Grand Batture Habitat Restoration – Phase I

This project will conduct planning and coastal modeling to determine the cumulative impacts of restoring the Grand Batture headland through the creation of beach, dune, and back-barrier marsh habitats as well as habitat protection in the form of living shoreline structures.

The Grand Batture headland, situated on the south side of the Grand Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve, was historically characterized by natural sandy beaches, dunes, and back-barrier marsh. The headland played a crucial role in the past by protecting extensive intertidal marshes and thriving oyster and SAV beds within Point aux Chenes Bay, Middle Bay, and Grand Bay. Barrier headlands like Grand Batture serve as invaluable natural buffers, shielding the mainland from the devastating impacts of storm surges and coastal erosion. In 1850, the US Coast Survey mapped approximately 450 acres of barrier headland spanning a length of approximately 5 miles. However, by the 1950s, it had dwindled to shoals. Since 1850, the rate of shoreline erosion has averaged up to 15 feet per year, and presently, the remaining headland is retreating even faster.



This project will benefit habitat utilized by Mississippi shorebirds, like the sandpiper pictured above.

AT A GLANCE

RECIPIENT:

Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality

AWARD AMOUNT:

\$1,050,000

PARTNERS:

United States Geologic Survey; University of Southern Mississippi; Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources; Mississippi Department of Marine Resources; Grand Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve

LOCATION:

Jackson County, MS

AWARD DATE:

August 2024

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