



NFWF

# Gulf Environmental Benefit Fund

**RECIPIENT**

National Audubon Society, Inc.

**AMOUNT**

\$3,345,600

**LEVERAGE**

\$380,000

**PARTNERS**

Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission

Florida Park Service

National Park Service

Department of Defense

Santa Rosa Island Authority

The Nature Conservancy

State University of New York

**LOCATION**

Escambia, Santa Rosa, Walton, Okaloosa, Bay, Gulf, and Franklin Counties, FL

**AWARD DATE**

November 2013

**PROGRESS UPDATE**

Plans and contracts for causeway restoration are being finalized and can be executed now that the breeding season is over. Outreach to the boating community on shorebird conservation is ongoing. Plover reproductive success and impacts of road mortality field work has been completed and is currently being analyzed. (August 2017)

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](http://www.nfwf.org).

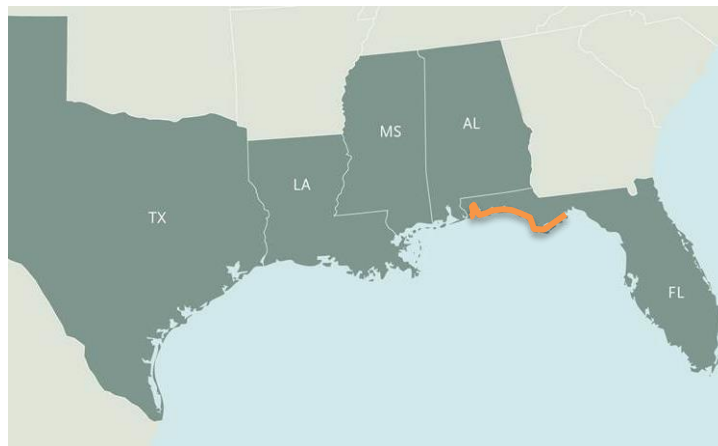
**FLORIDA**

## Comprehensive Panhandle Coastal Bird Conservation

This project will improve Panhandle beach-nesting bird habitat through nesting habitat enhancements and stewardship activities that will result in increased nesting, hatching, and rearing of chicks. Activities include the placement of signage to protect nesting sites and prevent road mortality of chicks; disturbance monitoring and abatement; mapping, monitoring, and adaptive management to support nesting; and artificial nesting support and experimental habitat creation. These efforts are intended to complement ongoing research, monitoring, and protection actions and will result in more effective and comprehensive success throughout the Florida Panhandle for important beach-nesting species such as Black Skimmer, American Oystercatcher, Least Tern, Piping Plover and Red Knot.

Natural beach habitats are dynamic environments that are stressed by ongoing human use and development. Today, coastal sensitive species are primarily located on and restricted

to public lands, yet despite this seeming protection, coastal bird populations continue to decline and degradation of habitat continues. This project will increase population numbers through active management of nesting habitat and increased public awareness of these important areas. This project has been identified and informed in part from the first year of a similar effort funded through the Natural Resources Damage Assessment (NRDA). In combination with similar NRDA early restoration work, this project will create a robust schedule of coastal bird management, research and restoration that can be implemented elsewhere in the Gulf of Mexico.



This project builds on similar work underway through NRDA Early Restoration and will result in higher breeding success for beach-nesting birds throughout the Florida Panhandle.