



NFWF

# Gulf Environmental Benefit Fund

**RECIPIENT**

Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission

National Audubon Society, Inc.

**AMOUNT**

\$1,613,400

**PARTNERS**

Audubon Florida

**LOCATION**

Florida Gulf Coast

**AWARD DATE**

November 2014

**PROGRESS UPDATE**

Shorebird and seabird conservation work along Florida's Gulf coast continued; including posting and fencing around active nest during previous breeding season. Staff and volunteers to collect and share data with the Florida Shorebird Database. Volunteer bird stewards were recruited, trained, and deployed for bird protection and public outreach. (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

### Florida Shorebird Conservation Initiative

This proposal will sustain activities of the Florida Shorebird Alliance (FSA) to enhance shorebird and seabird populations along the Florida Gulf Coast for two years. FSA is a statewide network of government and non-governmental organizations advancing shorebird and seabird conservation through coordinated and collaborative management, monitoring, education and outreach, and public policy activities. Under the leadership of the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) and Audubon Florida, FSA has proven to be very effective at engaging volunteers in shorebird conservation across the state.

This project advances the Conservation Framework's goal of stabilizing Gulf Coast populations of beach nesting shorebirds and seabirds. Many Gulf Coast beaches and islands provide critical nesting, wintering and migratory stopover habitat for many species of shorebirds and seabirds. However, these same beaches are subject to significant human use, and degradation and disturbance of coastal habitats continue to be significant stressors to these populations. Through the FSA, Florida has been a leader in promoting cost-effective stewardship activities that engage local groups and volunteers in targeted efforts to protect and monitor shorebirds, and in educating the public about how their actions can adversely impact these important species.



Credit: Nicole Rankin, USFWS



Addressing the continued decline of beach nesting birds through stewardship and education is a high conservation priority for the state of Florida.