



NFWF

# Gulf Environmental Benefit Fund

**RECIPIENT**

Trust for Public Land

**AMOUNT**

\$1,486,800

**PARTNERS**

Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission

Florida Department Environmental Protection

Florida Forest Service

Eglin Air Force Base

**LOCATION**

Santa Rosa County, Florida

**AWARD DATE**

November 2014

**PROGRESS UPDATE**

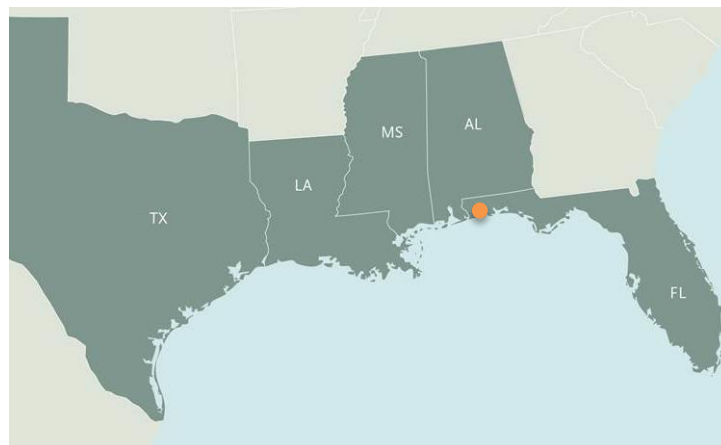
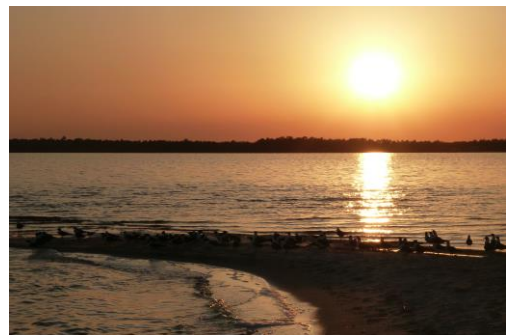
The final three priority parcels were recently acquired and the donations of the parcels to the state is anticipated in the near future. (August 2017)

## FLORIDA

# Restoration and Management of Escribano Point Coastal Habitat – Phase II

Phase two of this project will complete strategic acquisitions to improve the sustainability of, and provide long-term protection for, the coastal habitat of Escribano Point in Pensacola Bay. Acquisitions under this proposal will result in approximately 590 acres of preserved, high-value coastal wildlife habitat. Newly acquired Escribano Point parcels, along with existing state-owned parcels, will utilize previously awarded funds to carry out prescribed burning, vegetation management and hydrologic restoration to maximize ecological function.

The Escribano Point region of the Yellow River Wildlife Management Area (WMA) represents high value coastal fish and wildlife habitat located in the East Bay portion of Pensacola Bay at the confluence of the Yellow River and Black Water River. This project complements conservation activities already underway or planned, using previously awarded funding from the Gulf Environmental Benefit Fund, the MOEX settlement and the Natural Resources Damage Assessment and Restoration process. The shoreline provides stopover and foraging habitat for migrating shorebird species, among which are listed species such as the piping plover, Cuban snowy plover, least tern and black skimmer. This project will also protect the estuarine system and adjacent Blackwater Bay, which contains sea grass beds vital to fish and other marine species such as the listed Gulf sturgeon.



Acquisition and restoration of key property within the Escribano Point region of the Yellow River WMA will protect these critical ecological areas.

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).