



# NFWF

# Gulf Environmental Benefit Fund

### RECIPIENTS

The Nature Conservancy

### AWARD AMOUNT

\$2,575,000

### PARTNERS

United States Fish and Wildlife Service

Texas Parks and Wildlife Department

Deepwater Horizon – Texas Trustee Implementation Group (, Texas TIG)

### LOCATION

Cameron County, TX

### AWARD DATE

November 2017

### STATUS

Active

### PROGRESS UPDATE

Acquisition of 1,682 acres on South Padre Island is near complete and the property will soon be donated to USFWS. (January 2019)

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).

## TEXAS

# South Padre Island Land Acquisitions – Phase I

This project will fund the acquisition and permanent conservation of approximately 1,682 acres of intact coastal marsh and dune habitat on South Padre Island, Texas. Following the acquisition, the barrier island tract will be transferred to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) for inclusion in the adjacent Laguna Atascosa National Wildlife Refuge. Matching funds for the land acquisition plus closing costs and acquisition expenses have been approved by the Texas Trustee Implementation Group for the subject parcel.

The protection of Padre Island has been a conservation priority for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and Texas for decades. Padre Island supports a total of 16 animal species that have federal or state conservation status including three species of sea turtles, all of which are federally endangered or threatened. It is also the most important nesting location for Kemps Ridley sea turtles -- the most endangered of all sea turtles -- in the United States. Tidal flats and beaches of Padre Island and the Laguna Madre comprise one of the most significant wintering areas for the federally threatened Piping Plover in North America. Nesting Snowy Plovers and other shorebirds utilize the island's mud flats and washover areas.



Credit: EPA



Dune habitat on South Padre Island provides critical nesting habitat for the highly endangered Kemp's Ridley sea turtle pictured above.