



NFWF

Gulf Environmental Benefit Fund

RECIPIENT

The Conservation Fund

AWARD AMOUNT

\$4,423,000

PARTNERS

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

LOCATION

Baldwin County, Alabama

AWARD DATE

November 2018

ALABAMA

Bon Secour National Wildlife Refuge Acquisitions – Phase II (Three Rivers)

This project will acquire and restore 236 acres of estuarine and forested shrub wetlands on Fort Morgan Peninsula. The parcel is within the acquisition boundary of the Little Point Clear Unit of the Bon Secour National Wildlife Refuge (BSNWR), bordered on the east, west, and north by Bon Secour Bay. Following acquisition, the property will be transferred to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) to become part of the BSNWR. Habitats within this unit consist of scrub/shrub, pine flatwoods, saltwater marsh, and tidal creeks, scattered with permanent and semi-permanent wetlands. Fort Morgan Peninsula is under significant and consistent threat of commercial and residential development that would result in loss of habitat and negatively impact living coastal and marine resources.

This tract has been identified by the USFWS as among the highest priority for acquisition and long-term management by the BSNWR as well as a priority for conservation in BSNWR’s Comprehensive Conservation Plan. Additionally, the property is specifically included in the Mobile Bay National Estuary Program’s Bon Secour, Oyster Bay, and Skunk Bayou Watershed Management Plan as a priority for habitat protection. This acquisition will protect critical coastal habitat from development and add to 2,241 acres of contiguous, protected, habitat within the Little Point Clear Unit of the BSNWR. Under Phase I, 250 acres were added to the BNSWR through a 2017 GEBF award.



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The tract provides habitat to 90 species of birds impacted by the Deepwater Horizon Spill, including great egrets (above, left) and great blue herons (above, right).

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.