



NFWF

Gulf Environmental Benefit Fund

RECIPIENT

Town of Dauphin Island

AWARD AMOUNT

\$329,000

LOCATION

Dauphin Island, Alabama

AWARD DATE

November 2018

STATUS

Awarded

PROGRESS UPDATE

Project recently awarded.
(February 2019)

ALABAMA

Restoration of the North Side of Dauphin Island – Phase I

This project will support the engineering and design and related due diligence for an effort to restore beach and marsh habitat on the north side of Dauphin Island to enhance the barrier island’s resilience to future storms. Specifically, the project proposes to fill borrow pits that were excavated to supply sand for emergency barriers built along Gulf-facing beaches on Dauphin Island during the Deepwater Horizon oil spill. A portion of the sand used to build these barriers was mined from privately owned lots, creating "ponds" at those locations. Due to the rapid erosion of the north shore of the island typical during significant storm events, some of these ponds are now small embayments to the Mississippi Sound. These dredged areas have weakened the barrier island in these locations by significantly narrowing its width, making the island more susceptible to breaching should the island be subject to a major storm.

A potential breach on the west end of Dauphin Island, like that experienced during Hurricane Katrina, would significantly alter salinity and water quality of the Mississippi Sound, negatively impacting oyster reef and fisheries habitat. The west end of Dauphin Island provides important nesting and foraging habitat for endangered and threatened species of shorebirds, including piping plovers. Dauphin Island regulates salinity regimes in the Mississippi Sound while protecting associated marsh habitat from storm-related damage.



The map above shows the location of borrow pit areas created to build a protective berm on the West End of Dauphin Island. Restoring the borrow pits would strengthen the resiliency of the island and protect habitat for piping plovers, and other shorebirds.

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.