



# NFWF

# Gulf Environmental Benefit Fund

## RECIPIENTS

American Bird Conservancy

## AWARD AMOUNT

\$275,000

## PARTNERS

United States Fish and Wildlife Service

Coastal Bend Bays and Estuaries Program

Houston Audubon

Gulf Coast Bird Observatory

## LOCATION

Texas Gulf Coast

## AWARD DATE

November 2017

## STATUS

Active

## PROGRESS UPDATE

Non-breeding monitoring continued, monitoring 2,769 acres and protecting 918 acres of sensitive non-breeding habitat. Cooperative agreements for breeding bird work along the Texas coast is in progress for spring 2019. Work to update or create habitat management plans for Piping Plover conservation continued. (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

# Beach-nesting and Wintering Bird Protection and Habitat Stewardship

This project will protect critical breeding and wintering habitat for priority shorebird species along the Texas coast. These funds will reduce threats to breeding birds from human-caused disturbance through stewardship and monitoring. Utilizing voluntary habitat management plans, funds will also provide needed resources to site managers at three strategically chosen wintering sites along the mid and upper Texas Coast. Management plans are expected to include specific actions such as posting temporary and permanent signs and fencing on a minimum of 800 acres in order to reduce human disturbance of these important, highly-used wintering coastal bird habitats.

The Texas coast provides globally significant habitat for myriad overwintering beach nesting birds, including plovers, skimmers, and terns. These coastal areas are also visited by thousands of people who are drawn to the natural beauty of these unique landscapes. Specific coastal habitats and recovery plans have been identified to prioritize areas where efforts to reduce human disturbance will benefit areas that are critically important to the breeding, roosting, and foraging habitat of these bird species.



This project will inform management plans for species such as the piping plover (right) and black skimmer (left).