



NFWF

Gulf Environmental Benefit Fund

RECIPIENTS

Coastal Bend Bays and Estuaries Program

Texas Audubon

AWARD AMOUNT

\$363,400

PARTNERS

United States Fish and Wildlife Service

LOCATION

Galveston Bay to the Lower Laguna Madre

AWARD DATE

November 2017

PROGRESS UPDATE

Project was recently activated. (February 2018)

TEXAS

Restoring Colonial Waterbirds on the Texas Coast

This project will enhance and manage colonial waterbird habitat on 35 targeted rookery islands on the lower Texas coast from San Antonio Bay to the Laguna Madre. The project will enhance available nesting habitat and reduce factors commonly associated with nest failure or colony abandonment, resulting in enhanced avian utilization of colonial nesting species impacted by the Deepwater Horizon spill. Specifically, management will focus on managing nesting substrate, reducing predators, and reducing human disturbance. Implementation will also incorporate volunteer effort over the broad project area. Regular monitoring of the islands will document avian species diversity, abundance, and nesting densities. Enhanced availability of quality nesting habitat and avian utilization are anticipated to result from project activities.

Many colonial-nesting waterbird species such as those harmed by the Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill depend on the productivity of coastal environments to survive, but are almost all exclusively dependent on these small islands as nesting sites in order to reproduce successfully which is fundamental to population growth. Hurricane Harvey caused significant damage to nesting habitat on many rookery islands. Coastal Bend Bays and Estuaries Program will work with Texas Audubon to assess the extent of the damage from Hurricane Harvey and restore nesting habitat through vegetation restoration, installation of artificial nesting platforms, and re-establishment of protective signage.



Credit | USDA



This project will enhance rookery islands that span nearly 200 miles of Texas coast. Pictured above, San Antonio Bay shoreline.

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.