



# NFWF

# Gulf Environmental Benefit Fund

### RECIPIENT

The Conservation Fund

### AWARD AMOUNT

\*\$10,199,101

### LEVERAGE

\$23,080,000

### PARTNERS

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Texas Parks and Wildlife Department

National Wildlife Refuge Association

### LOCATION

Jefferson County, Texas

### AWARD DATE

March 2017

### STATUS

Closed

### PROGRESS UPDATE

Final conveyance of Sabine Ranch was completed and the ranch is now part of the McFaddin National Wildlife Refuge. (December 2018)

*\*Project was amended in March 2018 to add \$200,000 to cover additional carrying costs incurred by the applicant.*

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

# Sabine Ranch Acquisition

This project will acquire 8,169 acres of the Sabine Ranch, a tract rich in Chenier Plain habitats, including extensive fresh and intermediate tidal marsh, coastal prairie, pondshore and salty prairie. As a part of a larger 12,376 acres tract, which will be ultimately conveyed to the McFaddin National Wildlife Refuge, this acquisition will secure the entire major watershed feeding Willow Sough Marsh, the largest remaining coastal freshwater marsh in Texas. Further, this project will protect resources harmed by the Deepwater Horizon oil spill, including shallow water habitats, intermediate tidal marshes, numerous species of migratory waterfowl, shore birds, marshbirds and waterbirds, and a range of other coastal habitats and fish and wildlife species.

The Sabine Ranch is a critical component of the largest contiguous fresh and intermediate tidal marsh system in Texas, spanning over 135,000 acres of protected lands on the Texas Chenier Plain. Protection of the Sabine Ranch, which was once part of the original McFadden Ranch and is included within the McFaddin National Wildlife Refuge (NWR) boundary, is a top conservation priority for the upper Texas coast. Significant habitat restoration recently undertaken by the landowner optimizes the property's value for wildlife.



The target parcel includes significant wetland and Chenier Plain habitat that provides critical habitat for numerous species of migratory waterfowl, shore birds and waterbirds, along with other fish and wildlife species.