



NFWF | Gulf Environmental Benefit Fund

FLORIDA

Comprehensive Panhandle Coastal Bird Conservation

This project improved Panhandle beach-nesting bird habitat through nesting habitat enhancements and stewardship activities resulting in increased nesting, hatching, and rearing of chicks. Activities included the placement of signage to protect nesting sites and prevent road mortality of chicks; disturbance monitoring and abatement; mapping, monitoring, and adaptive management to support nesting; and artificial nesting support and experimental habitat creation, and restoration of important nesting habitat on St. George Island relic causeway. These efforts complemented ongoing research, monitoring, and protection actions and resulted in more effective and comprehensive success throughout the Florida Panhandle for important beach-nesting species such as black skimmer, American oystercatcher, least tern, piping plover, and red knot.

Natural beach habitats are dynamic environments that are stressed by ongoing human use and development. Today, coastal species are primarily located on and restricted to public lands, yet despite this seeming protection, coastal bird populations continue to decline and degradation of habitat continues. This project increased population numbers through active management of nesting habitat and increased public awareness of these important areas. This project was identified and informed in part from the first year of a similar effort funded through the Natural Resources Damage Assessment (NRDA). In combination with similar NRDA early restoration work, this project created a robust schedule of coastal bird management, research, and restoration that can be implemented elsewhere in the Gulf of Mexico.



This project built on similar work underway through NRDA Early Restoration and resulted in higher breeding success for beach-nesting birds throughout the Florida Panhandle.

AT A GLANCE

RECIPIENT:
National Audubon Society, Inc.

AWARD AMOUNT:
\$3,664,450

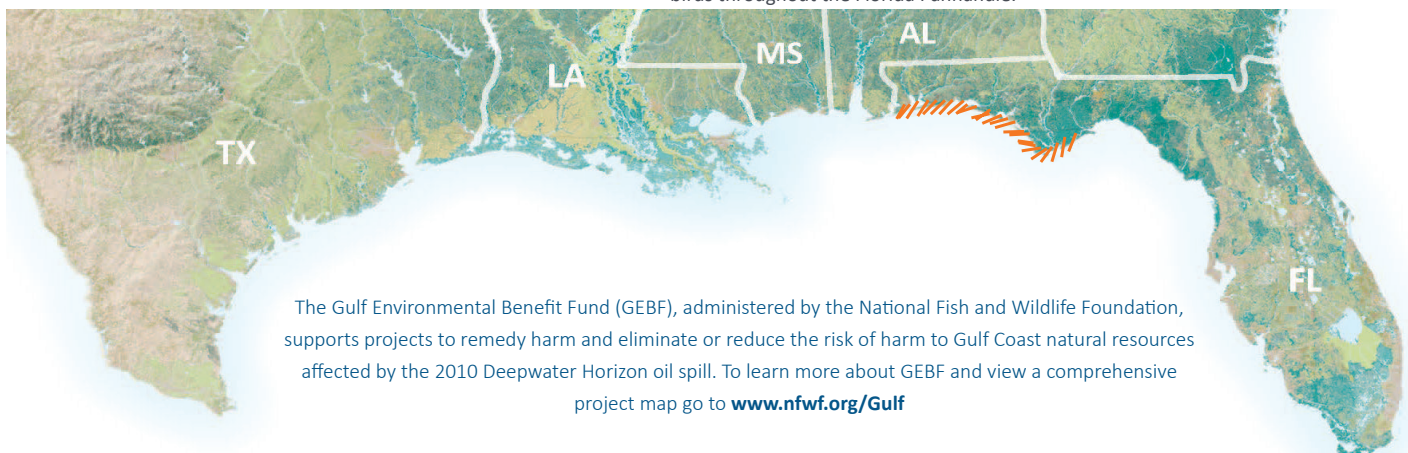
PARTNERS:
Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, Florida Park Service, National Park Service, Department of Defense, Santa Rosa Island Authority, The Nature Conservancy, State University of New York

LOCATION:
Escambia, Santa Rosa, Walton, Okaloosa, Bay, Gulf, and Franklin Counties, Florida

AWARD DATE:
November 2013

STATUS:
Closed

PROGRESS UPDATE:
Shorebird monitoring and habitat protection activities are complete. Restoration of nesting habitat on the St. George Island relic causeway is complete. This project is now closed. (March 2020)



The Gulf Environmental Benefit Fund (GEBF), administered by the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, 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 GEBF and view a comprehensive project map go to www.nfwf.org/Gulf