



NFWF | Gulf Environmental Benefit Fund

FLORIDA

Restoration of Florida's Coastal Dune Lakes - Phase II

This project will complete the restoration of wetland habitats on an additional 90 acres within Deer Lake State Park, part of Florida's unique coastal dune lakes system. Phase I is supporting restoration of 220 acres of degraded herbaceous wetlands in the park. Restoration of the additional 90 acres of remaining degraded wetlands will complete the restoration to historical habitat succession across the entire Deer Lake coastal dune lake watershed as well as a significant portion of the watershed of adjacent Camp Creek Lake located within the State Park boundaries. This project will continue improvements to water quality and quantity flowing to the coastal dune lakes and the Gulf of Mexico.

Florida's coastal dune lake habitats are unique, and their conservation and restoration is a high priority for the state of Florida. The coastal dune lake systems exist as a natural estuarine transition between the Gulf and upland areas and provides unique habitat for a wide variety of fish and wildlife, in particular beach nesting shorebirds and estuarine fish species. The Florida Natural Areas Inventory has classified Florida's coastal dune lakes as imperiled and vulnerable to extinction. Addressing water quality improvements in watersheds that feed these lakes through improved fire management and vegetation control will provide significant improvements to the water quality within these systems and to the Gulf of Mexico.



Credit | FL Department of Environmental Protection

Mechanical clearing and prescribed fire will be used to remove invasive vegetation that will contribute to restoring freshwater flows to the unique coastal dune lakes in the Florida Panhandle, as pictured in the above image.

AT A GLANCE

RECIPIENTS:

Florida Department of Environmental Protection – State Parks

Atlanta Botanical Gardens

AWARD AMOUNT:

\$2,503,000

LOCATION:

Deer Lake State Park, Walton County

AWARD DATE:

November 2018

STATUS:

Active



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