



NFWF | Gulf Environmental Benefit Fund

FLORIDA

Panhandle Dune Restoration

This project will restore and enhance up to 21 miles of degraded dune habitats across the Florida Panhandle. In areas where disturbance has created gaps, restoring the dunes will improve habitat functionality and resiliency. Florida’s coastal dunes are critical to the ecology and integrity of Florida’s coastline, however many dune systems are threatened by degradation and fragmentation, with many imperiled dune species now existing only in isolation, increasing risk of extinction. Adverse impacts from habitat fragmentation have been further compounded due to damage from the Deepwater Horizon oil spill and response. This project will complete site-specific habitat restoration activities at individual dune sites across the Panhandle. Success of project activities will be evaluated through project monitoring and adaptive management. Planned activities will emphasize dune restoration through plantings and sand fencing, and disturbance prevention will be incorporated to improve the success of restoration activities.

The project seeks to restore and conserve coastal dune habitat through restoration of ecological function across a wide geographical area. Projects to restore and maintain the ecological functions of landscape-scale coastal habitats are a top priority under the Florida GEBF Restoration Strategy. Proposed project activities will also address the need for greater connectivity within the coastal dune system as outlined in U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service’s Strategic Plan for the Gulf Coast. Outcomes of the project will restore the connectivity of the coastal dune system, benefitting several species including shorebirds, sea turtles and endangered beach mice while also strengthening the system against the threat of future harm.



GEBF funds will restore dune habitats to enhance Florida’s coastline for dune species. The picture above represents a healthy dune habitat.

AT A GLANCE

RECIPIENTS:

Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

AWARD AMOUNT:

\$6,390,000

PARTNERS:

University of Florida

LOCATION:

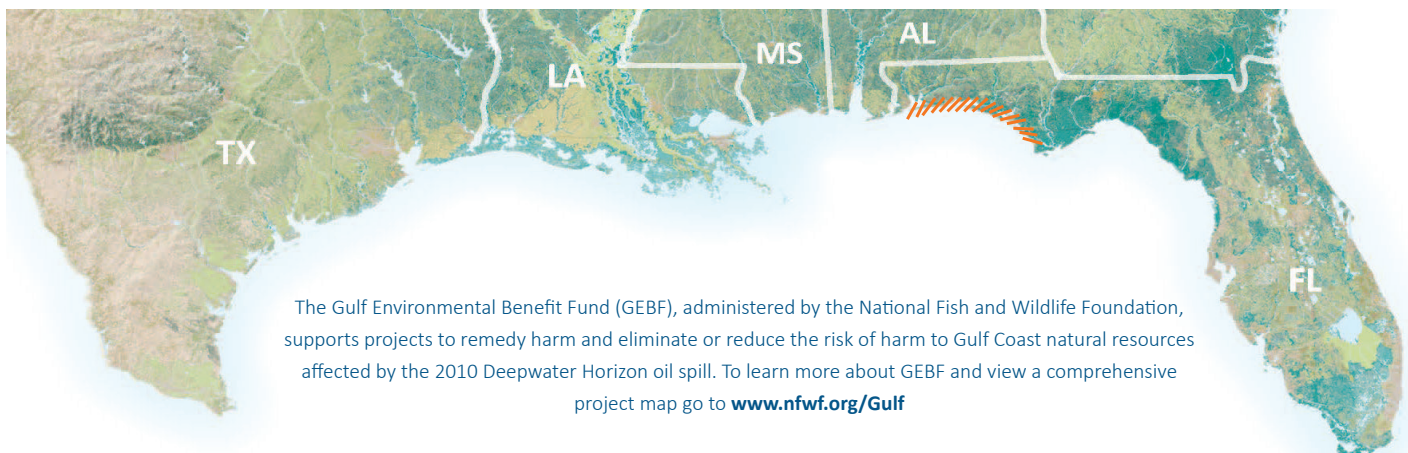
Florida Panhandle

AWARD DATE:

November 2019

STATUS:

Awarded



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