



NFWF

Gulf Environmental Benefit Fund

## FLORIDA

# MK Ranch Hydrologic Restoration

This project will restore wetland structure and function to the MK Ranch within the Apalachicola River Wildlife Environmental Area (ARWEA). MK Ranch comprises approximately 6,400 acres of expansive historic tidal marsh in the lower Apalachicola River Basin and acts as a filter and storage area for water flowing from upland sites to the tributaries of Lake Wimico and Apalachicola Bay. Historic land use patterns and hydrologic alterations within the ARWEA have altered water flow patterns, restricting freshwater flows into the estuarine system. Previous unpermitted excavation activity severed the river from its floodplain, resulting in extensive loss and degradation of wetland habitat, resulting in diminished water quality and adverse ecological impacts in Apalachicola Bay.

This project will use 1.1 million cubic yards of material to restore numerous ditches and remove 49.5 miles of embankments. Following hydrologic restoration, FWC will expand plant and wildlife surveys and monitoring in the ARWEA and Box-R Wildlife Management Area to MK Ranch to assess the ecological benefits of the restoration effort. A hydrologic assessment of the site and conceptual engineering plans have been developed.



Credit | David Reeves

Above, a picture of a typical drainage ditch to be filled in during this project.

## AT A GLANCE

### RECIPIENT:

Ducks Unlimited

### AWARD AMOUNT:

\$21,997,000

### PARTNERS:

Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC)

### LOCATION:

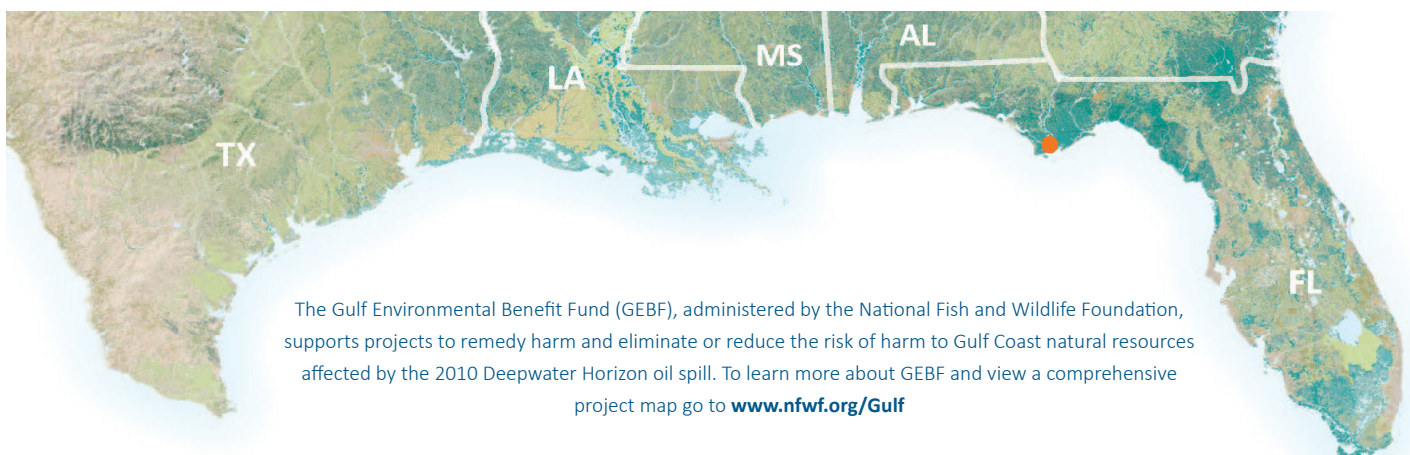
Franklin and Gulf Counties, Florida

### AWARD DATE:

November 2019

### 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](http://www.nfwf.org/Gulf)