



# NFWF

# Gulf Environmental Benefit Fund

## TEXAS

## East Matagorda Bay Land Conservation

This project will conserve 3,547 acres of coastal working lands in the Mid Coast of Texas through a perpetual conservation easement. The target property has frontage along the Gulf Intracoastal Waterway near East Matagorda Bay and is composed of a suite of coastal marsh, prairie, and freshwater wetland habitats. This landscape provides habitats for many bird species impacted by the Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill. The property has been managed for cattle production, but also provides critical habitat for migratory waterfowl and other coastal wildlife species. The proposed conservation easement will require best management practices for cattle grazing to preserve the habitat, restrict development rights and future land uses, and protect important wildlife habitat from non-agricultural development.

Conservation of the shoreline around East Matagorda Bay is a high priority for the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and a coalition of mid-coast conservation partners. Protection and conservation of the proposed property directly contributes to this goal. The proposed property is surrounded by other nearby protected properties which leverages its conservation value. In conjunction with recent and expected acquisitions by the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, placing a conservation easement on this property will contribute to ongoing efforts to make East Matagorda Bay one of the best protected and managed bay systems in Texas.



Credit | Mike Rodriguez

Conservation of the proposed property and areas surrounding East Matagorda Bay will protect critical habitat for many species of shorebirds impacted by the oil spill, such as egrets, pictured above.

## AT A GLANCE

### RECIPIENT:

Texas Agricultural Land Trust

### AWARD AMOUNT:

\*\$3,981,500

### PARTNERS:

Texas Parks and Wildlife Department

### LOCATION:

Matagorda County

### AWARD DATE:

November 2018

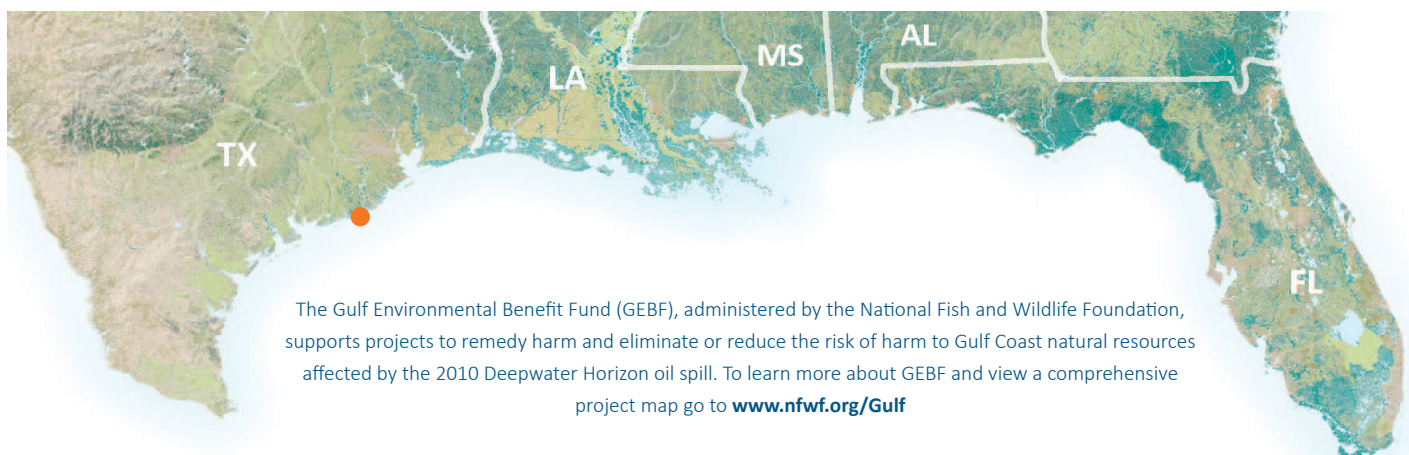
### STATUS:

Active

### PROGRESS UPDATE:

Closing is expected in 2020.

*\*Project budget was amended in August 2019 to provide for complete real estate due diligence and program compliance.*



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)