



NFWF

Gulf Environmental Benefit Fund

TEXAS

Gulf Coast Migratory Waterfowl Habitat Enhancement

This project created freshwater wetland habitat on private lands in the Texas Chenier Plain and Mid-Coast to address habitat deficits in this important migratory bird region of the coast. Building on the success of the 20-year Texas Prairie Wetlands Program, as well as the Migratory Bird Habitat Initiative launched in 2010, this project established 5,239 additional acres of permanent wetlands and enrolled over 23,282 acres of agricultural lands to be flooded seasonally to support migratory waterfowl, shorebirds and waterbirds. Funds were leveraged with grants from the Natural Resource Conservation Service, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and Texas Parks & Wildlife Department.

The Gulf Coast Joint Venture estimates there is an outstanding 107,000 acre deficit in freshwater wetland habitats within the Texas Chenier Plain and Mid-Coast region necessary to meet the foraging needs of the 15.5 million migratory waterfowl that overwinter in this region. Moreover, periods of drought in east Texas during the project period limited the ability of farmers to plant rice, thus exacerbating the problem. Rice farming provides an opportunity to flood fields on a seasonal basis to offset some of the habitat deficit. With less available water, fewer acres of rice have been planted and fewer acres have been flooded. Large areas were left without active management and now serve as reservoirs contributing to the spread of non-native vegetation. This project addressed up to 20% of the habitat needs of the area, and ensured active management of lands that may otherwise convert to non-productive, non-native habitats.



The creation and restoration of freshwater wetland habitat on private lands supported increased populations of migratory waterfowl, shorebirds and waterbirds.

AT A GLANCE

RECIPIENT:

Ducks Unlimited

AWARD AMOUNT:

\$1,249,534

LEVERAGE:

\$1,285,206

PARTNERS:

Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, Natural Resource Conservation Service, USFWS

LOCATION:

Mid-Coast and Chenier Plain

AWARD DATE:

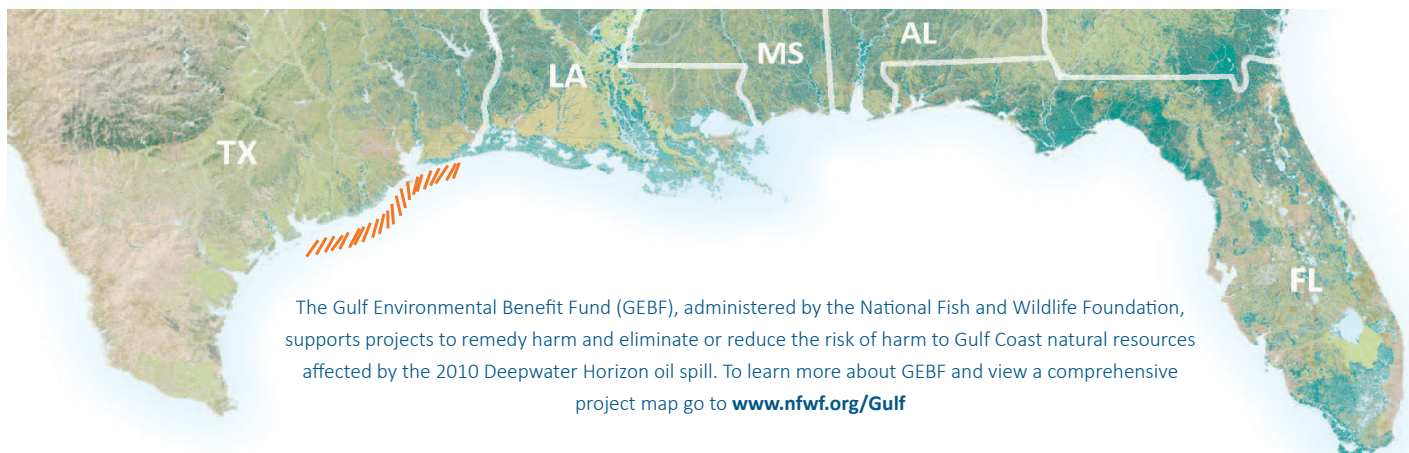
November 2013

STATUS:

Closed

PROGRESS UPDATE:

Project closed August 2016.



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