TEXAS

Hydrological Restoration of Brazoria National Wildlife Refuge Wetlands- Phase I

The project will assess hydrologic restoration options for enhancing 9,500 acres of coastal wetlands and tallgrass prairie within the Brazoria National Wildlife Refuge along the Texas coast. Specifically, funds would be utilized to conduct a feasibility analysis and 30% design of a selected alternative for the improvement of hydrologic conditions within the Chocolate Bay Prairie Unit that will enhance emergent wetlands within the unit for wetland dependent birds and other wildlife.

The Brazoria National Wildlife Refuge is a 44,000 acre refuge along the mid-coast of Texas that is teeming with wildlife and a diversity of marsh and upland coastal prairies. Constituting over 20% of the refuge, the Chocolate Bay Prairie Unit is high quality habitat for a diversity of grassland and coastal dependent birds. Alterations to the natural hydrology of the landscape from ditching, diking and installation of irrigation channels have reduced habitat quality for wetland dependent wildlife including resident and wintering waterfowl, wading birds and migrating shorebirds. These alterations and reduction of sheet flow also likely resulted in the reduction of water quality for waters that ultimately flow into Chocolate Bay.

This project will enhance intertidal wetland habitat similar to the wetlands pictured above.

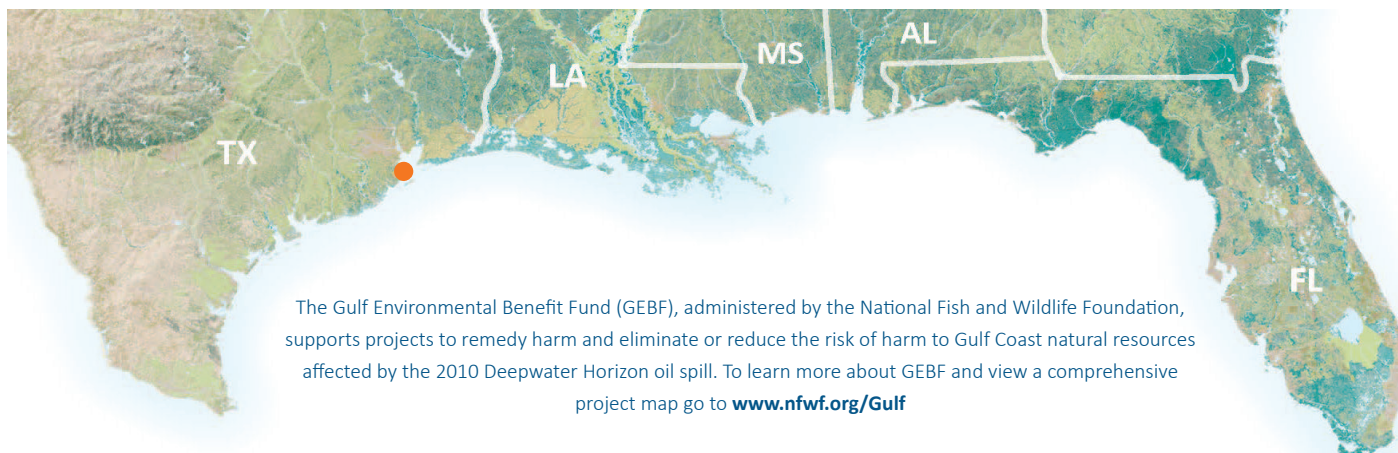## AT A GLANCE

RECIPIENT:
Ducks Unlimited

AWARD AMOUNT:
$200,000

PARTNERS:
USFWS

LOCATION:
Brazoria County

AWARD DATE:
November 2017

STATUS:
Active

PROGRESS UPDATE:
The completion of modeling has allowed development of restoration alternatives to begin.

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**