



NFWF

Gulf Environmental Benefit Fund

TEXAS

Salt Bayou (McFaddin NWR) Beach and Ridge Restoration- Construction

This project will restore over 17 miles of the beach dune ridge system along McFaddin National Wildlife Refuge (NWR) from High Island, Texas to Sea Rim State Park using dredged material from offshore sources. Completion of this restoration project will bring the total restored habitat to 20 miles while adding approximately 150 feet of sand beach seaward of the dunes. In conjunction with an interior clay berm installed by partners in 2016, the overall restoration effort has a design life of at least 50 years.

The Salt Bayou ecosystem is the largest contiguous estuarine marsh complex in Texas. This ecosystem is approximately 139,000 acres in size within a Chenier Plain landscape that includes freshwater to estuarine marsh, coastal grasslands, tidal flats, creeks and basins and associated aquatic vegetation. Continued loss of the beach ridge along McFaddin NWR has increased salt water intrusion which led to die-back of the marsh plant community, decreasing foraging habitat for wildlife and overall resiliency of the marsh. Restoration of the dune ridge and shoreline system will prevent further coastal erosion and loss of this important habitat. Moreover, the restored beach ridge will reduce future saltwater intrusion within the wetlands and allow the marsh vegetation to return to a more natural freshwater or brackish community, enhancing habitat for numerous shorebirds and providing nesting habitat for sea turtles.



Above, a picture of the pilot phase restoration. Funds from GEBF will leverage additional investments from the Natural Resource Damage and RESTORE programs to complete the proposed work.

AT A GLANCE

RECIPIENT: Texas General Land Office

AWARD AMOUNT: \$26,500,000

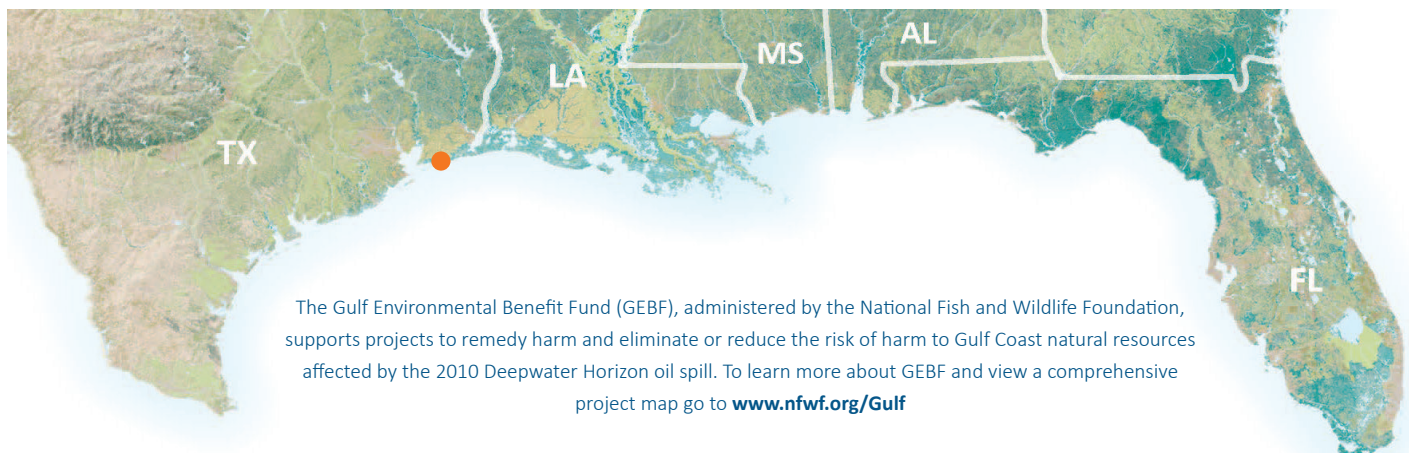
PARTNERS: Texas Commission of Environmental Quality

LOCATION: Jefferson County and Chambers County

AWARD DATE: March 2018

STATUS: Active

PROGRESS UPDATE: Construction is expected to begin in late 2020.



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