



NFWF

Gulf Environmental Benefit Fund

ALABAMA

Bon Secour River Headwater Restoration-Phase I

This project will complete engineering and design plans for creating wetlands to treat urban runoff impacting downstream fisheries. The constructed wetlands will address nutrient, sediment and debris flow to improve habitat quality in the lower Bon Secour River and Bon Secour Bay, which historically has included one of south Alabama's most significant and productive shellfish habitats and nursery areas for juvenile finfish. This section of the Bon Secour River encompasses major headwaters and the main channel of the Bon Secour River immediately downstream from the City of Foley. Rapid development of the City over the past two decades has contributed significant nutrient and sediment loading to the Bon Secour River and Bay, with adverse effects to downstream fisheries. Under the proposal, the City will acquire 94 acres of undeveloped property along the Bon Secour River to construct the stormwater wetlands.

This project was identified as a top management measure in the GEBF-funded Bon Secour Watershed Management Plan to address issues associated with stormwater management, water quality, erosion, and sedimentation. Specifically, the plan identifies the need to address urban runoff from the City of Foley as one of the top priority activities for restoring watershed health. With increased development pressures in the watershed, the project will ensure protection of downstream fisheries and coastal habitat.



Credit | Jon Porthouse

Restoration efforts will benefit coastal marsh, bays and estuaries and coastal and marine living resources.

AT A GLANCE

RECIPIENT: City of Foley

AWARD AMOUNT: \$1,528,000

PARTNERS: Mobile Bay National Estuary Program

LOCATION: Foley

AWARD DATE: November 2018

STATUS: Active

PROGRESS UPDATE: Project area acquisition completed. Final engineering and design anticipated this Summer.



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