



NFWF

Gulf Environmental Benefit Fund

ALABAMA

Coastal Habitat Restoration Planning Initiative

This project developed comprehensive plans to identify the highest priority restoration and conservation needs within the tidally influenced watersheds that directly feed into Mobile Bay. Building on the significant work already undertaken by the Mobile Bay National Estuary Program (MBNEP), this project acquired high-resolution mapping of the diverse habitats in Alabama's two coastal counties to identify the conditions of streams, rivers, riparian buffers, wetlands, intertidal marshes and submerged aquatic vegetation of Mobile Bay and the nearshore Gulf and Mississippi Sound waters. Concurrent to data collection, watershed plans for seven of the state's tidally influenced watersheds were created. These watersheds include: Bayou La Batre, Bon Secour, Dog River, Fish River, Tensaw-Apalachee, West Fowl River/Delchamps Bayou, and Wolf Bay. Data collection and planning information were used to inform priority conservation and restoration projects for future implementation consideration under the Gulf Environmental Benefit Fund.

This planning effort helped identify priority conservation outcomes for Mobile Bay and prioritized conservation projects that will restore and maintain the ecological functioning of this important estuary. This project advanced priority goals of the 2013-2018 Comprehensive Conservation Management Plan (CCMP) for the Mobile Bay Estuary; including improving trends in water quality in watersheds that discharge into priority fishery nursery areas and improving ecosystem function and resilience of the estuary through protection, restoration and conservation of habitats including beaches, bays, backwaters, and rivers. The goal of this project was to build upon the MBNEP's CCMP to identify specific projects that will address critical threats and protect and restore these watersheds.



This project will advance the development of priority conservation outcomes for seven tidally influenced watersheds in Alabama.

AT A GLANCE

RECIPIENTS:

Mobile Bay NEP

AWARD AMOUNT:

*\$4,218,483

PARTNERS:

ADCNR, AL Department of Environmental Management, Geological Survey of Alabama, Mobile County, Baldwin County

LOCATION:

Mobile Bay and surrounding watersheds

AWARD DATE:

November 2014

STATUS:

Closed

PROGRESS UPDATE:

Project closed May 2023.

**Project was amended in November 2017 to add \$1,345,300 for a bay-wide cultural resource survey and hydrologic model. In March 2019 \$34K was added to cover costs for additional contracts to produce high resolution maps and restoration plan.*



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