



NFWF

Gulf Environmental Benefit Fund

TEXAS

Bahia Grande Coastal Corridor Acquisitions- Phase III (Garcia Tract)

This project will protect 575 acres of coastal habitat in Cameron County, adjacent to the Bahia Grande Unit of the Laguna Atascosa National Wildlife Refuge. Following acquisition, The Nature Conservancy (TNC) will transfer the property to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) for inclusion in the Laguna Atascosa National Wildlife Refuge (NWR). Wetland habitats in the Bahia Grande are some of the most significant coastal wetlands in Texas and serve as important habitat for multiple species of waterfowl and waterbirds. The proposed parcel includes 3.7 miles of shoreline along the Vadia Ancha/ Bahia Grande estuary.

Bahia Grande was once a large and productive wetland that was connected to the Lower Laguna Madre system. The overall system served as an important nursery and habitat for a vast array of wildlife, fish and shellfish. Over time, the natural tidal flow between the 6,500 acre Bahia Grande basin and the Laguna Madre was interrupted by development activities and channelization, resulting in a hyper-saline environment that created an overall ecological disaster. Since 2000, USFWS and other partners have been working to protect and restore 10,000 acres of coastal wetlands, constituting one of the largest restoration projects in Texas. This project will contribute to permanent protection of the Bahia Grande wetlands, a conservation priority in the Bahia Grande area since the early 1990s. Using funds from other Deepwater Horizon sources and the RESTORE council, TNC has recently purchased more than 1,800 acres on the Bahia and transferred the property to USFWS for inclusion in the Laguna Atascosa NWR.



Credit | NOAA Fisheries

Protection of 3.7 miles of shoreline on the Bahia Grande wetland system, pictured above, will facilitate continued restoration of critical coastal wetland habitats and provide a buffer to protect functional wetland habitat.

AT A GLANCE

RECIPIENT:

The Nature Conservancy

AWARD AMOUNT:

\$6,100,000

PARTNERS:

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

LOCATION:

Laguna Madre, Cameron County

AWARD DATE:

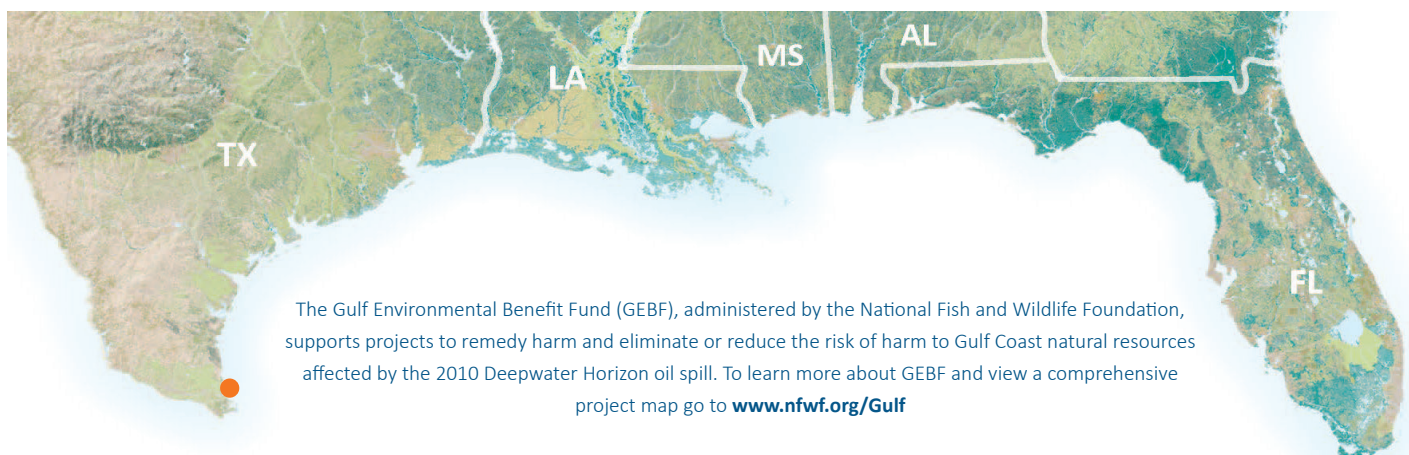
August 2018

STATUS:

Active

PROGRESS UPDATE:

Acquisition is complete. Project is preparing for closure.



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