



# NFWF | Gulf Environmental Benefit Fund

## ALABAMA

### Restoration of the North Side of Dauphin Island- Phase I

This project will support the engineering, design, and related due diligence for an effort to restore beach and marsh habitat on the north side of Dauphin Island to enhance the barrier island's resilience to future storms. Specifically, the project proposes to fill borrow pits that were excavated to supply sand for emergency barriers built along Gulf-facing beaches on Dauphin Island during the Deepwater Horizon oil spill. A portion of the sand used to build these barriers was mined from privately owned lots, creating "ponds" at those locations. Due to response to the rapid erosion of the north shore of the island typical during significant storm events, some of these ponds are now small embayments to the Mississippi Sound. These dredged areas have weakened the barrier island in these locations by significantly narrowing its width, making the island more susceptible to breaching should the island be subject to a major storm.

A potential breach on the west end of Dauphin Island, like that experienced during Hurricane Katrina, would significantly alter salinity and water quality of the Mississippi Sound, negatively impacting oyster reef and fisheries habitat. The west end of Dauphin Island provides important nesting and foraging habitat for endangered and threatened species of shorebirds, including piping plovers. Dauphin Island regulates salinity regimes in the Mississippi Sound while protecting associated marsh habitat from storm-related damage.



The map above shows the location of borrow pit areas created to build a protective berm on the West End of Dauphin Island. Restoring the borrow pits would strengthen the resiliency of the island and protect habitat for piping plovers, and other shorebirds.

## AT A GLANCE

**RECIPIENT:**

Town of Dauphin Island

**AWARD AMOUNT:**

\*\$904,000

**LOCATION:**

Dauphin Island

**AWARD DATE:**

November 2018

**STATUS:**

Active

**PROGRESS UPDATE:**

Engagement with landowners in the project area has started. Engineering and design subcontractor has been acquired.

*\*Project was amended August 2020 to perform engineering & design activities to restore approximately 25 acres of intertidal salt marsh in Graveline Bay on the north side of Dauphin Island.*



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](http://www.nfwf.org/Gulf)