



NFWF

Gulf Environmental Benefit Fund

FLORIDA

Ladson Tract Conservation Easement

This project will permanently protect approximately 1,837 acres of habitat in the Big Bend region of Florida through a conservation easement. Over 1.8 miles of the Wacissa River and 2.4 miles of the Aucilla River are within the property boundaries along with numerous sinks and springs that are a direct link to the underlying Floridian aquifer. The tract contains tidally influenced river systems and mature hydric hammock forests that help buffer tidal surge, store floodwater, reduce stormwater erosion, and deliver important freshwater to the Coast. Over 99 percent of the property is natural wetland habitats, including bald cypress swamps that are more than 250 years old. Numerous injured bird species have been documented using the property's pristine wetlands, including ibis, herons, and egrets, as well as least bittern, common gallinule, bufflehead, and spotted sandpiper. The wetlands protect the Aucilla River, whose high quality fresh water supports nursery habitat for fish species like red drum, spotted seatrout and mullet. Additionally, the conservation easement will provide cultural benefits, including protection of the globally significant Page-Ladson archaeological site, which contains stone tools and mastodon bones over 14,000 years old- some of the oldest evidence of humans in the Americas.

The surrounding region has been a conservation focus for the State of Florida and St. Marks National Wildlife Refuge; the region encompasses over 130,000 acres of protected lands of great ecological and cultural significance. The project fills in a notable gap within the network of conservation lands in the Big Bend region of Florida. The many conservation values of the property led to its being ranked as a top protection priority under Florida Forever.



Credit | Tall Timbers Research, Inc.

Ladson tract is predominately pristine wetland habitat as pictured above.

AT A GLANCE

RECIPIENT:

Tall Timbers Research, Inc.

AWARD AMOUNT:

\$1,654,000

LOCATION:

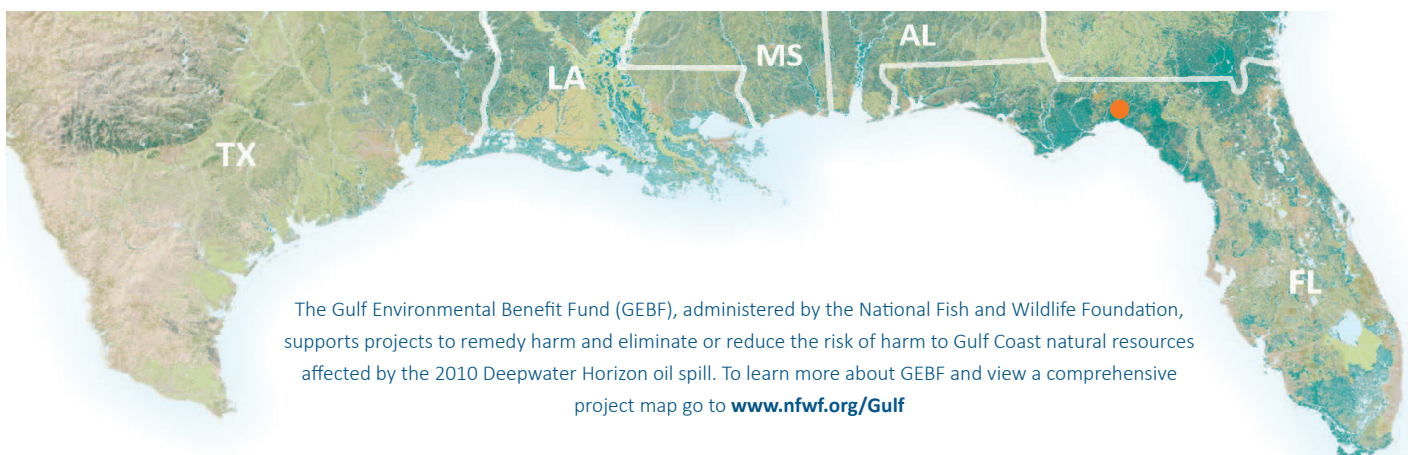
Jefferson and Taylor counties, Florida

AWARD DATE:

November 2020

STATUS:

Awarded



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