



NFWF

Gulf Environmental Benefit Fund

## ALABAMA

# Bon Secour River Headwaters Restoration-Phase II

This award supports the implementation phase of an effort to improve approximately one mile of streambank and construct a 70-acre wetland system designed to treat urban runoff that is adversely affecting downstream fisheries. The constructed wetlands will address nutrient, sediment and debris flow to improve water quality in the lower Bon Secour River and Bon Secour Bay. 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.

This project addresses the top priority identified in the previously funded Bon Secour Watershed Management Plan. 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. Residential growth in Baldwin County and the City of Foley has been the highest in the state of Alabama for a decade, and among the highest in the entire Southeast, leading to significant alteration of the natural landscape that has affected ecological function in the watershed.

The proposed headwater restoration and stormwater wetland construction will reduce impacts from nutrient and sediment loading to the Bon Secour River and Bay, which historically has been among south Alabama's most significant and productive shellfish habitats and a critically important nursery area for juvenile finfish.



Credit | Jon Porthouse

Constructed wetlands will hold stormwater allowing for sediment and nutrients to be removed.

## AT A GLANCE

**RECIPIENT:**  
City of Foley

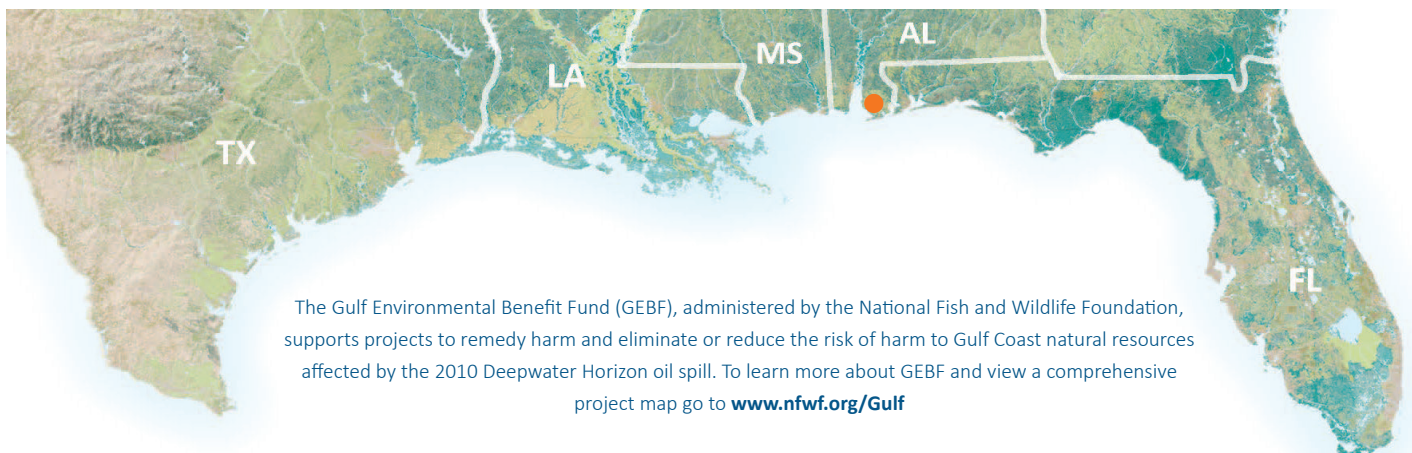
**AWARD AMOUNT:**  
\$5,100,000

**LOCATION:**  
Baldwin County

**AWARD DATE:**  
November 2020

**STATUS:**  
Active

**PROGRESS UPDATE:**  
Permitting and bid documents are being prepared.



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)