



NFWF

Gulf Environmental Benefit Fund

TEXAS

Restoring Colonial Waterbirds on the Texas Coast

This project has enhanced and managed colonial waterbird habitat on 33 targeted rookery islands on the lower Texas coast from San Antonio Bay to the Laguna Madre. The project enhanced available nesting habitat and reduced factors commonly associated with nest failure or colony abandonment, resulting in enhanced avian utilization of colonial nesting species impacted by the Deepwater Horizon spill. Specifically, management focused on managing nesting substrate, reducing predators, and reducing human disturbance. Implementation also incorporated volunteer effort over the broad project area. Regular monitoring of the islands documents avian species diversity, abundance, and nesting densities. Enhanced availability of quality nesting habitat and avian utilization resulted from project activities.

Many colonial-nesting waterbird species such as those harmed by the Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill depend on the productivity of coastal environments to survive but are almost all exclusively dependent on these small islands as nesting sites in order to reproduce successfully which is fundamental to population growth. Hurricane Harvey caused significant damage to nesting habitat on many rookery islands. Coastal Bend Bays and Estuaries Program worked with Texas Audubon to assess the extent of the damage from Hurricane Harvey and restored nesting habitat through vegetation restoration, installation of artificial nesting platforms, and re-establishment of protective signage.



Credit | USDA
This project enhanced rookery islands that span nearly 200 miles of Texas coast. Pictured above, San Antonio Bay shoreline.

AT A GLANCE

RECIPIENT:
Coastal Bend Bays and Estuaries Program

Texas Audubon

AWARD AMOUNT:
\$363,400

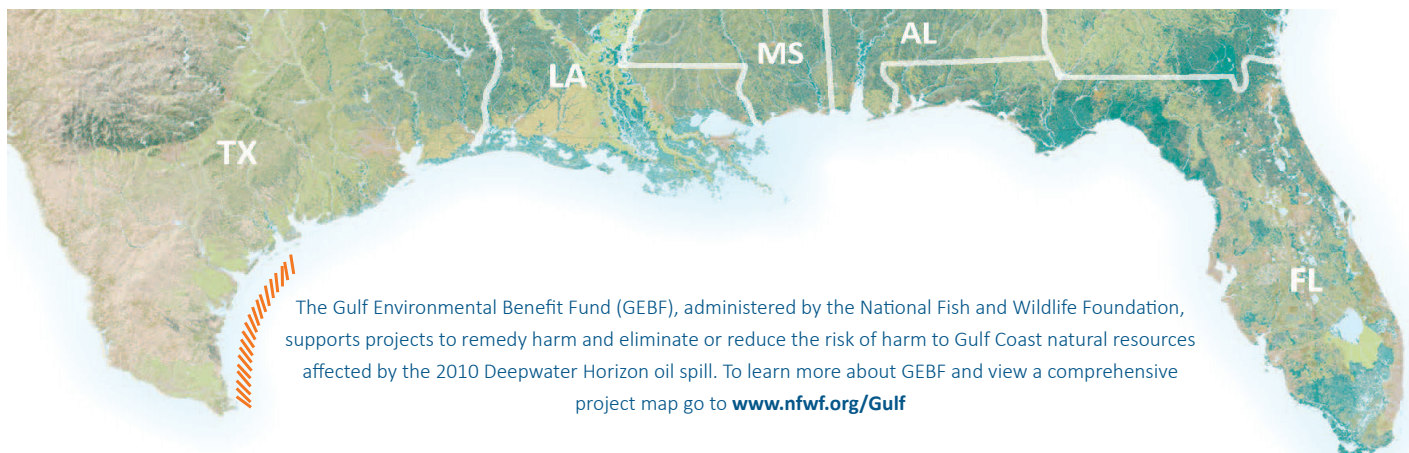
PARTNERS:
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

LOCATION:
San Antonio Bay to the Lower Laguna Madre

AWARD DATE:
November 2017

STATUS:
Closed

PROGRESS UPDATE:
Project closed September 2020.



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