NFWF | Gulf Environmental Benefit Fund

ALABAMA Fowl River Watershed Restoration: Coastal Spits and Wetlands- Phase II

This project will increase ecological resilience within the lower reach of the Fowl River by enhancing marsh elevation and stabilizing shorelines of five marsh-covered spits in the watershed's transitional zone between upstream fresh water and downstream brackish water. Restoration will involve a staged approach involving initial applications of thin layers of dredged material and strategic placement of wave attenuation structures. Project activities aim to stabilize up to 12,600 linear feet of shoreline and restore 40 acres of marsh habitat. Suitable dredged material will be used to increase marsh elevation and appropriate vegetation will be installed where necessary in the project area.

The lower reach of Fowl River is characterized by coastal marshes and low topographic relief. The project area has established saltwater marshes and fringe marshes consisting mainly of smooth cord grass and saltwater rushes, with some forested wetlands at higher elevations. The project area comprises habitats that support a diversity of wildlife, including coastal and wading birds and nursery habitat for coastal finfish and shellfish. The area is also home to many threatened and endangered species, including the diamondback terrapin, Gulf sturgeon, and West Indian manatee.



This project will contribute to the stabilization of marsh spits in the Fowl

River watershed, pictured above



AT A GLANCE

RECIPIENT:

Mobile Bay National Estuary Program

AWARD AMOUNT: \$19,798,000

LOCATION: Mobile County

AWARD DATE: November 2021

STATUS: Awarded