



NFWF

# Gulf Environmental Benefit Fund

## ALABAMA

### Gulf Highlands Conservation Acquisition

This project proposes to acquire, conserve, and manage 192 acres with 2,700 feet of Gulf frontage beach/dune habitat – the largest, privately held, undeveloped beachfront parcel remaining in coastal Alabama. Protection of this key habitat would benefit nesting sea turtles, migratory birds and shorebirds, and allow its continued function as refuge for the endangered Alabama beach mouse. The quality and extent of the dune system contributes to the parcel’s unique ecological benefits. Acquisition and permanent conservation would also prevent the likely development on the property of a permitted residential condominium complex with associated amenities.

In addition to the direct acquisition cost, the project budget also includes funding to support future management and stewardship of these important coastal habitats; including, but not limited to, invasive species control, boundary postings, and human disturbance management via strategically placed dune walk-overs, fencing, and interpretive signage. Once acquired, the parcel will be deeded to the Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, State Parks Division for long-term management and inclusion in their Ft. Morgan Parkway management area, with limited public access. Moreover, the parcel’s proximity to the Bon Secour National Wildlife Refuge enhances both properties’ value as critical beachfront habitat for coastal birds, sea turtles, and the endangered beach mouse.

This project was amended November 2022 to expand the project footprint to include the adjacent Beach Club West property. The Beach Club West parcel includes habitat for numerous species affected by the Deepwater Horizon oil spill and its associated response activities, including various coastal birds, sea turtles, and the Alabama beach mouse.



Coastal dunes under threat of residential development are now protected by this acquisition. This is critical habitat for the endangered Alabama beach mouse, pictured above.

## AT A GLANCE

### RECIPIENTS:

Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources

### AWARD AMOUNT:

\*\$46,673,000

### LOCATION:

Fort Morgan Peninsula

### AWARD DATE:

November 2016

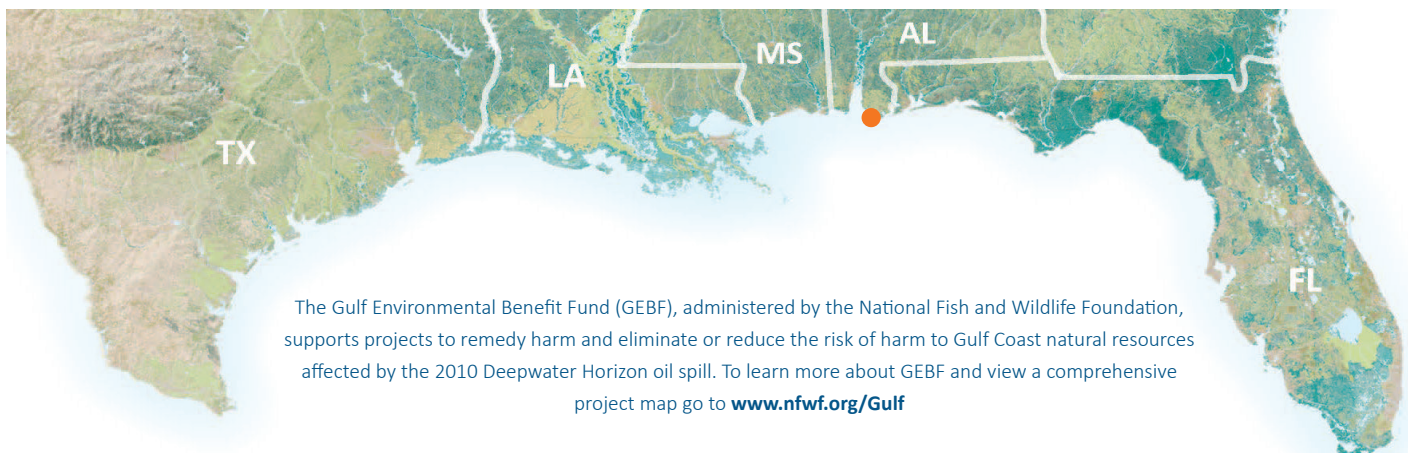
### STATUS:

Active

### PROGRESS UPDATE:

Discussion is ongoing regarding construction of parking lot and dune walk-over around managed access points.

*\*Project was increased by \$8.2M in November 2022 to acquire Beach Club West property.*



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)