



NFWF

Gulf Environmental Benefit Fund

MISSISSIPPI

Wolf River Headwaters Acquisition

This project will acquire and permanently protect over 14,000 acres along the Wolf River and its headwaters. Acquiring this significant acreage will close large gaps between existing conservation areas and enhance and protect water quality in St. Louis Bay. The previously funded Coastal Headwaters Protection Assessment project provided necessary assessment and due diligence to advance the Wolf River tract as a priority for protection. Conservation of lands adjacent to the Wolf River provides opportunities to manage important habitats at a meaningful scale to improve ecological function and provide water quality benefits to downstream receiving water bodies.

Once acquired, the lands would be owned by Mississippi State University and managed by the MSU Forest and Wildlife Research Center. While the pine upland portions of the acquired property would be used as a teaching forest for the management and restoration of pine habitats, the bottomland hardwood portions of the property that are the focus of the GEBF investment would be protected from harvest and managed to protect and enhance downstream water quality benefits. The wetland and floodplain acreage represents 50% of the total property. The project has been highly ranked for Federal Forest Legacy funding, which is expected to provide leverage for the GEBF award.



This project will protect and conserve habitat and water quality along the Wolf River and its tributaries (pictured above) for the benefit of St. Louis Bay.

AT A GLANCE

RECIPIENT: Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality

AWARD AMOUNT: \$15,103,000

LEVERAGE: \$14,180,000

PARTNERS: Mississippi Forestry Commission

The Nature Conservancy

Mississippi State University

LOCATION: Harrison County

AWARD DATE: November 2022

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](http://www.nfwf.org/Gulf)