



NFWF

Gulf Environmental Benefit Fund

RECIPIENTS

The Nature Conservancy

AWARD AMOUNT

*\$7,477,500

PARTNERS

Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources

LOCATION

Southwestern Mobile County, Alabama

AWARD DATE

November 2015

STATUS

Active

PROGRESS UPDATE

Acquisition activities completed. Partners collaborated to plan and implement fire management and stewardship strategies. (February 2019)

**Project was amended in November 2016 to add \$4,000,000 and in August 2018 to add 1,700,000 for the acquisition of two additional parcels.*

The Gulf Environmental Benefit Fund, administered by the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF), 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 NFWF, go to www.nfwf.org.

ALABAMA

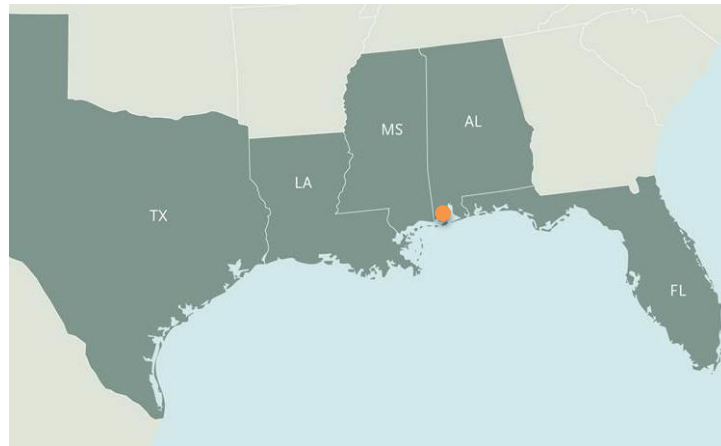
Grand Bay Acquisition

This project will acquire four parcels consisting of 2,830 acres of priority coastal habitat in southwestern Mobile County. Grand Bay is one of the most pristine and diverse areas remaining on the Alabama Gulf coast and the parcels proposed for acquisition are critical inholdings linking existing protected and managed areas, providing a more holistic approach to long-term management and stewardship for the Grand Bay system. The broader Grand Bay complex includes a significant diversity of habitats including shell mounds, pine flatwood savannas, oak cheniers, coastal marshes, and salt pannes that feed into the vast seagrasses and oyster reefs which dominate the bay. In addition to the important finfish and shellfish habitat, several islands in and around Grand Bay support rookeries for populations of waterbirds, and the area is also heavily used by neotropical migrants.

The lands targeted in this proposal will be managed consistent with goals and objectives in place for existing adjacent protected and managed areas; including 6,500 acres in the state's Forever Wild Program in Grand Bay and Mississippi Sound. The acquisitions also complement the conservation benefits provided by the Grand Bay National Wildlife Refuge and overlapping Grand Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve, which protect nearly 18,400 acres of relatively undisturbed coastal wetlands and wildlife habitats to the west of the project area. The proposed acquisitions are critical inholdings in the Grand Bay complex and represent significant outstanding properties linking existing conservation lands across the broader Mississippi Sound landscape in the northern Gulf of Mexico. The project will restore the adjacent upland buffers through the control of invasive species, boundary posting and prescribed fire to enhance ecological function and resiliency.



Grand Bay Coastal Marsh Habitat | Credit: USFWS



The 647-acre acquisition in southwestern Mobile County, Alabama is one of the most pristine and diverse areas remaining on the Alabama Gulf Coast.