



NFWF

Gulf Environmental Benefit Fund

RECIPIENT

Mobile Bay National Estuary Program / Marine Environmental Sciences Consortium

AMOUNT

*\$4,219,200

LEVERAGE

\$105,000

PARTNERS

Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources

Alabama Department of Environmental Management
Geological Survey of Alabama
Mobile County
Baldwin County

LOCATION

Mobile Bay and surrounding watersheds

AWARD DATE

November 2014

AMENDED DATE

November 2017

STATUS

Active

PROGRESS UPDATE

Coastal habitat and SAV mapping is complete. Development continues on the West Fowl River and Wolf Bay watershed management plans. (February 2019)

**Project was amended in November 2017 to add \$1,345,300 for a bay-wide cultural resource survey and hydrologic model to inform engineering and design and facilitate project permitting. In March 2019 \$34,000 was added to cover costs for additional contracts needed to produce high resolution maps and restoration plan.*

ALABAMA

Coastal Habitat Restoration Planning Initiative

This project will develop comprehensive plans to identify the highest priority restoration and conservation needs within the tidally influenced watersheds that directly feed into Mobile Bay. Building on the significant work already undertaken by the Mobile Bay National Estuary Program (MBNEP), this project will acquire high resolution mapping of the diverse habitats in Alabama’s two coastal counties to identify the conditions of streams, rivers, riparian buffers, wetlands, intertidal marshes and submerged aquatic vegetation of Mobile Bay and the nearshore Gulf and Mississippi Sound waters. Concurrent to data collection, watershed plans for seven of the state's tidally influenced watersheds will be created. These watersheds include: Bayou La Batre, Bon Secour, Dog River, Fish River, Tensaw-Apalachee, West Fowl River/Delchamps Bayou, and Wolf Bay. Data collection and planning information will be used to inform priority conservation and restoration projects for future implementation consideration under the Gulf Environmental Benefit Fund.

This planning effort will help identify priority conservation outcomes for Mobile Bay and prioritize conservation projects that will restore and maintain the ecological functioning of this important estuary. This project will advance priority goals of the 2013-2018 Comprehensive Conservation Management Plan (CCMP) for the Mobile Bay Estuary; including improving trends in water quality in watersheds that discharge into priority

fishery nursery areas and improving ecosystem function and resilience of the estuary through protection, restoration and conservation of habitats including beaches, bays, backwaters, and rivers. The goal of this project is to build upon the MBNEP’s CCMP to identify specific projects that will address critical threats and protect and restore these watersheds.



This project will advance the development of priority conservation outcomes for seven tidally influenced watersheds in Alabama.