



# NFWF

## Gulf Coast Conservation 2018 Grant Slate

### NFWF CONTACTS

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### PARTNERS

Major funding for the Gulf Coast Conservation Grants Program is provided by:

- Shell
- Southern Company

### ABOUT NFWF

The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) protects and restores our nation's fish and wildlife and their habitats. Created by Congress in 1984, NFWF directs public conservation dollars to the most pressing environmental needs and matches those investments with private funds. Learn more at [www.nfwf.org](http://www.nfwf.org)

### NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS

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Reddish egret

### OVERVIEW

The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) has announced seven grant awards awarded through the Gulf Coast Conservation Grants Program totaling more than \$700,000. The 2018 grant awards support projects that enhance coastal habitats, bolster fish and wildlife populations, and strengthen resilience in Alabama, Florida, Louisiana, Mississippi and Texas.

Grantee organizations have committed nearly \$1 million in match, generating a total conservation impact of more than \$1.7 million.

The grants are a result of a partnership between the Shell Marine & Wildlife Habitat Program, the Southern Company Power of Flight Program, NFWF and others.

### GRANT AWARDS

#### Laguna Atascosa Conservation Easement (TX)

Grantee: The Conservation Fund

GCCGP Award: .....\$170,000

Matching Funds: .....\$306,900

**Total Project: .....\$476,900**

The Conservation Fund will protect 400 acres of native Tamaulipan thorn scrub and coastal prairie on the Hardie tract, which helps connect the Laguna Atascosa National Wildlife

(continued)



Alligator snapping turtle | Credit: Peter Paplanus

Refuge (NWR) with the Lower Rio Grande Valley NWR into a parcel containing more than 49,500 acres of refuge lands. The Hardie tract represents an additional 400 acres of protection toward a 7,000-acre goal within the Bahia Grande Coastal Corridor.

**Living Shoreline Habitat Protection and Restoration in West Galveston Bay (TX)**

Grantee: Galveston Bay Foundation  
 GCCGP Award: ..... \$132,000  
 Matching Funds: ..... \$198,764  
**Total Project: ..... \$330,764**

Galveston Bay Foundation will build a living shoreline on the western shore of Galveston Bay. The project will restore intertidal marsh while protecting coastal upland habitats of a property owned by the Galveston Bay Foundation. Outcomes include approximately 800 feet of shoreline and more than three acres of intertidal marsh restored.

**Swamp Restoration in the Pontchartrain Basin, Southeast Louisiana**

Grantee: Lake Pontchartrain Basin Foundation  
 GCCGP Award: ..... \$114,000  
 Matching Funds: ..... \$139,400  
**Total Project: ..... \$253,400**

Lake Pontchartrain Basin Foundation will restore 31 acres of swamp through planting new trees and monitoring 5,090 trees that are already in the ground. A restored swamp will increase storm surge protection for the largest urban areas, as swamps are excellent for buffering storm surge and withstanding hurricane winds. These activities will benefit 18 species of concern, including bald eagle, prothonotary warbler, mottled duck, swallow-tailed kite, Louisiana black bear and alligator snapping turtle.

**Bridging Data Gaps in the Northern Gulf through Comprehensive Monitoring (MS, AL)**

Grantee: Audubon Mississippi  
 GCCGP Award: ..... \$113,000  
 Matching Funds: ..... \$113,000  
**Total Project: ..... \$226,000**

Audubon Mississippi will bridge key data gaps concerning the status, distribution, and conservation needs of priority shorebird species in the northern Gulf of Mexico. This project will re-establish and expand standardized migratory and breeding bird surveys on the barrier islands of Mississippi, which will augment ongoing work on the mainland of Mississippi and the mainland and barrier islands of Alabama. This project will also extend and expand a snowy plover banding program.



Prothonotary warbler



Snowy plover

**Catalyzing Private Landowner Contributions to Alabama Gulf Coast Conservation (AL) - Phase II**

Grantee: Alabama Wildlife Federation

GCCGP Award: ..... \$84,224

Matching Funds: ..... \$84,224

**Total Project: ..... \$168,448**

Alabama Wildlife Federation will increase and expand landowner engagement and on-the-ground stewardship practice implementation on at least 5,000 acres of private lands in Alabama’s Gulf Coast counties and lower Gulf coastal plain. The project will benefit habitat for migratory shorebirds, waterfowl and other wetland wildlife, as well as terrestrial birds and wildlife whose properly managed habitat benefits water quality downstream. This will be achieved through capacity building, expanded partnerships, outreach, education, demonstrations and technical assistance to private landowners.

**Reddish Egret Business Plan for the U.S. Gulf Coast (AL, FL, LA, MS, TX)**

Grantee: Texas State University-San Marcos

GCCGP Award: ..... \$74,990

Matching Funds: ..... \$75,039

**Total Project: ..... \$150,029**

Texas State University-San Marcos will develop a detailed business plan with prioritized actions, clear conservation

outcomes, and well-defined funding needs to best support the reddish egret in the Gulf of Mexico. The project will contract an expert on Open Standards for the Practice of Conservation and a research assistant to facilitate webinars, host two workshops with the reddish egret working group, write plans, and aggregate existing focal foraging and nesting data into an on-line database.

**Expanding Partnerships to Advance the Agricultural Land Easements Program in Louisiana**

Grantee: Land Trust for Louisiana, Inc.

GCCGP Award: ..... \$40,106

Matching Funds: ..... \$59,368

**Total Project: ..... \$99,474**

Land Trust for Louisiana will expand private and public partnerships and provide technical assistance through easement procurement on the first Agricultural Land Easements (ALE) project in Louisiana on a rice farm in Vermilion parish. The project will demonstrate the efficacy of the ALE program through the Vermilion parish prototype, develop a constituency for the program, and determine viable pathways for securing dedicated non-federal matching funds to further implementation of the ALE program on rice farms at scale. Rice farms in southwest Louisiana provide critical overwintering habitat for numerous migratory birds.