



NFWF

Gulf Environmental Benefit Fund

RECIPIENT

Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality

AWARD AMOUNT

\$3,300,000

PARTNER

Mississippi Department of Marine Resources

LOCATION

Jackson, Harrison and Hancock Counties, MS

AWARD DATE

November 2013

MISSISSIPPI

Mississippi Coastal Preserves Program

This project will restore and improve management of the State of Mississippi’s system of Coastal Preserves to enhance the ecological value of these important coastal habitats. These actions are needed to maintain native habitats and to provide appropriate transition zones for inland migration of coastal marshes in the face of sea level rise. Actions on 26 Coastal Preserve sites will utilize invasive species control and native vegetation plantings to restore ecological function to these unique and important habitats.

The Coastal Preserves Program (CPP) was created in 1992 to identify, acquire, protect and manage Mississippi’s coastal wetland habitats, recognizing that the abundance and productivity of Mississippi’s coastal waters is a product of the quantity and quality of the coastal wetlands. Without treatment, invasive species will become dominant on CPP lands, leading to a complete habitat conversion and the irreversible loss of many of the native plant and animal species currently found there.

The program intends to target the most threatening and destructive invasive species including Chinese tallow, giant salvinia, common salvinia, and water hyacinth. By strategically restoring wetlands and removing invasive species, the Coastal Preserves Program project will revitalize ecologically and economically important fish and wildlife resources.



Work on lands within the Mississippi Coastal Preserves Program (above) will target invasive species and improve habitat and water quality in these unique coastal habitats.

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.