



NFWF

Gulf Environmental Benefit Fund

RECIPIENT

Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality

AWARD AMOUNT

\$21,582,200

PARTNERS

Mississippi Department of Marine Resources

Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries and Parks

LOCATION

Hancock, Harrison and Jackson counties

AWARD DATE

November 2014

MISSISSIPPI

Utilization of Dredge Material for Marsh Restoration in Coastal Mississippi

This project is the first step in the development of a comprehensive, multi-year program to expand the beneficial utilization of dredge material to restore coastal marsh habitat in three priority bay systems along the Mississippi Gulf Coast: St. Louis Bay, Back Bay of Biloxi, and the Pascagoula/Escatawpa system. This project will develop site selection and design criteria; establish a comprehensive, coordinated project schedule based on dredge material availability; conduct site-specific engineering, design and permitting; and construct and monitor marsh habitat. Marsh creation efforts will begin building back valuable marsh habitat.

Over many decades, these priority bays have experienced significant impacts due to shoreline erosion, storm damage, and alterations to sediment transport – contributing to the loss of thousands of acres of tidal marsh habitat. In the past, most dredge material has been disposed of offshore or in upland dredge disposal areas. This project will advance Mississippi’s beneficial use program to facilitate a cost-effective, sustainable approach to restoring and protecting significant coastal marsh and bay shorelines. Reestablishment, restoration, and protection of coastal marsh will create habitat for living coastal and marine resources, reduce erosion along bay shorelines, improve water



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.



This project will advance a comprehensive effort to restore coastal marsh habitat that has been lost in Mississippi.