



NFWF

Gulf Environmental Benefit Fund

RECIPIENT

Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality

AWARD AMOUNT

\$3,600,000

LOCATION

Hancock, Harrison and Jackson Counties, MS

AWARD DATE

March 2014

MISSISSIPPI

Mississippi Coastal Restoration Plan

This multi-phase, three-year project will develop a comprehensive plan, the Mississippi Coastal Restoration Plan, for restoring and conserving Mississippi's coastal natural resources. The Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ) will carry out an assessment of current ecological conditions and restoration efforts, compile and evaluate existing resource management plans, determine habitat and living resource focal areas, draft a comprehensive restoration plan to identify priority restoration projects and programs that maximize environmental benefits for Mississippi's coast, and review and update the planning effort periodically. Additionally, the proposed planning process also ensures sufficient opportunities for effective public engagement in identifying restoration projects. This proposal seeks to plan and develop priority restoration projects for future funding consideration under the Gulf Environmental Benefit Fund (GEBF).

This effort offers the first opportunity for Mississippi to establish a single, comprehensive approach to restoration planning that enables the State to prioritize projects in order to make funding recommendations that optimize environmental benefits along Mississippi's coast. This initiative is intended to produce meaningful and measurable outcomes, engage technical experts and key stakeholders, and produce science-based activities and results while exhibiting cost effectiveness and addressing injury to habitats and species affected by the Deepwater Horizon oil spill.



This project will develop a comprehensive plan to prioritize restoration and conservation efforts throughout the coastal habitats of Mississippi (above).

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 future harm to Gulf Coast natural resources affected by the 2010 Deepwater Horizon oil spill. To learn more about NFWF, go to www.nfwf.org.