



Deepwater Horizon Funds and Land Conservation across the Gulf Region

TX LAND CONSERVATION CONFERENCE

MARCH 2, 2017

Liz Barber, PGCLC Coordinator

25 Land Trust Partners/5 States Working Together Across the Gulf Coast

ALABAMA

- Alabama Coastal Heritage Trust
- Alabama Forest Resources Center
- Dauphin Island Bird Sanctuaries
- **SO** Weeks Bay Foundation

FLORIDA

- Alachua Conservation Trust
- Conservation Foundation of the Gulf Coast
- **Solution Trust for Florida**
- Tall Timbers Research Station & Land Conservancy
- 50 Tampa Bay Conservancy

LOUISIANA

- Land Trust for Louisiana
- m Trust for Coastal Stewardship

MISSISSIPPI

- Land Trust for the Mississippi Coastal Plain
- Mississippi Land Trust
- Wolf River Conservation Society

TEXAS

- n Artist Boat
- **Solution** Galveston Bay Foundation
- Guadalupe Blanco River Land Trust
- m Texas Agricultural Land Trust

- Land Trust Alliance
- National Audubon Society
- 50 The Conservation Fund
- 50 The Nature Conservancy
- 50 The Trust for Public Land



NATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

Why Is Land Conservation Important In Gulf of Mexico Restoration?

- Foundational
- Protects restoration investments in perpetuity

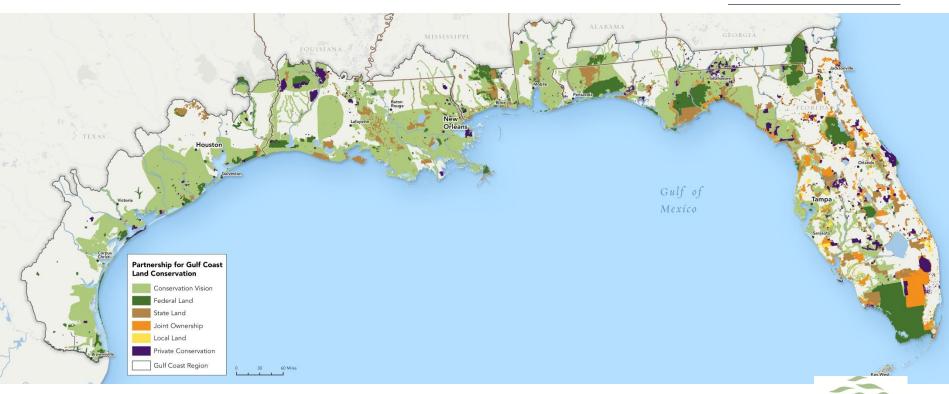
Restore and protect water quality and quantity in estuaries

- Natural coastal resilience
- Fish and wildlife habitat protection and connectivity
- Sustain traditional natural resource industries such as farming, fishing and forestry



A Land Conservation Vision for the Gulf of Mexico Region









Now in its fourth year, the Gulf Environmental Benefit Fund has supported 99 projects worth over \$870 million. In making the awards, NFWF has worked closely with key state and federal resource agencies to select projects that remedy harm and eliminate or reduce the risk of future harm to Gulf Coast natural resources.

In aggregate, these projects will:

- Protect, restore and enhance more than 75,000 acres of wetlands and other coastal habitats
- Protect over 12 miles of critical shoreline in coastal Texas and Alabama
- Protect 7,400 nests annually for priority beach-nesting birds in Florida and Mississippi

RESTORE Council

www.restorethegulf.gov



Council Goals

To provide the overarching framework for an integrated and coordinated approach for region-wide Gulf Coast restoration and to help guide the collective actions at the local, state, Tribal and federal levels, the Council established the following five goals in the Initial Plan:

Goal 1: Restore and Conserve Habitat

Restore and conserve the health, diversity, and resilience of key coastal, estuarine, and marine habitats;

Goal 2: Restore Water Quality and Quantity

Restore and protect the water quality and quantity of the Gulf Coast region's fresh, estuarine, and marine waters;

Goal 3: Replenish and Protect Living Coastal and Marine Resources

Restore and protect healthy, diverse, and sustainable living coastal and marine resources;

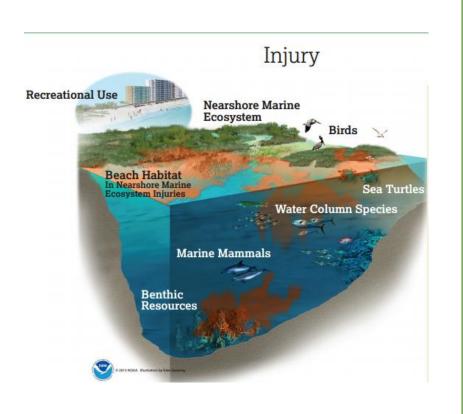
Goal 4: Enhance Community Resilience

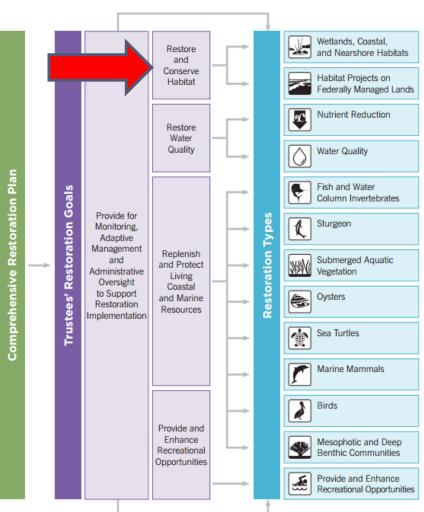
Build upon and sustain communities with capacity to adapt to short- and long-term changes; and

Goal 5: Restore and Revitalize the Gulf Economy

Enhance the sustainability and resiliency of the Gulf economy.

DWH Final Programmatic Damage Assessment and Restoration Plan (PDARP) and Final Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (PEIS)





Barriers and Opportunities for Conservation with DWH Funds

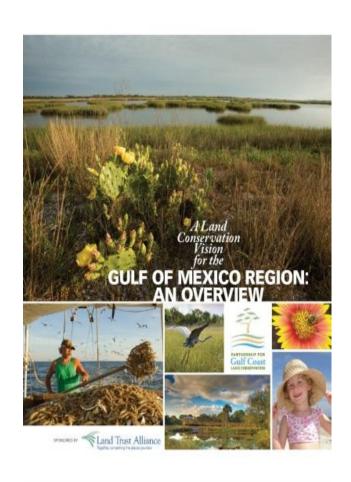
Barriers

- Political
- Multiple decision-makers and funds
- Land costs in coastal zone
- Fragmented landscape
- Limitations of funds
- Lack of upfront due diligence funding

50 Opportunities

- Willing conservation partners with expertise
- Strategic conservation planning underway
- Cross boundary projects
- Upcoming coordination meetings by RESTORE Council
- Public support
- Leveraging opportunities

PGCLC's A Land Conservation Vision for the Gulf of Mexico





Implementing the PGCLC

nservation Vision: Gulf Coast Land Conservation Project Assistance Fund





- Knobloch Family Foundation -\$500,000
- Matching grant -\$25,000 requires 1:1 match
- Support to PGCLC member organizations for due diligence costs associated with oil spill fund related projects (NRDA, RESTORE, NAWCA, NFWF GEBF)
- Galveston Bay Foundation is fiscal agent

Project Assistance Fund Sites — 2014 -2016

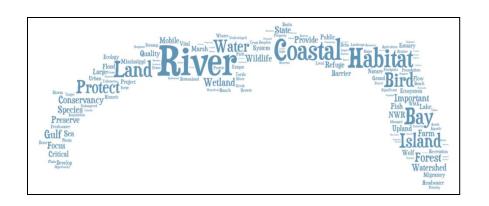
- million in match for due diligence for fee and easements
- 29 projects closed or underway
- № 21,218 ac. protected/14 projects
- \$11,567 ac. in process/15 projects



Next Steps



- continue to Advocate for land conservation as an essential restoration tool
- Refine the *Conservation Vision* at state level and in focal areas in collaboration with partners and allies e.g. LCCs, GOMA, USFWS, etc.
- Expand Project Assistance Fund to support due diligence
- Promote Best Practices across the Gulf With NFWF Gulf Coast Conservation Grant
- Increase collaboration local, state, federal govt., landowners, NGOs
- Continue as a unified voicefor land conservation in theGulf of Mexico Region



Save the Date!

PARTNERSHIP FOR Gulf Coast LAND CONSERVATION

Partnership for Gulf Coast Land Conservation
Annual Meeting and Conference
September 27 - 29, 2017
Holiday Inn Resort, Pensacola, Florida.





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