



NFWF

Gulf Environmental Benefit Fund

RECIPIENTS

Alabama Department of
Conservation and Natural
Resources

AWARD AMOUNT

\$37,957,100

LOCATION

Fort Morgan Peninsula (AL)

AWARD DATE

November 2016

STATUS

Active

PROGRESS UPDATE

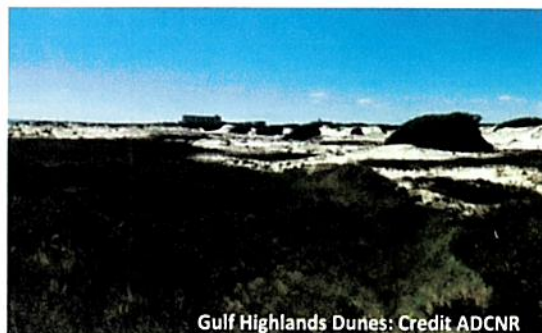
The Gulf State Park Gulf
Highlands Management Plan
is complete. Acquisition and
management work is
underway. (February 2019)

ALABAMA

Gulf Highlands Conservation Acquisition

This project proposes to acquire, conserve, and manage 113 acres with 2,700 feet of Gulf frontage beach/dune habitat – the largest, privately held, undeveloped beachfront parcel remaining in coastal Alabama. Protection of this key habitat would benefit nesting sea turtles, migratory birds and shorebirds, and allow its continued function as refuge for the endangered Alabama beach mouse. The quality and extent of the dune system contributes to the parcel's unique ecological benefits. Acquisition and permanent conservation would also prevent the likely development on the property of a permitted residential condominium complex with associated amenities.

In addition to the direct acquisition cost, the project budget also includes funding to support future management and stewardship of these important coastal habitats; including, but not limited to, invasive species control, boundary postings, and human disturbance management via strategically placed dune walk-overs, fencing, and interpretive signage. Once acquired, the parcel will be deeded to the Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, State Parks Division for long-term management and inclusion in their Ft. Morgan Parkway management area, with limited public access. Moreover, the parcel's proximity to the Bon Secour National Wildlife Refuge enhances both properties' value as critical beachfront habitat for coastal birds, sea turtles, and the endangered beach mouse.



Gulf Highlands Dunes: Credit ADCNR



Alabama Beach Mouse: Credit USFWS

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.



Coastal dunes under threat of residential development will be protected by this acquisition. This is critical habitat for the endangered Alabama beach mouse, pictured above.



AL - State announces \$47 million in funding for gulf restoration project

On Friday, the Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (ADCNR) announced that the final phase of funding from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation-Gulf Environmental Benefit Fund (NFWF-GEBF) had been approved for projects in Alabama. The money is from the settlement for the 2010 Deepwater Horizon (DWH) oil spill.

By [Brandon Moseley](#) /
[Alabama Today](#)

Section: [Engineering](#)

Region: [Gulf of Mexico](#)

“As we celebrate Alabama’s 2022 slate of NFWF projects and announce the final allocation of Alabama’s portion of the Gulf Environmental Benefit Funds (GEBF), we recognize another landmark in Alabama’s recovery from the Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill disaster,” Alabama Governor **Kay Ivey** said. “The \$356 million awarded to Alabama in criminal fines, managed by NFWF and implemented by the Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (ADCNR), funded some of the first Deepwater Horizon Restoration Projects in Coastal Alabama.”

Ivey continued, “Together, these investments tell a story of significant accomplishments that will go a long way in protecting Alabama’s diverse coastal ecosystem for decades to come. Whether it be our investments into maintaining the coastal reefs that support our thriving red snapper fishery or our land conservation efforts to protect game and non-game species in places like the Perdido River Corridor, Fort Morgan Peninsula, and the Grand Bay Savanna, there is no doubt Alabama has made the absolute most of these funds.”

Ivey thanked the foundation for its dedication.

“I thank the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation for their partnership and dedication to the restoration and protection of Alabama’s natural resources and for their capable and dedicated management of the Gulf Environmental Benefit Fund,” Governor Ivey said. “While this marks the completion of our allocation of the NFWF portion of the BP Settlement, our work continues to restore Coastal Alabama.”

The most recent projects include \$26,066,000 for Phase II of the Dauphin Island East End Restoration.

The Dauphin Island project will restore approximately 1.5 miles of beach shoreline and about 85 acres of beach and dune habitat on the 14-mile barrier island that protects a portion of the Alabama Gulf Coast.

Dauphin Island Mayor **Jeff Collier** said that this project will significantly impact the area.

“This is going to be significant,” Mayor Collier stated. “So, we’re greatly certainly appreciative of that. The focus is really going to be on trying to protect the area that encompasses the Audubon sanctuary, the freshwater lake that’s within that location.”

The tentative plan is to renourish and extend the 2015-2016 beach restoration project to provide healthy beaches and dunes. The East End beach protects the Audubon Bird Sanctuary and other upland resources from beach erosion from storms. Sand has migrated to the west, which has caused wider downdrift beaches and growth of a sand spit south of the Isle Dauphine Golf Course. NFWF has awarded nearly \$70 million in GEBF funds to nearly a dozen projects to enhance and protect this vital island.

The Gulf Highlands Conservation Acquisition project was awarded \$8.2 million in additional funding to expand the project footprint to include the adjacent Beach Club West property. The goal of the entire project is to acquire, conserve and manage the largest privately held, undeveloped Gulf frontage beach and dune habitat. This habitat will benefit nesting sea turtles, migratory birds and shorebirds, and the endangered Alabama beach mouse.

\$9 million will go to Phase II of the Lower Fish River Watershed Restoration project. The funding will be used to continue the work of Phase I by implementing designs to reduce the sediment and nutrients that flow into Weeks Bay.

**Fort Morgan Civic Association
PO Box 5353
Gulf Shores, AL 36547**

June 27, 2019

Mr. Drew Niederriter
Vice President
Spectrum Capital
26530 Perdido Beach Blvd.
Orange Beach, AL 36561

Dear Mr. Niederriter:

The Fort Morgan Civic Association membership and hundreds of Fort Morgan property owners are strongly concerned about the preservation of our District 25, both historically and environmentally. We are keenly aware of the need to ensure the conservation of Fort Morgan's wildlife and landscape while also providing public beach access and recreational use. A lack of public beach access is a serious, urgent issue for the many residents and guests who visit our area.

It is the Civic Associations understanding that this transaction is being made possible using NFWF funding and that land purchases using this type of funding, are subject to strict guidelines that dictate and prohibit the development of said property. Our endorsement of the purchase of land as set forth below is predicated on this understanding.

The Fort Morgan Civic Association has voted to support the Proposed Beach Club West parcel acquisition, by the State of Alabama, based upon the understanding that the property would remain public property, that it would not be leased to a private third party for development, that construction of any structures on the land would be limited to structures for public comfort facilities and public beach access would be assured.

This acquisition would assist us all with our mission of the preservation of Fort Morgan for now and future generations. If we can help you or provide any additional information, please call me at 251-550-9021 or fortmorgancivic@gmail.com.

Sincerely,

Joe Emerson
President
Fort Morgan Civic Association



United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
1208-B Main Street
Daphne, Alabama 36526

FEB 20 2019

IN REPLY REFER TO:

Drew Niederriter
Vice President
Spectrum Capital
26530 Perdido Beach Blvd.
Orange Beach, AL 36561

RE: Letter of Support: Proposed Beach Club West parcel acquisition project

Dear Mr. Niederriter,

On behalf of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's, Alabama Ecological Services Field Office, we are again writing in full support of your proposal to make available for possible public acquisition, the Beach Club West parcel located on Fort Morgan, Alabama. By securing this property in public ownership, it would help protect an additional 79 acres of critical beach/dune habitat. This acquisition would help reduce habitat fragmentation and help ensure the conservation of Alabama's wildlife along its coastline, while promoting public beach access.

The opportunity to acquire one of the last remaining large, contiguous, undeveloped parcels for public recreational use from a willing seller would greatly improve conservation and recovery efforts for multiple species. Specifically, the project will help protect and ensure long-term conservation of Alabama beach mouse (ABM), nesting shorebirds and sea turtles, the Monarch butterfly (Alabama's State Insect), as well as multiple other species.

Through your company's cooperation, we know the ABM inhabits all the dune systems of the proposed Beach Club West project. The project site also includes the most important habitat to the ABM survival – tertiary dunes. Tertiary dunes are vitally important to the ABM as high elevation hurricane refugia. Additionally, a known least tern nesting colony and snowy plover nesting sites exist either within or adjacent to the Beach Club West property. Finally, acquisition of the Beach Club West parcel will also help protect an important migratory route for birds (neotropical migrants) and butterflies (including Monarchs) migrating across the Gulf of Mexico as they travel across the Mississippi flyway.

We enthusiastically support this project and hope it receives favorable consideration as you proceed. If you need additional help or further justifications for the potential environmental benefits of protecting this parcel, please contact Bill Lynn of my staff at 251.441.5868 or at william_lynn@fws.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "William J. Pearson".

William J. Pearson
Field Supervisor
Alabama Ecological Services Field Office

CC:

Christopher M. Blankenship, Commissioner, Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, 64 N. Union Street, Montgomery, Alabama 36130

Jon Hemming, Field Supervisor, Deepwater Horizon Gulf Restoration Office, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 341 Greeno Road North, Suite A, Fairhope, AL 36532

ALABAMA COASTAL HERITAGE TRUST

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1911 Government Street
Mobile, Alabama 36606
(251) 478-8880
E-Mail Address:
hhc45@bellsouth.net
Dr. Joy Morrill - 1932-1997

February 20, 2017

Drew Niederriter
Vice President
Spectrum Capital
26350 Perdido Beach Blvd.
Orange Beach, AL 36561

RE: Letter of Support
Proposed Beach Club West
parcel acquisition project

Dear Mr. Niederriter:

The Alabama Coastal Heritage Trust, for the past twenty-two years has been working and advocating for the preservation of Alabama's pristine beach and dune habitat, particularly that habitat which harbors endangered species such as the Alabama Beach Mouse, the Piping Plover and various species of endangered sea turtle. We have reviewed your project "Proposed Beach Club West parcel acquisition project", and find it to be one worthy of our full support and endorsement. As you may know, ACHT has previously proposed preservation of the 115 acre Gulf Highlands property which lies immediately to the West of the proposed Beach Club West project. Since the Gulf Highlands project has now been funded with BP related NFWF funds, it would be wonderful if the Beach Club West parcel could be acquired and added for preservation. Thus would create a refuge of 179 acres of pristine beach and dune habitat, a treasure to be enjoyed by future generations!

We enthusiastically support this project and hope it receives favorable consideration as you proceed. If you need additional

February 20, 2017
Page 2

help or further information about ACHT, please contact us at the
above address or at hhc45@bellsouth.net.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Hank Caddell". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Hank" and last name "Caddell" clearly distinguishable.

Henry H. Caddell
Secretary/Treasurer
Alabama Coastal Heritage Trust

HHC/swp

cc: Bill Lynn
ACHT Board of Directors



Baldwin County Parcel Viewer

Find address or place

