



# Gulf Environmental Benefit Fund

May 2019

## About Us – National Fish and Wildlife Foundation

### Who We Are

- Chartered by Congress in 1984
- 30 member Board appointed by Secretary of the Interior,
  - Includes FWS Director and NOAA Administrator

### What We Do

- Sustain, restore and enhance wildlife
- Bring collaboration among federal agencies and private sector

### How We Do It

- Leverage public funding with private money – average 3:1



*Bald eagle*

### NFWF is

- An implementer – we fund projects

### NFWF is not

- An advocacy organization that engages in lobbying or litigation

## How We Do It

### Non-Federal Partners

- Corporations
- Foundations
- Private Donors
- Mitigation and Settlements
- States
- NGOs

\$



# NFWF

Convener of focused, leveraged funding and leadership for priority wildlife and habitat conservation through grant making

\$

### Federal Partners

- Appropriations
- Cooperative Agreements

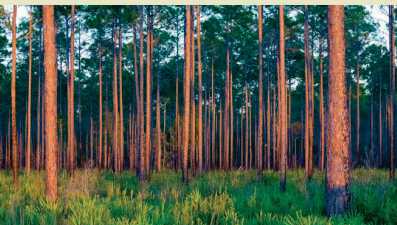
Competitive Grants/Strategies



Private Lands



Voluntary



Economic Opportunity



# NFWF

## About NFWF's Impact-Directed Environmental Accounts (IDEA)

NFWF administers funds designated for specified conservation, mitigation, or restoration purposes arising from judicial and regulatory proceedings, through what it calls Impact-Directed Environmental Accounts (IDEA)

### FEDERAL, STATE AND LOCAL ENFORCEMENT FUNDS

- Community Service Payments
- Restitution
- Supplemental Environmental Projects

### FEDERAL AND STATE PERMIT MITIGATION FUNDS

- Species (e.g., ESA, CESA, BGEPA)
- Wetlands (e.g., CWA)
- Long-Term Management & Maintenance

### NATURAL RESOURCE DAMAGE FUNDS

### OTHER ENVIRONMENTAL BENEFIT FUNDS



# NFWF



## April 20, 2010

Disaster erupted in the Gulf of Mexico. The Deepwater Horizon explosion and oil spill caused 11 deaths and released an estimated five million barrels of crude oil into Gulf waters, with devastating implications for North America's richest marine ecosystem.



## Oil Spill Related Funding for Gulf Coast Restoration

**\$16.7 Billion Committed**



**\$8.8 Billion**

through the Natural Resource Damage Assessment (process focused on restoring natural resources injured by an oil spill)

**money can be used for**

- Natural resource projects
- Loss of use projects (e.g. compensate for recreational opportunities that were lost because of the spill)



**\$5.3 Billion**

through the RESTORE Act (law that sends money to the Gulf for restoration and recovery)

**money can be used for**

- Environmental and economic restoration projects
- Research activities



**\$2.5 Billion**

to the National Fish & Wildlife Foundation (nonprofit organization distributing some settlement monies)

**money can be used for**

- Barrier islands and river diversions (LA)
- Natural resource projects (AL, FL, MS, TX)



**NFWF**

## Gulf Environmental Benefit Fund: Key Provisions of Plea Agreements



Photo Credit: Terry Ross

- Funding: NFWF has received a total of \$2.54B:
  - \$1.27B for barrier island & river diversion projects in Louisiana
  - Remaining funds allocated by formula:
    - 28% each for Alabama, Florida, Mississippi (\$356M/state)
    - 16% for Texas (\$203M)
- Purpose: Fund projects that remedy harm to the type of natural resources (habitats, species) that were affected by the spill
- Consultation: with State resource agencies, FWS and NOAA
- Timeline: Funds were paid over a 5-year period: 2013-2018



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# Gulf Environmental Benefit Fund: Payment Timetable

	Payment (in millions of dollars)	Louisiana	Alabama	Florida	Mississippi	Texas
Apr. 2013	\$158.00	\$79.00	\$22.12	\$22.12	\$22.12	\$12.64
Feb. 2014	353.00	176.50	49.42	49.42	49.42	28.24
Feb. 2015	339.00	169.50	47.46	47.46	47.46	27.12
Feb. 2016	300.00	150.00	42.00	42.00	42.00	24.00
Feb. 2017	500.00	250.00	70.00	70.00	70.00	40.00
Feb. 2018	894.00	447.00	125.16	125.16	125.16	71.52
<b>Totals</b>	<b>\$2,544.00</b>	<b>\$1,272.00</b>	<b>\$356.16</b>	<b>\$356.16</b>	<b>\$356.16</b>	<b>\$203.52</b>

*BP = \$2,394M*

*Transocean = \$150M*

- \$2.544 billion has been received to date
- All funds are now in hand



## Program Implementation

- Consultation with state and federal resource agencies

### State agencies:

- Alabama – Department of Conservation & Natural Resources
- Florida – Fish & Wildlife Cons. Comm. & DEP
- Louisiana – Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority
- Mississippi – Department of Environmental Quality
- Texas – TXPWD, GLO and TCEQ

### Federal agencies:

- NOAA
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

- States have established websites for submission of projects
- NFWF to facilitate consensus on project slate



Photo Credit: theipe26 (Flickr)



# Project Selection Criteria



## Required (per plea agreements):

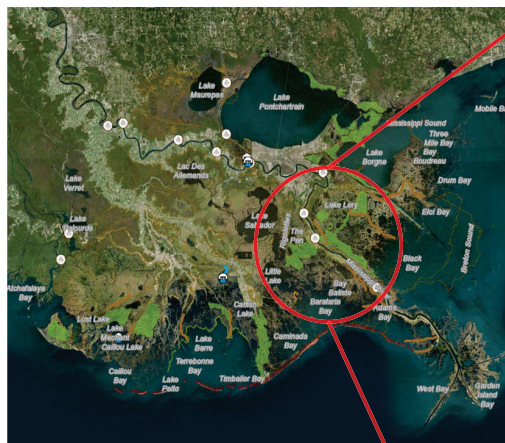
- Remedy harm to the type of natural resources (habitats, species) affected by oil spill
- Projects must occur within Gulf states and waters and be within reasonable proximity to impacts, as appropriate
- Infrastructure only as necessary to restore or protect natural resources
- Louisiana: **barrier island and river diversion projects only**

## Other:

- Alignment with restoration plans such as under RESTORE
- Science-based, measurable outcomes
- Cost-effective and potentially leveraged to maximize impact



## GEBF in Louisiana – Mid Basin Mississippi River Sediment Diversions



### **Mid Barataria Sediment Diversion:**

- Expected to build or sustain 24,200 acres (~40mi<sup>2</sup>) over 50 years
- Est. cost to construct: \$900+M

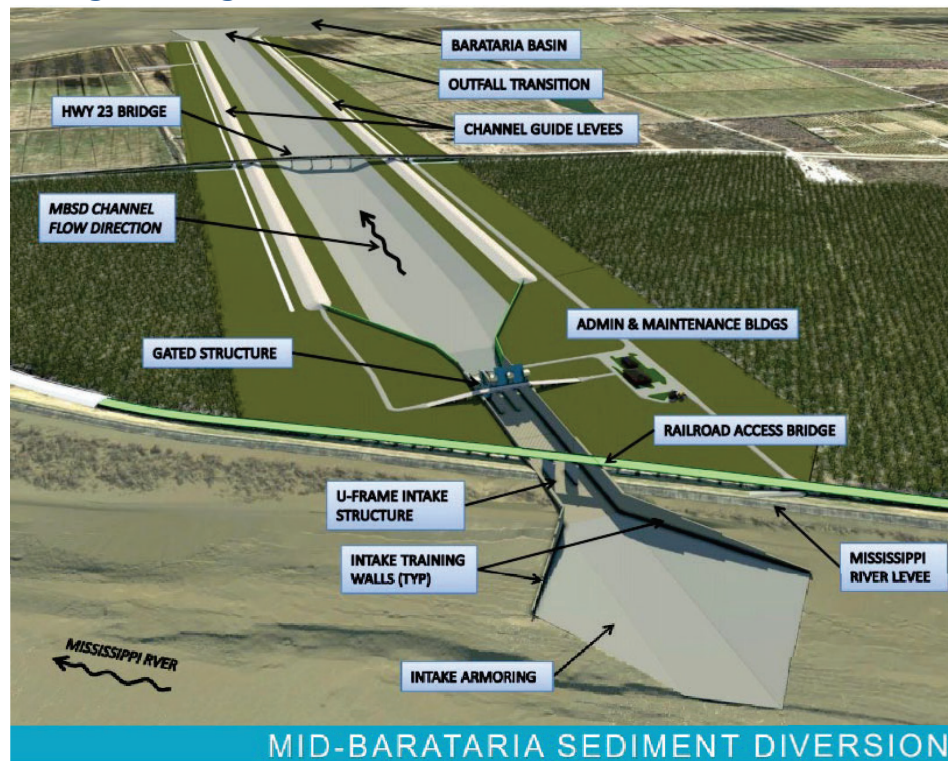
### **Mid Breton Sediment Diversion:**

- Expected to build or sustain 16,100 acres (~25mi<sup>2</sup>) over 50 years
- Est. Total cost to construct: \$600+M (NFWF)



# GEBF in Louisiana – Design of Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion Structure

@30% design stage



## Current Status: GEBF Projects and Gulf Wide

- **GEBF: \$1.29B awarded to date (51%)**
  - 143 projects
  - Leverages \$875M for **\$2.2B total impact**
- **Other NFWF investments in the GULF: \$98.6M**
  - Total impact: \$225M w/ match
  - Private lands and longleaf forest conservation
  - Enhanced fisheries management
  - Coastal resilience
  - Inform future GEBF or other investments
- **Other Active NFWF programs in the Gulf and Mississippi River include:**
  - Conservation Partners Program work in Upper Mississippi River Basin
  - Forestland Stewards Partnership work in Mississippi River Valley
  - Acres for America
  - National Coastal Resilience Fund (NOAA)

