

Spotlight On: Land Conservation & Acquisition

To date, Alabama has acquired and protected over 4,000 acres of habitat in coastal Alabama. ADCNR, in close coordination with the Forever Wild Land Trust program, as well as State and Federal partners, have and will continue to invest in land conservation and other restoration efforts across South Alabama.

Here are a few of the land acquisition efforts to date:

- *NFWF-GEBF: Grand Bay Acquisition - 2015*

Grand Bay is one of the most pristine and diverse areas remaining on the Alabama Gulf coast and the parcels proposed for acquisition are critical inholdings linking existing protected and managed areas. This project will acquire three parcels consisting of 674 acres of priority coastal habitat in southwestern Mobile County.

- *NFWF-GEBF: Bon Secour Oyster Bay Wetland - 2016*

The tidal marshes, maritime forests, and freshwater swamps located in this project area are important habitat for many species of conservation significance including threatened and endangered species such as the Alabama red-bellied turtle and the eastern indigo snake, and various wading birds. This acquisition project will protect and restore approximately 836 acres of diverse coastal habitat in the City of Gulf Shores.

- *NFWF-GEBF: Dauphin Island - 2016*

This primary barrier island provides important nesting, loafing, stopover and foraging habitats for a variety of coastal birds, shorebirds, neotropical migrants and other avian species, as well as nesting habitat for endangered sea turtles. This project will result in the acquisition of approximately eight acres of remaining undeveloped beachfront (1,200 linear feet) on a mid-island section of Dauphin Island.

- *NFWF-GEBF: Bon Secour NWR - 2017*

This project includes the acquisition of a 251-acre property on the Fort Morgan Peninsula that has been identified as a high conservation priority in the State of Alabama. The parcel will be deeded to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) for inclusion and management within Bon Secour National Wildlife Refuge (BSNWR).

- *NFWF-GEBF: Lightning Point - 2016*

This project will protect and restore a key stretch of coastal shoreline at the mouth of Bayou La Batre River. Specifically, the project includes the acquisition of more than 100 acres of coastal habitat.

- *NFWF-GEBF: Gulf Highlands - 2016*

This project funds the acquisition, conservation and management of 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.

Summary:

- Over 4,000 acres of critical coastal habitat acquired to date.
- Multiple threatened and endangered species habitat protections have been implemented.
- Other project benefits include improved water quality and restored SAVs.



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