Gulf of Mexico Initiative

Gulf Coast Conservation Planning Project

General Project Summary

The overall health of the Gulf of Mexico region and its treasured ecosystems remain a priority for conservation agencies, groups and private landowners in Texas. To accelerate the development of voluntary conservation plans and adoption of conservation practices within the gulf region, the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) have joined together in a gulf restoration agreement that the Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board (TSSWCB) will implement in more than 30 coastal counties.

This agreement builds on investments that NFWF, NRCS and local Soil and Water Conservation Districts are making in the region.

OPPORTUNITIES

Through this project, farmers, ranchers and private landowners will have an opportunity to make improvements to their land, in turn, helping clean water and air, enhance habitat and enrich the soil. This partnership project will significantly expand wildlife habitat restoration efforts with private landowners and operators. The project will primarily focus on developing conservation plans that address natural resource concerns, in high-priority counties, that impact the enhancement or restoration of wildlife habitat.

LANDOWNER PROJECTS AND CONSERVATION PRACTICES CAN INCLUDE:

- Wetland creation, enhancement and restoration
- Wildlife habitat management
- Stream and riparian buffer restoration
- Shallow water habitat development
- Early successional habitat development
- Livestock grazing and wildlife interactions
- Improving soil health through cover crop establishment

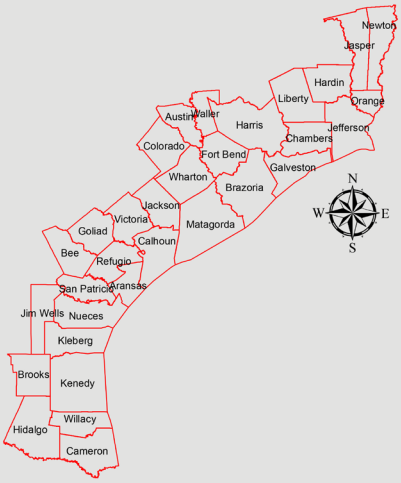
Conservation Beyond Boundaries

PROJECT OBJECTIVES

- Develop and implement a region wide Gulf of Mexico ecosystem restoration strategy
- Develop economically sustainable conservation plansfocusing on wildlife habitat
- Work with private landowners in providing conservation and management strategies that address natural resource concerns
- Restore and conserve the Gulf's overall environmental health
- Restore water quantity and quality
- Through outreach, increase awareness of available technical and financial assistance programs that benefit ecosystem restoration

WHAT IS A CONSERVATION PLAN?

- It is a voluntary written record of your management decisions and the conservation practices and systems you plan to use and maintain on your land
- It is developed and tailored to your goals and objectives
- Gulf ecosystem restoration conservation practices can include, but are not limited to, shallow water habitat development, brush management, range planting and restoration and management of declining habitats
- Can help increase the land's productivity and value
- It is beneficial when applying for financial assistance through Farm Bill programs and/or state water quality management plans



COUNTIES WITHIN THE PROJECT:

ARANSAS	JASPER
AUSTIN	JEFFERSON
BEE	JIM WELLS
BRAZORIA	KENEDY
BROOKS	KLEBERG
CALHOUN	LIBERTY
CAMERON	MATAGORDA
CHAMBERS	NEWTON
COLORADO	NUECES
FORT BEND	ORANGE
GALVESTON	REFUGIO
GOLIAD	SAN PATRICIO
HARDIN	VICTORIA
HARRIS	WALLER
HIDALGO	WHARTON
JACKSON	WILLACY

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Contact your local NRCS field office or SWCD staff or visit *www.tx.nrcs.usda.gov.*

STATE PARTNERSHIP CONTACTS:

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USDA United States Department of Agriculture

TEXAS STATE SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION BOARD

NATIONAL FISH AND WILDLIFE FOUNDATION NFWF

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