



CRITICAL DOLLARS FOR WETLAND CONSERVATION

Grant will help protect shoreline and coastal habitat

The Colorado River Land Trust received a \$1 million grant to acquire and permanently conserve more than 600 acres of coastal wetlands along East Matagorda Bay.



The grant from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation will enable the land trust to provide permanent protection of the wetlands adjacent to the Lower Colorado River Authority's [Matagorda Bay Nature Park](#). The property includes dunes, coastal prairie, tidal flats and extensive fringing tidal marshes lining the edge of the bay.

"With this grant, we can ensure this land will remain undeveloped and available for recreational, environmental and educational purposes for years," said Jeff Crosby, executive director of the Colorado River Land Trust. "This is one of the last large, intact coastal ecosystems on the Matagorda Bay peninsula, and we are honored to partner with the Lower Colorado River Authority to protect it for generations to come."

The grant is part of nearly \$370 million the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation recently awarded to 24 projects considered high-priority conservation needs in Texas, Alabama, Florida, Louisiana and Mississippi.

The money comes from the [Gulf Environmental Benefit Fund](#), which benefits the natural resources of the Gulf Coast affected by the 2010 Deepwater Horizon explosion and oil spill. The fund was established in early 2013 with fines from BP Exploration & Production, Inc., and Deepwater, Inc., as part of the settlement of criminal cases against both entities related to the 2010 explosion and spill. Texas projects are slated to receive \$203 million from the fund over a five-year period.

