



# FUNDED PRIORITIES LIST 3B

## Wind-Tidal Flat Restoration Pilot\*

Funded Priorities List (FPL) 3b is part of a two-phase approach used by the Gulf Coast Ecosystem Restoration Council (Council) to respond to ecosystem needs and take advantage of important partnership opportunities to advance large-scale ecosystem restoration.

The Council has approved \$321K in planning and implementation funds as FPL Category 1 for the *Wind-Tidal Flat Restoration Pilot project*. This project will utilize the Planning Framework techniques and approaches outlined in the figure below to address environmental stressors in coastal Texas, including Padre Island National Seashore. The U.S. Department of the Interior, on behalf of the U.S. National Park Service, is the sponsor of this project.

This project will test various restoration techniques and assess the efficacy and cost effectiveness of those techniques in wind-tidal flat habitats in coastal Texas, including Padre Island National Seashore, Texas. This project builds upon investments made in Funded Priorities List 1. The wind-tidal flat areas at Padre Island National Seashore are significant in that they protect portions of the largest freshwater wetland in Texas, conserve protected species, and provide wintering habitat for millions of migratory birds. However, impacts from previous energy exploration have impaired these important habitats. This project will lead to the restoration and improved resiliency for five acres of Gulf wind-tidal flat habitat and will provide lessons learned that can be applied to other tidal flat sites in need of restoration in coastal Texas.

*\*This project description, originally submitted as part of the proposal titled “Decommissioning Onshore Orphaned Energy Facilities on NPS and FWS lands (DOI/NPS & FWS)” has been revised in response to internal and external reviews as well as continued collaboration among Council members to determine the activities and funding levels to include in this draft FPL 3b.*

## Project at a Glance

The *Wind-Tidal Flat Restoration Pilot* project applies Planning Framework approaches and techniques to support Comprehensive Plan goals and objectives. The project supports the primary objective to *Improve science-based decision-making processes*, and secondary objective to *Restore, enhance, and protect habitats*. The loss of algal mats and other impacts from previous energy exploration will be addressed using the *Habitat management and stewardship* technique. Success using this technique to achieve objectives of *Improve science science-based decision-making processes* and *Restore, enhance and protect habitats* may be tracked by number of studies developed to inform management and acres of wetland restored.

### Comprehensive Plan Goal: Restore and conserve habitat

#### Stressors

Loss of algal mats and other impacts from previous energy exploration



#### Approaches and Techniques

**Protect and conserve coastal, estuarine, and riparian habitats**

- Habitat management and stewardship
- Other (Develop tools for planning and evaluation)

#### Objectives

Improve science-based decision-making processes  
Restore, enhance, and protect habitats

#### Metrics

Number of studies developed to inform management

Acres of wetland restored

# Wind-Tidal Flat Restoration Pilot

