



Gulf Coast
Ecosystem
Restoration
Council

Matagorda Bay Watershed

Matagorda Bay System Priority Landscape Conservation
(TX_RESTORE_002_000_Cat1)



Project Name: Matagorda Bay System Priority Landscape Conservation - Implementation

Cost: Category 1: \$6,012,000

Responsible Council Member: State of Texas

Project Details: The Matagorda Bay System Priority Landscape Conservation project would conserve strategic lands adjacent to the Matagorda Bay/San Antonio Bay complex to help ensure long-term native diversity, productivity and resiliency of the entire bay estuary complex. The project would provide funding to the State of Texas to acquire approximately 6,554 acres of high-quality coastal habitats from a willing seller. The property being proposed for acquisition includes emergent marshes, tidal flats, lagoons and coastal prairie with several miles of frontage on the Matagorda Bay system.

Activities: The property acquired would be integrated into the coastal conservation management system of Texas Parks and Wildlife Department and the conservation community. This integration would include establishing a schedule for baseline inventory, monitoring and management, as appropriate.

Environmental Benefits: Ecological benefits would consist of protecting a large area of coastal wetlands and bay front from development which would be harmful to a range of ecological values, including emergent marshes that are important nurseries for crustaceans and finfish; critical habitat for piping plovers; habitats modeled as extremely high quality for expanding populations of whooping cranes; nesting and foraging habitat for sea turtles; nearshore oyster reefs and seagrass beds; storm surge absorption and buffering; and sediment and nutrient attenuation. Threats to the property include wind farm development, ranching and potentially residential development.

Duration: If approved, the closing would likely occur within six months.

More information on this activity can be found in Appendix B. Matagorda Bay; Unique Identifier: TX_RESTORE_002_000_Cat1.



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Matagorda Bay System Priority Landscape Conservation

 Landscape Conservation

Cost: Category 1: \$6,012,000

Sponsor: State of Texas

Project Status: Implementation

Purpose: This project would accomplish habitat conservation through the acquisition of a unique, undeveloped 6,500 tract of land in the Matagorda Bay System. The proposed acquisition area features an array of high quality coastal habitats including emergent marshes, tidal flats, lagoons, and coastal prairie. The acquisition would remove a large swath of coastal wetlands and bay front lands from potential development.



Map Date: August 08, 2015

Gulf of Mexico

Matagorda Bay