



U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service – Southwest Region



Laguna Atascosa National Wildlife Refuge American Recovery and Reinvestment Act FACT SHEET

Project Description

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) will utilize up to \$2,315,000* in Recovery Act funds for three projects at Laguna Atascosa National Wildlife Refuge in Cameron County, Texas.



Laguna Atascosa NWR located off the Bahia Grande Basin and Laguna Madre Basin.

The most prominent of the three projects will be the construction of two foot vehicle bridges within Bahia Grande, a 10,000 acre coastal wetland restoration project. The two bridges will span two recently-built channels constructed to increase water flow and tidal exchange. The project will also reinforce one of the channel walls. The contract for this project was awarded to JCF Bridge and Concrete, Inc of Driftwood, Texas for \$681,000**.

The second project will utilize Recovery Act funds to install photovoltaic (PV) solar arrays. This contract was recently awarded to Ernest R. Garza and Company, P.C. of Corpus Christi, Texas for \$147,740.**

The third project will rehabilitate just under six miles of lane 1 of Unit 8 County Road.

Project Benefits

The construction of the two bridges will provide greater access to previously difficult-to-reach areas. This will improve management by allowing access of heavy equipment and other machinery needed for management, law enforcement and wildfire suppression. It will also increase the safety of visiting public and staff (tract not open to public use yet). The solar energy projects will help save money on energy costs as well as reduce the remote refuge’s carbon footprint. The improved road will allow staff to regulate water flow all year, including during storm events. Added culverts will improve the flow of fresh water to and from the wetlands. The road will provide greater access to hunters and wildlife watchers.

Total Budget Information for 3 Projects at:

Laguna Atascosa NWR: \$2,315,000*

- Projects Already Awarded
 - FFS#R2CF: \$147,740**
 - FFS#R2MD: \$681,000**

For More Information

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<http://recovery.doi.gov/press/bureaus/us-fish-and-wildlife-service/>

*Source – http://recovery.doi.gov/press/wp-content/uploads/2009/05/fws_list_051309.pdf

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