



U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service – Southwest Region



Major Upgrades Approved at Local Wildlife Refuge American Recovery and Reinvestment Act FACT SHEET

Project Description

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) will receive *\$695,000 through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act for a variety of upgrades to Lower Rio Grande Valley (LRGV) National Wildlife Refuge (NWR). The project will include replacing 84,000 square feet of barbed-wire fence around the Refuge. Public use trails, roads and a concrete wall entrance-sign will also be rehabilitated. The Service will soon be accepting bids on these projects, with expected completion next year.



Originally established in 1979, the LRGV NWR is in need of upgrades and repairs due to age and wear of the facilities. The Refuge encompasses 90,000 acres, including 115 tracts of land that stretch along the last 275 river miles of the Rio Grande in South Texas. One of the most biologically diverse wildlife refuges in the U.S., it includes 11 distinct ecosystems that are host or home to 500+ species of birds, 1,200 types of plants and nearly 300 butterfly species. The Refuge also provides habitat for 20 federally listed threatened and endangered species, including the ocelot, a small cat-like species whose numbers are estimated to be less than 50 in the United States.

Project Benefits

These funds are estimated to create/save six to seven jobs. In addition the projects will help expand and enhance public use and recreation opportunities, reduce impacts to habitat from illegal ATV use and cattle intrusion, and improve access during bad weather.

Total Budget Information for All Projects

Lower Rio Grande Valley NWR \$695,000

For More Information

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

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