



## 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) utilized \$2.3 million in Recovery Act funds to complete 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 in Texas.

The most prominent of the three projects included the construction of two foot-and-vehicle bridges within Bahia Grande, a 10,000-acre coastal wetland restoration project on the refuge. The two bridges span two recently built channels constructed to increase water flow and tidal exchange. The project also reinforced one of the channel walls. The contract for this project was awarded to JCF Bridge and Concrete Inc. of Driftwood, Texas for \$681,000 and construction was completed in October 2010.

The second project utilized Recovery Act funds to install photovoltaic (PV) solar power arrays at Laguna Atascosa NWR. The contract was awarded to Ernest R. Garza and Company of Corpus Christi, Texas for \$147,740 and the installation was completed in April 2010.

The third project rehabilitated nearly six miles of Lane 1 of Unit 8 County Road on the refuge.

#### Project Benefits

The construction of the two bridges has provided greater access to previously difficult-to-reach areas. This has improved management by allowing access of heavy equipment and other machinery needed for landscape management, law enforcement and wildfire suppression. It has also increased safety for visitors and staff. The solar energy project has helped save money on energy costs as well as reducing the remote refuge’s carbon footprint. The improved county road now allows staff to regulate water flow all year, including during storm events, and provides greater access for hunters and wildlife watchers. Added culverts have improved the flow of essential fresh water on the refuge wetlands.

#### Total Budget Information for 3 Projects at:

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

- Projects Previously Awarded
  - Solar Power: \$147,740
  - Bridge/Channel: \$681,000

#### For More Information

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

\*Source – Fed Biz Ops: [www.fbo.gov](http://www.fbo.gov)

