



Gulf Coast
Ecosystem
Restoration
Council

Laguna Madre Watershed

Bahia Grande Coastal Corridor
(TX_RESTORE_001_000_Cat1)



Project Name: Bahia Grande Coastal Corridor - Implementation

Cost: Category 1: \$4,378,500

Responsible Council Member: State of Texas

Partnering Council Member: Department of the Interior

Project Details: Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), The Nature Conservancy and The Conservation Fund have identified multiple parcels with willing sellers totaling more than 10,000 acres as high priorities for acquisition. Acquisition of these parcels would allow for future restoration activities that include the potential restoration and enhancement of 700-800 acres of drained saline and brackish marsh, 2,000 acres of Coastal Prairie, and the restoration of natural freshwater flows to the Bahia Grande System.

Activities: This project proposal would target acquiring 1,852 acres from willing sellers, either through purchase or conservation easements. If approved, either The Nature Conservancy or USFWS would hold the lands or conservation easements purchased under this proposal.

Environmental Benefits: This project would build upon the existing network of international, Federal, state and local conservation areas; expand the scale of conservation across administrative and political boundaries and support management and stewardship by the public or private entity best suited for meeting long-term conservation objectives. This project would connect Laguna Atascosa National Wildlife Refuge (NWR), Lower Rio Grande Valley NWR and Boca Chica State Park and connect more than two million acres of intact habitat on private rangeland with the 1.3 million acre Rio Bravo Protected Area, managed by Mexico's National Commission of Protected Areas..

This connection would provide additional protection for, and could prevent future listing of state threatened species like the reddish egret, Botteri's sparrow, white-tailed hawk, white-faced ibis, Texas tortoise, Texas indigo snake and Texas horned lizard. Securing additional portions of the Bahia Grande wetland system and portions of its watershed would secure valuable freshwater inflows and allow partners to complete the hydrological restoration needed to increase tidal flows and divert freshwater inflows needed to fully restore this system. This would allow oyster beds and seagrasses to return to the system and bring back this once great fishery and the thousands of shorebirds, waterfowl and wading birds that used this system.

Duration: Depending on the scale of funding, the project could be completed within three to five years. The project benefits are expected to last in perpetuity.

More information on this activity can be found in Appendix A. Laguna Madre; Unique Identifier: TX_RESTORE_001_000_Cat1.



Gulf Coast Ecosystem Restoration Council

Laguna Madre Watershed

Bahia Grande Coastal Corridor

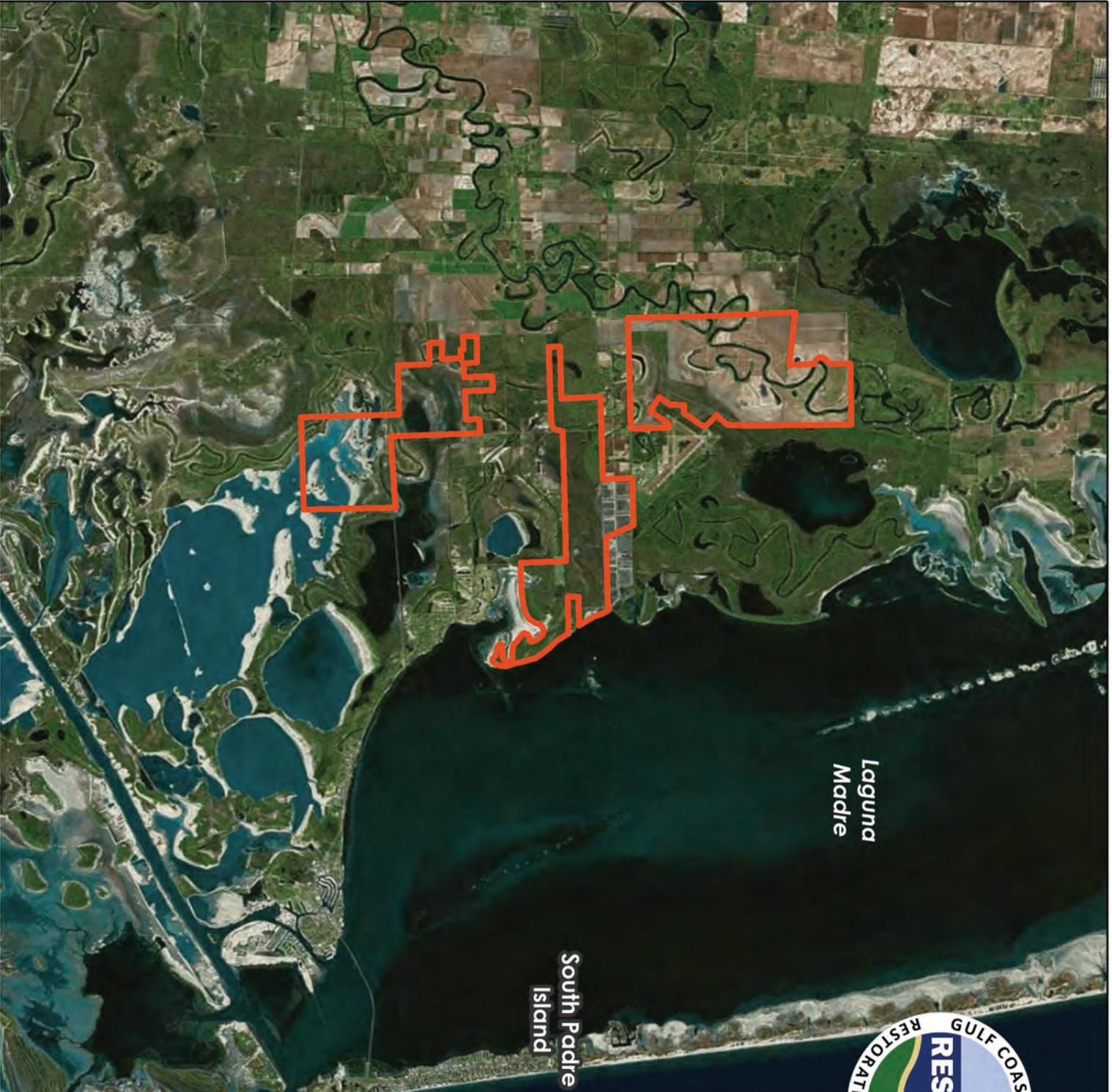
 Landscape Conservation

Cost: Category 1: \$4,378,500

Sponsor: State of Texas

Project Status: Implementation

Purpose: This project would accomplish habitat conservation through the acquisition of multiple undeveloped and resilient wildlife properties to build upon the existing network of international, federal, state, and local conservation areas. The acquisitions would add to a 105,000-acre corridor of conservation lands that includes public parks and refuges as well as private ranchland. Also, the acquisitions would protect wetland systems as well as the natural habitats for various species of wildlife, including the endangered ocelot.



Map Date: August 08, 2015