



Coastal Bend Bays & Estuaries Program, Inc.

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TO: CBBEP Board of Directors

FROM: Jake Herring, Project Manager

DATE: March 22, 2010

RE: CBBEP Property Management Update

NUECES DELTA PRESERVE

Habitat- This has been the wettest winter and early spring on record since the CBBEP began purchasing property in the Nueces River Delta. With the Texas Prairie Wetland project now full the huisache removal effort conducted in April of 2009 has been very effective in attracting waterfowl. The created wetland is currently filled to capacity and is holding pairs of least grebe and mottled ducks. With any luck they will stay around and use the created habitat for a breeding ground. The wet season has also filled the other ponds on the property and has brought the water level in Big Lake back to pre drought condition. The wet winter has created a diverse display of wildflowers and the thorn scrub brush is starting to bloom. This will be an exceptional year for the flora and fauna of the Nueces Delta Preserve.

Management- Over spring break the CBBEP hosted a group of college students from Colorado College (Colorado Springs, CO) for a week at the NDP. The 12 volunteers helped the CBBEP with various management activities at the NDP. Activities included flood debris clean up, installation of wildlife water features, property maintenance, and facilities improvements. When not at the NDP the group spent time picking up debris on Padre Island and at Mollie Beattie Habitat Community. (They did have one half day of kayaking at the CBBEP Kate's Hole Public Access Area.)

The CBBEP has recently purchased a tractor. This tractor will help with various management activities at the NDP.

Infrastructure- Since the last report CBBEP has installed electricity to both the screened classroom and also the pavilion. The need for additional parking to allow for multiple school buses to stop at the pavilion was met by doubling the size of the current parking area. Road improvements were also made to the main entrance where the added wear from waste disposal trucks and school buses had created large pot holes near the front gate. The CBBEP will be going out for bids to create a concrete walk between the two buildings and also to build a observation deck that will be attached to the screened in classroom. These improvements are being made possible by grant funds from the Ed Rachal Foundation. The matching dollars were provided by the CBBEP FY 2010 annual work plan.

Included are several pictures from recent property updates.



Above: Lights and Fans in Classroom



Above: Kubota M9000 purchased w/ 15 foot shredder

Below: Colorado College installs a water feature



Above: CC prepares nest boxes

Right: CC after an afternoon of Kayaking at the CBBEP Kate's Hole Public Access Area. Kayaks Provided by CBBEP and Jerry B's Kayaks.

