



Coastal Bend Bays & Estuaries Program, Inc.

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TO: CBBEP Board of Directors

FROM: Jake Herring, Project Manager

DATE: January 25, 2010

RE: CBBEP Properties Update

Nueces Delta Preserve:

Habitat- In spring of 2009 the CBBEP hired a contractor to mechanically remove encroaching huisache from the created wetland area. CBBEP was hoping to capture some rain events this summer to have a full wetland going into the fall. This winter, like the majority of South Texas, the Nueces Delta Preserve (NDP) has received a substantial amount of rain. This rain will help all aspects of the different habitats with the spring growing season. This winter runoff has filled our wetland to about 80% capacity (Although the wetland only filled up with the last run off event that happened during the January 14-16 rain event). The wetland will provide ideal habitat for nesting pairs of least grebe, common moorhen, mottled duck, and black bellied whistling duck. Frequent rain events throughout the spring will help supplement the water already retained in the created wetland.

The CBBEP has also been working with partners at USFWS to help develop a design that will create freshwater wetlands adjacent to the Nueces River (Attachment 14).

Management- The CBBEP continues to work with program partners to best manage the NDP. CBBEP has been consulting with other organizations about the results of our 2009 prescribed burns. CBBEP will be meeting with project partners to help determine to burn additional units outlined in the burn plan or wait and let the burned habitat recover before moving to burn other units.

Infrastructure- Electricity is currently being brought to the NDP. Crews from AEP have already installed the poles and guide wire for the main service line to the property. The building is in the process of being wired and should be energized in 1.5 to 2 weeks. Electricity will be available in both the Pavilion and the Classroom. The Coastal Bend Community Foundation gave the CBBEP a \$5,000 grant to help make this possible.

The CBBEP is anxiously waiting to see if our submitted proposal was accepted by the Ed Rachal Foundation to help with other improvements to the property.

Kate's Hole Public Access Area:

Improvements to this property were finished in December 2009. The CBBEP will work to install signage at the property listing other project partners for their contributions to make this a huge success for creating access to this portion of the back side of Mustang Island. Photos of this public access site have been attached.



Entrance prior to installation of TxDot permitted access



Culverts to be placed along HW 361



Finished HWY 361 access



Erosion Blanket installed along edge of new access road



Armor stone placed around edge of parking area



Finished 1/2 acre parking area