



October 2015

Prescribed Fire Provides Enhancements at Nueces Delta Preserve



The Coastal Bend Bays & Estuaries Program (CBBEP) is looking forward to all the benefits of fire following a prescribed burn at the Nueces Delta Preserve earlier this month. With funding provided by Delta Land Services, M&G Chemicals, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and CBBEP, program staff worked with The Nature Conservancy's burn crew to carefully plan and intentionally ignite over 800 acres of coastal prairie habitat.

"Fire can do more to improve habitat than almost any other land management practice, and we were fortunate to be able to work with such a great team to ensure a successful burn." said Jake Herring, Director of Land Conservation for the CBBEP.

As a result of the burn, plant and animal communities that rely on periodic fire will benefit greatly. Fire is a natural part of the landscape that is not only used to remove old growth and stimulate new growth, but it also helps control invasive woody vegetation such as huisache and mesquite, returns nutrients to the soil, and will restore habitats for grassland and migratory bird species.



Prescribed burns are a commonly used land management practice that are done under specific weather and soil conditions, and a part of the management plan for the Nueces Delta Preserve. Just one week after the burn, signs of new growth are already evident as *Spartina spartinae* sends up new shoots, an encouraging sign of what is to come.

The 8,500 acre Nueces Delta Preserve protects a variety of coastal habitats and serves as a base for CBBEP's Delta Discovery education program, which offers field experiences and workshops to teachers and students through scheduled site visits. In addition to these education activities, Nueces Delta Preserve is the site of several research stations



and conservation projects. Our land management efforts conserve the property, enhance the habitats, encourage wildlife, and provide a significant space for learning in nature. To learn more about the Nueces Delta Preserve visit www.cbbep.org.



Photos: CBBEP File



The Coastal Bend Bays & Estuaries Program is a non-profit organization dedicated to protecting and restoring bays and estuaries in the 12-county region of the Texas Coastal Bend. CBBEP is partially funded by the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

For more information about the Coastal Bend Bays & Estuaries Program, contact Kathryn Tunnell at (361)885-6202 or ktunnell@cbbep.org.

This report published in October 2015.

www.cbbep.org

www.nuecesdeltapreserve.org

www.facebook.com/CBBEP

<https://www.facebook.com/NuecesDeltaPreserve>