CIAP Project Closeout

Final Project Report

03-404N

- The goal of this project is to restore 100 acres of degraded riparian habitats in Victoria, Jackson, and Calhoun Counties to their original condition and functionality.

- The original goal of the project was modified, due to limited participation by private landowners. Of the original 100 acres targeted, only 88.9 acres were actually contracted. The project was modified to include purchasing a native grass seed drill to be used by landowners to re-establish degraded native grasslands in conjunction with riparian habitats. This drill is being used in conjunction with a program sponsored by the Texas Nature Conservancy to restore native grazing lands.

Significant Project Actions

- December 23, 2004 – Restoration contract signed with Christopher Lucci for 56 Acres.
- May 16, 2005 – Restoration contract signed with Tom Marchbanks for 24 acres.
- September 18, 2005 – Restoration contract signed with Lacy Ruwwe for 8.9 acres.
- December 8, 2005 – Restoration work completed on Tom Marchbanks for 24 acres.
- December 12, 2005 – Truax grass seed drill purchased.
- December 14, 2005 – Restoration work completed on Christopher Lucci for 56 acres
- December 23, 2005 – Restoration work completed on Lacy Ruuwe for 8.9 acres

Work products completed and deliverable submittal dates

- Three restoration plans for a total of 88.9 acres were developed and completed by December 23, 2005.
- A Truax FLEX Drill Model FLXII-816 with a freestanding cover were purchased by December 12, 2005.

Problems or obstacles encountered and remedial action taken.

- Initial landowner interest and acceptance of the initiative was slow. To encourage participation, several landowners were targeted for personal contact by NRCS personnel. Producer acceptance remained limited. To fully utilize funding for restoration activities, the contract was modified to allow for an equipment purchase to take place. A Truax FLEX Drill Model FLXII-816 with a freestanding cover was purchased and is being used by clients of the Texas Nature Conservancy Coastal Prairie Office to re-establish native grazing lands in conjunction with riparian areas.

Photographic documentation is attached.

- As specified earlier, a Truax FLEX Drill Model FLXII-816 was purchased.

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- **Total Project Cost (ALL FUNDING SOURCES): $ 166,445.31**

Final reports are required to contain a budget breakdown for each budget category. List budget amounts for ONLY the CIAP portion of the project funded under this contract.

Federal Budget

	Original CIAP Budget	Billed to date CIAP Budget	Remaining* CIAP Budget
Salaries (Personnel)	$ 1500.00_	$__1500.00__	$_____0____
Fringe Benefits	$_____	$_____	$_____
Travel	$_____	$_____	$_____
Equipment	$_23442.00_	$_23409.31__	$____32.69
Supplies	$___500.00_	$___500.00__ ____	$_____0____
Contractual Services	$_19558.00_	$_19558.00__	$_____0____
Construction	$_____	$_____	$_____
Land Acquisition	$_____	$_____	$_____
Other	$_45000.00_	$_44967.31__	$____32.69_ ____
Subtotal	$_____	$_____	$_____
Indirect Costs	$_____	$_____	$_____
Total	$_45000.00_	$_44967.31__	$____32.69

*All reimbursements should be complete. Upon submittal of Final Project Report and project closeout, any remaining funds are surplus and no longer accessible to the project.

__X__ Funds being returned $__32.69_____
____ Funds are not being returned.

Christopher Lucci Riparian Restoration

Dense overstory prevented adequate low growing ground cover to filter nutrients and pesticides.

Overuse by livestock had produced some areas subject to erosion

Maintaining a buffer of woody vegetation adjacent to the stream provides fish and wildlife habitat and water quality.

Adequate ground cover to control erosion, and filter runoff was allowed to establish following exclusion of livestock.

Tom Marchbanks Riparian Restoration

Dense brushy undergrowth limited herbaceous vegetation. Improved fencing was needed.

Selective thinning of overstory allowed a move open canopy promoting better ground cover.

Fencing was installed to facilitate livestock exclusion. Riparian area is on the left of photo.

Native species will be allowed to re-establish from local seed source. Wildlife beneficial woody plants are allowed to remain. Individual plant treatment allowed selective thinning of woody vegetation

Lacy Ruuwe Riparian Restoration

Dense brushy undergrowth limited herbaceous vegetation.

Dense undergrowth was removed to allow herbaceous ground cover to grow.

Adequate cover was left on both stream-banks for wildlife and to provide filtering effect.

Individual plant treatment allowed selective thinning of woody vegetation

Truax FLEX Drill Model FLXII-816

The drill was purchased to allow landowners to plant native grasses and forbs to benefit wildlife and water quality in association with riparian areas.

With an overall planting width of 11.5 feet, the drill is capable of planting approximately 7 acres per hour depending on terrain and soil conditions.

Special coulter disks on the front allow planting into undisturbed sod thereby reducing weedy competition and erosion from standard seedbed preparation. The units has a small seedbox in front allowing slick grass and forb seeds to be properly metered out. A large seedbox is equipped with special agitators to prevent “bridging” and to force seed into delivery tubes. The unit is ground driven and can be transported via special hydraulic transport wheels in the rear.

Depth bands on disk openers allow for uniform seeding depths and a fully adjustable system of hydraulic tongue leveling and ground drive wheels allows for adjustment of seeding depth.