

US Department of the Army

Restoration of Whooping Crane Critical Habitat with Beneficial Use of Dredged Material

The proposed habitat restoration project on the central Texas coast would create/restore 318 acres of tidal emergent marsh habitat for the endangered whooping crane by constructing protection and containment structures and creating marsh with maintenance material from the Gulf Intracoastal Waterway (GIWW) at total estimated cost of \$17 million for an average cost per acre of \$54,000. While the primary goal of the proposed project is to Restore Habitat, it would also support all of the other Plan goals. The project could be implemented at any one of three scales. Scale 1 would provide for completion of protection and containment structures for all three BUS, and the completion of 52 acres of marsh at BUS D at a cost of \$10,944,300. Scale 2 would include all Scale 1 activities plus the creation of marsh at BUS J, resulting in a total of 201 acres completed by Year 13 for a total of \$15,567,800. Scale 3 would include all of Scale 2 plus the creation of marsh at BUS A, resulting in a total of 318 acres by Year 21 for a total of \$17,263,20. Individual cells within each BUS would be completed incrementally. For Scale 3, 16 percent of the total marsh acreage would be complete and contributing to the estuarine system by Year 3, almost 50 percent complete by Year 7, 94 percent complete by Year 15, and 100 percent complete by Year 21. Restoration Council funding would be expended by Year 3 for each scale of construction, as USACE O&M funding (up to \$32,471,200) may be leveraged to fund marsh filling in all years beyond the first year of construction. Requested funding amount: \$17,263,20.