

State of Texas

Bahia Grande Coastal Corridor

The Bahia Grande Coastal Corridor Project (BGCC) will complete the most critical portion of a protected corridor linking the globally significant Laguna Madre region of the South Texas and Northern Mexico Gulf Coast. By acquiring up to approximately 6,000 acres of land using RESTORE Act funds, the project will add to a 105,000-acre corridor of conservation lands that includes the Laguna Atascosa National Wildlife Refuge (NWR), Boca Chica State Park and the Lower Rio Grande Valley NWR. This corridor also connects over 2 million acres of private ranchland located north of Laguna Atascosa NWR with the 1.3 million acre Rio Bravo Protected Area, managed by the Commission Nacional De Areas Naturales Protegidas (CONANP) in Mexico. The Laguna Atascosa NWR currently manages approximately 95,000 acres in Cameron and Willacy counties. The fragmented nature of these refuge tracts is a concern for the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD), the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), and our many conservation partners, leading to development of a landscape-level strategic plan to emphasize corridor protection and restoration. In addition to linking areas of important wildlife habitat, acquiring more land within the BGCC will help to protect the towns of Port Isabel and Laguna Vista from dust and tropical weather-related flooding, and provide enhanced opportunities for hunting, fishing and wildlife observation. South Texas is a world-renowned birding destination and wildlife-oriented tourism brings millions of dollars to the local economy. Requested funding amount: \$5,500,000-19,095,760.