Pics on CD

FishAmerica Foundation and NOAA Restoration Center
Community-Based Restoration Grant Awards
Final Report Narrative Format

Project Title and Reference Number :
North of Big Bayou Estuarine Habitat Restoration Project - FAF-7086

I. Reporting Period :
August 1 2007-August 1, 2008, Final Report

II. Project Narrative:
St Vincent Island, part of the St. Vincent National Wildlife Refuge has a long history of human use. Prior to becoming a Wildlife Refuge 90 miles of road were constructed along with other anthropocentric modifications which have resulted in altering the natural hydrology of fresh water, brackish, and intermediate wetlands on the island. The long term project goal of the Refuge is to restore surface hydrology to a more natural function by removing man-made barriers that impede the natural flow of water into, out of and among the wetlands located on the island. The current man-made obstructions (roads, water control structures, culverts etc) negatively affect the interface with the waters of the Gulf of Mexico, Apalachicola Bay and St. Vincent Sound. This negatively affects the native organisms. The special objective of this project is to focus on restoring one section of the island (an estimated 1,925 acres of wetland) by improving hydrologic connection between the estuarine marshes, freshwater marshes, and the Gulf of Mexico. The improved water flow within the designated wetlands will enhance freshwater and estuarine wetlands/nurseries to support marine life like Tarpon, Red Drum, Spotted Seatrout and Gulf Flounder.

III. Methodology
The preliminary work on this project was initiated on October 5, 2007. This work included taking photographs of designated points to document pre-project site status. The area of work was then surveyed by Refuge staff and the lay out of the work area flagged. An on-site planning meeting was held at the estuarine work site. This meeting included critical logistical managers from various Fish and Wildlife Service offices. Work on the restoration area was completed by Refuge staff and volunteers. This work included the lay-out of turbidly curtains, installation of approximately 5,000 feet of silt fence as well as clearing out fallen trees that were obstructing the work area. Loads of oyster shells were hauled in via dump truck for use in the construction of low water crossings along I road. Two aluminum culverts were installed at the creek site on I road. Two 650 dozers and two backhoes were used to remove the fill from Road 5, 6, and 7 that blocked the flow in the marsh. A dozer was also used to make cuts in J road at the low areas. Photographs at the designated points have been taken to document the change.

IV. Results/Progress to Date

Road fill was removed from Road 5, 6 and 7 (approximately 1.5 miles of road) to allow for the marsh to function as a whole again. On road J multiple low areas were cut in the road to allow for the flow of water through out the marsh. The day after the cuts were made in the road small fish were noted traveling through the cuts in the road. Two aluminum culverts (36x24) were installed on road I to allow for the flow of the creek to flow into the marsh and back out. Along road I on both sides of the creek 4 large low water crossings (ranging from 60-85 feet long) were installed. The large low water crossings will allow for the water to sheet flow cross the road in high tides and storm events. This project has restored hydrologic flow to 2,389 acres on St. Vincent Island for which approximately 1,925 acres are wetlands.

It should be noted that the unique environment of St. Vincent Island added significant logistical challenges to this project. All materials, vehicles and personnel had to be transported to the island via barge, then driven a minimum of 9 miles over primitive sand roads to the work site. This requires careful coordination of personnel and resources for maximum effectiveness.

V. Project or Budget Deviations

Budget Line Item	**Original**	**Deviation**
Salaries -HE Operators	4400	2289
Travel – Per diem	960	280
Silt fence	4500	0
Fuel	5500	6744
Equipment Maintenance	1500	1126
Miscellaneous Supplies	547	604
Water/Gatorade	0	50
Waders	0	50
Dump truck repairs	0	1000
Oyster shell	5000	9464
Dump Screen	0	800
TOTAL	**22407**	**22407**

VI. Monitoring and Maintenance Activities

In the monitoring phase, four sites were selected for photo points. There were three photo points established at the intersection of I Road and Roads 5, 6, and 7. Also there was a photo point marked at the culvert/ low water crossing site. Photographs have been taken of the 4 photo points since the project was completed.

The base flow of water through the culvert was evaluated using a flow meter before and during the project. The flow will continue to be monitored.

Fish and bird surveys were conducted prior to the work starting. One set of birds surveys have been completed since the work was completed.

Additional fish and vegetation surveys are planned for the future.
The low water crossings will be monitored for amount of usage during high tide and storm events.
Pre-Monitoring is currently available and post monitoring will be available as it is collected.

VII. Community Involvement

Supporters of St. Vincent NWR volunteers worked on the project in many ways. Their activities included helping with logistics, on the ground support and outreach. Logistically the volunteers helped in planning, and lay out of the project as well as, transportation of volunteers and supplies from the mainland to the work site on the island. Volunteers also participated in the operation of the 650 dozer and backhoe to remove the fill and, create the low water crossings. They also operated the dump truck hauling oyster shell, setting up turbidity curtains and silt fencing, and placing geo textile filter fabric. Volunteers were a key component to the success of this project due to the lack of available refuge staff. Volunteers also participated in several trash clean up events along the marsh in the project site.

VIII. Outreach Activities

Community involvement has included media outreach articles in local publications (Apalachicola Times, Supporters of St. Vincent NWR, Inc. newsletter). A video clip was produced by a local television channel. Educational components have been added to the monthly island tours sponsored by the Supporters of St. Vincent. An educational poster is in place at the visitor's center. An open house event was held on the refuge and the public was informed of the project. Multiple school programs were conducted to inform students of the project and the benefits to the ecosystem.

IX. Supporting Materials

See attached documents.

X. Funding Information (Cash and In-kind)

1. Itemized Budget table (similar to example below) showing expenses incurred during the reporting period, for both FAF/NOAA funds and matching contributions. Budget categories must correspond to those described in the approved proposal and listed in the grant award contract.

Budget Category (e.g. personnel, supplies, contractual, etc.)	FAF/NOAA Funds	Matching Contributions	Total Expense	Nature (cash or in-kind) and Source of Match
Volunteer labor & Travel Franklin County Work Camp		$3,362	$3,362	In-kind
Volunteer Labor Supporters of St. Vincent		$14,569	$14,569	In-kind
Volunteer Travel Supporters of St. Vincent		$725	$725	In-kind
St. Vincent Staff labor	$2,289	$18,425	$20,714	Cash
FAF supported travel	$280		$280	Cash
Volunteer labor & dump truck use Apalachicola National Estuary Research Reserve		$485	$485	In-kind
Transportation St. Vincent Island Shuttles		$120	$120	In-kind
Programs for Florida and Alabama School systems		$13,105	$13,105	In-kind
Dump Truck use Apalachicola National Forest		$500	$500	In-kind
Supplies for project ($604, $50, $50, $800)	$1,504	$7,530	$9,034	Cash
Fuel for project	$6,744		$6,744	Cash
Repair & Maintenance on equipment ($1,126 & $1,000)	$2,126	$772	$2,898	Cash
Oyster Shell	$9,464		$9,464	Cash
Total	$22,407	$59,593	$82,000	

2. Budget Narrative: Describe expenditures by category and explain any differences between actual and scheduled expenditures. Include documentation of volunteer hours and in-kind donations.

In-kind and Cash Support

Support	**In Kind**	**Dollars**	**Type of help**
Franklin County Work Camp (17.00 per hr.)	195 hrs. = $3,315 $46.80		Silt fence installation and removal, staging equipment and demobilization Travel cost (40 miles x .585 x 2 trips)
ANERR ($17.00 per hr.)	14 hrs. = $238 $200 $46.80		Hauled oyster shell Dump truck - 4 days Travel cost (40 miles x .585 x 2 trips)
Fish America Foundation		$22,407	OT salary, per diem, fuel, equip. maintenance, misc. supplies, oyster shell
St. Vincent Island Shuttles	$120		Hauling of people to island
Supporters of St. Vincent NWR	857 hrs. = $14,569 $725.40 travel cost		Outreach (424.5 hrs) and on ground (432.5 hrs.) help from volunteers Travel cost (40 miles x .585 x 31 trips)
USFWS (St. Vincent, PC, St. Marks)		Labor – regular = $18,425 Materials – $7,530 Repairs – $772	On ground help 415 hrs. Outreach 145.5 hrs. Geo Textile fabric, fabric staples, turbidity curtains, silt fence, Dump truck repairs
Apalachicola National Forest	$500		Dump truck – 5 days
Florida & Alabama School programs	$13,105.30		Cost to visit the island for three schools
Total	**$32,866**	**$49,134**	**82,000.00**