

PROPOSAL FACT SHEET

E. Gail Purvis, Director
THE TRULL FOUNDATION
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Date: June 5, 2013

1. Name of Agency Friends of Brazoria Wildlife Refuges
Address P.O. Box 505, Lake Jackson, TX, 77566
Mailing address (if different) Same
Program address (if different) Same
Phone Number (979) 297-1815 **FAX** (979) 964-4021
E-mail address barrios@refugefriends.org
Contact Person Ed Barrios, Chairman, Friends of Brazoria Wildlife Refuges (979) 297-1815 or Michael Lange, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (979) 964-4011

2. Name of Project Poole Tract Acquisition

3. Amount being requested \$26,500

4. Brief History and Mission of the Agency

Formed in 1994, Friends of Brazoria Wildlife Refuges ("Friends," "Friends Group") is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization governed by a thirteen-member, volunteer board composed of persons who represent those interested in conservation, education, and the natural environment. Our mission is to promote, support, and assist the Texas Mid-Coast National Wildlife Refuge Complex in the operation and development of its refuge programs. Our founders created the Friends Group to promote appreciation of the wildlife resources of the Refuge, which is contained within 150,000 acres of unique coastal habitats. Our Charter charges us with supporting the Texas Mid-Coast Wildlife National Wildlife Refuges, an area that encompasses parts of Brazoria, Fort Bend, Matagorda, and Wharton counties. We support and work on Refuge land in all of these counties.

The Friends directly address three community interests: recreation in the natural environment, environmental education, and habitat conservation. Our work supports environmentally-compatible recreational activities on the Refuge: we build trails, walkways, pavilions, and observation blinds to accommodate visitors and to maximize their enjoyment of the Refuge. Concerns about climate change, habitat destruction, and species preservation have fueled interest in our environmental education programs for younger generations. We address these concerns by providing programs in schools, educating youth about the value of the Columbia Bottomlands Ecosystem, its flora and fauna, the human impact on habitat, and the students' roles in its protection. Finally, the public is increasingly aware of growing threats to our natural resources and have a renewed interest in habitat conservation. We support habitat conservation by planting trees, seeding prairies, controlling invasive species, and securing grant funds to facilitate the acquisition and protection of acreage with high habitat value.

Our programs serve two overarching goals: (1) to showcase the Refuge and (2) to increase appreciation of the Columbia Bottomlands Ecosystem. We achieve both

goals through programs that focus on environmental education, public awareness, and habitat-compatible recreational activities. Program participation produces intrinsic benefits: they learn something new; they spend a day recreating outdoors; they breathe clean air; they feel connected to nature; and they develop a sense of stewardship for the natural environment that sustains them.

5. Description of the Project for which funding is requested.

The Friends Group requests \$26,500 to complete the purchase of the Poole Tract, consisting of 11.05 acres in Brazoria County. Lying within the internationally-significant Columbia Bottomlands Ecosystem, the tract consists of coastal prairie, which draws prairie-dependent bird species, and includes a tributary of a slough. The property has value as wetlands habitat; however, the Friends Group has targeted this tract primarily due to its location. Termed an "in-holding," the 11.05 acres lie within the Refuge itself. The Poole family wants to sell the property, and we wish to add it to the Refuge, not only to preserve it as habitat but also to protect the integrity of and prevent development within the Refuge.

The Poole Tract has an appraised value of \$31,500. Of that, we have obtained \$5,000. A \$26,500 grant from the Trull Foundation will allow us to acquire and preserve the tract, in perpetuity, as part of the National Wildlife Refuge System.

6. List Project staff by positions and salaries, indicating those involved in this project.

No positions or salaries are associated with this project's budget. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Region 2 Realty Division conducts acquisition activities under the coordination of the Project Officer, Michael Lange, Wildlife Biologist, Texas Mid-Coast NWR Complex, in Brazoria County. Assisting with pre-acquisition and due diligence is Thomas E. Smith, Land Consultant, of the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF), also in Brazoria County. Mr. Lange and Mr. Smith have negotiated with the Poole family, conducted biological evaluations, gathered title and tract information, and contracted real estate appraisals and surveys. Jay Wright, Account Manager, of NFWF, provides support from NFWF offices in Washington, D.C.

7. Total Agency Budget for a year \$223,300

8. Total Project Budget \$37,500 (\$11,000 in hand. The Community Foundation of Brazoria County donated \$5,000 to the purchase. Funds from a Houston Endowment grant covered \$6,000 pre-acquisition costs - survey, appraisal, title work.)

9. Explain how this Project will be evaluated.

The Friends Group will evaluate the project by monitoring the status of the contract and confirming the closing on the tract. Success is easy to measure: every dollar acquired and spent will facilitate the purchase of the tract, which will become part of the Refuge. At closing, we will have achieved our goals.

*****PLEASE DO NOT WRITE BELOW THIS SPACE*****

Grants of past three years:

Year	Amount	Project
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Prior year:

One year prior:

Two years prior:

IRS INFO satisfactory
IRS INFO being checked
Evaluation Report