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### **2014 Activity Report on Challenge Cost Share Grant, Discovery Center Display.**

FWS Agreement Number: 20181-A-1617  
Charge Code: 21543-1263-CC2D

Activity Period: January 1, 2014 through December 31, 2014

On June 1, 2010, the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), Region 2, granted \$20,000, and modified the contract on 9 September 2010 to add another 30,000, to the Friends of Brazoria Wildlife Refuges (hereinafter Friends), for the purpose of developing environmental education exhibits at the Brazoria National Wildlife Refuge (BNWR).

This year began with a balance of \$19,262.00 available as a 50% challenge cost share match. During the year, \$7,788.64 was reimbursed to Friends on \$15,577.28 of invoiced expenses. An additional \$2,798.50 was paid on December 31, 2014, and is being submitted for 50% reimbursement this month, leaving a balance of \$10,074.11 in available cost share matching funds.

The expenditure in 2014 included:

- Equipment and supplies for the Discovery Environmental Education Program (DEEP) conducted at the Discovery Center, such as aquatic nets for sampling pond life, owl pellets, digital cameras for nature photography classes, and binoculars,
- The repair of microscopes,
- Professional fees for developing a video (~8.5 minutes) to show highlights of the Brazoria and San Bernard National Wildlife Refuges, including public-use opportunities. This video will be available for visitors to view in the Discovery Center as well as being part of the Friends outreach activities.
- A portable wireless speaker system for use at expanded public events,
- The purchase of a 10' X 15' canopy to be used for outreach activities both on and off the refuge.

**In-Progress Projects:**

We continue to search for a source for custom-built rollup canvas shutters for shelters on the Cross Trails loop of the Brazoria NWR. These shutters would provide protection to students during DEEP sessions.

Martin Cornell

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