

PROJECT BUDGET FORM

Budget Guidelines

Budget categories must be line items that specifically describe project costs, not program items or acronyms. For example, program categories such as "Education," "Restoration," or "Workshops" are unacceptable because they do not indicate what is being paid for. These categories must be broken down into specific line items such as "Supplies," "Materials," or "Contractual Services." Please include itemized expenses for each budget category, be as specific as possible. Please note that indirect or overhead costs cannot be funded.

Matching Funds - These are funds or in-kind contributions—contributed goods and/or services—that have been or will be donated to support your proposed project. While raising additional support for your project is not required, it is encouraged. Your project's ability to raise additional support will be considered as part of the proposal evaluation process.

Note: Contributed goods and/or services or in-kind contributions should be included under Matching Funds.

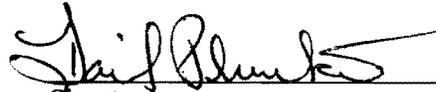
Budget Category	Expense per Category	Matching Funds	Funds Requested
<i>e.g. Contractual Services (interpretive signs)</i>	<i>e.g. \$500</i>	<i>e.g. \$100</i>	<i>e.g. \$400</i>
Supplies - Microwave Trans	850		850
" Solar Panel	800		800
" Marine Battery	80		80
" Camera	150		150
" wires, connectors	200		200
Materials Material for perches	1120		1120
Supplies Flat Panel TV	1600		1600
Contractual Services		1,000	—
*TOTALS	4800	1,000	4,800

If this space is not adequate, please use the same format on a separate sheet of paper.

SIGNATURE OF APPLICANT (An original signature page must be received with this application)

I certify that the above information is true and accurate.

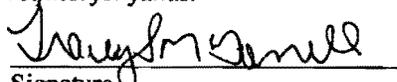
David Plunkett
Name of President or Project Officer


Signature

8/29/06
Date

I have read this application and fully endorse the applicant's request for funds.

Tracey S. McDonnell
Name of Refuge Manager and Refuge
Texas Mid-Coast NWR Complex


Signature

8/28/06
Date

Project Title: Nest Cam at Brazoria National Wildlife Refuge

A remote camera will bring an opportunity for an up-close and personal look at a nesting caracara. Visitors will be able to watch as hatchlings grow and young birds stretch their wings for the first time. The remote equipment can also be used for observation of other wildlife such as alligators in or near the wetlands area. Funds from this grant will purchase a remote camera, transmission equipment, mounting poles, and large flat-screen monitor to be placed in the Discovery Center.

Nest Cam at Brazoria NWR

Since inception of the Friends of Brazoria Wildlife Refuges in 1994, many public use projects have been completed in co-operation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. These have been funded by grants from National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, Texas General Land Office, several of our industrial partners, and other organizations.

In recent years an environmental education program was started at the Brazoria NWR. Currently 2700-3000 area students participate. The program is led by a FWS staff member with the assistance of 20-30 volunteer docents.

The focal point for our environmental education and public use program is the recently completed Discovery Center, funded by the FWS. Partial furnishings for the Center are being funded by a grant to the Friends from the Texas General Land Office. Additional grants will be sought to add more furnishings.

The Texas Mid-Coast NWR Complex (Brazoria and San Bernard NWRs) is located at a geographical crossroads for many species. It has one of the longest bird lists in the refuge system. We are at or near the northern limit of the range of the crested caracara, also known as the Mexican Eagle, and black-bellied whistling ducks. American alligators are common on the refuge. These are all species of interest to visitors from the Northern States and all nest on the Refuges.

A pair of caracaras have nested on a McCartney Rose bush about 1/4-1/2 mile from the Discovery Center. In recent years an alligator has nested about the same distance from the Center on Gator Nest Pond. These locations are in opposite directions from the Center. In previous years a number of Chinese tallow trees were available near the Tour Loop for perches for the caracaras. The tallows, which are highly invasive, were removed and several new perch posts near the Tour Loop will be erected as part of this project.

The Discovery Center operates on solar power so the camera and microwave transmitter would also have to be solar powered. Poles would be erected near both the caracara nest and the alligator nest so equipment could be moved from one to the other as desired. Because of our location near the Gulf of Mexico, there is nearly always a strong breeze off the Gulf. All poles and equipment would need to be securely anchored. Platforms to hold the camera, microwave transmitter, and the solar cells would be positioned to view the nests. The equipment would be protected from the elements as well as possible vandalism. The images would be transmitted to the Discovery Center via microwaves where they would be received and viewed on a large, flat-panel monitor. The monitor could also be used in the classroom when not used for nest viewing. The president of the Friends is also an accomplished cinematographer. He is producing a video of the Brazoria and San Bernard Wildlife Refuges which will be available to show visitors. A DVD player/recorder is available to record activity. Observations could also be posted on the Friends website.

The refuges of the Texas Mid-Coast Complex are only 40-60 miles from the Houston metropolitan area of over 3 million people. We have gradually been tapping into this market. Our experience in participating at several exhibitions has been that few people from outside our area have visited the refuges. Most don't even know where they are!. Unfortunately, many of our local people also are not aware of the Refuges. The sight of a caracara family on a Houston TV channel would surely change that.

The work would be performed by volunteers from the Friends, the Brazosport Birders and Naturalists, and the Cradle of Texas Chapter of Master Naturalists. The project officer, David Plunkett, is a Friends Board member as well as president of the Brazosport Birders. Five of our Friends Board members are also Master Naturalists, including Ed Barrios, who is president of that group. Many of our Friends members are also members of the Gulf Coast Bird Observatory. Our FWS personnel will provide about \$1,000 in construction and labor to assist in the post placement. We are fortunate in having several members who are skilled in the electronics portion of the project.