

FIRE REHABILITATION PLAN
LOWER RIO GRANDE, NWR
SONNY FIRE# 2919

1. Background

On March, 12, 2001, a wildfire occurred on the Resaca Fel Rancho Viejo Tract of the Lower Rio Grande Valley NWR . This fire started at 1530 hrs, and was reported to the South Texas Refuges Complex Fire dispatcher at 1545 hrs. by the La Feria Fire Department, who were on scene fighting the fire. The fire grew to become 58 acs., 28 acs. of lands burned were FWS owned lands, the rest were private. The fire burned 28 acs. of brush and grass. The cause of the fire is under investigation, but it appears to have started from an illegal bum on private land, in a cane field. Cameron Co. requires bum permits, one was not issued for this bum. Fire was declared out on March 20,2001.

2. Analysis and Evaluation

Most LRGV Tracts are a Tamaulipan brush land, characterized by dense thorn scrub, and is considered a unique ecosystem found no where else in the United States. Many organisms found in the LRGV , occur no where else. The combination of climate, geology, vegetation, and wildlife creates tremendous biological diversity. It is important to restore this habitat. This tract is in a heavy urban area, surrounded by many homes and farms. This fire damaged 3500 ft. of barbed wire fence. The fence is critical to keeping this tract secure. There was 28 acs. of brush land burned.

3. Summary of Anticipated Resources needs and Costs

The total amount of fence to be replaced will be 3500 ft. After the fence is replaced 28 acres of burned habitat must be re-vegetated into native brush. It is anticipated that one LRGV staff member will need to plan and supervise this project.

4. Breakdown of costs

Purchase and install 1 mile offence(labor included) @ \$2.00 a foot for \$ 7K

Re-vegetate 28 acres of habitat @ \$500.00 an acre for \$ 14K

Project supervision and planning \$2500.

Total cost of this project will be \$ 23,500

5. Maps stored in project file