

Koch Pipeline - Gum Hollow Oil Spill

Case History: In October, 1994, a pipeline broke and discharged over 90,000 gallons of crude oil into Gum Hollow Creek, in Refugio County, Texas. Heavy rains carried the oil to the Nueces River and on into Nueces and Corpus Christi Bays. The discharge oiled terrestrial and aquatic vegetation, birds, sediments, soils, and other biota. The Trustees and Responsible Party (RP) agreed that the creation of 2.5 acres of emergent marsh and acquisition of 24 acres of freshwater riparian wetland habitat would adequately compensate the public for injuries to Trust resources.

Responsible Party: Koch Pipeline Company.

Trustees:

[Texas Parks and Wildlife Department](#) (TPWD)

[Texas Commission on Environmental Quality](#) (TCEQ)

[Texas General Land Office](#) (TXGLO)

[DOI-FWS](#)



Current Status: Settlement on this NRDAR claim has been reached with the RPs; however, the Consent Decree was held up for some time due to a DOJ criminal case with Koch Pipeline regarding non- and under-reporting of discharges. The criminal case was settled in March 2000 and the assessment completed. Final restoration calls for creation of 2.5 acres of emergent marsh in Nueces Bay and acquisition of 24 acres of freshwater riparian habitat along the Nueces River. The marsh creation portion in Nueces Bay has been completed. A conservation easement on the property is nearing final completion and will be held by The Nature Conservancy in perpetuity. Proceeds from the claim are estimated for 'in-kind' work to be approximately \$500,000 and FWS will collect approximately \$18,000 in past costs upon settlement. Acquisition will be combined with the Koch Ford settlement, for which FWS is providing technical assistance to the State Trustees. The Koch Ford settlement will result in a conservation easement that will protect, in perpetuity, 360 acres of riparian wetland on the Nueces River.

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