

## GUADALUPE BLANCO RIVER TRUST

**Project Name:** Aransas National Wildlife Refuge Habitat Enhancement Project.

**Description:** An environmental restoration project to improve and maintain the wetland habitat of the Myrtle Foester-Whitmire Unit of the Aransas National Wildlife Refuge (Refuge) for waterfowl and shorebirds. The Guadalupe-Blanco River Trust, Guadalupe-Blanco River Authority (GBRA), and the Aransas National Wildlife Refuge (Refuge) are engaging in a cooperative program to provide a more reliable supply of water to the Myrtle Foester-Whitmire Unit and to improve the efficiency of the delivery of freshwater to and within the Unit. More information about the GBRT may be viewed at <http://www.gbrtrust.org/?datapage=news.asp>.

**Environmental Benefit:** The goal of this project is to improve and maintain the wetland habitat of the Myrtle-Foester Whitmire Unit of the Aransas National Wildlife Refuge (Refuge) for waterfowl and shorebirds. The Unit is located in Calhoun County, Texas between the towns of Port Lavaca and Port O'Connor. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) owns and manages the Unit that contains approximately 3,440 acres. It is a major wintering area for Northern Pintails and a significant breeding area for Mottled Ducks. The Unit has been identified in the North American Waterfowl Management Plan as one of the most important wetland habitats on the Texas Coast; the area has been known to hold an estimated 18% of the wintering waterfowl on the Texas Gulf Coast. Nearly every waterfowl species using the Central Flyway will benefit from this project by providing high value wintering habitat.

**Counties involved:** Aransas, Calhoun, Jackson, Matagorda, Refugio, and Victoria.

**Project Length:** One year with subsequent maintenance.

**Project Budget:** \$37,000 initially with annual updates.

**Minimum Contribution:** Will accept any minimum contribution amount.