Texas Restoration Area

Nutrient Reduction

November 2022

ABOUT NUTRIENT REDUCTION

The Texas Trustee Implementation Group (TIG) was allocated $22.5 Million for the Nutrient Reduction Restoration Type. To date, the TIG has completed a planning activity for the purpose of prioritizing watersheds where the TIG should focus its nutrient reduction allocation. The Petronila Creek watershed, located in Nueces and Kleberg counties, was identified as a targeted watershed through the planning effort.

MORE INFORMATION IS AVAILABLE ONLINE

gulfspillrestoration.noaa.gov/restoration-areas/texas

Nutrient Reduction Projects

Project Name	Project Budget	Status
Petronila Creek Constructed Wetlands Planning (engineering and design only)	$450 k	In Progress
Petronila Creek Watershed Nutrient Reduction Initiative	$4.3 M	In Progress

PROJECT SPOTLIGHT

The Petronila Creek Watershed Nutrient Reduction Initiative will improve water quality conditions in the Petronila Creek watershed by implementing conservation practices on agricultural lands for the purpose of managing nutrients. Technical and financial assistance will be provided to private landowners on a voluntary basis to address nutrient and sediment runoff from their farms.

The Constructed Wetland Planning project will evaluate the conversion of a 240-acre agricultural tract into constructed wetlands through which Petronila Creek would be diverted for the purpose of filtering nutrients and sediments. Engineering and Design will be completed at the 30% phase to determine the feasibility of the project and optimal design. At the completion of the feasibility study, this project will receive additional consideration by the TIG.

The Texas TIG is targeting the Petronila Creek watershed for the implementation of conservation practices to manage nutrient and sediment runoff from working lands. This watershed drains into Baffin Bay, which is a prime sportfishing area that has suffered from brown-tides since the 1990's. Restoration of the watersheds is priority for other groups working in the area with which the TIG projects will have synergies. Petronila Creek is fed by tributaries that serve as drainage ditches for cropland. The Petronila Creek catchment area is dominated by cotton and grain sorghum, with smaller acreage planted with vegetables. Other land cover of note includes scrub that serves as rangeland for livestock.