



United States Department of the Interior
FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
Aransas National Wildlife Refuge
1 Wildlife Circle, Austwell TX 77950



June 10, 2025

Matagorda Bay Mitigation Trust
P.O. Box 1269
Poth, TX 78147

Dear Matagorda Bay Mitigation Trust,

I hope this letter finds you well. On behalf of Aransas National Wildlife Refuge, I would like to express our heartfelt appreciation for your generous support in restoring a significant section of the Aransas National Wildlife Refuge. Your commitment to environmental conservation is making a profound difference in our efforts to revitalize the natural habitats that are essential for the survival of countless species.

Thanks to your assistance, we can eliminate the dense stands of invasive running live oak and work towards restoring the high-quality tallgrass prairie and wetland systems that once thrived in this area. This monumental effort will not only enhance the habitat for the majestic whooping crane but will also benefit a variety of grassland and wetland-dependent species, including those that are threatened, endangered, or of concern.

Your support is instrumental as we embark on the first steps of a broader project aimed at restoring approximately 15,000 acres over the next two years. We firmly believe that with partners like you, we can achieve our conservation goals and make a lasting impact on the ecosystem.

We would love to extend an invitation for you to visit us at the refuge. It would be our pleasure to showcase the area and demonstrate the tangible impact of your generosity. We are excited to share the progress we are making, and we believe that seeing the work firsthand will highlight the significance of your contribution.

Thank you once again for your unwavering commitment to preserving our natural habitats. We are grateful for your partnership in this vital mission and look forward to continuing our work together for years to come.

Warm regards,
Donald (Keith) Westlake
Acting Refuge Manager
Aransas National Wildlife Refuge

