

Dear GOS Conservation Grants Committee,

Below is a brief summary of IBA accomplishments made possible by the 2012 Terrell Conservation Grant. As you recall, IBA received \$11,600. \$10,000 was to be used to support the replacement of failing water control structures at Altamaha WMA. The balance of \$1,600 was to support IBA Coordinator Charlie Muise's assistance on prescribed fires for ecological purposes.

1) A check in the amount of \$10,000 was written to DNR in care of David Mixon. David reported that materials were purchased to build water control structures. In the past DNR has purchased “off the shelf” structures, which typically lasted only 2-4 years before failing. Several years ago they switched to purchasing parts to build their own, much sturdier structures. It appears that these ones will last longer. David reports that the parts purchased were enough to build one complete structure, plus certain parts for several other structures. While the original grant stated that we would purchase components to build two structures, David reports that he considered which materials were already on hand, the fluctuating costs of various materials and the savings of purchasing bulk of some materials, and shipping issues when he decided what to purchase with this money. He informs me that the end result is that the money went further this way, and the grant did allow more than one structure to be replaced. One structure that was replaced using the GOS grant funds was the control structure for the Ansley Hodges/Marsh project, pictures of which are below. This is the only waterfowl refuge habitat that we currently have on Champney Island. The previous structure was damaged and leaking. Ducks recently seen there include wood ducks, multiple pairs/small flock of mottled ducks, and multiple herons and egrets.

2) Charlie Muise helped on the following burns (miles traveled):

1. Piedmont NWR on 3/18/12 (80)
2. Burn with TNC on 3/6/12, (30)
3. Burn Fall Line Sandhills Natural Area on 3/7-8/12 (30)
4. Blackjack Crossing on 4/12/12 (60)
5. Black Creek 5/21/12 (20)
6. Moody Forest 5/23/12 (>200)
7. Black Creek Natural Area burn 2/19/2013. (60)

Additionally, Charlie attended several meetings and training sessions across the state in support of this work.

Thank you very much for your support.

Sincerely,  
Charlie Muise,  
Coordinator  
Georgia Important Bird Areas Conservation Program



This is the water control structure that allows DNR personnel to increase or decrease water levels on the Ansley-Hodges M.A.R.S.H. Project on Champney Island. A grant from GOS allowed this structure to replace one that had failed.



A picture of the Ansley Hodges M.A.R.S.H. Project, taken 20 Feb, 2014, showing improved quality of the wetland for waterfowl and other wetland species.