

FINAL REPORT

As Required by

THE ENDANGERED SPECIES PROGRAM

TEXAS

Grant No. TX E-98-RL

Endangered and Threatened Species Conservation

Long Ranch Conservation Easement

Prepared by:

Ted Hollingsworth



Carter Smith
Executive Director

Clayton Wolf
Acting Division Director

15 June 2011

FINAL REPORT

STATE: Texas GRANT NUMBER: TX E-98-RL

GRANT TITLE: Long Ranch Conservation Easement

REPORTING PERIOD: 1 June 2008 – 31 May 2011

OBJECTIVE(S):

To acquire a conservation easement on the 550-acre Long Ranch, adjacent to Bastrop State Park, including occupied critical habitat for the Houston Toad, with terms that clearly advance the recovery of the toad.

Segment Objectives:

- 4.1. Notification received of grant approval.
- 4.2. Terms of conservation easement and management plan finalized. TPWD will solicit recommendations from USFWS and other partners listed below, in crafting conservation easement language acceptable to the owners while insuring enhancement and preservation of biological values important for toad survival and recovery. Specific terms and conditions of easement will affect appraised value of conservation easement.
- 4.3. Property is appraised in order to determine value of conservation easement.
- 4.4. Boundary survey of property is conducted. Description of allowable development footprints prepared as an exhibit to the conservation easement.
- 4.5. Conservation Easement is executed by Long family and Texas Parks and Wildlife Department and recorded. Closing is scheduled based on date of receipt of grant funds.
- 4.6. Management and monitoring of Houston toads and their habitats is ongoing through this process.
- 4.7. Education and outreach efforts are ongoing through this process.
- 4.8. Implementation of any new management procedures required by the conservation easement. This includes the letting of contract(s) for management activities and monitoring

Significant Deviations:

See Attachment A.

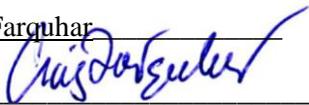
Summary Of Progress:

Negotiations with landowners of subject property did not materialize as planned, grant will close with funds unexpended (see Attachment A for further detail).

Location: Bastrop County, Texas

Cost: Costs were not available at time of this report, they will be available upon completion of the Final Report and conclusion of the project.

Prepared by: Craig Farquhar Date: 15 June 2011

Approved by:  Date: 15 June 2011
C. Craig Farquhar

ATTACHMENT A

TX E-98-RL

FINAL REPORT 2011

Long Ranch Conservation Easement

Principal Investigator: Ted Hollingsworth (TPWD)

Despite receiving a letter from Bob Long agreeing to the sale of a conservation easement on the ~500 acre Long Ranch at appraised value, the family wanted to limit the easement to specific portions of the ranch, largely existing wetlands, and proved to be unwilling sellers at appraised value. Several meetings with the family resulted in a draft conservation easement "map" which was vetted with USFWS Austin Field Office Staff. Their assessment is that the configuration proposed by the family would score very low under Section 6 grant criteria, because much of the proposed protection is afforded under the Clean Water Act, and that there is not sufficient recovery value added by the proposal offered by the family to warrant funding.

TPWD staff have met with the family and agreed that the intent of the original proposal cannot be met at this time.