

FINAL REPORT

As Required By

THE ENDANGERED SPECIES PROGRAM

TEXAS

Grant No. E-1-11

Endangered and Threatened Species Conservation

Project Number WER5(73): Endangered Species Information and Education II

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November 30, 1999

FINAL REPORT

STATE: Texas **GRANT NUMBER:** E-1-11

PROGRAM TITLE: Endangered and Threatened Species Conservation

PERIOD COVERED: September 1, 1996 through August 31, 1999

PROJECT NUMBER: WER5(73)

PROJECT TITLE: Endangered Species Information and Education II

OBJECTIVE:

To provide information regarding endangered species status, conservation, and management to the general public (including land managers), educators, and students in Texas.

ACTUAL SEGMENT COSTS: None reported.

PREPARED BY: Ann Miller **DATE:** November 30, 1999

APROVED BY:  **DATE:** 1/13/2000

Neil E. Carter
Federal Aid Coordinator

SECTION 6 FINAL REPORT

Objective:

To provide information regarding endangered species status, conservation, and management to the general public (including land managers), educators, and students in Texas.

Results:

1. Production of Fact Sheets on endangered and threatened plants targeted for landowners.

The Endangered Resources program created fifteen fact sheets on endangered and threatened plants targeted for landowners including: white bladderpod, large-fruited sand verbena, Johnston's frankenia, ashy dogweed, Texas poppy-mallow, Texas ayenia, Texas trailing phlox, slender rush-pea, South Texas ambrosia, black lace cactus, Texas prairie dawn, Navasota ladies'-tresses, tobusch fishhook cactus, star cactus, and Walker's manioc. Each fact sheet includes information about the plant's basic biology, where it is found, its habitat, a drawing of the plant, and ways citizens can help maintain it.

2. Revision and reprinting of the booklet entitled *The Natural Heritage of Texas*, originally printed in 1986 by the General Land Office and Texas Nature Conservancy.

Texas Parks and Wildlife artists worked with Wildlife Diversity staff to create a full-color poster insert for *Texas Parks and Wildlife* magazine called, "Rare Beauties of Texas." The work is complete and waiting for corporate sponsorship to allow printing of the poster insert.

The booklet, *The Natural Heritage of Texas*, was not revised as planned because the original was accidentally destroyed. Instead we have worked with our graphics department and our magazine to create a poster called "Rare Beauties of Texas" that will fit as an insert into our magazine. The poster is accompanied by text which discusses rare Texas wildlife in each of the natural regions of Texas. *Texas Parks and Wildlife* magazine has a distribution of 48,000, a significantly larger audience than we could normally reach. At this time, we are negotiating to get a corporate sponsor for the poster insert. We are asking the sponsor to subsidize the printing of an extra 2,000 of these posters beyond what will be inserted into the magazine.

3. Texas Endangered and Threatened Species poster and interpretive booklet.

Five thousand full-color, 37" X 25" posters, "Endangered and Threatened Species of Texas," plus the 36-page interpretive booklets were designed and printed. We have distributed this poster at workshops, presentations, and through the mail. Printed flyers have also been used to publicize the poster.

4. Rare Texas Wildlife Trading Cards.

The Rare Texas Wildlife Trading Card set contains full color artist's drawings of 12 endangered or threatened animals of Texas. The back of each card has life history and range information. When the 5,500 sets of cards were delivered to the TP&W warehouse, publicity flyers were designed and sent to contacts on a database of state park stores, museums, and nature centers. Over 700 sets of cards have been distributed so far.

5. Endangered Species Activity Book for grades 3-6.

The 51-page Endangered Species of Texas Activity book was designed with the help of an elementary teacher intern, Kathleen Jackson. It has been updated and reprinted since its original printing and is distributed to teachers attending workshops and to teachers who phone or write requests for teaching materials.

6. One-day curriculum plan on Texas endangered species targeted for grades 3-6.

The one-day curriculum for grades 3-6 is designed to be an interdisciplinary unit to introduce students to basic concepts about biodiversity and about endangered and threatened wildlife. This unit can be a stepping-stone to get students involved in a longer study about rare Texas wildlife.

7. Five to seven-day curriculum unit on Texas endangered species targeted for grades 4-7.

The five to seven-day curriculum designed for grades 4-7 focuses on each of the natural regions of Texas. The curriculum includes a 68-minute video, "Ecoregions of Texas," and viewing guide. The goals of the curriculum are listed in the teacher's guide along with student pages, a teacher's key, and a "Texas Trivia" game to be used as a review or assessment tool.

8. Community education project focussed on building public awareness about the Houston Toad.

The Houston Toad Community Education project has several components. The first component is a portable exhibit with photographs and text about the Houston Toad. It is available on loan from Bastrop State Park where it is on display when it is not at other locations. Along with the exhibit, a brochure gives additional information about the Houston Toad, its distribution, why it is endangered, what is being done to help the Houston Toad, and what citizens can do to help.

The second component is an educators' packet consisting of a slide presentation, a taped call of the Houston Toad, a color picture, and classroom activities focused on the Houston Toad. These educators' packets were mailed to each school in the eleven counties where Houston Toads are believed to occur.

9. Workshops on endangered species.

In order to present activities at teacher workshops that relate directly to Texas' rare species, staff devoted time to the development of several activities. These activities plus a slide presentation about Texas' endangered and threatened species formed the core of the teacher workshops. Teachers also received many free educational materials developed by the branch and were able to purchase other materials at very low cost. The following is a list of workshops given under this objective:

April 20, 1996 at Wild Basin Preserve in Austin
October 19, 1996 at the Pineywoods Conservation Center
October 31, 1996 at the CAST Conference in Austin
January 18, 1997 at the San Antonio Zoo
April 26, 1997 in Orange, Texas
October 13, 1997 at the Austin Zoo
February 7, 1998 in Corpus Christi
March 21, 1998 at Balmorhea State Park
April 13, 1999 in Nacogdoches
June 16, 1999 at McKinney Roughs near Bastrop

10. Teachers packets geared for different regions of Texas plus detailed descriptions/order blanks of educational materials we have available.

Seven different regional classroom activity packets were developed to provide educators with materials to teach their students about local rare wildlife and about general wildlife concepts. With an average of 10-15 requests by teachers per month for information about endangered and threatened species, much time was devoted to compiling and distributing the teachers' packets. Information in the packets was reviewed often and revised when needed to insure accuracy. Order forms were developed to facilitate distribution of all educational materials.

To publicize our teaching materials and workshop opportunities, we staffed booths and/or presented at the Interpreters' Conference, the Conference for the Advancement of Science Teaching, and at other environmental education conferences.