



TEXAS PRAIRIE WETLANDS PROJECT

*A Cooperative Program Supporting Waterfowl
& Wetland Conservation on Private Lands*



915 Front Street
Richmond, Texas 77469-4439
Phone: (832) 595-0663 / Fax: (281) 239-8302
E-mail: texasprairiewetlandsproject@gmail.com



I am writing in reference to your recent inquiry about the Texas Prairie Wetlands Project (TPWP). The TPWP is a joint venture between Ducks Unlimited, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, Natural Resources Conservation Service, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The TPWP is implemented in support of the Gulf Coast Joint Venture and the North American Waterfowl Management Plan (NAWMP). This program offers both technical and financial assistance to private landowners for the enhancement, restoration, and creation of waterfowl habitat.

The primary goal of the TPWP is to provide high quality seasonal winter habitat for migratory waterfowl and other wetland dependent wildlife. The availability of this critical habitat enables migratory birds to return to their northern nesting grounds in the spring in peak physical condition, thereby increasing their reproductive potential. Because over 95% of all the remaining wetlands are located on private land, the key to the future of our waterfowl resource lies in the hands of private landowners such as you.

Enclosed, please find some general information about opportunities available through the TPWP. **Please fill out the information on the enclosed technical assistance request form and return it to the Texas Prairie Wetlands Project Office in Richmond, Texas.** Upon receipt of this form, I will contact you to schedule a site visit with you on your property. If you have any questions, please feel free to give me a call. On behalf of Ducks Unlimited and the TPWP, I would like to thank you for your interest in waterfowl conservation, and look forward to working with you to help preserve our valuable waterfowl resources for future generations to enjoy.

Thanks, and if you have any questions, please give me a shout.

Sincerely,

Matt Kaminski
Regional Biologist
Ducks Unlimited, Inc.

Enclosures



TEXAS PRAIRIE WETLANDS PROJECT

*A Cooperative Program Supporting Waterfowl
& Wetland Conservation on Private Lands*



915 Front Street
Richmond, Texas 77469
Phone: (832) 595-0663 / Fax: (281) 239-8302
E-mail: texasprairiewetlandsproject@gmail.com



PROGRAMMATIC & COST-SHARE GUIDELINES

Program Summary:

In 1991, Ducks Unlimited, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and the Natural Resources Conservation Service partnered to create the Texas Prairie Wetlands Project (TPWP). This partnership was established to help deliver the habitat objectives set forth by the Gulf Coast Joint Venture (GCJV), whose primary goal is to provide habitat for wintering waterfowl and ensure that they survive and return to the breeding grounds in good condition. The TPWP works with private landowners to restore, enhance, and create shallow-water wetlands throughout a 28-county focus area. This program provides financial cost-share assistance to private landowners for habitat enhancement, levee construction, and the installation of water control structures and delivery systems. This program also provides technical assistance (biological and engineering) and a detailed management plan to private landowners. Projects include the management of harvested croplands, waterfowl food plots, moist soil areas, forested wetlands, and other created or natural existing wetlands to increase biodiversity for waterfowl, as well as other wetland-dependent species.

TPWP Guidelines:

1. Projects shall protect, restore, enhance, and/or create wetlands along with adjoining habitat/buffer zones.
2. Project size should be a minimum of twenty (20) acres of surface water or a combination of smaller sites that equal at least twenty (20) acres. Sites less than 20 acres will be evaluated on a case by case basis.
3. During an average year, shallow surface water (10-18 inches) from precipitation, run-off, wells, or irrigation provider must be present for at least four (4) months between September 1 and April 30. Water may also be maintained on the project site during spring and summer if it is compatible with agricultural, wildlife, and other land use practices.
4. Roller chopping, light disking, and rolling moist-soil plants are acceptable management practices. *Please note that any planted vegetation can only be manipulated by normal and accepted agricultural practices within your county/region, and we recommend that you*

read current U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service baiting regulations prior to manipulating vegetation (http://www.fws.gov/le/huntfish/waterfowl_baiting.htm).

5. To help ensure that waterfowl receive the maximum benefits from projects funded through the TPWP, disturbance in and around project sites should be kept to a minimum during winter. Thus, it is **recommended** that hunting of each management unit be restricted to no more than three (3) mornings per week.
6. Due to the increased risks of mottled duck hybridization and disease transmission to other migratory waterfowl, Texas Prairie Wetlands cooperators will agree to refrain from releasing any waterfowl on or near project sites for the period of their agreement.

TPWP Application Procedures:

1. Landowner must complete a Technical Assistance Request Form, a NRCS 1619, W-9, and Related Party Disclosure Form and return it to the TPWP office.
2. A TPWP Biologist will schedule a site visit with the landowner to assess the potential for a project. If a viable project meets programmatic guidelines and the landowner is interested in the program, a Wetland Development Agreement (WDA) will be drafted.
3. The WDA, project design, and costs estimates are returned to the landowner for their review and signature.
4. The TPWP Committee will review each project to ensure that it meets the criteria for a TPWP. Projects will be ranked based on biological significance relative to the objectives of the GCJV, potential project success, and overall cost-effectiveness.
5. Projects must be strategically located throughout key habitat areas identified by the GCJV taking into account their proximity to nearby public and private waterfowl areas.
6. The WDA will be for a term for a minimum of 10 years.
7. Landowner contribution (cash and inkind) to the project is an important funding consideration.
8. Projects may be combined with USDA conservation programs.
9. Overall habitat benefit to cost-ratio is a primary funding consideration.

Construction and Reimbursement of Funds:

1. A pre-construction meeting will be held with the landowner and contractor prior to any construction activities.
2. No funds will be reimbursed until project construction is complete and meets engineering specifications.
3. A final inspection of the completed project must be made prior to reimbursement.

3. Once the project has met final inspection, the cooperator will provide the TPWP Biologist with all invoices related to the project expenses. Reimbursement will follow within 4-6 weeks.
4. The cooperator will be responsible for hiring and paying all contractors.
5. Projects shall be constructed to maintain functional and engineering integrity for a minimum of 10 years.
6. The cooperator may receive up to 65% cost share (based on the number of acres of the project site and the cost/acre).

The cooperator will be responsible for at least 35% of improvement costs.

7. The cooperator is responsible for routine operation and maintenance to the project site and will allow a Field Representative ingress and egress for monitoring purposes.
8. Ducks Unlimited, Inc. shall sign the WDA and fund the project using funds available through the TPWP.

The TPWP is jointly funded and delivered by:

DUCKS UNLIMITED, INC.
TEXAS PARKS & WILDLIFE DEPARTMENT
U.S. FISH & WILDLIFE SERVICE
USDA-NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE



TEXAS PRAIRIE WETLANDS PROJECT

*A Cooperative Program Supporting Waterfowl
& Wetland Conservation on Private Lands*



915 Front Street
Richmond, Texas 77469-4434
Phone: (832) 595-0663 / Fax: (281) 239-8302
E-mail: texasprairiewetlandsproject@gmail.com



TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE REQUEST FORM

Ownership and Location

Owner/Operator: _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Address: _____

Phone #s: Work: _____ Cell: _____ Home: _____

E-mail Address: _____

Farm Name: _____ FSA Farm #: _____

County: _____ Town/direction: _____

Legal Description (Summary): _____

Directions to Property: _____

Referred to TPWP by: _____

Preferred Date(s)/Time(s) for On-Site Visit: _____

Landscape Baseline Total Acreage: _____

Potential Project (acreage, habitat type): _____

Project Objectives: _____

Please return to: Matt Kaminski – Regional Biologist, Ducks Unlimited, Inc. (Address at top of page)

The Texas Prairie Wetlands Project is jointly funded and delivered by:
DUCKS UNLIMITED, INC.
TEXAS PARKS & WILDLIFE DEPARTMENT
U.S. FISH & WILDLIFE SERVICE
USDA NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE



Landowner Request for Technical Guidance



- 1. I hereby request technical assistance of the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, Wildlife Division field staff, in my efforts to enhance habitat and manage wildlife populations on lands under my control.
- 2. Permission is granted to the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, Wildlife Division field staff, to enter upon these lands and conduct, at a mutually agreeable time, wildlife and habitat inventories which may include the use of ground vehicles, aircraft, or nighttime spotlight counts to gather data necessary for the development of management recommendations.

Section 12.0251 of the Parks and Wildlife Code provides that information collected in response to a landowner request for technical guidance on private land relating to the specific location, species identification or quantity of any animal or plant life is confidential and may not be disclosed. The Department may release game census, harvest, habitat or program information if the information is summarized in a manner that prevents the identification of an individual or specific parcel of land and the landowner.

- 3. I understand that recommendations will be provided to me in the form of oral and/or written guidelines, which are non-binding and voluntary on my part. By my signature, I certify that I am the owner of the below-described property or that I have been specifically authorized by the landowner to act as their agent in this matter.

Signed: _____
Landowner or Authorized Agent Date

Landowner/Agent Name (Please Print): _____

Name of Property: _____

County: _____ Acres: _____

Mailing Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Phone Number(s): _____

Home: _____ Office: _____ Other: _____

E-mail: _____

Title V Compliance: The Texas Parks and Wildlife Department provides this service to land managers without discrimination in respect to race, color, national origin, age or handicap.

Texas Parks and Wildlife Department maintains the information collected through this form. With few exceptions, you are entitled to be informed about the information we collect. Under Sections 552.021 and 552.023 of the Texas Government Code, you are also entitled to receive and review the information. Under Section 559.004, you are also entitled to have this information corrected. For assistance call 512-389-8119.

RELATED PARTY DISCLOSURE FORM

Ducks Unlimited, Inc. has policies that: (1) require Board of Directors' approval for certain conservation activities on the property of a "related party"; or (2) prohibit the purchase of an interest in real property from a "related party" by Ducks Unlimited, Inc. or Wetlands America Trust, Inc.

As part Ducks Unlimited, Inc.'s review process, please complete this form and sign where indicated. A box below must be marked.

The undersigned represent and certifies that a person or entity that is an owner of the property is or has been in the last two years:

- ☐ 1. A Wetlands America Trust, Inc. Trustee, Officer, employee, or Board of Trustees' Committee member;
- ☐ 2. A Ducks Unlimited, Inc. Director, Officer, employee; Board of Directors' Committee member, or State Chairman;
- ☐ 3. A Ducks Unlimited Canada Director, Officer, employee; or Board of Directors' Committee member; or
- ☐ 4. A Ducks Unlimited de Mexico, A.C. Director, Officer, employee; or Board of Directors' Committee member;
- ☐ 5. A member of the immediate family of a person listed in points 1 through 4. As used herein, "immediate family" shall mean: spouse; children; parents; brothers; sisters; grandparents; grandchildren; mother-in-law; father-in-law; son-in-law; daughter-in-law; sister-in-law; brother-in-law; or legal guardian;
- ☐ 6. An agent of a person listed in points 1 through 4;
- ☐ 7. A for-profit corporation, company, partnership, group or organization in which a person listed in points 1 through 4 or a member of their immediate family holds an executive or Board of Directors' position or a controlling interest;
- ☐ 8. A family or corporate foundation in which a person listed in points 1 through 4 or a member of their immediate family holds an executive or Board of Directors' position or a controlling interest; or
- ☐ 9. None of the above.

Signature

Date