TENTH 10 ANNIVERSARY

INVESTING IN WILDLIFE SINCE 2000

STATE WILDLIFE GRANTS

Celebrating 10 Years!

State Wildlife Grants Conservation Funding

Celebrating 10 Years of Conservation Funding
State Wildlife Grants
Local Projects

TEAMING WITH WILDLIFE
a natural investment

Celebrating 10 Years of Conservation Funding!

Texas will celebrate *Teaming With Wildlife Week* Sep. 4-12 to mark the 10th anniversary of the federal State Wildlife Grants (SWG) program. Since 2000, this funding source has provided more than $30 million to Texas. Local SWG funded projects include:

- Houston-area schoolyard habitats/outdoor classrooms (Yates High School, Rhoads Elementary, et al.)
- Landowner workshops (Wildlife Habitat Management and Nature Tourism Marketing)
- Water/air quality projects (Tapley Tributary, Sam Houston Park, et al.)
- Erosion control and water quality projects (along Buffalo Bayou)
- Nature tourism (Waugh Drive Bridge Bat Viewing Experience)
- Golf course management guidance to reduce runoff and improve adjacent water quality (Kingwood, Falcon Point, et al.)
- Brown-field reclamation (Buffalo Bend Nature Park)
- Texas Master Naturalist program (4,500 members, volunteer service $10 million value)
- Habitat management and landowner assistance to help Texas fish and wildlife and their habitats (Houston toad, oyster reef restoration, blue crab monitoring, lesser prairie chicken, coastal prairie conservation, et al.)

"Texas is blessed with an extraordinary diversity of native plants and animals that encompass our state's natural heritage," said Carter Smith, TPWD executive director and national Teaming With Wildlife committee chair for the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies. "I take great pride in the fact that our many non-profit conservation organization and private landowner partners involved with the Teaming with Wildlife Coalition are working so diligently and effectively to ensure that these special wildlife resources continue to flourish."

"We're talking about dollars here, but this is really about touching the lives of people and the power to make a difference for the wildlife of Texas," said David Braun, CEO of Plateau Land and Wildlife Management company and leader of the Teaming with Wildlife Texas coalition. "Most people probably don't know where the money comes from for wildlife conservation in Texas. But we want them to know our broad grass-roots coalition of diverse interests works very hard to support this federal funding, which is critical for all Texans alive today and for generations to come."

TEAMING WITH WILDLIFE
a natural investment

Regional Planning and Technical Assistance

Among other projects, SWG funds have supported TPWD urban wildlife biologists stationed in Dallas-Fort Worth, Houston, Austin, San Antonio, El Paso and the Rio Grande Valley. These unique experts have one foot in the Texas rural wildlife tradition and the other in fast-growing urban zones where most people now live. Their work focuses on “nongame” wildlife species that are not hunted or fished, and it connects with conserving open green space and water quality for people and wildlife. From 2001-2008, SWG provided $3.6 million for urban wildlife work in Texas cities.

energycorridor

TPWD urban biologists provide technical assistance and habitat-related advice on regional initiatives. One example is the West Houston Trails Master Plan with the Energy Corridor.

Working with Regional, City and County Parks in the Greater Houston Area

State Wildlife Grant - funded biologists assist H-GAC, City, and County governments with regional park projects, through habitat recommendations for grant applications, ongoing vegetative and habitat management, and visitor nature-related opportunities. Several park-related organizations and agencies, including Buffalo Bayou Partnership, Houston Parks Board, Houston Parks and Recreation Dept., Missouri City Parks Dept., Montgomery County Parks, City of Richmond Parks Dept, Harris County Parks Dept., and many others have received technical assistance.

LOCATION MAP: SITE

City of Houston Planning Department

Buffalo Bend Nature Park project

BEFORE

Buffalo Bend Nature Park

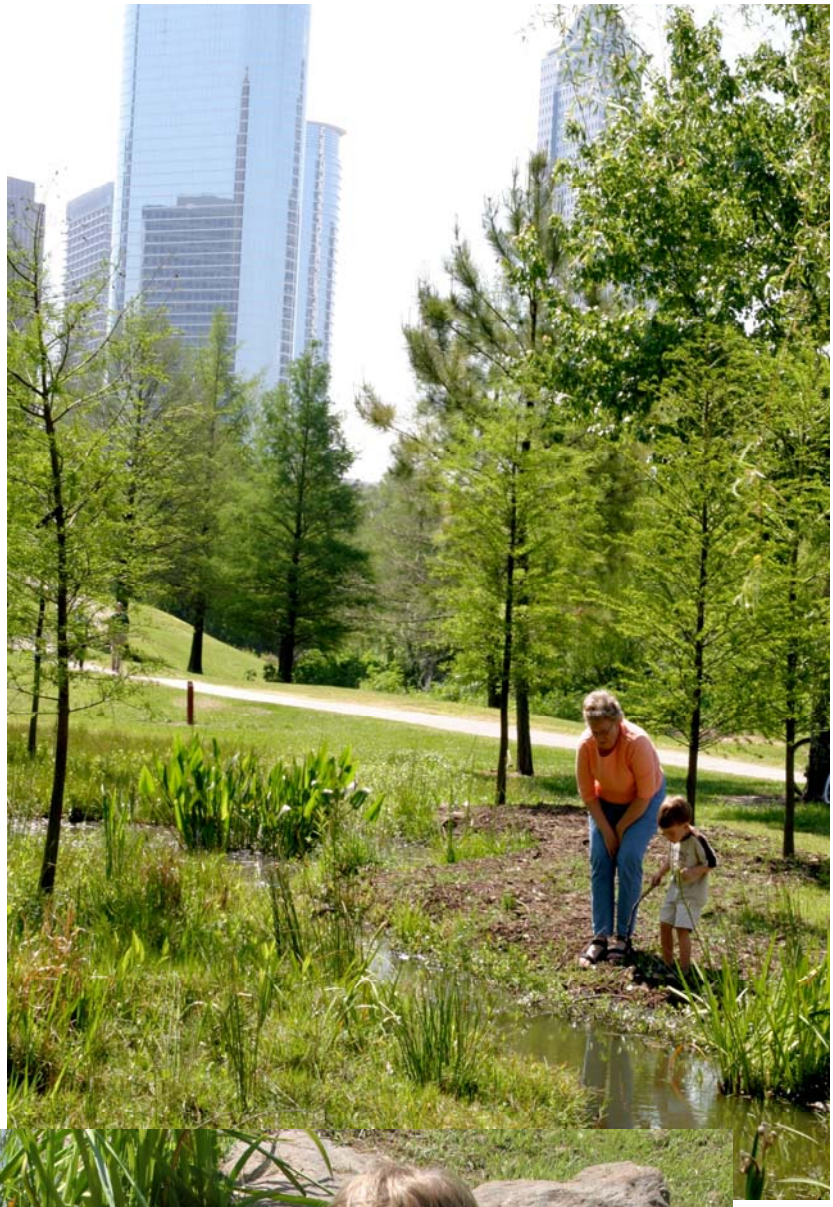
AFTER

Texas Master Naturalists donated thousands of volunteer hours toward habitat restoration projects in the Houston area. Here they are planting native vegetation at Buffalo Bend Nature Park.

Habitat Restoration Projects

Tapley Tributary, Buffalo Bayou, Houston

Buffalo Bayou is an important waterway in Houston. Texas Master Naturalists are working with Buffalo Bayou Partnership to restore and maintain the natural habitat along the bayou by planting trees and removing invasive vegetation.



Biologists are working with Buffalo Bayou Partnership, Harris County Flood Control, and many other organizations on the Buffalo Bayou Environmental Advisory Committee to help restore Buffalo Bayou to a healthier and more natural state.

Habitat Demonstration Area

Houston Zoo

Through the urban wildlife biologists, SWG funds have also provided essential support for the **Texas Master Naturalists Program**, which has more than 4,500 highly trained volunteers in 38 chapters statewide.

In 2007, the value of TMN service was estimated at more than $10 million.

Their work has stretched across more than 80,000 acres of land and reached more than 100,000 youth, adults and private landowners each year.

Here the Master Naturalists are planting a native habitat demonstration area at the Houston Zoo.

Habitat Restoration and Enhancement

Missouri City – Buffalo Run Park

TPWD Urban biologists provide habitat management and development recommendations to city and county park departments. This project showcases partnership projects with Missouri City Parks Dept., including planting a children's butterfly garden, restoring sections of native prairie, and recommendations for native tree selection for an Eagle Scout planting.

‘Potential Wildlife Issue Becomes Golden Opportunity’
Nature Tourism and Education In Action

Waugh Drive Bat Colony on Buffalo Bayou, Houston

SWG funding allowed TPWD biologists to partner with Houston Parks and Recreation Dept., Buffalo Bayou Partnership, Bat Conservation International, the Texas Master Naturalists, and other Houston Bat Team volunteers to turn a potentially negative wildlife issue into an exciting educational experience for families.

The Waugh Bridge Bat Colony and viewing experience is recognized worldwide, attracting visitors from all over the United States, Europe, Middle East, Asia, India, Australia, Canada, Latin America, and many others. Those visitors spend money on hotels, restaurants, and other attractions here in Houston.

Public Land Habitat Restoration

Lone Star College Outdoor Learning Area, Cyfair Campus

SWG funding provided opportunities for biologists to work with community college staff and students on habitat management, species research and documentation on campus properties.

In addition, TPWD funded five summer student internship opportunities through SWG monies.

Conserving Green Space in Communities

SWG funding enabled wildlife biologists and Texas Master Naturalists to partner with college staff and students to create walking trails and signage at this Kingwood campus. The natural habitat and park-like amenities encourage exploration, learning, and peaceful relaxation for both the college and community.

Biologists also give recommendations on greenbelt vegetation, wildlife, and habitat management.

Providing Information and Technical Assistance to Large Land Managers

Habitat & Wildlife Conservation on Golf Courses

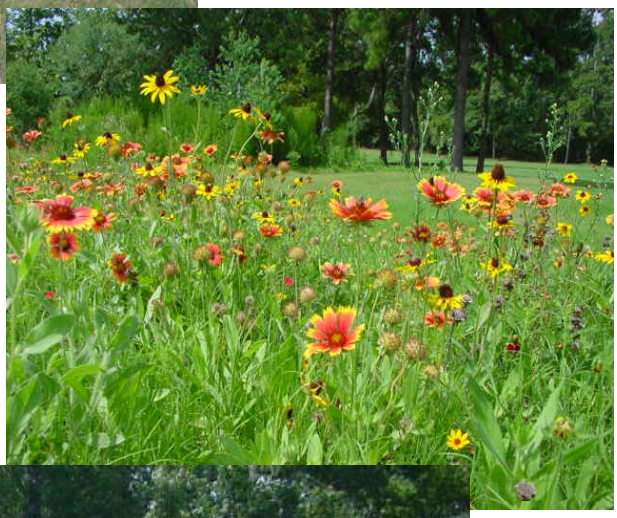
Holding habitat training workshops for golf course staff and providing habitat recommendations for Audubon Signature Golf Course Habitat Certification

This TPWD biologist and Falcon Point course managers discuss erosion control through the use of native vegetation, which also improves water quality

Providing Information and Technical Assistance to Large Land Managers

Habitat & Wildlife Conservation on Golf Courses

New habitat established in the “roughs” at Kingwood Country Club



Restored natural habitat decreases the need and expenses of mowing, reduces air emissions, reduces runoff generated on the course, as well as reducing pesticides/herbicides running off the course into nearby Lake Houston

Providing Information and Technical Assistance to Landowners

Habitat & Wildlife Conservation on Private Lands

SWG funds allow TPWD biologists to assist private landowners with wildlife and habitat management. Workshops, both classroom and in-the-field, provide vital conservation management strategies to landowners. These workshops are held annually in Houston, attracting landowners who manage thousands of acres across the state.

Often, the workshops provide a ‘hands-on’ aspect to learning. Here the landowners are taking a closer look at deer diets and tooth wear so they will be able to manage habitat and age structure of deer populations on their own properties.

Ranches and small landowners use hunting opportunities on their properties to generate income. Hunting in Texas is a billion dollar business.

SWG funds have made possible TPWD's Landowner Incentive Program, providing grants for private ranchers and others to restore and protect habitat for rare species. Such efforts are critical, since more than 95 percent of the Texas landscape is privately owned. Here landowners are replanting with native grass and wildflower seed to benefit bobwhite quail restoration.

Since 2000, this funding source has provided more than $30 million to Texas to help fish and wildlife and their habitats, including species that are not hunted or fished. SWG dollars support a wide array of Texas research projects, including ways to detect and respond to toxic golden alga that has killed millions of fish, plus research and monitoring for pronghorn antelope, black bear, ocelots, alligator gar, striped bass and many other species and habitats. Since 2003, SWG has provided close to $2.4 million for Texas harmful alga research alone, and close to $1 million for wildlife research. Many of these projects were conducted on private land with the help of private landowners.

SWG funds also sustain the TPWD Wildlife Diversity program, which focuses on "species of concern" in Texas and recommends strategies to reverse declines before animals become threatened or endangered, such as the lesser prairie chicken in the Panhandle, and freshwater turtles and mussels in East Texas. Since 2001, SWG has provided $4.1 million for wildlife diversity science in Texas.

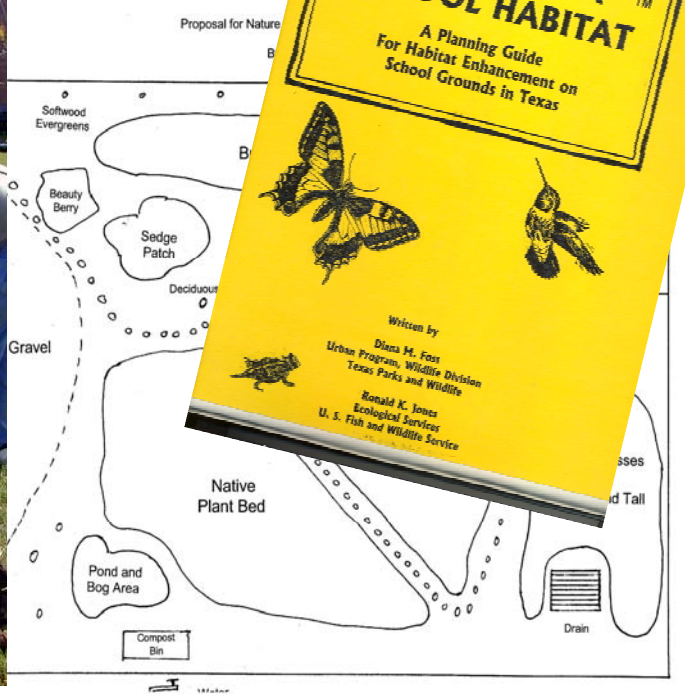
Conserving Green Space and Helping Today's Youth Connect with Nature

Master Naturalist leading students on a trail clean-up at Montgomery County Preserve, part of the **Spring Creek Greenway** linkage of parks and trails.

Educating Future Naturalists and Land Managers
"Learning about Backyard Wildlife"

SWG funding provides opportunities to educate tomorrow's naturalists about the natural world. Here students from Williams Elementary and Meyer Elementary are learning about urban wildlife and predator/prey relationships.

SWG funds provide School Habitat teacher training materials, workshops and student outdoor learning opportunities.



Habitat Planning and 'Hands-On' Assistance

Yates Nature and Outdoor Learning Area
Yates High School, Houston

SWG funding creates wonderful opportunities to work with future land stewards – today's students! At Yates High School, TPWD Urban biologists worked with Construction Trades and Horticulture students and teachers to design and plant a natural outdoor classroom. The plants attract birds, butterflies, and other wildlife for student observation and on-campus research.

SWG funds provided 10 Summer Internships for Yates High School students and funded 2 Summer Internships for Texas Southern University students.

Two of the Yates High School interns received college scholarships to attend Texas Southern University through the partnership.

SWG funds provided all plants and materials.

Outdoor Learning Area and Natural Habitat
“American Naturetum Study Site”

Rhoads Elementary

TPWD Urban biologists partnered with the Nature Heritage Society, National Wildlife Federation, and Earth Tomorrow high school students to design and install an outdoor learning area for Rhoads Elementary and the community.

BEFORE

AFTER

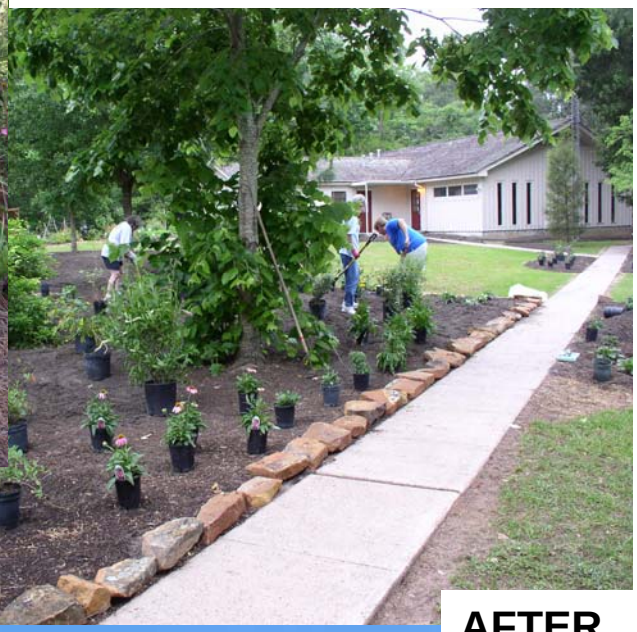
New Habitat Development

Wildscape Demonstration Habitat
W. Goodrich Jones State Forest, Conroe

BEFORE

This public area is located behind the Texas Forest Service District office in Conroe. Photos showing the area **BEFORE** the Wildscape Demonstration Habitat was installed.

Completed Wildscape Demonstration Habitat. Texas Master Naturalist volunteers, TPWD biologists, and Texas Forest Service staff planted the habitat to showcase native and beneficial plants for wildlife. Native plant species reduce water usage, reduce the need for herbicides, and provide food and nectar to wildlife. SWG funds provided all of the plants and materials.



AFTER

Habitat Restoration and Enhancement

Waste Management Site – Atascocita Landfill, Humble Area

Biologists provide technical assistance with habitat restoration projects that benefit native wildlife and vegetation.

Texas Master Naturalists, Houston Zoo Conservation Crew teens, and Waste Management staff work to create a beautiful chimney swift nesting tower. The nesting site enhances the Waste Management habitat, provides critically needed nesting cover for chimney swifts, and serves as an educational demonstration for the public visitors.

Texas Marks 10 Years, $30 Million in State Wildlife Grants Federal Funding

Funding Is Key to Aid Species, Habitats in Texas Conservation Action Plan

AUSTIN - Texas will celebrate *Teaming With Wildlife Week* Sep. 4-12 to mark the 10th anniversary of the federal State Wildlife Grants (SWG) program. Since 2000, this funding source has provided more than $30 million for Texas to help fish and wildlife and their habitats, including species that are not hunted or fished.

Nationwide, the program has provided federal funding for conservation projects totaling more than $573 million to state agencies such as Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, which has received about $3 million per year for Texas conservation in the past decade. Since TPWD has had to match federal grant dollars by at least 35 percent, total on-the-ground conservation funding for Texas is actually more than $40 million since 2000.

In Texas, SWG has made possible diverse conservation efforts involving almost every conceivable creature in every type of habitat--birds, mammals, fish, prairies, forests, rivers, bays (see complete project list online). Examples include the lesser prairie chicken on West Texas prairies, black bear in East Texas forests, ocelot on South Texas plains, and freshwater mussels signaling water quality in rivers across the state.

“We’re talking about dollars here, but this is really about touching the lives of people and the power to make a difference for the wildlife of Texas,” said David Braun, CEO of Plateau Land and Wildlife Management company and leader of the Teaming with Wildlife Texas coalition. “Most people probably don’t know where the money comes from for wildlife conservation in Texas. But we want them to know our broad grass-roots coalition of diverse interests works very hard to support this federal funding, which is critical for all Texans alive today and for generations to come.”

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For many decades, North American game animal conservation has been paid for through hunting and fishing license sales and federal excise taxes on hunting and fishing equipment. In 1938, Congress created the Pittman-Robertson/Wildlife Restoration federal aid program.

In 1950, federal lawmakers followed up with the similar Dingell-Johnson/Sport Fish Restoration program. This highly successful effort has made possible the restoration of deer, turkey, game fish and a host of other game species, many of which have since come back from severe depletion to record abundance.

In 2000, Congress recognized a need to support states' actions to prevent federal threatened and endangered listings under the Endangered Species Act. The SWG program helps support conservation and recovery of non-game wildlife before they become more costly to protect.

In 2005, Congress required states and territories to create conservation action plans to strategically guide the use of SWG funding. These plans focus state efforts to conserve wildlife and the lands and waters where they live for future generations of Americans.

By working with stakeholders and communities, wildlife agencies translate pressing conservation needs into practical actions and on the ground results. The Texas plan is currently being revised and will be renamed the Texas Conservation Action Plan. More information about these plans is online.

A nationwide grassroots coalition of more than 6,300 organizations and businesses known as Teaming with Wildlife has helped champion the value of SWG funding each year. The coalition's Texas chapter is made up of more than 100 nonprofit groups and businesses, comprising a who's who of wildlife conservation and environmental organizations in the state.

The Texas Teaming with Wildlife coalition is hosting a series of four briefings and tours for elected officials and news media in early September to showcase how SWG funds have been used in various Texas regions. These will take place Sep. 2 for Dallas-Fort Worth at White Rock Lake, Sep. 8 for San Antonio at Mitchell Lake Audubon Center, Sep. 8 for South Texas in Kingsville and Sep. 9 for Northeast Texas in Clarksville.

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On the Texas coast, SWG funds have helped conserve five species of sea turtles and establish a secondary nesting colony of Kemp's ridley sea turtles at Padre Island National Seashore, plus projects to protect and restore seagrasses.

All dollar amounts listed above represent the federal share of SWG grants. The value of these dollars is leveraged to greater benefit by required state matching funds.

A list detailing Texas conservation projects funded by SWG in the past decade is on the TPWD website News Roundups page.
…
On the Net:
LINK TO TPWD SWG NEWS ROUNDUP WITH PROJECT LIST HERE
http://www.wildlifeactionplans.org/
http://www.tpwd.state.tx.us/publications/pwdpubs/pwd_pl_w7000_1187a/
http://www.teaming.com/states/texas.html

Teaming with Wildlife Members - TEXAS

360 Full Circle B
Alamo Inn Lodging for Birders
Alamo Outdoor Store
Alexander Farm
Arrington Ranch
Association of Field Ornithologists (National)
Audubon Texas
Balcones Canyon Lands National Wildlife Refuge
Bat Conservation International (National)
Bayou Preservation Association
Bear Springs Blossom Nature Conservation
Believers of Worship
Bexar Audubon Society
Big Thicket Association
C.G. Blue Oak Consulting, LLC
Cat Spring Wildlife Management
Center for the Study of Tropical Birds, Inc. (National)
Central/Texas Marine Association
Clark Gardens Botanical Park
Coastal Bend Audubon Society
Coastal Bend Wildlife Photo Contest
Dallas Convention & Visitors Bureau
Earth Promise, Inc. dba Fossil Rim Wildlife Center
East Texas Woods & Water Foundation
El Paso Zoo
El Paso/Trans Pecos Audubon Society
Environmental Defense-Texas
Fayette County Rod & Gun Club
Field Guides Incorporated
Fort Worth Zoo
Frank Buck Zoo
Frank Buck Zoo in Gainesville
Franklin County Historical
Friends of Friedrich Wilderness Park
Friends of Texas Wildlife
Galveston Bay Foundation
Geoffrey Sweeney Environmental Education Center
Golden Crescent Nature Club
Guadalupe-Blanco River Trust
Gulf Coast Bird Observatory
Heard Natural Science Museum & Wildlife Sanctuary
Help Endangered Animals-Ridley Turtles
Holiday Inn of Central Forthworth
Holiday Inn of Sulphur Springs
Horned Lizard Conservation Society (National)
Houston Audubon Society
Houston Zoo
IBEW Local 583
June Leland Wildlife Foundation
Juniper Canyon Ranch
Katy Prairie Conservancy
Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center
Legacy Land Trust
Maverick Ranch-Fromme Farm
Memorial Park Conservancy
Mystic Springs Nature Preserve
National Association of Univ. Fisheries & Wildlife Programs
National Wildlife Federation-Gulf States Office
Native Prairies Association of Texas
Neal's Lodges, Inc.
Outdoor Adventure Club (Texas)
Palacios Chamber of Commerce
Photography Enthusiasts of El Paso
Pineywoods Sierra Group
Plateau Land and Wildlife Management
Port Aransas Chamber of Commerce
Rio Bravo Nature Center Foundation, Inc.
Riverhead Ranch
Rob & Bessie Welder Wildlife Foundation
Sabal Palm Audubon Center & Sanctuary
San Antonio Audubon Society
San Antonio Zoo
Scenic Galveston, Inc.
Scenic Heights Nature Preserve
South Padre Island Birding & Nature Center
Sparkling Springs Nature Preserve
Sportsmen Conservationists of Texas
Stewardship Aransas
Student Learning & Guidance Center
Texas Bluebird Society
Texas Coalition for Conservation
Texas Conservation Alliance
Texas Deer Association
Texas Hawking Association
Texas Herpetological Society
Texas Land Trust Council
Texas League of Conservation Voters
Texas Master Naturalists-Mid Coast Chapter
Texas Parks & Wildlife Department
Texas Partners in Flight
Texas Wildlife Association
Texas Wildlife Management Council
The Nature Conservancy-Texas Chapter
The Wildlife Society-Texas A&M Student Chapter
The Wildlife Society-Texas Chapter
The Wildlife Society-Texas State University
Tinks
Travis Audubon Society
Twin Lakes Audubon Society
Valley Nature Center
Victor Emanuel Nature Tours, Inc.

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TEXAS - STATE WILDLIFE GRANT PROJECTS (2001-2010)

Landowner Assistance and Public Outreach

Landowner Incentive Program	To increase acreage of private land in management for rare species, resulting in conservation on private lands
Wildlife Technical Guidance & Outreach in Urban Areas	1) To provide technical assistance to citizens, land managers and communities in order to preserve habitat and urban wildlife and provide for cost-effective public use, 2) to educate homeowners, community leaders, and educators about urban habitat and enhancement 3) to develop and disseminate information on wildlife management practices to communities and the general public, 4) to utilize volunteer programs to multiply staff investment
Education Outreach (Outdoor Kids, Project WILD)	Educate the public on responsible action concerning wildlife, habitat and conservation in the State of Texas.
World Birding Center Operations	1) Demonstrate the value of conservation through nature tourism and birding. 2) Increase and enhance birding tourism through increased public awareness of the opportunities in the area. 3) Conserve and restore more native habitat in the Lower Rio Grande Valley area through education, demonstration and partnerships.
Pastures for Upland Birds and Landowner Incentive Program for Grassland Birds	1. Provide technical and financial assistance to private landowners interested in converting Bermuda grass pastures back to naive grasses and forbs. 2. Demonstrate applied native grassland restoration techniques. 3. Conduct research to determine the most effective and economically feasible methods for restoring native grasses and forbs on bermuda grass pastures.

Wildlife Ecology and Terrestrial Ecosystems

Wildlife Diversity Science	1) Inventory and monitor the conservation status of threatened, endangered and priority TCAP species in Texas and use these data to evaluate population trends, management needs and management recommendations for rare wildlife species in Texas. 2) Recommend conservation strategies to reverse the declines of rare and nongame wildlife populations so that these species do not become threatened or endangered.

Reintroduction of Texas Horned Lizard to Central TX

Breeding Status and Habitat Associations of Altamira Oriole and Northern Beardless Tyrannulet in the Lower Rio Grande Valley

Five-year Report of Project Prairie Birds Study (Lake Jackson)

Assessment of Flow Conditions in Selected TX Springs

Population Estimation and Genetic Variability of Ocelots in S. TX

Effectiveness of Depredation-resistant Exclusionary Nest Structures for Ferruginous Pygmy Owls

Effects of Exotic Plant Spp. In Central TX Urban Habitats on Neotropical Migrant Bird Spp. Composition, Relative Abundance and Distribution

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Barton Springs Edward's Aquifer Recharge Enhancement for Conservation of Priority Habitat for the Barton Springs and Austin Blind Salamanders
Development of Survey Protocols for Detecting and Monitoring Trends in Abundance of the TX Horned Lizard
Determining the Status of the Rare Rio Grande Cooter in the S. TX Plains and Edward's Plateau Regions of TX
Ecology of the State-threatened Indigo Snake in a Managed Thornscrub Ecosystem
Snowy Plover Breeding Survey
Sabal Palm Sanctuary Habitat Restoration
Shortgrass Prairie Bird Conservation on Private Land
Coastal Prairie Conservation Initiative
Revegetation for Butterfly Conservation
Making the Case for Conservation on Private Lands
Wildlife Habitat Review
Conservation of TX Grasslands and Shrublands
Mountain Lion Monitoring
Black Bear Status in TX
Ecology of Horned Lizards
Bald Eagle Nest Survey
Winter Survey of Coastal Shorebird Concentration
Black-tailed Prarie Dog Conservation and Management in TX
Playa Lakes as Habitat Reserves for Black-tailed Prairie Dogs
Managing Ivasive Yaupon Holly in the Post Oak Savannah Ecological Region of TX
Ecology of Migrant Shorebirds on the Saline Lakes of the Southern High Plains
Management of Texas State Bison Herd
Technical Guidance and Conservation Activities at the World Birding Center
Wildlife Habitat Assessment Program
Ecology, Population Dynamics and Conservation of the Palo Duro Mouse
Arthropod Response to Habitat Management Techniques in the Arolling Plains of TX
Comparative Nest Ecology of Urban and Exurban Mississippi Kites in the Rolling Plains of TX
Bobcat Status in TX
Effectiveness of the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) Native Spp. Seeding Requirements in Providing Summer and Winter Habitat for Grassland Birds
Impact of Exotic Grasses on S. TX Bird Communities

Land and Water Priority Plan	Develop a 10-year conservation strategy/plan that addresses ecosystems and habitat types in Texas and current and future trends in outdoor recreation.
Texas Conservation Action Plan Revision	Create a conservation plan that will accomplish the following: 1) Establish a plan to evaluate the population trends, management needs and management recommendations for non-game wildlife species in Texas. 2) Recommend conservation priorities for wildlife species in greatest need of conservation. 3) Identify those ecosystems and habitat types in Texas that are significant to these wildlife species. 4) Identify issues and recommend solutions affecting the conservation of these species, ecosystems and habitats. 5) Include a process for public input into the plan, its priorities, and recommendations. 6) Begin the planning process in the fall of 2002, completing the plan by the fall of 2005, at the latest. Periodic revisions to the plan will be required.
Resource Information System	1) Evaluate the existing terrestrial and aquatic resources data sets for geospatial and content accuracy and consistency for inclusion in the Resource Information System. 2) Reconcile the accuracy and consistency of those data sets to be used in the Resource Information System application. 3) Review the existing statewide base data sets for inclusion in the Resource Information System. 4) Combine and expand the functionality of the Water Data Access and Texas Wildlife Information System applications into the Resource Information System using up-to-date internet map services technologies.
TPWD Science Review	1) Undertake a complete science review of all conservation programs. 2) Ensure that policy development, regulatory actions, and management decisions affecting fish and wildlife resources will be based on the most scientifically sound means and methods.
Borderlands Biologist	1) Create a Borderlands Biologist position to serve as the point of contact for the Wildlife Division on issues pertinent to natural resource management along the Texas-Mexico border. 2) Work with TPWD biologists and Mexican counterparts in recommending conservation strategies to address natural resource issues along the border. 3) Develop, coordinate and administer partnerships, programs, and activities for the management of game and non-game species and their habitats along the border. 4) Increase public awareness of wildlife and wildlife habitat issues being faced along the border. 5) Develop conservation strategies as guided by the TCAP and prepare for borderland resource management in the up-coming Texas Conservation Action Plan.
New Texas Joint Ventures (NABCI)	1) Create 2 new Joint Ventures in Texas (Central Texas and Prairies Joint Venture (BCR 20 & 21) and Rio Grande Corridor Joint Venture (BCR 35 & 36)), developing the partnerships needed to promote and expand 'all-bird' conservation in these parts of the state. 2) Through the partnership, develop and implement conservation strategies to reverse the declines of non-game populations so that these species do not become threatened or endangered.

Wildlife Research	Fund and administer needed wildlife research studies for Texas wildlife (emphasizing non-game and rare species) which have been traditionally under-funded.

Development of Management Strategies for the Conservation of Wildlife at Old Sabine Bottom WMA

Management Recommendations for Hog-nosed Skunks in west Central TX

Effects of Shinnery Oak Control on LPC in the Rolling Plains of TX

Resource Partitioning and Overlap of a Raptor Assemblage Associated with Prairie Dog Colonies

Inland Alligator Growth and Habitat Parameters

Composition of Prey Consumed by American Alligators along the Upper and Central Coasts of TX

Landscape Analysis of a Recolonizing Black Bear Population in the Trans-Pecos Regioin of TX

Influence of Bufflegrass on Northern Bobwhite Habitat Use and Selection in south TX

Coordinating Moist Soil Management for Nonbreeding Waterbirds with Water Traetment Practices at Richland Creek WMA

Pronghorn Habitat Management

Minimum Land Area Necessary for Managing Bobwhite Quail

Evaluating Landscape Changes of Mule Deer Habitats in Trans-Pecos TX

Dynamics of Bird Migration Along the Lower Gulf Coast of TX

Taxonomic Revision of Cave Spiders

Evaluate Inland Alligator Population Structure, Growth Rates and Habitat Requirements on the Angelina/Neches,Toledo Bend,Alazan Bayou WMAs

Effects of Winter and Summer Fire

Impacts of Reduced Flooding on Herptofauna in a TPWD Bottomland

Ecology of Ornate Box Turtles in a Sand Prairie Ecosystem

Taxonomic Descriptions of Pseudoscorpions from Caves in TX

Distribution and Habitat Requirements of Bats in the Pineywoods Ecoregion of East TX

Demography and Habitat Selection of the Alligator Snapping Turtle in the Middle Trinity River Ecosystem

Swift Fox Patch Occupancy

Snowy Plover Movement, Fidelity and Dynamics in the TX High Plains

Nongame Wildlife Trade

Baseline Assessment of Avian Communities - GEWMA

Winter Survey of Coastal Shorebird Concentration

Population Status and Habitats for LA Black Bear

Grassland Bird Response to Patch Burning/Grazing on Sand Sagebrush Grasslands

Survey and Monitoring for Ocelots in Gulf Coast Prairies and south TX Plains

Distribution of Swift Foxes in Texas

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Texas Lesser Prairie-chicken Initiative	The objective of this study is to assess landscape composition and structure as they relate to over-winter survival of LPC populations in the northeast Texas panhandle. The overall project objective (in addition to specific objectives listed below) will be met within the 3-year time frame of the project which includes 2 field seasons. Objectives are quantifiable and verifiable through rigorous statistical analyses and comparison with ongoing concurrent and complementary research projects. Specific objectives include: 1. determine over-winter survival rates of LPC, 2. determine over-winter cause-specific mortality factors of LPC, 3. determine over-winter habitat-use of LPC, 4. determine over-winter movement patterns of LPC, 5. determine over-winter home range size of LPC, 6. determine use of harvested agricultural fields by LPC during winter months, 7. determine use of CRP land in winter, 8. determine use of native sandsage habitats by LPC in winter, and 9. determine minimum management blocks for persistent LPC populations based on over-winter range size and habitat-use.
An Evaluation of the Use of Aerial Line-transect Surveys to Estimate LPC Distribution and Density in the TX Panhandle	
LPC Mapping Project	
Over-winter Ecology of LPC in the Northeast TX Panhandle	
Improving LPC Lek Surveys on Private Lands	
Coastal Prairie Conservation Initiative	Determine the difference in effectiveness between two coastal prairie restoration methods on grassland bird species and the vegetation that provides their habitat. 2. Quantify whether or not private landowners received the expected benefits of increased bobwhite populations and increased liveestock production rates relative to the costs of the coastal prairie restoration investments made on their ranches. 3. Estimate the cost of treatment between control and treatment areas to quantify tradeoffs in livestock and bobwhite quail production. 4. Communicate these results to private landowners, federal and state agency personnel, and other Coastal Prairie stakeholders in communities within and outside the study area.
Habitat Restoration and Enhancement at TPWD World Birding Centers	
Prescribed Fire Program for Habitat Conservation in Texas State Parks	Develop fire management plans for Texas State Parks. Implement prescribed fire strategies to benefit the habitats, plant communities, and species identified in the Texas Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Strategy. Collect post-fire vegetation data to determine the success of the prescribed fire strategies in meeting goals of the resource management plans and fire management plans for the selected sites.
Nongame Wildlife Habitat Management and Restoration of State Parklands	Conduct natural rsource inventories to aid the development of fire management and resource management plans. Write resoure management plans for sites located in Tier 1, tier 2, and Tier3 ecoregions (as identified in the Texas Wildlife Actin Plan) that have priority habitats or communities. Implement invasive species control strategies.
Baseline Fauna and Flora Monitoring in Response to Previously Implemented Management Practices on State-owned Lands	

Texas Ecological Systems Map	
Wildscapes CD	Conserve species of greatest conservation need by increasing landowner participation in wildlife habitat management with an easily used, updateable, and customized tool for habitat management planning.
Natural Diversity Database	1. Respond to information requests from users, private consulting firms, university researchers, NGO's, and other government agencies within one week of receiving the request. The volume of requests currently averages over 120 per month. 2. Enter no less than 500 new records or updates to existing records (species records, habitat records, and reference records). 3. Continue to provide regular updats of the entire data set to thse daily users of the information--TPWD field personnel and the Texas Department of Transportation-Environmental Review Section. 4. Continue to develop relationships with conservation partners by providing unprecedented access to TXNDD so it can be used in the earlies t stages of the planning process. 5. Work with other sources ofthis type of information to integrate their information into the TXNDD further solidifying TXNDD as the most complete source of informatin for rare, threatened and endangered species in Texas. BENEFITS: The goal is for the NDD to be the most complete source of information regarding rare, threatened and endangered species in Texas, including all priority species identified in the Texas Conservation Action Plan (TCAP). As stated on page 520 of the TCAP, "Data collected and shared in this way provide numerous conservation and management opportunities for private landowners, stakeholders, and government wildlife and habitat management agencies." The TXNDD is and will continue to be the location for that data and the provider of those conservation and management opportunities. An additional benefit will be the ability of the NDD to continue to provide quality information to private companies and individuals in a timely and efficient manner. This information is continually used to address conservation issues surrounding development.
Goose Island Shoreline Stabilization and Marsh Restoration, Phase II	1. Restore and protect valuable habitats that support high priority fish and wildlife species associated with Aransas Bay by completing Phase II of the Goose Island Shoreline Stabilization and Marsh Restoration Project. Specifically, dredge and place approximately 24,000 cubic yards of material from the Goose Island State Park boat channel into created marsh cells within the restoration area to support the establishment and growth of 24.000 smooth cordgrass rooted plugs harvested from nearby natural marshes.
Environmental Analytical Chemistry	1) Purchase and install needed analytical chemical equipment for the Environmental Chemistry Laboratory (Atomic Fluorescence Spectrophotometer (AFS) and High Pressure Liquid Chromatograph-Mass Spectrometer (HPLC-MS). 2) Test and develop Standard Operating Procedures for the above analytical equipment and samples so the equipment can be routinely used in TPWD efforts.

Marine Ecosystems and Ecology

Marine Monitoring	Expand marine resources monitoring programs to obtain data needed to effectively manage marine resources on an on-going basis.
Monitoring Oyster Reefs in the Mid-coast	
Charter Boat Fishery Monitoring	
Evaluation of Commercial Fishery Management Strategies and Predicted Impacts on Shrimp and Associated By-catch Species	
Sea Turtle Conservation	1) To conserve and protect five species of sea turtles and establish a secondary nesting colony of Kemp's ridley sea turtles on Padre Island on the Padre Island National Seashore
Arroyo Colorado Sampling	2) To protect and recover the Kemp's ridley sea turtle population at the primary nesting site for the species and to further the understanding of sea turtle conservation biology on the Gulf beaches of Tamaulipas, Mexico.
Artificial Reef Deployment	
Enhancement of Artificial Reefs in Nearshore Waters of the Gulf of Mexico	
Monitoring and Quantifying Oyster Habitat in Galveston Bay, TX	
Habitat Utilization by Fish and Shellfish in Selected Bays and Estuaries	
Monitor Ecosystem Health Parameters in Laguna Madre	
Characterizing Oyster Reefs in Lavaca Bay, TX	
Shallow-water Oyster Reef Mapping in San Antonio and Matagorda Bays	
Shell-bearing Mollusk Management Assessment	
San Antonio Bay Icthyoplankton Monitoring	
Abundance and Occurrence of Estuarine Organisms in Tidal Reaches of the Colorado River	
Ecosystem Monitoring	
Modeling Losses to Blue Crab Populations from Reduced Freshwater Inflows and Overfishing	
Sonar Mosaic and Bathymetry mapping of Oyster Beds in the Sabine Lake Estuary	

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Seagrass Conservation Intiative	1. Develop a state conservation program for seagrass habitats, particularly in the Redfish Bay Scientific Area, and investigate and revise an existing Seagrass Conservation Plan for continued protection and enhancement of seagrass areas that provide important habitat for fish, shellfish and birds. 2. Continue the seagrass inventory of Christmas Bay to determine whether there has been habitat loss, measured primarily by loss of seagrass areas within the bay, over the last 6 years as shown by aerial photography.
Seagrass Conservation Intiative - Redfish Bay	
Habitat Assessment for Christmas Bay using Seagrass Inventory Comparisons	
Response of Benthic Organisms to Freshwater Inflow	1. Analyze archived benthic community data for association with large-scale and long-term changes in freshwater inflow. 2. continue field monitoring of benthic community at fixed stations to provide another year of results to continue building predictive models.
Rangia Clam Responses to Freshwater Inflows in Galveston Bay	
River Ecosystems and Ecology	
Planning and Investigations to Address Management Issues Related to Toxic Harmful Algal Blooms and Particularly Golden Alga (*Prymnesium parvum*)	1) Obtain and assess historic fish kill, golden alga bloom, and associated meteorological and aquatic physio-chemical data. 2) Perform a statewide prevalence study, correlating P. parvum prevalence with key environmental parameters. 3) Develop a sensitive and accurate DNA-based detection method for P. parvum. 4) Conduct a scientific workshop and planning meetings addressing golden alga information gaps, priority needs for developing management options, and coordinating efforts to address golden alga problems with local, state and federal agencies and universities.
Historic Data Assessment of Golden Alga Fish Kills	
Survey of *P. Parvum*	
Molecular Investigations	
Scientific Workshop and Meetings to Coordinate Management Efforts	
Hatchery-based Golden Alga Research	
Development of Toxin Standards	
Red Tide, Blue-green Algae and Other Harmful Toxic Algal Bloom Planning, Coordination and Response	
TPWD Aquatic Habitat Conservation Initiative	
Planning and Investigations to Address Natural Resource Management Issues Resulting from Toxic Harmful Algal Blooms	Conduct research studies with university researchers to address data/information gaps concerning golden alga blooms for use in developing information and management plans for this harmful alga.
Predictive Understanding of Bloom Formation and Toxicity	
Molecular Biomarkers Study	
Monitoring Blooms of Pyrmnesium parvum in Lake Whitney	

Impact of Clay Flocculation on *P. parvum* Under Different Environmental Conditions	
Development of Spectrophotometric Methods for Detection and Quantification of Toxic Polyketides from *P. parvum*	
Evaluation of the SolarBee for Controlling *P. parvum* Blooms and Toxicity	
Refining a Predictive Understanding of Physical, Chemical and Biological Factors Influencing *P. parvum* Population Dynamics and Toxicity	
Texas Freshwater Mussel Survey	Determine the current status of selected and previously documented mussel populations in Texas, including locatioins found during past surveys to contain rare, endemic species, and to use these as representative guides to evaluate the condition of this resource statewide in preparation for the development of management and recovery plans.
Freshwater Mussel Field Surveys	Conduct general and detailed surveys of freshwater mussels at selected sites. Field surveys will contribute to determining the current distribution and status of rare, endemic mussels and abundant diverse assemblages remaining in the region. In addition, a specific plan will be drafted that will prioritize the management requirements of teh species surveyed.
Texas Prairie Rivers Initiative	
Texas River Planning Initiative	
Geomorphic Monitoring of the Upper San Marcos River	
Data Standardization and Georeferencing of the Fishes of Texas database	Efficiently standardize and fully georeference (assign geographic coordinates to) all records in the Fishes of Texas database, thus immediately increasing its value to the research and management community, as well as to the general public, and putting the data in the position to be served online with geospatial inquiries.
Nutrient Effects in Small Brazos River Basin Streams in North Central Texas	
Eradication of Invasive Suckermouth Catfish and Determination of Dietary Overlap with Indigenous Fishes	Investigate the efficacy of techniques to eradicate the invasive suckermouth catfish in San Felipe Creek and quantify the dietary preference and degree of dietary overlap between the indigenous Dionda sp. and the suckermouth catfish.
Georeferencing and Niche Modeling of the Invasive Exotic Fishes with Emphasis on the Suckermouth Catfish	
Status of Invasive Freshwater Mollusks in Texas	Determine the status of previously reported/documented exotic freshwater mollusks in Texas. Evaluate the level of threat they pose to the native fauna, flora, ecosystem and to human health. Develop a conservation strategy (plan) for the management of invasive freshwater mollusks.
Spawning Requirements and Seasonal Diet Composition of the Guadalupe Roundnose Minnow (*dionda nigrotaeniata*) and the Texas Shiner (*Notropis amabilis*)	
Survey of Habitat Suitability for Texas Freshwater Fishes	

Population Dynamics of Fishes in the Upper Brazos River	Over a five-year period monitor the distribution and abundance of the smalleye shiner, sharnose shiner, Red River pupfish and chub shiner in the upper Brazos River. Examine the reproductive ecology of these species plus the plains mnnow and red shiner, which will be used to develop and refine population dynamics models that relate population dynamics to river discharge and salinity. In addition, provide age-specific estimates of survival and fecundity for each study species.
Seasonal Movement and Habitat Use of Alligator Gar and Striped Bass in the Lower Trinity	(1) Determine seasonal movements and habitat use of alligator gar and striped bass in the lower Trinity River, and (2) identify and describe potential alligator gar spawning areas in the lower Trinity River.
Investigation to Understand the Distribution of Selected Environmental Contaminants in Texas	To provide high-quality, defensible, scientific data necessary to evaluate the effects of environmental contaminants on Texas' aquatic communities and ecosystems.
Hydrologic and Geomorphic Controls on Fish, Mussel, and Riparian Vegetation Communities in the Upper Neches River Watershed	The overall goal of the project is to evaluate how geomorphology and instream flow affect the diversity and abundance of mussels, fishes, and riparian plant communities in the Upper Neches River. The specific region of study will be in the Neches River between HWY 175 and 59, where the river can be accessed from 10 crossings. Specific objectives include: 1. Provide baseline geomorphic data on the Upper Neches River below Lake Palestine, to include pattern, profile, and dimension of the channel. 2. Use geomorphic data and current velocity measurements to describe instream flows, flood frequency and duration, and the general hydrologic patterns of the river. 3. Relate geomorphic features like form of the valley and hydrologic pattern to the structure of riparian plant communities adjacent to the river. 4. Quantify instream habitat structure (e.g., substrate, large wood, etc.) in the river. 5. Determine how geomorphic measurements, instream flow, and instream habitat influence the structure of mussel and fish assemblages in the river. Determine relative importance of the explanatory variables. 6. Describe how changes in flow regime would affect the abundance of mussel and fish species of concern in the river.
Habitat Status Survey of the Brazos Water Snake	
Invertebrates of Special Concern	
Statewide Assessment of Unionid Diversity in Texas	
Genetic Isolation of Peck's Cave Amphipod, *Stygobromus pecki*	
Distribution and Demographics of the Diamondback Terrapin (*malaclemys terrapin littoralis*)	1. Conduct a population survey of the Texas diamondback terrapin and determine the distribution of populations in Galveston Bay. 2. Identify key microhabitat characteristics associated with areas where terrapins are found. 3. Gather basic information of the demographics and genetics of the terrapin population. 4. Proide information on the galveston bay terrapin population that could be used to expand the study along other parts of the Texas coast. 5. Begin development of conservation action strategies to promote and implement further research and conservation of the terrapin.

Freshwater Turtle Population Trends and Health in Texas' Priority Ecoregions	Assuming that funding would commence on or about Sept 1, 2007 and continue for a period of 2 years: Dec 1, 2007 – Accomplishment – validation of all historical trapping locations and revisit of each to confirm use in the spring field season Sept 1, 2008 – Complete first field trapping season replicating historical efforts and timing- annual report of trapping results submitted to TPWD Jan 1, 2009 – Comparative analyses and second field season preparations completed.
Bigclaw River Shrimp in San Marcos River: Invasive Species' Impact	Sept 1, 2009 – Completion of second field season and submission of second annual report Dec 31, 2009 – Completion and submission of final report including comparative analyses, discussion of conservation actions in the wildlife plan as related to each taxon and evaluation of trend data for the turtle species where historical trapping information from each site is available
Freshwater Aquarium Hobbyists and Invasive Species in the Houston-Galveston Region	The overall goal of this project is to develop an understanding and preliminary model of the social drivers and decision processes leading to release of freshwater aquarium species into public waters. The project is focused on Loricarids. However, results will be applicable to other non-native introduced species. Specific objectives are: 1. To identify key social drivers related to the introduction of nonnative invasive species by aquarium owners. 2. To develop a framework to model decision making by aquarium owners considering purchasing or releasing non-native invasive species. 3. To identify and evaluate candidate TPWD outreach strategies to discourage release.

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