

# Roadmap for the Future

Annual Report 2005



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## To the People of Texas from the Chairman and Executive Director

**A partnership** comes in many forms. It's a wildlife biologist and private landowner walking the Back Forty, sharing ways to conserve water and sustain the land's resources. It's a pair of game wardens helping an elderly woman into a boat after a devastating hurricane. It's an aquatic education specialist helping a little girl tug her first fish from the water amid delighted peals of laughter.

Fiscal Year 2005 was a year of partnerships for the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department. Perhaps the most dramatic partnership of all came in late August and early September when TPWD game wardens rescued close to 5,000 people left stranded by Hurricane Katrina's floodwaters. The deployment was both historic and heroic, marking the first time Texas game wardens had ever left the state for disaster relief. On the home front, Texas State Parks opened their gates to house thousands of hurricane evacuees while TPWD employees across East Texas helped neighbors and each other recover from the devastating effects of the storms.

Our partnership with the 79th Legislature was less dramatic but vital to the future of the resources of the state. Significant changes in the game bird stamps that hunters are required to buy, new limited entry management programs for the Texas oyster and Gulf shrimp fisheries and clearer enforcement powers for game wardens were among the results that came from our teamwork with the Legislature.

We hope to strengthen that partnership in FY06 as we head toward the 80th Legislative session in 2007. For several years now, the Texas State Park system has suffered from a funding shortfall in the face of rising operational costs. Because of the increasing costs of doing business, there's not enough money to operate all of the parks as we've done in the past. That has required operational changes across the state, including some significant staff cutbacks.

We plan on continuing to provide the best services possible to the people of Texas, and will be communicating the value of state parks to members of the Legislature in the months ahead. A recent Texas A&M study has confirmed that the investment the Legislature makes in state parks generates a significant return to local economies. We hope to effectively deliver that message and achieve our goal of adequate funding for Texas State Parks in the future.

In the meantime, we will serve the people of Texas by continuing to forge partnerships to achieve our mission of managing and conserving the natural and cultural resources of Texas for present and future generations.



Joseph B.C. Fitzsimons  
Chairman

Robert L. Cook,  
Executive Director

# Roadmap for the Future:

## Bold steps, innovation highlight TPWD's journey in FY05

### Goal: Improve access to the outdoors.

TPWD welcomed the newest member of the Texas State Parks family in October – the **Government Canyon State Natural Area** near San Antonio. Significant work and planning for the opening of the facility took place in FY05, although the project's origins stretch back to the early 1990s. The 8,000-acre site blends recreation and conservation to an unprecedented degree—especially regarding water resources and groundwater recharge. It protects precious San Antonio area land in the recharge zone of the Edwards Aquifer, land that is rapidly succumbing to urban sprawl.

The site is only 16 miles from downtown San Antonio, providing a nearby recreation outlet for a large, urban population. More than half of the area overlays the city's sole source of drinking water. Government Canyon SNA sits at the confluence of three distinctly different ecoregions, and along this fault zone lies the primary recharge zone where water that serves as the source of drinking water for millions of Central Texas residents enters the Edwards Aquifer.



Completion of the **World Birding Center-Bentsen Rio Grande Valley State Park** was another FY05 milestone, giving families access to view more than 300 species of birds on part of a key migratory stop through the Central Flyway.



The emergence of the **Sheldon Lake State Park and Environmental Learning Center** – a 2,800-acre outdoor education and recreation facility located on the edge of Houston – has given Texans near the state's largest city an opportunity to experience a green and blue oasis for wildlife. The Learning Center is a giant outdoor classroom that includes a half-mile self-guided nature trail, and the site also features pond learning stations that serve as aquatic classrooms. While youth education is the main focus of this site, native habitat restoration and sustainable "green" design features like solar energy and rainwater collection have also been emphasized during construction of the facility.



The **Zedler Mill Paddling Trail** is another keen example of TPWD improving access to the outdoors for Texans and visitors: its six-mile trail is a community-based

The critical challenges facing the conservation of Texas' natural and cultural resources were confronted head-on in FY05. Using the agency's *Land and Water Resources Conservation and Recreation Plan* as the roadmap, the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department made headway in accomplishing a number of the ambitious goals set forth in the Plan.

cooperative effort with the City of Luling and the Zedler Mill Restoration Steering Committee that will result in families leisurely floating down the scenic San Marcos River, with the journey ending at Palmetto State Park upon completion of the second phase of the trail.

**Goal: Conserve, manage, operate and promote agency sites for recreational opportunities, biodiversity and the cultural heritage of Texas.**

**Resource management and habitat management plans** for numerous state parks and historical sites were completed in FY05.

"(State Parks Division Director) Walt Dabney and his folks in state parks have done an excellent job putting together these plans," said Deputy Executive Director, Operations Scott Boruff. "They help us provide great demonstration areas for the public, a great way for us to say, 'This is how you manage, conserve and take care of our land.' These plans were designed not only to highlight the fact that our facilities are great places for recreation, but can also be natural classrooms to demonstrate how we can all take better care of the land around us."

The first group of projects from the \$36.68 million **Proposition 8 General Obligation Bonds** were repairs to TPWD facilities, including Phase I Development of the Sheldon Lake Environmental Learning Center, water treatment plant repairs at Guadalupe River State Park, repair and renovation of Civilian Conservation Corps buildings at Tyler State Park and water and wastewater

renovations at Lake Corpus Christi State Park. Preparations were also being made for the second bond issuance – in the amount of \$18.075 million – in FY06.

The second bond issuance will provide funding for projects such as critical water, wastewater or infrastructure repairs at various state parks, the repair or replacement of badly deteriorated rest rooms at state parks, connecting on-site water systems to municipal or public water supply systems, major repair of pond liners at various fish hatcheries and the repair of state parks, wildlife management areas and hatchery facilities damaged by Hurricane Rita.

Proposition 8 bond funding was an "exceptional items request" priority for TPWD in seeking additional funding from the 79th Texas Legislature, and lawmakers supported the department by providing \$18 million for repairs. However, more debt service funding to pay for future bond issues will be sought in the next biennium to address ongoing, critical needs at many sites across the state. Private funding for the construction of the new





educational center at the **Texas Freshwater Fisheries Center (TFFC)** in Athens is another example of the TPWD's commitment to maximizing recreational opportunities for Texans. Bass Pro Shops founder Johnny Morris presented a check for \$650,000 to the TFFC in April, matching monies raised by the volunteer group headed by Richard Hart.

### **Goal: Assist landowners in managing their lands for sustainable wildlife habitat consistent with their goals.**

In a state that is more than 87% privately owned, **conservation on private land** is integral to TPWD's conservation mission. Department technical guidance biologists work hand in hand with private landowners, and that partnership flourished in FY05, as the number of approved wildlife management plans grew from 4,600 to over 5,200 and acreage under these plans increased from 17.5 million acres to over 18.9 million acres. These encouraging numbers prove that the landowners of the state are committed to the conservation of private land.

Additionally, increased focus is being given to the water management aspects of the wildlife management plans that are in the developmental stages, with an emphasis on the management of privately-held watersheds.

Public awareness of the role of private land stewards also got an important boost in FY05 through the Lone Star Land Steward Awards. This year TPWD was joined by a new partner, the Sand County Foundation, which provided cash prizes to land stewards and



presented the statewide steward with the Leopold Conservation Award for Texas. This partnership and an outstanding slate of land steward recipients, including a 7th-generation ranching family and the first city park to be named a Lone Star Land Steward, achieved outstanding news coverage and public awareness across the state.

### **Goal: Increase participation in hunting, fishing and outdoor recreation.**

The addition of two youth-only weekends to the spring Rio Grande turkey season, as well as the development of the **Texas Urban Fishing program** in seven metropolitan areas of the state, greatly increased outdoor recreational participation in FY05.

The new **Hunter Education Deferral program**, which allows a person 17 years of age or older who has not completed a hunter education program to defer completion for up to one year, resulted in more than 10,000 deferral sales and proved to be a recruitment tool for new hunters. Sixty percent of the people who purchased these deferrals had not purchased a hunting license of any kind in the three previous years.

### **Goal: Enhance the quality of hunting, fishing, boating and outdoor recreation.**

Revenue from the recently created freshwater fishing stamp was used to fund design and site selection for the new **Jasper Fish Hatchery** in FY05 and will continue to fund hatchery construction and repairs in coming years. The renovation of the fish hatcheries is long overdue and will greatly enhance the quality of fishing by providing more useful tools for TPWD scientists to use for programs that stock millions of fish each year into public lakes statewide.

Progress continues to be made in the area of **golden alga management** as the TPWD works with researchers within and outside the state to better understand the harmful alga, which has killed millions of fish in Texas in recent years.

Additionally, the Coastal Fisheries Division greatly broadened its production capabilities in FY05. "The hatchery program focus has been on redfish and

spotted seatrout for many years, and in those areas the division is a nationally-recognized leader,” said Coastal Fisheries Division Director Dr. Larry McKinney. “We are in the process of enhancing our production capabilities and expertise to address other species like flounder and even tarpon. Our goal is to increase the flexibility of our hatchery system to respond to the broadest range of management needs.”

The **Antler Regulation program** was expanded during this time period as well, greatly decreasing the harvest pressure on young bucks while increasing the number of mature bucks available for harvest.

### **Goal: Improve science, data collection and information dissemination to make informed management decisions.**

The first phase of an **outside peer review** of TPWD science practices was completed – the collection of information and analysis from the American Fisheries Society, the Wildlife Management Institute and the National Academy of Sciences. The staff has implemented many of the resulting recommendations.

The agency is also seeking forensic laboratory accreditation which will mean the agency will direct the only accredited, state-level wildlife forensic laboratory in the nation.

### **Goal: Maintain or improve water quality and quantity to support the needs of fish, wildlife and recreation.**

TPWD facilitated the deposit of three water rights to the **Texas Water Trust**, an entity that holds water rights dedicated to environmental needs, including instream flows, freshwater inflows, water quality and fish and wildlife. Placing water rights in the Trust provides an opportunity for private participation in conservation and helps to preserve aquatic life and habitat for future generations.

TPW Commission Chairman Joseph B. C. Fitzsimons also served on the Study Commission on Water for Environmental Flows and on the Texas Water Advisory Council, providing a much-needed voice at the table for fish and wildlife.

### **Goal: Continuously improve TPWD business management systems, business practices and work culture.**

Templates for **new division operating plans** were developed in FY05, ensuring that all department activities are tied directly to the land and water plan, and that they also tie back to the needs set forth in *Natural Agenda: A Strategic Plan for Texas Parks and Wildlife*, which guides TPWD’s budgetary requests to the legislature.



The most **diverse game warden class** in the history of the Law Enforcement Division graduated in FY05, enhancing the work culture in statewide law enforcement positions. TPWD has taken specific steps to “reach out” to all Texans in its recruiting efforts, and that work has paid off with an increasingly diverse law enforcement staff in terms of gender, ethnic heritage and professional background.

The goals and objectives of the *Land and Water Resources Conservation and Recreation Plan* will continue to be TPWD’s guidepost in the ongoing quest to meet the agency’s mission to manage and conserve the natural and cultural resources of Texas and to provide hunting, fishing and outdoor recreation opportunities for the use and enjoyment of present and future generations.

# Teamwork

## Law Enforcement

**Colonel Pete Flores**, a 20-year veteran game warden, was named as the new law enforcement director in March. Col. Flores was selected following an extensive



nation-wide search, and his addition brings a range of experience that includes field work as a game warden in Chambers and Brazos counties, a District Captain in Beaumont and San Antonio, a Major in San Angelo and most recently, work as the division's Lt. Col., or deputy division director.

In addition to the new leader of the division, FY05 saw legislative changes as well. The 79th Legislature enhanced enforcement tools to further deter hunting deer with dogs and also broadened the scope of the **Operation Game Thief** program by authorizing reward claims for phone tips involving boating while intoxicated, environmental crimes enforcement and several other offenses.

The legislature also passed a significant salary increase for game wardens along with enforcement officers at other state agencies. These increases were made in the



interest of salary equity in the law enforcement profession for state officers in comparison with medium to large metro police departments, and will help the TPWD recruit and retain game wardens.

Perhaps the most meaningful – and rewarding – event for law enforcement came at the end of FY05 and into FY06, when the division responded to the devastation of **Hurricane Katrina**, marking the first time in history that game wardens left the state to provide disaster relief.

**“Just under 5,000 people benefited from the ‘can-do’ attitude of our game wardens. It’s what we do; it’s in our culture.”**

– Law Enforcement Director Colonel Pete Flores



One story graphically illustrates the importance of the game wardens' presence following the hurricane.

Major Butch Shoop, a game warden regional director from Fort Worth, was in charge of on-the-ground rescue operations, and remembered “one lady who just about made me cry.” A woman in her 20s approached him and said her 82-year-old grandmother was trapped in a “bad area,” and she begged Shoop to save her. A boat was sent and returned bearing the elderly woman. “They carried this lady over to me – she couldn’t walk – and the young woman introduced me to her grandmother and thanked me,” Shoop said. “She said, ‘Mr. Butch, can I hug your neck?’ I said, ‘I don’t smell very good, but go ahead.’ She said, ‘I don’t know you, but I love you and I love what you’re doing.’”

“We were ready the day before the hurricane hit, and in typical fashion, we were able to do what needed to be done,” Col. Flores said.



## Wildlife

The Wildlife Division spent a significant part of FY05 **implementing new procedures and techniques** in response to the science review conducted by the

American Fisheries Society, the Wildlife Management Institute and the National Academy of Sciences.

**“We have implemented several recommendations in the science review.”**

— Wildlife Director Dr. Mike Berger

“This review has been extremely valuable for us,” Berger said. For example, the division is taking a hard look at overhauling the way wildlife species annual surveys are done—this addresses a key peer review recommendation to look for better ways to collect and analyze fisheries and wildlife data for use in conservation management decision-making.

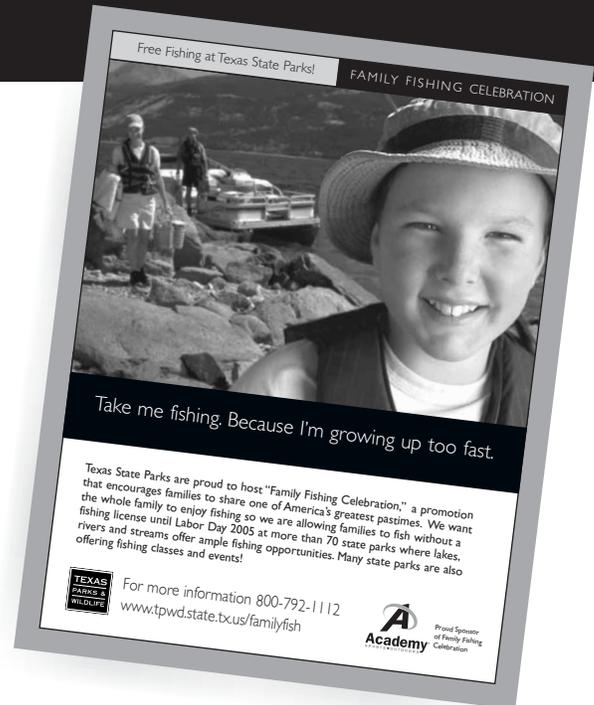
The division also made significant strides in the realm of private landowner outreach, with workshops held in each metropolitan area of the state. The workshops were an effort to increase the knowledge given to urban landowners of rural land, with specific information provided on management strategies, tax options and income alternatives connected with habitat conservation.

Good reproduction of mule deer and pronghorn gave the Trans-Pecos Region another year of good news and good fortune in FY05.

Additionally, Eastern turkey hunts were expanded in FY05, and there was a marked increase in hunting opportunities for youth, with 174 hunts for 1,559 youngsters conducted through the Texas Youth Hunting program.



The Family Fishing Celebration in Texas State Parks was successful again in FY05, thanks in part to new sponsorship support from Academy Sports & Outdoors.



## State Parks

The **Economic Contribution of Texas State Parks** was released in January of 2005, a study commissioned by the Texas Coalition for Conservation that included financial information on 80 state parks. The study provided the most accurate picture to date of the financial value of state parks for the Texas economy. Specifically, it documented how state parks bring outside tourism dollars into host counties, generating a dollar value for Texas communities that is far greater than the cost of operating the parks.

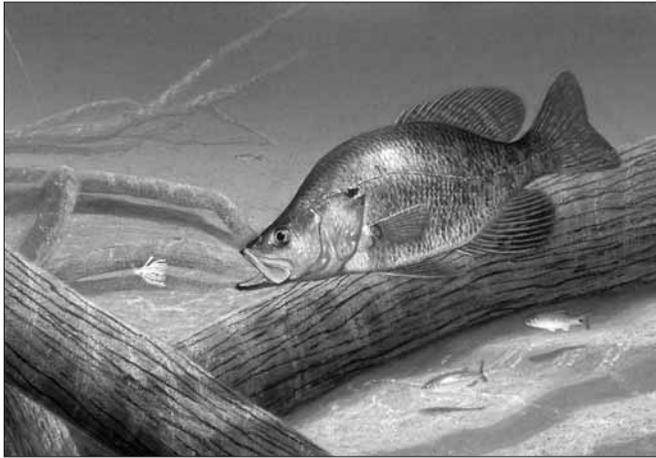
The division also began a major review of operations in FY05, work that will ensure continued financial efficiency.

“We are conducting a major program review because of a multi-year period of budget erosion,” State Parks Division Director Walt Dabney said. “We’re doing this from the ground-up, and we already know that there is nothing left to cut back on without a significant reduction in our ability to operate our facilities.”

The division also came to the aid of many victims of hurricanes Katrina and Rita, with various state parks housing well over 10,000 victims without charging a fee.

Texas Parks and Wildlife Dept.

## Collector's Edition



2005 Freshwater Fishing Stamp \$3.00

**"The freshwater stamp did better than anticipated. We expected \$4.3 million in revenue, but we took in over \$6 million. We were very, very pleased with those results."**

*— Inland Fisheries Director Phil Durocher*

### Inland Fisheries

The first year of the **freshwater fishing stamp** was a fiscal boon, with the higher-than-expected proceeds earmarked for renovation and development of fish hatcheries across the state.

The division's **Golden Alga Task Force** continues to make progress in the management of the naturally-occurring, toxic alga that has caused major fish kills in recent years.

The 24 entries in the popular **Budweiser Sharelunker** program in FY05 were the most recorded in a decade. The division also obtained a favorable review from the American Fisheries Society for its science-based operating procedures.



### Coastal Fisheries

The 79th Legislature took significant action that will affect how the Coastal Fisheries Division will conduct future business. Senate Bills 272 and 454 establish a **license moratorium for commercial oyster and gulf shrimp licenses**, respectively and were in direct response to the overcrowded conditions in the Gulf of Mexico.

These bills essentially create the same type of limited-entry management approach that has been beneficial for bay shrimping and commercial oyster fishing in recent years.

The industry has suffered in recent years from new entrants into the fishery market and the aim is to reduce the number of working boats over time through attrition.

**"All commercial fisheries in Texas are now under license management programs, which provide a powerful tool and stabilizing effort within the industries, thereby improving our ability to manage for optimum sustainable yield."**

*— Coastal Fisheries Director Dr. Larry McKinney*



House Bill 883 allows private citizens groups and/or associations to deploy artificial reef material under guidelines and rules established by the Texas Parks and Wildlife Commission. This paves the way for new reefs made of diverse materials to benefit anglers, divers and Gulf of Mexico ecosystems.

Other coastal fisheries news in FY05 included the **Lavaca Bay legal settlement** with Alcoa Inc. and Alcoa World Alumina L.L.C. that provides for restoration and cleanup of mercury-contaminated sediments in the bay as well as soil contamination of the Point Comfort/Lavaca Bay Superfund Site.

The coastal fisheries habitat staff was awarded one of two **National Wetland Conservation awards** from the United States Fish and Wildlife Service for its work on the Delehide Cove Protection and Restoration Project. The project was recognized in the group category, which reflects upon the staff's philosophy of coalition building and partnership as key components of coastal conservation. The project team consisted of federal and state partners as well as representatives from the energy sector and from local homeowners groups. The project protected over 250 acres of estuarine habitat by constructing 8,100 linear feet of breakwater and restoring 55 acres of coastal marsh.



## Infrastructure

The professional design contract for the development of the **East Texas Fish Hatchery** was awarded in FY05 after a long period of planning and research. The award of that contract was one of many highlights in a highly-productive FY05 for the division.

The department gained appropriation authority for major repairs on the San Jacinto Monument and the Battleship TEXAS, and a performance contract for an energy conservation project at TPWD headquarters was initiated that will save TPWD approximately \$100,000 per year in utility costs.

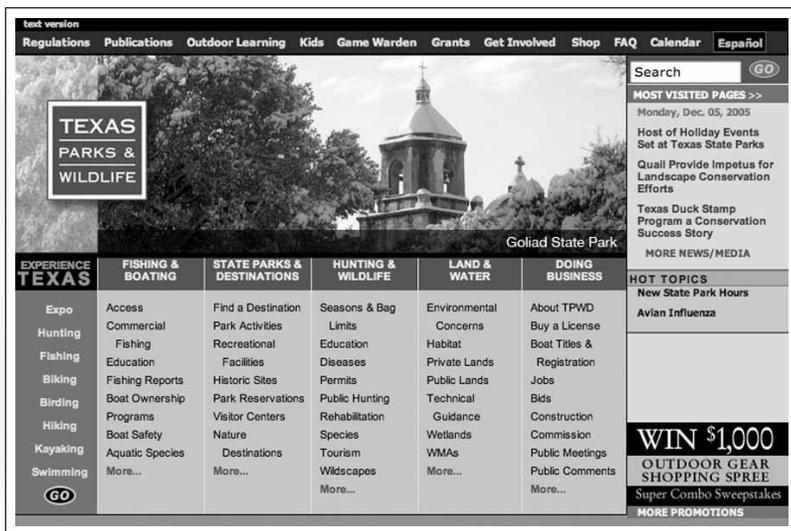
**“The capital improvements at headquarters cost about \$1.5 million and will be paid for out of the significant savings we are gaining because of those improvements.”**

— *Infrastructure Director*  
Steve Whiston



“This project directly supported our TPWD mission and resulted in the replacement of 30-year-old equipment,” Infrastructure Division Director Steve Whiston said.

The division also spent a considerable amount of time in FY05 **enhancing green building programs** to provide environmental and economical benefits and implemented promotional demonstrations of sustainable design and green construction on several notable projects.



“Our Web site attracts over a half a million visits per month, and these changes will make TPWD’s most comprehensive communications vehicle even more user-friendly, cost-effective and accessible than ever before.”

— Communications Director Lydia Saldaña

## Communications

The challenging but rewarding task of **redesigning the TPWD Web site** was completed in FY05, resulting in a more accessible site that complies with all federal and state requirements. The Communications Division’s web and creative group worked with web developers in every division to complete the redesign with usability, accessibility, cost-effectiveness and consistent, professional image as its goals. The site is now completely accessible to individuals with disabilities and to users on mobile phones and wireless devices.

“Our staff reviewed all 44,000 pages on the Web site for relevance and accuracy and created standardized templates which will reduce the time it takes staff to develop new content or revise existing material,” said Communications Division Director Lydia Saldaña. “These templates will lay the foundation for a content management system that will serve us well into the next decade.”

New legislative mandates in FY05 also directed TPWD to make more agency publications available via the Web site, and steps are being taken to satisfy those requirements.

The hunter education staff also implemented a new Hunter Education Deferral program, the first of its kind in the country which allows adult hunters to ‘give hunting a try.’

TPWD staff worked closely with an external Outreach Advisory Committee that completed an **Outreach Education and Interpretation strategic plan** to guide the agency’s efforts. The Committee also worked with nationally-recognized advertising agency GSD&M to develop an outreach campaign targeting urban families who do not currently participate in nature-based outdoor recreation.



The Communications Division also continued its work on the multi-year initiative to inform Texans about how water resource decisions being made today will affect our state for years to come. The second hour-long documentary in the on-going State of Water series, **Finding a Balance** (narrated by Walter Cronkite), aired statewide in February. The fourth installment of a series of special magazine issues was published in July. The third State of Water documentary, **The State of Springs**, is currently in production and will air in February of 2007.

GSD&M created the slogan “Life’s better outside” which was introduced at Texas Parks & Wildlife Expo in October and is being promoted through advertising, signage, t-shirts, bumper stickers and more.

# Life’s better outside.

## Administrative Resources

The Administrative Resources Division worked diligently to provide fiscal notes and information to the legislature, developing legislative action requests for the 79th session.

The division's ability to track and report various revenue sources was significantly upgraded, and the implementation of improved boat regulation and titling systems continued, along with the re-writing of the boat registration system. The current automated system is over 19 years old, and uses a data base that will ultimately be discontinued. The new system will work from a web-based environment and will provide significant enhancements recommended in previous audit and agency reviews. The boat registration system will also provide a platform that will add on-line registration services and will allow for easier adaptation of future system enhancements and legislated changes.

Ninety-three percent of the Business Process Improvement Plan's recommendations to the division were complete by the end of the fiscal year, and the division is also reviewing the license point-of-sale system.

"We had a very good year, revenue-wise," said Administrative Resources Division Director Mary Fields. "We continue to improve our revenue monitoring system, which allows us to improve our ability to report and reconcile revenue."

## Information Technology

The newly-established **Information Technology Division** is led by George Rios, who officially assumed his duty as division director on Sept. 1. Rios began his career at the TPWD as a network analyst in 1994 and has held several IT management positions.

"Making IT a division makes sense to me," said Division Director George Rios.

"With technology moving so quickly, our technical staff needs to be involved from the get-go in regards to the technology decisions that the agency is making."

Among some of the more pressing issues for IT is the challenge of improving both voice and data communications for our field employees through the use of innovative and affordable wireless technology. It is also working to establish effective PC replacement schedules to keep our agency's computer systems secure.



Twenty-three TPWD employees participated in the Natural Leaders class in FY05, gaining leadership training, participating in site visits around the state and completing a year-long project to benefit the department mission. The program includes formal training from the Center for Creative Leadership, a nationally-recognized leadership training provider.



## Human Resources

A random survey of some 200 front line and senior TPWD managers was done in order to gauge the group's knowledge of diversity in the workplace. A report based on this survey will be completed by the Human Resources Division in FY06.

"We gathered this data and are in the process of identifying areas where improvement is needed," Human Resources Division Director Al Bingham said. "This was very enlightening for us, and we believe the results of this survey will be highly beneficial to the agency. We want to make sure we are aware of our managers' knowledge of diversity in our agency."

The division managed the department's **Employee Recognition and Awards program** for another successful year. Winners for 2005 included Craig Richlen (Administrative Resources), Jerry Warden (Wildlife), Randy Blankinship (Coastal Fisheries), Kyle Spiller (Coastal Fisheries), Pamela Hamlett (Inland Fisheries), Cally Shaddox (Law Enforcement), Ken Pollard (State Parks), Maria Araujo (Wildlife), the Huff Diary and Wagon Team Project (State Parks, Communication, Infrastructure, Coastal Fisheries) and the Desert Bighorn Sheep Team (Wildlife, Law Enforcement). *See pages 14-15.*

# 2005 Employee Recognition Awards

**OUTSTANDING TEAM** Huff Expedition Team State Parks, Communications, Infrastructure and Coastal Fisheries



Team members came from across the state and from four divisions to participate in the Huff Diary and Wagon Train project. A hands-on history project that consisted of a month-long authentic covered wagon trip for over 200 students from Texas and California traveling 650 miles across Texas, the team brought together exceptional teamwork, creativity and leadership for a successful re-enactment of the trip taken (in reverse) by '49er William P. Huff and his experiences along the way to the California Gold Rush.

**OUTSTANDING TEAM** Desert Bighorn Sheep Team Wildlife and Law Enforcement

The Desert Bighorn Sheep Team provided exceptional leadership and innovative approaches to the restoration and management of the Desert Bighorn Sheep to Texas. In the early 1960s the sheep were essentially non-existent, but through the persistent efforts of these team members, the Desert Bighorn Sheep's population has grown to 800 plus, exceeding the levels of the early 1900s. The team also developed a partnership with the Texas Bighorn Society resulting in approximately \$1.5 million for the restoration and management of this species.





**CONSERVATION**

**Randy Blankinship**

Coastal Fisheries

Ecosystem Leader

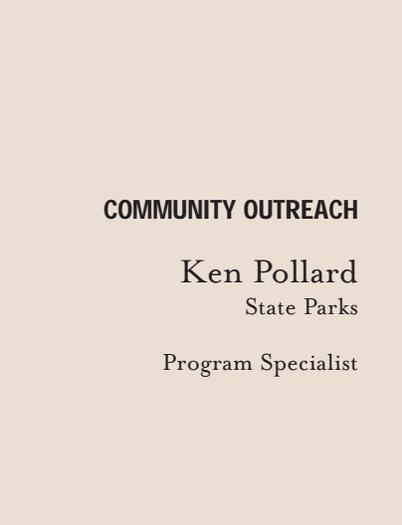


**LEADERSHIP**

**Kyle Spiller**

Coastal Fisheries

Ecosystem Leader



**COMMUNITY OUTREACH**

**Ken Pollard**

State Parks

Program Specialist



**SPECIAL ACHIEVEMENTS**

**Maria Araujo**

Wildlife

Director,  
International Affairs



**NATURAL QUALITY SERVICE**

**Craig Richlen**

Administrative Resources

Revenue Branch Manager

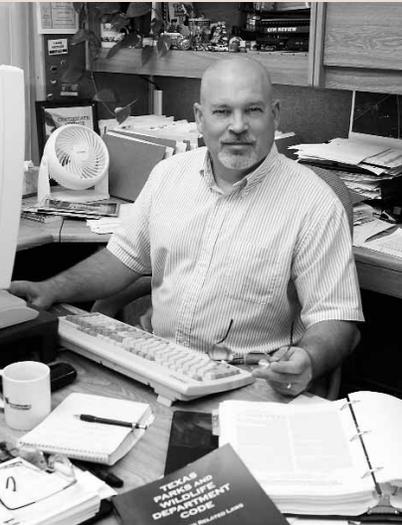


**CUSTOMER SERVICE**

**Cally Shaddox**

Law Enforcement

Clerk



**INNOVATION**

**Pamela Hamlett**

Inland Fisheries

Chemist



**PARTNERSHIP**

**Jerry Warden**

Wildlife

Director,  
Youth Hunting Program



## TPWD Leadership



### The Texas Parks and Wildlife Department leadership team:

Seated, clockwise from left:

**Walt Dabney**, State Parks Division Director;

**Dr. Mike Berger**, Wildlife Division Director;

**Mary Fields**, Administrative Resources Division Director;

**Robert L. Cook**, Executive Director;

**Lydia Saldaña**, Communications Division Director;

**Phil Durocher**, Inland Fisheries Division Director;

**Ann Bright**, General Counsel.

Standing left to right:

**Gene McCarty**, Deputy Executive Director, Administration;

**George Rios**, Information Technology Division Director;

**Steve Whiston**, Infrastructure Division Director;

**Pete Flores**, Law Enforcement Division Director;

**Dr. Larry McKinney**, Coastal Fisheries Division Director;

**Scott Boruff**, Deputy Executive Director, Operations;

**Al Bingham**, Human Resources Division Director.

## TPW Commissioners

The nine-member, governor-appointed Texas Parks and Wildlife Commission governs the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department and bears the responsibility of adopting policies and rules to carry out all department programs. The executive director oversees the work of implementing and administering all department programs as directed by the Commission.



**Joseph B.C. Fitzsimons**  
Chairman  
San Antonio



**Donato D. Ramos**  
Vice-Chairman  
Laredo



**Mark E. Bivins**  
Amarillo



**J. Robert Brown**  
El Paso



**T. Dan Friedkin**  
Houston



**Ned S. Holmes**  
Houston



**Peter M. Holt**  
San Antonio



**Philip Montgomery**  
Dallas



**John D. Parker**  
Lufkin



**Lee M. Bass**  
Chairman-Emeritus  
Fort Worth



**Robert L. Cook**  
Executive Director

# Accountability Measures

ACCOUNTABILITY MEASURES (By Topic)	Responsible Division <sup>1</sup>	FY03	FY04	FY05
<b>FISH PRODUCTION<sup>2</sup></b>				
Number of fingerlings stocked in fresh water	IF	16,182,697	12,710,877	13,748,432
Number of fingerlings stocked in salt water	CF	49,355,245	16,024,767	22,225,011
<b>DONATIONS</b>				
Estimated value of labor, cash and service contributions	SP, WL, K, IF, CF	\$7,767,372	\$5,363,016	\$5,814,912
<b>PARK VISITATION</b>				
Estimated number of state park visits (in millions) <sup>3</sup>	SP	-	9.7	9.6
<b>CONSERVATION</b>				
Percent of private land acreage in Texas managed to enhance wildlife	WL	11.2%	11.6%	12.59%
Percent of fish and wildlife kills or pollution cases resolved successfully	CF, IF	70.0%	77.2%	76.74%
Public compliance rate	LE	96.6%	95.8%	97.7%
<b>EFFICIENCY</b>				
Ratio of fingerlings produced to hatchery employees	CF, IF	740,519:1	331,246:1	424,465:1
<b>INFRASTRUCTURE<sup>4</sup></b>				
Percent of state park maintenance and minor repair projects completed	SP	-	31.7%	28.6%
Number of minor repair projects completed	SP	-	334	287
Percent of scheduled major repair projects completed	INF	-	52.4%	46.9%
Number of major repair/construction projects completed	INF	-	82	70

<sup>1</sup> Abbreviations as follows: Administrative Resources (AR), Coastal Fisheries (CF), Communications (K), Infrastructure (INF), Inland Fisheries (IF), Law Enforcement (LE), State Parks (SP), Wildlife (WL).

<sup>2</sup> The number of fingerlings stocked in FY2004 and FY2005 showed a decline from prior years mainly due to various planned repair and construction projects that temporarily shut down production at several hatcheries.

<sup>3</sup> New methodology for calculating park visitation was implemented during FY2003. Historical park visitation data based on this revised methodology is not available.

<sup>4</sup> New measures effective starting in FY2004. Historical FY2003 data is not available.

<b>ACCOUNTABILITY MEASURES (By Topic)</b>	<b>Responsible Division<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>FY03</b>	<b>FY04</b>	<b>FY05</b>
<b>DIRECT SERVICE</b>				
Percentage of department's direct service expenditures to total expenditures	AR	90.8%	90.8%	89.9%
<b>PUBLIC ACCESS</b>				
Number of WMAs available for wildlife viewing and other non-hunting forms of outdoor recreation	WL	51	51	51
Acres of public hunting land provided (including state parks)	WL, SP	1,372,674	1,400,380	1,413,021
Annual percentage change in public hunting days provided	WL	+11.0%	-4.18%	-9.0%
Number of state parks open to public hunting	WL, SP	43	42	44
<b>OUTREACH</b>				
Estimated number of Texans reached by programs and events <sup>5</sup>		2,054,103	773,781	738,817
<b>STATE PARKS AND PUBLIC LANDS</b>				
State park reservations <sup>6</sup>	SP	244,154	254,076	254,628
Texas Conservation Passports sold <sup>7</sup>	AR	50,016	13,037	25
Volunteer hours in state parks (including inmate labor)	SP	598,904	526,612	689,850
New state parks opened	SP	0	0	0
State park acreage	EO	601,564	601,590	610,319
Number of acres in the department's Public Lands System per 1,000 Texans	EO	62.8	62.4	61.01
<b>COMMUNITY OUTREACH</b>				
Fish and wildlife events held for targeted user groups	IF, CF, WL, LE, K	3,432	3,285	2,808
Local park grants awarded <sup>8</sup>	SP	\$17,250,000	\$10,760,000	\$10,890,000
Boat ramp grants awarded	SP	\$1,670,000	\$2,100,000	\$1,900,000

<sup>5</sup> Change in methodology for calculating this measure in FY2004 resulted in a decline in the figures reported.

<sup>6</sup> Figures represent CRC reservations only.

<sup>7</sup> Conservation passports discontinued as of January 2004.

<sup>8</sup> The amount of Local Park Grants Awarded decreased due to legislatively mandated reductions in funding for the program during the FY2004-05 biennium.

# Accountability Measures, continued

<b>ACCOUNTABILITY MEASURES (By Topic)</b>	<b>Responsible Division<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>FY03</b>	<b>FY04</b>	<b>FY05</b>
Students in hunter education	K	35,123	34,571	31,004
Students in boater education	K	10,011	9,941	10,467
Magazine subscribers	K	114,899	113,145	95,224
<b>FACILITIES MANAGED</b>				
WMAs managed	WL	51	51	51
State parks managed	SP	118	117	117
<b>HUNTING, FISHING AND BOATING</b>				
Resident hunting-type licenses	AR, LE	435,147	445,549	452,496
Non-resident hunting-type licenses	AR, LE	64,511	68,312	73,167
Hunting stamps	AR, LE	161,739	166,558	177,044
Resident fishing-type licenses	AR, LE	994,950	992,374	994,245
Non-resident fishing-type licenses	AR, LE	92,215	81,305	92,471
Fishing stamps	AR, LE	467,444	473,699	31,442
Combination hunting/fishing-type licenses	AR, LE	574,432	558,021	535,131
Annual boat registrations	AR, LE	341,519	324,542	337,046
Public hunts on department lands, leases	WL	6,384	6,188	5,587
<b>FISH AND WILDLIFE</b>				
Deer harvested	WL	442,369	441,564	438,116
Turkeys harvested	WL	65,189	62,722	63,723
Mourning doves harvested	WL	4,534,984	4,269,080	3,655,041
Ducks harvested	WL	925,000	815,000	909,600
Geese harvested	WL	345,000	299,400	248,100
<b>LAW ENFORCEMENT</b>				
Vehicle miles patrolled by game wardens	LE	10,540,000	10,730,000	10,675,225
Boat hours patrolled by game wardens	LE	111,315	113,782	127,681
Arrests (game and fish)	LE	20,838	20,704	21,534
Arrests (water safety)	LE	9,587	9,033	9,904
Law enforcement contacts by game wardens	LE	1,372,473	1,532,551	3,676,066
<b>RESOURCE PROTECTION</b>				
Environmental permit/document reviews	CF, IF, WL	1,325	1,500	1,409
Fish kills and pollution complaints investigated	CF, IF	279	307	258

# About this Report

This is the Annual Report of the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department for the fiscal year ending August 31, 2005 [FY2005]. The report is one of several documents the department produces to provide information to our employees and the public. More information can be found on the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department Web site at [www.tpwd.state.tx.us](http://www.tpwd.state.tx.us). This report was prepared by the Communications Division, with information provided by all other divisions.

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