TEXAS PARKS AND WILDLIFE

NATURAL RESOURCE
CONSERVATION
PROGRAMS AND SERVICES

for TEXAS LANDOWNERS
INTRODUCTION

Texas is a diverse state with a wealth of natural resources and a broad range of programs available to assist private landowners who are interested in conservation on their land. The purpose of this publication is to provide landowners with a resource that offers background information on these programs so that they may select those programs that best address their specific concerns. Landowners are encouraged to follow up with the appropriate agency after determining which programs might best suit their needs.

The programs are categorized according to their administration through state and federal agencies as well as private/alternative programs. Information provided includes the purpose of each program, eligibility, type of assistance (technical and/or financial), duration, cost-share amounts and contacts.

This resource list is a work in progress. Texas Parks and Wildlife Department will continue to add and revise information periodically. An electronic version of this publication is available on our Web site at www.tpwd.state.tx.us/landwater. Please check there for the most current updates. If you have any comments or questions, please contact TPWD at (800) 792-1112 or (512) 389-4800.

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GUIDE TO ABBREVIATIONS USED

DU       Ducks Unlimited  
ED       Environmental Defense  
EPA      Environmental Protection Agency  
FSA      Farm Service Agency  
NOAA     National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration  
NRCS     Natural Resources Conservation Service  
RMA      Risk Management Agency  
SWCD     Soil and Water Conservation District  
TCE      Texas Cooperative Extension  
TCTWS    Texas Chapter of the Wildlife Society  
TFA      Texas Forestry Association  
TFS      Texas Forest Service  
THC      Texas Historical Commission  
TLTC     Texas Land Trust Council  
TNC      The Nature Conservancy  
TPWD     Texas Parks and Wildlife Department  
TSSWCB   Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board  
TWDB     Texas Water Development Board  
USDA     United States Department of Agriculture  
USACE    United States Army Corps of Engineers  
USFS     United States Forest Service

Contact information for each of these organizations is included at the end of this report.
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STATES PROGRAMS

TEXAS FOREST SERVICE (TFS)

- **Texas Forest Service Grants (Southern Pine Beetle Prevention)**
  
  **PURPOSE:** To reduce susceptibility of dense pine stands to southern pine beetle infestation
  
  **ELIGIBILITY:** A minimum of 10 acres of loblolly, shortleaf or slash pine in need of first thinning within 25 counties of East Texas
  
  **ASSISTANCE:** Technical and financial
  
  **DURATION:** Refer to agency
  
  **COST-SHARE:** Pre-commercial thinning: 50% of costs, up to $75/acre; first thinning of pulpwood stands: $50/acre; consulting forester fee: 50%, up to $10/acre. Maximum = $8,500/landowner/year; $17,000/partnership or trust/year
  
  **CONTACT:** TFS office nearest you or go to: http://txforestservice.tamu.edu

- **Texas Heritage Forest Program**
  
  **PURPOSE:** Enables a forest landowner to become a partner in ensuring the sustainability of Texas forests by establishing a prominent, living legacy of forestlands that will endow forestry research and education
  
  **ELIGIBILITY:** Private forestland owners with an interest in sustaining their forest resources through planned giving programs such as Gifts, Gifts of Undivided Interest, Share of Partnership Trusts and Timber Trusts
  
  **ASSISTANCE:** Technical
  
  **DURATION:** Varies
  
  **COST-SHARE:** None
  
  **CONTACT:** TFS regional offices or Jan Davis, CF (979) 458-6630, or go to: http://txforestservice.tamu.edu

- **Texas Forest Legacy Program**
  
  **PURPOSE:** To protect environmentally and economically important forestland from conversion to non-forest uses through the purchase of conservation easements
  
  **ELIGIBILITY:** Private landowners with forestland in any of the 59 East Texas counties that make up the Texas Forest Legacy Area
  
  **ASSISTANCE:** Technical and financial
  
  **DURATION:** Perpetuity
COST-SHARE: 75% TFS to 25% landowner match
CONTACT: TFS regional offices or Jan Davis, CF (979) 458-6630, or go to:
http://txforestservice.tamu.edu

Forest Stewardship Program

PURPOSE: Provides technical assistance for multiple resource management to forest landowners in all parts of the state. Guidance and direction is provided by the State Forest Stewardship Coordinating Committee. The program recognizes exemplary landowners through the Certified Forest Steward Program. The program also addresses endangered species, water quality, cultural resources, wood technology and seedling supply.

ELIGIBILITY: Private forest landowners
ASSISTANCE: Technical
DURATION: Ongoing
COST-SHARE: None
CONTACT: TFS district offices or go to: http://texasforestservice.tamu.edu

Forest Land Enhancement Program (FLEP)

PURPOSE: Provides landowners with informational, educational, technical and financial assistance to provide sustainable multiple resource values and benefits on their property.

ELIGIBILITY: Two regions share cost-share funding: (1) East Texas and (2) Central Texas, the High Plains and the Rio Grande Valley. Non-industrial ownerships between 20-100 acres qualify. Landowners must have a management plan. Special funding for traditionally underserved landowners.

ASSISTANCE: Informational, educational, technical and financial
DURATION: Expected to expire in 2007

CONTACT: TFS district offices or go to: www.tpwd.state.tx.us/landwater/land/private/farmbill/flep
TEXAS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

- **Free Services for Landowners and Land Trusts**

  **PURPOSE:** We believe that the more landowners and Land Trusts know about the history of their land, the better they will protect it. For this reason THC professional archeologists, assisted by trained volunteer stewards, are available to consult with landowners by phone, mail, email and or site visit. We provide this as a confidential service and without obligation of any kind.

  **ELIGIBILITY:** Any Texas Landowner, any land trust operating within Texas

  **ASSISTANCE:** Professional consultation

  **DURATION:** Project-specific

  **COST-SHARE:** Free service

  **CONTACT:** (512) 463-6096 or www.thc.state.tx.us

TEXAS PARKS AND WILDLIFE DEPARTMENT (TPWD)

- **East Texas Wetlands Project**

  **PURPOSE:** Restore, enhance and/or create wetlands on private lands within the Texas portion of the Lower Mississippi Valley Joint Venture

  **ELIGIBILITY:** Projects shall involve a minimum of 25 acres of surface water; project focuses on the key floodplains of East Texas

  **ASSISTANCE:** Technical and financial; program is run by a partnership of TPWD, DU, NRCS and USFWS

  **DURATION:** 30-year agreements and/or Perpetual Conservation Easements

  **COST-SHARE:** A maximum of 50% of the total construction cost, not to exceed $350/acre and $50,000 in ETWP funding

  **CONTACT:** TPWD, DU (primary contact), NRCS and USFWS or go to: www.tpwd.state.tx.us/landwater/land/habitats/post_oak/waterfowl/etwp

- **Landowner Incentive Program (LIP)**

  **PURPOSE:** Provide support to private landowners for management that conserves rare species and their habitats on private lands

  **ELIGIBILITY:** Private landowners and non-governmental organizations

  **ASSISTANCE:** Technical and financial

  **DURATION:** 1 to 3 years
COST-SHARE: Up to 75%; minimum 25% non-federal match  
CONTACT: TPWD or go to: www.tpwd.state.tx.us/lip

- **Texas Prairie Wetlands Project (PWP)**
  
  PURPOSE: Restore, enhance, manage and/or create natural or man-made wetlands and/or harvested croplands that will benefit waterfowl and other migratory birds  
  ELIGIBILITY: Landowners located in the 28 counties that are located within the gulf coast prairies; 5 acres of surface water is the minimum size  
  ASSISTANCE: Technical and financial; program is run by a partnership of TPWD, DU, NRCS and USFWS  
  DURATION: 10 and 15+ year agreements  
  COST-SHARE: Up to 75% or 100% where supplemental water is provided  
  CONTACT: TPWD, DU, NRCS, USFWS or go to: www.ducks.org/Texas/TexasConservation/1536/TexasPrairieWetlandsProject.html

- **TPWD Technical Guidance Program**
  
  PURPOSE: Biologists in each region of the state are available to assist landowners in planning and implementing practices that enhance wildlife habitats and populations. The primary goal of the Technical Guidance Program is to work with individual landowners, upon their request, to develop sound wildlife management programs consistent with the landowner’s goals and objectives. The assistance is advisory and provided without charge.  
  ELIGIBILITY: Statewide  
  ASSISTANCE: Technical  
  DURATION: NA  
  COST-SHARE: NA  
  CONTACT: TPWD Private Lands Program or go to: www.tpwd.state.tx.us/landwater/land/private/
Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board (TSSWCB)

- **Water Quality Management Plan (WQMP)**
  
  **PURPOSE:** Assist agricultural and silvicultural producers in meeting the state’s water quality goals and standards through this voluntary, incentive-based program
  
  **ELIGIBILITY:** Agricultural landowners willing to adopt BMPs
  
  **ASSISTANCE:** Technical guidance to create the plan; possible financial assistance with implementation
  
  **DURATION:** NA
  
  **COST-SHARE:** Technical guidance is a free service; possible financial assistance
  
  **CONTACT:** Local Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD), USDA, NRCS or go to: www.tsswcb.state.tx.us/programs.html

- **Brush Control Program**
  
  **PURPOSE:** Assist landowners to develop resource management system plans addressing brush control, soil erosion, water quality, wildlife habitat and other natural resource issues
  
  **ELIGIBILITY:** Critical areas designated by the TSSWCB
  
  **ASSISTANCE:** Technical and financial
  
  **DURATION:** 2 years (renewable)
  
  **COST-SHARE:** Up to 80% of the total cost of a practice
  
  **CONTACT:** TSSWCB or go to: www.tsswcb.state.tx.us/programs.html

- **Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plan (CNMP)**
  
  **PURPOSE:** Recommended for dairy producers in the watershed to voluntarily develop and implement a Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plan (CNMP)
  
  **ELIGIBILITY:** Currently confined to North Bosque River watershed
  
  **ASSISTANCE:** Technical and financial
  
  **DURATION:** Refer to agency
  
  **COST-SHARE:** Producers with TSSWCB certification of their CNMP may be eligible for cost-share through their local Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD); financial assistance may also be available from some Texas universities and institutes
  
  **CONTACT:** Local SWCD or go to: www.tsswcb.state.tx.us/programs.html
FEDERAL PROGRAMS

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY PROGRAMS

- **EPA Clean Water State Revolving Fund**

  (Note: funding must be obtained through the state)

  **PURPOSE:** Help fund projects for wastewater treatment, non-point source pollution control, and watershed and estuary management

  **ELIGIBILITY:** Assists a range of borrowers including municipalities, communities of all sizes. Farmers, homeowners, small businesses and non-profits only for non-point source projects

  **ASSISTANCE:** Technical and financial

  **DURATION:** Loans up to 20 years

  **CONTACT:** Texas Water Development Board at (512) 463-7847 or go to: www.epa.gov/owm/cwfinance/cwsrf

FARM SERVICE AGENCY PROGRAMS

- **Conservation Reserve Program (CRP)**

  **PURPOSE:** Management to reduce soil erosion, improve water quality and habitat

  **ELIGIBILITY:** Land must have been in agricultural commodity for 4 years between 1996 and 2001; evidence of erosion and/or water quality problem
  
  (Note: special amount of acreage may be available for enrollment of bottomland hardwood lands and longleaf pine)

  **ASSISTANCE:** Technical and financial

  **DURATION:** Minimum 10 years

  **COST-SHARE:** Average $30-$40/acre annual rent (not to exceed $50,000 annually) plus 50% cost-share for most practices

  **CONTACT:** FSA/USDA Service Centers, or go to: www.tpwd.state.tx.us/landwater/land/private/farmbill/crp
Continuous Conservation Reserve Program (CCRP)

PURPOSE: Improve air and water quality through buffers, wind breaks, filter strips and field borders
ELIGIBILITY: Can be farm or ranch land; varies according to practice
ASSISTANCE: Technical and financial
DURATION: 10-15 years
COST-SHARE: Sign-up incentive payment of $100/acre, 50% cost share on qualifying practices with an additional 40% paid upon completion, yearly $30-$40/acre rental payment over life of contract
CONTACT: FSA/USDA Service Centers or go to: www.tpwd.state.tx.us/landwater/land/private/farmbill/ccrp

Grasslands Reserve Program (GRP)
This program has reached its acreage cap and is closed.

PURPOSE: Prevent conversion of productive agricultural and grass land to other purposes
ELIGIBILITY: Land with working haying or grazing operations
ASSISTANCE: Technical and financial; purchase of development rights
DURATION: 10-30 year rental agreements; 30 year and permanent easements
COST-SHARE: Assessed according to appraised value of land
CONTACT: NRCS or FSA Service Centers or go to: www.tpwd.state.tx.us/landwater/land/private/farmbill/grp or www.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/GRP/index.html

Commodity Loans and Loan Deficiency Payments

PURPOSE: To improve and stabilize farm income, to assist in bringing about a better balance between supply and demand of the commodities, and to assist farmers in the orderly marketing of their crops
ELIGIBILITY: Owner, landlord, tenant or sharecropper on an eligible farm that has produced the eligible commodities or, in the case of sugar, a processor or refiner who meets program requirements as set by agency
ASSISTANCE: Financial
DURATION: Assistance is generally available for 9 months or less; funds normally disbursed on a lump-sum basis
COST-SHARE: Unrestricted loans/grants
CONTACT: FSA/USDA Service Centers or go to: www.fsa.usda.gov
Direct or Guaranteed Farm Operating Loans

PURPOSE: To enable operators of not larger than family farms through the extension of credit and supervisory assistance, to make efficient use of their land, labor and other resources, and to establish and maintain financially viable farming and ranching operations.

ELIGIBILITY: Families, individuals and entities who are farmers, ranchers or aquaculture operators are the beneficiaries.

ASSISTANCE: Financial; direct loans, guaranteed/insured loans.

DURATION: Loans generally scheduled for repayment over 7 years.

COST-SHARE: $200,000 direct loan maximum or $899,000 guaranteed loan maximum.

CONTACT: FSA/USDA Service Centers or go to: www.fsa.usda.gov

Direct, Guaranteed or Beginning Farmer Farm Ownership Loans

PURPOSE: To assist eligible farmers, ranchers and aquaculture operators, including farming cooperatives, corporations, partnerships and joint operations, through the extension of credit and supervisory assistance to: Become owner-operators of not larger than family farms; make efficient use of the land, labor and other resources; carry on sound and successful farming operations; and enable farm families to have a reasonable standard of living.

ELIGIBILITY: Applicants/borrowers are the direct beneficiaries and must meet the applicant eligibility requirements. Families, individuals and entities who are farmers, ranchers or aquaculture operators are the beneficiaries.

ASSISTANCE: Financial; direct loans, guaranteed/insured loans.

DURATION: Loans justified may be scheduled over a period up to 40 years.

COST-SHARE: $200,000 direct or beginning farmer loan – 40% of purchase or appraisal or $899,000 guaranteed loan maximum.

CONTACT: FSA/USDA Service Centers or go to: www.fsa.usda.gov

Trade Adjustment Assistance for Farmers

PURPOSE: To help producers respond proactively to import competition through training, cash benefits and employment services.

ELIGIBILITY: Must demonstrate that producer’s prices are less than or equal to 80% of the national average price during the previous 5 marketing years and that increases in imports of like or competitive products “contributed importantly” to the decline in prices.
ASSISTANCE: Technical and financial
DURATION: NA
COST-SHARE: NA; direct payments for unrestricted use
CONTACT: USDA Service Centers or go to: www.fsa.usda.gov

■ Debt for Nature

(Debt Cancellation Conservation Contract Program)

PURPOSE: Program offers possible cancellation of portion of FSA indebtedness in exchange for conservation contract on land suitable for conservation, recreation and/or wildlife
ELIGIBILITY: FSA indebtedness; certain types of land more suitable including those with measurable conservation values
ASSISTANCE: Financial
DURATION: 50, 30 or 10 year contracts
COST-SHARE: Up to 33 percent of loan principle (more under certain conditions)
CONTACT: FSA/USDA/USFWS Service or go to: www.fsa.usda.gov

NATIONAL OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION (NOAA)

■ Marine Fisheries Initiative (MARFIN)

PURPOSE: Support research and development projects in SE and NE Atlantic and Gulf of Mexico
ELIGIBILITY: Institutions of higher education, other nonprofits, commercial organizations, state, local and Indian tribal governments
ASSISTANCE: Financial
DURATION: Up to 3 years
COST-SHARE: Not required
CONTACT: Scot Plank (727) 824-5324 or go to: http://sero.nmfs.noaa.gov/grants/marfin.htm
Saltonstall-Kennedy Program Grants and Cooperative Agreements

PURPOSE: The Saltonstall-Kennedy Act established a fund to provide grants or cooperative agreements for fisheries research and development projects addressed to any aspect of United States fisheries, including, but not limited to, harvesting, processing, aquaculture, marketing and associated infrastructures.

ELIGIBILITY: Eligible applicants must be: (1) a citizen or national of the United States, (2) a citizen of the Northern Mariana Islands (NMI), (3) a citizen of the Republic of the Marshall Islands, Republic of Palau or the Federated States of Micronesia; or (4) represent an entity that is an institution of higher education, other nonprofit, commercial organization, state, local or Indian tribal government, if such entity is a citizen of the United States or NMI, within the meaning of section 2 of the Shipping act, 1916, as amended.

ASSISTANCE: Financial (grants or cooperative agreements)

DURATION: Grants are not to exceed 24 months

COST-SHARE: Applicants must provide a minimum cost share of 10% of total (Federal and non-federal combined) project costs, but the cost-share must not exceed 50% of total costs

CONTACT: (301) 713-2358, Steve Aguzin, Stephen.Aguzin@noaa.gov or go to: www.nmfs.noaa.gov/ocs/skhome.html

Unallied Management Project Grants

PURPOSE: To provide grants and cooperative agreements of biological, socioeconomic and physical science research on the stocks of fishery and protected resources of the United States and their environment that will contribute to their optimal management for the benefit of the nation; also, to award grants and cooperative agreements to develop innovative approaches and methods for marine and estuarine science.

ELIGIBILITY: Open to state and local governments, including their universities and colleges; United States territorial agencies; federally and state recognized Indian tribal governments; private universities and colleges; private profit and nonprofit research and conservation organizations and/or individuals

ASSISTANCE: Financial (not funded every year)

DURATION: Generally 12 months
COST-SHARE: No statutory formula. Funding up to 100% of the federal share. Grantee matching contributions are not required, but are encouraged.


NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE (NRCS)

- Conservation of Private Grazing Land (CPGL)
  
  PURPOSE: CPGL is a voluntary program that helps owners and managers of private grazing lands address natural resource concerns while enhancing the economic and social stability of grazing land enterprises and the rural communities that rely on them.
  
  ELIGIBILITY: All owners and managers of private grazing lands
  
  ASSISTANCE: Technical
  
  DURATION: Varies; refer to agency
  
  COST-SHARE: NA
  
  CONTACT: NRCS/USDA Service Centers and Conservation District Offices or go to: www.tpwd.state.tx.us/landwater/land/private/farmbill/cpgl or www.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/cpgl

- Conservation Security Program (CSP)
  
  PURPOSE: Reward best land management practices
  
  ELIGIBILITY: Landowners in targeted watersheds who excel in improving soil quality
  
  ASSISTANCE: Technical and financial
  
  DURATION: 5-10 years
  
  COST-SHARE: Three tiers of rental payments and cost-share
  
■ Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP)

PURPOSE: Conservation program for farmers and ranchers for protection or improvement of soil, water and related natural resources, including wildlife.

ELIGIBILITY: Land that is in livestock or agricultural production; cropland, rangeland, pasture or forestland.

ASSISTANCE: Technical and financial.

DURATION: 1-10 year contracts.

COST-SHARE: Normally 50%, up to 90% for economically disadvantaged landowners.

CONTACT: NRCS/FSA/USDA Service Centers and Conservation District Offices or go to: www.tpwd.state.tx.us/landwater/land/private/farmbill/eqip or www.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/eqip

■ Farm and Ranch Lands Protection Program (FRPP)

PURPOSE: Prevent conversion of productive agricultural land to other purposes.

ELIGIBILITY: Agricultural land that has at least 50% of its soil that is prime, unique or of statewide importance and that is considered to be in danger of conversion to nonagricultural uses.

ASSISTANCE: Purchase of development rights.

DURATION: Permanent easements.

COST-SHARE: Assessed according to appraised value of land before and after the easement is placed on the property.

CONTACT: NRCS/USDA State Offices and Cooperating Entities (state and local governments, Indian tribes, land trusts and other non-government organizations) or go to: www.tpwd.state.tx.us/landwater/land/private/farmbill/fpp or www.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/frpp

■ Wetlands Reserve Program (WRP)

PURPOSE: Restore, enhance and protect wetlands on private lands. Accomplished through the use of cost share assistance for actual restoration activities as well as potential payments for the purchase of temporary or permanent conservation easements. WRP provides excellent financial incentives to landowners willing to retire eligible wetlands. The landowner retains the right of quiet enjoyment of the easement area including undeveloped recreational use.

ELIGIBILITY: No acreage limit. Eligible lands include cropped wetlands and wetlands converted to cropland prior to 1985, adjacent functionally...
related uplands, natural wetlands are eligible as adjacent lands and riparian areas must link protected wetlands.

ASSISTANCE: Technical and financial
DURATION: Permanent, 10 or 30 year programs
COST-SHARE: Up to 75% of fair market value and restoration costs for Restoration Cost Share Agreements and 30 year easements; up to 100% for permanent easements
CONTACT: NRCS/USDA Service Centers and Conservation District Offices or go to: www.tpwd.state.tx.us/landwater/land/private/farmbill/wrp or www.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/wrp

**Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program (WHIP)**

PURPOSE: WHIP is a voluntary program for people who want to develop and improve wildlife habitat primarily on private lands. It provides both technical assistance and cost-share payments to help establish and improve fish and wildlife habitat. WHIP funds are distributed to states based on state wildlife habitat priorities, which may include wildlife habitat areas, targeted species and their habitats, and specific practices.

ELIGIBILITY: No acreage limit specified. Lands are eligible statewide based on established program priorities.
ASSISTANCE: Technical and financial
DURATION: Generally 5 or 10 year agreements
COST-SHARE: Up to 50% of project costs
CONTACT: NRCS/USDA Service Centers and Conservation District Offices or go to: www.tpwd.state.tx.us/landwater/land/private/farmbill/whip or www.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/whip

**Conservation Technical Assistance (CTA)**

PURPOSE: Provide technical assistance supported by science-based technology and tools to help people conserve, maintain and improve their natural resources
ELIGIBILITY: All owners, managers and others that have a stake and interest in natural resource management, including wildlife, on private, tribal or non-federal lands
ASSISTANCE: Technical
DURATION: NA
COST-SHARE: NA
CONTACT: NRCS/USDA Service Centers and Conservation District Offices or go to: www.tx.nrcs.usda.gov
Grazing Lands Conservation Initiative (GLCI)

PURPOSE: To support the stewardship of Texas grazing lands and to sustain Texas’ valuable natural resources

ELIGIBILITY: Owners and managers of privately owned grazing lands

ASSISTANCE: Technical

DURATION: NA

COST-SHARE: NA

CONTACT: NRCS/USDA Service Centers and Conservation District Offices
www.glci.org

Rural Abandoned Mine Program

PURPOSE: Restoring the soil and water resources of rural lands adversely affected by past coal mining practices

ELIGIBILITY: Limited to individuals who own or control the surface or water rights of abandoned coal land or lands and water affected by coal mining practices before August 3, 1977

ASSISTANCE: Financial and technical

DURATION: 5 to 10 year contract based on the reclamation plan to receive cost-sharing

COST-SHARE: NA; direct payments for specified use

CONTACT: NRCS/USDA offices, call (202) 720-1873 or go to: www.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/ramp

Emergency Watershed Program (EWP)

PURPOSE: Designed to relieve imminent hazards to life and property caused by floods, fires, windstorms and other natural occurrences. Work can include: removing debris from stream channels, road culverts and bridges; reshaping and protecting eroded banks; correcting damaged drainage facilities; repairing levees and structures; reseeding damaged areas; and purchasing floodplain easements.

ELIGIBILITY: Public and private landowners are eligible for assistance but must be represented by a project sponsor. The project sponsor must be a public agency of state, county or city government, or a special district or tribal government.

ASSISTANCE: Technical and financial

DURATION: Refer to agency

COST-SHARE: Up to 75% of the construction cost of emergency measures or up to 90% in limited resource areas

CONTACT: NRCS/USDA Service Centers and Conservation District Offices, or call (202) 690-0793, or go to: www.nrcs.usda.gov/Programs/ewp
RISK MANAGEMENT AGENCY (RMA) USDA

■ Crop Insurance

PURPOSE: To promote the national welfare by improving the economic stability of agriculture through a sound system of crop insurance and providing the means for the research and experience helpful in devising and establishing such insurance

ELIGIBILITY: Unless otherwise restricted by the insurance policy, owners or operators of farmland, who have an insurable interest in a crop in a county where insurance is offered on that crop, are eligible for insurance, if such crop is produced for food or fiber and the area is authorized

ASSISTANCE: Insurance
DURATION: Refer to agency
COST-SHARE: NA
CONTACT: USDA Service Centers or go to: www.rma.usda.gov/fcic

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR PROGRAMS

U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE PROGRAMS

■ Challenge Cost-Share Program

PURPOSE: Projects focus on restoration of natural resources, the establishment or expansion of wildlife habitats and wildlife-oriented recreational and education programs

ELIGIBILITY: Public (NWRs, fish hatcheries, etc.) and private lands
ASSISTANCE: Technical and financial
DURATION: Usually one year
COST-SHARE: Matched 50/50 (no other federal funds)
CONTACT: USFWS; www.coralreef.gov/taskforce/meetings/minutes/washdc/grants
Coastal Program

PURPOSE: Protect coastal habitats through conservation easement and acquisition; restore coastal wetlands, uplands and riparian areas; remove barriers to fish passage in coastal watersheds; control and monitor exotic and invasive species that threaten estuarine health

ELIGIBILITY: Open to government agencies, conservation organizations, watershed councils, trusts, academia, business, private landowners and projects on public and private land

ASSISTANCE: Technical and financial

DURATION: Refer to agency

COST-SHARE: Refer to agency

CONTACT: USFWS www.fws.gov/coastal/CoastalProgram

Cooperative Conservation Initiative

PURPOSE: Supports efforts to restore natural resources and establish or expand wildlife habitat; program aims to increase citizen participation in stewardship

ELIGIBILITY: Landowners, land-user groups, environmental organizations, communities and governments

ASSISTANCE: Financial

DURATION: Refer to agency

COST-SHARE: Up to 50%

CONTACT: USFWS or any DOI agency

Fish Passage Program

PURPOSE: Voluntary program that reconnects fish species to historic habitats; funding for restoration by removing or bypassing barriers including dam removal, culvert renovation, installing fishways and screens, and identification of impediments

ELIGIBILITY: Unrestricted; subject to clarification

ASSISTANCE: Technical and financial; Cost-share

DURATION: Refer to agency

COST-SHARE: No required match; however, a 50% cost-share is highly encouraged

CONTACT: Clear Lake Ecological Services Field Office, (281) 286-8282 or go to: www.fws.gov/fisheries/FWSMA/FishPassage/FPPrgs/R2/Region2.htm
Neotropical Migratory Bird Conservation Program

PURPOSE: Promote conservation of neotropical migratory birds in United States, Latin America and Caribbean; assist in the conservation of neotropical migratory birds by providing financial resources for the projects of partnerships in countries within the ranges of neotropical migratory birds

ELIGIBILITY: Applicants may be: an individual, corporation, partnership, trust, association or other private entity; an officer, employee, agent, department or instrumentality of government with an interest in neotropical migratory bird conservation

ASSISTANCE: Financial; project grants

DURATION: Varies; awarded funds must be spent during the approved period of performance of the grant agreement

COST-SHARE: In determining whether to accept projects for funding approval, applicants must guarantee a 3:1 match amount. That is, the applicant must match each Act dollar with 3 non-federal dollars.

CONTACT: USFWS Division of Bird Habitat Conservation (703) 358-1784 or neotropical@fws.gov or go to: www.fws.gov/birdhabitat/Grants/NMBCA/index.shtm

North American Wetlands Conservation Act of 1989 (NAWCA)

PURPOSE: Wetland acquisition, restoration and enhancement; partner with agencies in United States, Mexico and Canada

ELIGIBILITY: Wetland ecosystems, migratory bird habitats; larger and special concern areas given priority

ASSISTANCE: Technical and financial

DURATION: Minimum 10-year agreement (5 years for demonstration projects)

COST-SHARE: One-to-one match for federal and non-federal funds

CONTACT: USFWS at (703) 358-1784, dbhc@fws.gov or go to: www.fws.gov/birdhabitat/Grants/NAWCA/index.shtm

Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program (PFW)

PURPOSE: To restore, enhance, manage habitat; re-establishment of natural communities

ELIGIBILITY: Any wetland; special consideration for specified criteria areas

ASSISTANCE: Technical and financial

DURATION: 10 years or more (demonstration sites may be less)
COST-SHARE: Up to 100%; demo projects at 50% (not to exceed $15,000 if less than 10 years)
CONTACT: USFWS at (817) 277-1100 or Mike_McCollum@fws.gov or go to: http://ecos.fws.gov/partners/viewContent.do?viewPage=home

Private Stewardship for Imperiled Species Grants

PURPOSE: Assistance is provided to individuals and groups to fund the voluntary restoration, management or enhancement of habitat on private lands for endangered, threatened, proposed, candidate or other at-risk species
ELIGIBILITY: Sponsored organizations, individual/family, specialized group, public nonprofit institution/organization, private nonprofit institution/organization, small business, profit organization or other private institution/organization
ASSISTANCE: Financial; project grants
DURATION: Varies; Awarded funds must be spent during the approved Period of Performance of the grant agreement, and in accordance with DOI/FWS financial and reporting procedures
COST-SHARE: A 10% cost-share on the part of the landowner or other nonfederal partner is required
CONTACT: USFWS at (817) 277-1100 or Mike_McCollum@fws.gov or go to: www.fws.gov/endangered/grants/private_stewardship/FY2006/psgp_2006.pdf

Private Stewardship Program Grants

PURPOSE: These grants are intended to benefit to species listed, proposed, candidate for listing under Endangered Species Act, candidate species or other at-risk species on private lands within the United States.
ELIGIBILITY: Voluntary conservation efforts on private land; for private landowners and their non-federal partners.
ASSISTANCE: Technical and financial
DURATION: Refer to agency
COST-SHARE: Cost-share of at least 10% (may be up to 90% in some cases)
CONTACT: USFWS at (817) 277-1100 or Mike_McCollum@fws.gov or go to: www.fws.gov/endangered/grants/private_stewardship/FY2006/psgp_2006.pdf
- **Safe Harbor Agreements**

  (Attwater’s Prairie-Chicken, Endangered Songbirds, Houston Toad, Northern Aplomado Falcon, Red-cockaded Woodpecker)

  **PURPOSE:** Assistance to landowners in managing their lands in ways that benefit species and their habitats and providing them regulatory flexibility if the result is an increase in populations on their land.

  **ELIGIBILITY:** Texas landowners with habitat for one or more of these species on site.

  **ASSISTANCE:** Technical and financial.

  **DURATION:** Refer to agency.

  **COST-SHARE:** Refer to agency.

  **CONTACT:** USFWS Endangered Species Program (703) 358-2105 or go to: www.fws.gov/endangered/recovery/harborqa.pdf

- **DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE PROGRAMS**

  - **Flood Plain Management Services**

    **PURPOSE:** To promote appropriate recognition of flood hazards in land and water use planning and development through the provision of flood and flood plain related data, technical services and guidance.

    **ELIGIBILITY:** States, political subdivisions of states, other non-federal public organizations and the public.

    **ASSISTANCE:** Technical (advisory services and counseling; dissemination of technical information).

    **DURATION:** Refer to agency.

    **COST-SHARE:** NA.

    **CONTACT:** US Army Corps of Engineers at (202) 761-0008 or CECW-PGweb@usace.army.mil or go to: www.lre.usace.army.mil/planning/fpmahml.html
U.S. FOREST SERVICE, USDA

- **Forest Taxation**

  **PURPOSE:** To provide advice and information to landowners to increase their knowledge of tax incentives intended to encourage forestry investments and management of forest resources

  **ELIGIBILITY:** All non-industrial private forest landowners

  **ASSISTANCE:** Technical

  **DURATION:** NA

  **COST-SHARE:** NA

  **CONTACT:** USDA/USFS at (936) 344-6205 or go to: www.fs.fed.us/spf/coop/programs/loa/tax.shtml

**NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS**

AUDUBON TEXAS

- **Audubon Texas Resources**

  Audubon assists Texas landowners through educational workshops and technical guidance on best management practices. Audubon also helps landowners and land managers build partnerships to leverage conservation activities effectively.

  **CONTACT:** (512) 300-BIRD (2473) or go to: www.tx.audubon.org

CAESAR KLEBERG WILDLIFE RESEARCH INSTITUTE
(TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY–KINGSVILLE)

- **Landowner Information Services**

  The mission of the Institute is to provide science-based information for enhancing the conservation and management of wildlife in south Texas and related environments. Publications, conferences and workshops cover a range of topics including technical land management, current wildlife research, and habitat and rangeland ecology.

  **CONTACT:** (361) 593-3922 or go to: http://ckwri.tamuk.edu
DUCKS UNLIMITED (DU)

- **Maximizing Aid to Restore State Habitat Program (MARSH)**
  
  **PURPOSE:** To enhance, restore, protect and manage wetland habitat
  
  **ELIGIBILITY:** Open to municipalities, public agencies, private persons, other public or nonprofit private agencies, institutions, organizations and individuals
  
  **ASSISTANCE:** Technical and financial (project grants, cooperative agreements)
  
  **DURATION:** Annual
  
  **CONTACT:** DU Texas Field Office at (832) 595-0663 or go to: www.ducks.org

ENVIRONMENTAL DEFENSE (ED)

- **Landowner Conservation Assistance Program**
  
  **PURPOSE:** To restore, enhance and protect habitats for endangered species by working with willing landowners on conscientious land management practices
  
  **ELIGIBILITY:** Private landowners in the Hill Country, Bastrop and Lee counties, and South Texas with respect to endangered species restoration and protection. Agreement to undertake such actions as brush management, conducting prescribed burns, planting native species, etc.
  
  **ASSISTANCE:** Technical, financial and safe harbor (regulatory assurances)
  
  **DURATION:** Ongoing
  
  **COST-SHARE:** Refer to organization
  
  **CONTACT:** David Wolfe, Environmental Defense at (512) 478-5161 or go to: www.environmentaldefense.org/aboutus.cfm?tagID=359&menu=370
TEXAS CHAPTER OF THE WILDLIFE SOCIETY (TCTWS)

- **Information Resources**

  TCTWS is a professional organization of wildlife biologists. It serves as a resource for wildlife conservation by promoting state of the art scientific and educational materials, sponsoring technical information exchange, influencing wildlife policies, reviewing and editing curricula for textbooks, and other innovative approaches to foster wildlife stewardship. The organization hosts regular meetings, workshops, youth scholarships and conservation camps.

  CONTACT: www.tctws.org

TEXAS COOPERATIVE EXTENSION (THE TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY SYSTEM)

- **Landowner Information Services**

  Texas Cooperative Extension offers a wide range of landowner resources including informative reports and publications as well as educational programs, technical guidance and research projects. Recent projects include a study on land fragmentation in the state, Houston Toad conservation efforts and an internet mapping system called CLEAR (County Level Easily Accessible Resource). Programs and publications cover topics from ranch and range management, youth programs, wildlife health and wildlife business, waterfowl and wetlands, and general wildlife management for different regions of the state as well as other aspects of agriculture and family life. Texas Cooperative Extension also hosts In Your County talks and forum meetings.

  CONTACT: your local county office or go to: http://texasextension.tamu.edu/

TEXAS FORESTRY ASSOCIATION (TFA)

- **Tree Farm Certification Program**

  **PURPOSE:** The American Tree Farm System certification program recognizes the practice of sustainable and excellent forestry on private forestlands. This recognition raises the visibility of the private landowners in their communities and inspires and motivates other non-managing forest landowners to practice sustainable forestry.
ELIGIBILITY: Landowners who want to become certified Tree Farmers
ASSISTANCE: Technical
DURATION: Minimum of 5 years
COST-SHARE: NA
CONTACT: (202) 463-2462 or go to: www.treefarmsystem.org or www.texasforestry.org

TEXAS LAND TRUST COUNCIL (TLTC)

■ TLTC Resources

The Texas Land Trust Council was formed in 1999 in partnership with Texas Parks and Wildlife Department to serve as a support association for all land trust organizations in Texas. The council’s mission is to promote and sustain the conservation efforts of Texas’ land trusts. Today, TLTC is an independent organization that continues to provide educational, organizational and technical support to land trusts, and also acts as a statewide clearinghouse for conservation information. TLTC hosts a Web site: www.texaslandtrustcouncil.org publishes a newsletter, a land trust directory, a conservation easement handbook, an annual inventory of protected lands in Texas and a conservation “packet” that can be tailored to meet the needs of land trusts, landowners and professional advisors.
CONTACT: cvogel@texaslandtrustcouncil.org

TEXAS WILDLIFE ASSOCIATION (TWA)

■ TWA Resources

TWA is involved in many facets of education about wildlife and habitat management on private lands, including landowner field days, youth education (L.A.N.D.S, Texas Brigades), implementation of conservation initiatives, Texas Big Game Awards, Texas Youth Hunting Program, outdoor skills training for youth and adults, and advocacy at the local, state and national level.
CONTACT: Toll-free (800) 839-9453 or go to: www.texas-wildlife.org
THE NATURE CONSERVANCY (TNC) TEXAS CHAPTER

- Resources, Information and Activities

TNC provides private landowners with information on programs for protecting wetlands (such as conservation easements, acquisition, bargain sale, donation and other voluntary agreements), best management practices and other relevant scientific information. The State chapter also provides information about TNC preserves in Texas and field trips, events and educational opportunities open to the public.

CONTACT: (210) 224-8774 or go to:
www.nature.org/wherewework/northamerica/states/texas/contact
CONTACT INFORMATION

American Tree Farm System
111 19th St. N.W., Suite 780 • Washington, D.C. 20036
(202) 463-2462
www.treefarmsystem.org

Audubon Texas
2904 Swiss Avenue • Dallas, TX 75204
www.tx.audubon.org
audubontexas@audubon.org
(214)-370-9735

Ducks Unlimited (DU)
Texas Field Office
1620 F.M. 2218 • Richmond, TX 77469
(832) 595-0663
www.ducks.org

Environmental Defense (ED)
Texas Regional Office
44 East Avenue, Suite 304 • Austin, TX 78701
(512) 478-5161
www.environmentaldefense.org/aboutus.cfm?tagID=359&menu=370&sub=361

Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)
Region 6 Main Office
1445 Ross Avenue • Dallas, TX 75202
(214) 665-6444
www.epa.gov/region6

Caesar Kleberg Wildlife Research Institute
Texas A&M University-Kingsville
700 University Boulevard, MSC 218 • Kingsville, TX 78363-8202
(361) 593-3922
http://ckwri.tamuk.edu
Farm Service Agency (FSA)
P.O. Box 2900 • College Station, TX 77841-2900
(979) 680-5159
www.fsa.usda.gov/tx

National Marine Fisheries Service
State/Federal Liaison Branch
Southeast Regional Office
263 13th Avenue South • St. Petersburg, FL 33701
(727) 824-5324
www.nmfs.noaa.gov

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)
National Marine Fisheries Service, Financial Services Division
1315 East-West Highway • Silver Spring, MD 20910
(301) 713-2358
www.nmfs.noaa.gov

Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)
101 South Main • Temple, TX 76501
(254) 742-9800  Fax: (254) 742-9819
www.tx.nrcs.usda.gov

The Nature Conservancy of Texas
PO Box 1440 • San Antonio, TX 78295-1440
(210) 224-8774
www.nature.org/texas

Texas Chapter of the Wildlife Society (TCTWS)
c/o Welder Wildlife Foundation
P.O. Box 1400 • Sinton, Texas 78387
(361) 364-2643

Texas Forestry Association (TFA)
P.O. Box 1488 • Lufkin, TX 75902-1488
(936) 632-TREE  Fax: (936) 632-9461  Toll-free: (866) TXTREES
www.texasforestry.org
Texas Forest Service (TFS)
301 Tarrow, Suite 364 • College Station, TX 77840-7896
(979) 458-6610
http://texasforestservice.tamu.edu

Texas Historical Commission Archeology Division
P.O. Box 12276 • Austin, Texas 78711-2276
(512) 463-6096
archeology@thc.state.tx.us
www.thc.state.tx.us

Texas Land Trust Council (TLTC)
1305 San Antonio Street • Austin, TX 78701
(512) 236-0655
www.texaslandtrusts.org or
cvogel@texaslandtrustcouncil.org

Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD)
4200 Smith School Road • Austin, TX 78744
(800) 792-1112
www.tpwd.state.tx.us/conserve/private_lands

Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board (TSSWCB)
311 N. 5th, P.O. Box 658 • Temple, TX 76503
(254) 773-2250
To locate your local contact:
www.tsswcb.state.tx.us/swcd/swcdmap.html

Texas Water Development Board (TWDB)
1700 North Congress Avenue, P.O. Box 13231 • Austin, TX 78711-3231
(512) 463-7847 Fax: (512) 475-2053
www.twdb.state.tx.us/assistance/assistance_main.asp

Texas Wildlife Association (TWA)
2800 NE Loop 410, Suite 105 • San Antonio, TX 78218
(210) 826-2904 Toll-Free (800) 839-9453
www.texas-wildlife.org
United States Department of Agriculture (USDA)
www.usda.gov/wps/portal/usdahome
(See also NRCS contact info)

United States Fish and Wildlife Service
Austin Ecological Services Field Office
10711 Burnet Road, Suite 200 • Austin, TX 78758
(512) 490-0057

United States Fish and Wildlife Service
Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program
711 Stadium Drive, Suite 252 • Arlington, TX 76011
(817) 277-1100
Texas Parks and Wildlife Department receives federal financial assistance from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Under Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, the Age Discrimination Act of 1975, and Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, the U.S. Department of the Interior and its bureaus prohibit discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability or sex (in educational programs). If you believe that you have been discriminated against in any Texas Parks and Wildlife Department program, activity, or facility, or if you desire further information, please call or write: The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Office for Diversity and Civil Rights Programs- External Programs, 4040 N. Fairfax Drive, Webb 300, Arlington, VA 22203, (703) 358-1724.