

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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STATE 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://txforestsservice.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://txforestsservice.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://txforests.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://texasforests.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

COST-SHARE: 35% cost share reimbursement (70% traditionally underserved). \$3500 maximum per year. Funding is available for: Management Plan Development, Afforestation and Reforestation, Forest Stand Improvement, Agroforestry Implementation, Water Quality Improvement and Watershed Protection, Fish and Wildlife Habitat Improvement, Forest Health Practices, Invasive Species Control, Wildfire and Catastrophic Risk Reduction, Wildfire and Catastrophic Event Rehabilitation. Practices must be maintained for 10 years.

CONTACT: TFS district offices or go to:
www.tpwd.state.tx.us/landwater/land/private/farmland/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.

CONTACT: National Marine Fisheries Service/NOAA (562) 980-4239 or go to:
http://12.46.245.173/pls/portal30/CATALOG.PROGRAM_TEXT_RPT.SHOW?p_arg_names=prog_nbr&p_arg_values=11.454

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/farbill/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

CONTACT: NRCS/USDA Service and other Centers and Conservation District Offices or go to:

www.tpwd.state.tx.us/landwater/land/private/farbill/csp or

www.tx.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/farm_bill/Conservation%20Security%20Program.html

■ **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/farmland/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/farmland/frpp 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/farbill/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/farbill/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/fpman.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.treefarmssystem.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.treefarmssystem.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://texasforests.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/conserves/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



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www.tpwd.state.tx.us

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