

Process

1. Landowner, agency personnel, etc. contacts appropriate FWS field office.
2. FWS private lands biologist conducts a site visit.
3. Proposed project developed with landowner, often with other conservation partner input.
4. Private Lands Agreement which stipulates FWS/ landowner's cost-shares, project design, and management plan is signed by landowner and submitted to FWS field office.
5. Once the project is approved at the field office level and based upon the availability of funds, the Agreement is sent to the Regional office (Albuquerque, NM) for final approval, archeological/pesticide use clearances (if necessary), and other processing.
6. Landowner receives signed agreement from FWS regional office; project construction may begin.



Restoration of native grassland using seed hay
Photograph by: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

If you would like to learn more about the PFW program, our contact information is at the end of this brochure. We look forward to hearing from you!

For Further Information:

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Front cover: Texas Coastal Prairie
Photo by: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program

Texas



ACCOMPLISHMENTS 1990-Present

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has entered into over 1,300 voluntary partnerships with private landowners, involving the restoration or enhancement of over 325,000 acres of fish and wildlife habitat in Texas, including:

- 62,000 acres of wetlands,
- 6,500 acres (188 miles) of riparian area,
- 165,000 acres of grasslands,
- 43,000 acres of woodlands and shrublands, and
- 49,000 acres of habitat for endangered, threatened, or candidate species.

General Information

The Partners for Fish and Wildlife (PFW) program is a voluntary conservation program that provides technical



and financial assistance to private landowners to restore or enhance fish and wildlife habitats for Federal trust species (e.g. migratory birds, threatened, endangered, and candidates species and other declining species). The PFW program has been very well received by our participating private landowner Cooperators. Several Cooperators have been honored as recipients of National and Regional wetland stewardship awards and also with local Wildlife Conservationists awards. A close working relationship exists with personnel from other State and Federal conservation agencies and private conservation organizations.

Texas PFW Activities

- **Restoring habitat for migratory birds and declining, threatened, and endangered species in:**
 - Grasslands
 - Riparian corridors and other wetland areas
 - Longleaf pine forests, central Texas shrublands, and south Texas brushlands
 - Other specific habitats for rare species
- Establishment of native vegetation
- Wildlife and livestock management
- Protection of rare natural resources
- Controlling invasive & non-native vegetation
- Public outreach and education

Habitats of Special Concern

Grasslands

Native grasslands are some of our most imperiled habitats in North America. Today, less than .5% of the tallgrass prairie in Texas remains in relatively pristine condition. What remains of our native grasslands is being rapidly consumed by urbanization and brush encroachment.



Lesser prairie-chickens during courtship displays on lek at a PFW project site in the Texas panhandle

Photograph by: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Riparian Areas and Other Wetlands

Of an original 16 million acres of wetlands in Texas, it has been estimated that over one-half have been lost. Restoration of coastal wetlands, wetlands within the floodplains of river, and other isolated wetlands scattered across Texas, provide wetland functions lost due to human activities which have adversely affected natural ecological functions.



Landowner and future generation enjoying restored wetland area

Photograph by: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Unique Habitats and Restoration Activities

The PFW program also places a high priority on opportunities to restore unique or rare habitat types across the State. These include the longleaf pine forest in east Texas, south Texas brush, Karst systems in central Texas, as well as habitats which support federally listed plants or animals.



Longleaf pine restoration project in east Texas

Photo by: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Outdoor Learning Areas

The PFW Program funds outdoor learning areas intended to provide schoolchildren and communities with “hands-on” educational opportunities. These projects benefit fish and wildlife and the human communities that learn from them.

