Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program

Cyndee Watson
State Coordinator for the Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program in Texas
Private Lands, Public Benefit

**Mission:**
To efficiently achieve voluntary habitat restoration on private lands, through financial and technical assistance, for the benefit of federal trust species

fws.gov/partners
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Equal opportunity to participate in and benefit from program and activities of the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service is available to all individuals regardless of physical or mental disability. For more information please contact the U.S. Department of the Interior, Office of Equal Opportunity, 1849 C Street NW, Washington D.C. 20240.
Partners For Fish and Wildlife

What Do We Do?

- Fund Habitat Restoration/Enhancement Projects on Private Lands
- Brush Management
- Grassland Restoration
- Riparian Restoration and Management
Grassland Dependent Species

- Projects that have a Benefit to Migratory Birds, Pollinators and Others Species
  - Brush Management
  - Rx Burning
  - Grassland Restoration
Edwards Plateau
Trans-Pecos

PLANTING NOTES:
THIS PLANTING SCHEMATIC DEPICTS 49 "TEARDROP" CONFIGURATIONS THAT ARE BASED ON NASCENT FORMATIONS OF WILLOW STANDS IN NATURAL SETTINGS (FOLLETT AND NEFF 2012). EACH CONFIGURATION HAS 61 CLUSTERS OF 3 WILLOWS EACH. THIS TOTALS 8,967 WILLOW POLES ACROSS THE SITE.
High Plains
Gulf Prairies and Marshes
DU Texas Prairie Wetland Project
Cypress Basin
Agreements

- Private Landowner Agreement
  - Design and Develop plan - mutual Goals
  - Match is negotiable
  - We do all the paperwork
  - No Burden on Landowner
  - Reimbursed All at Once or in Sections

- Cooperative Agreement
  - State Agencies/NGO’s
    - Find Cooperators through Sub-recipient Agreements
    - Work with Recipient and Sub-recipient
    - Ex-TPWD, TFS, TNC, DU, CBBEP, and Grasslans Alliance
Funding

Projects based on NRCS technical guide

Allows for a simplified process with great benefits to the land, landowner, and wildlife

50 to 75% of practice costs are reimbursed by the Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program
Prescribed Fire on Private Lands

**Partnerships**

- U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
- Texas A&M Forest Service
- Texas Parks & Wildlife
- Austin Fire Division

**Benefits**

- All Personnel are NWCG Qualified
- Landowners responsible for firebreaks
- Burn Plan and Agency Administrator
- FWS Costs are reduced
Partners
Working Lands for Wildlife

Table 1. Target at-risk freshwater mussel species known to occur historically in the Colorado River basin of Texas. Updated by USFWS from:
QUESTIONS?
Texas Parks & Wildlife Department

Landowner Incentive Program

LIP

Arlene Kalmbach, TPWD
What is LIP?

A competitive, incentive based cost share program for private landowners wishing to enhance their property, to establish or restore habitat for state and federal trust fish, wildlife and plant species and promote healthy terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems.
Who is LIP?

Currently sustained thorough partnerships with TPWD Wildlife and Inland Fisheries Divisions, the USFWS Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program and state contributions. The largest partner is always the landowners.
What does LIP do?

Some commonly Funded LIP Practices include:

• Brush management
• Wetland enhancement
• Invasive species management
• Erosion control
• Riparian protection
• Native vegetation planting
2018

Pre-proposal submission deadline: February 15th 2018

1. **Highest priority:**
   - Projects within identified priority watersheds that are expected to directly benefit listed or candidate species and their habitats OR species identified as “high priority” in the Texas Conservation Action Plan.
2. **High priority:** projects that are expected to directly benefit listed or candidate species and their habitats OR species identified as “high priority” in the Texas Conservation Action Plan, *but not located in a priority watershed.*

3. **Other priority:** projects that are expected to benefit other state or federal trust species and their habitats.
Priority Watersheds

- **Brazos River Basin** (especially above Possum Kingdom reservoir),
- **Colorado River Basin** (especially the Llano, Pedernales, and San Saba Rivers and Onion Creek),
- **Guadalupe River Basin**,
- **Rio Grande River Basin** (including the lower Pecos and Devil’s Rivers).
Special emphasis placed on projects that

- Offer long-term protection,
- Offer long-term monitoring,
- Projects willing to provide location-specific data to inform future conservation efforts for such species,
- Show benefit to freshwater mussel species of conservation concern (ESA Candidates or petitioned)
- Pollinator species
- Cost-effective projects
- Projects that demonstrate efficiency and sustainability
- Projects that create corridors or are within close proximity to FWS, TPWD, or other privately protected areas,
- Demonstrate relevance to emerging conservation issues.
- And offer long term protection

Awards do not generally exceed more than $25,000 in LIP reimbursement.
ALL good projects should submit a pre-proposals regardless of location & regardless of the target species prioritization …we very often fund good habitat projects not within designated focus areas.
A LIP PROJECT – START TO FINISH

IDEA ~ 1 month
• Submit pre-proposal
• Receive a request for full proposal

AWARD ~ 2 months
• Submit full proposal
• Receive award notice after review period
• Contracting (clearances, payee form, signatures, etc.)

EXECUTION 1-3 Years
• Complete work (typically a year – mother nature, private landowners personal agendas, etc.)

REIMBURSEMENT
• Site visit with LIP & FWS staff to verify work*
• 2 page Invoice to TPWD submitted (no supporting documentation required)
• Check cut from Comptroller’s Office

*can be entire project or a defined phase of the project.
Find Out More

LIP WEBSITE: www.tpwd.texas.gov/lip

VIEW AND FIND TEXAS WATERSHEDS

All photos credited to TPWD & USFWS
Provides cost-share incentives and technical guidance to private landowners to restore native grass and forb vegetation on pastures dominated by exotic grasses such as Bermudagrass, bahiagrass, and Old World bluestems.

TPWD PUB Program staff:
Arlene Kalmbach – Program Administrator
Tim Siegmund – Regulatory biologist & on the ground coordination of PUB
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Provide:
- Technical Guidance, project management and oversight
- Herbicide
- access to the Truax drill
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- Funding for the purchase of all seed
- Additional technical guidance as needed
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Provide:
• land
• labor
• commitment
“This program benefits landowners whose goals include habitat improvement for butterflies, quail, turkey, migratory songbirds, white-tailed deer, pollinators, Texas horned lizard, other nongame wildlife, wildlife tax valuation, sustainable forage production, or preserving Texas’ native prairie legacy.

The broader public benefits from native prairie restoration through improved water quality, groundwater recharge, carbon sequestration, erosion control, outdoor education, and recreational opportunities.”
Additional Benefits

• Determine strategy to eliminate exotic perennial grasses

• Provide technical assistance and cost share incentives to private landowners.

• Establish demonstration sites throughout the Post Oak, Blackland, and other regions

• Benefit grassland dependent species – pollinators, upland birds, etc.

Photo from Matt Wagner
Shaded areas along the I-35 corridor will be targeted for the FY 2017 PUB funding
Project Establishment

- Landowner works with a TPWD biologist to draft a project
- Project is worked up into an agreement

Site Preparation

- Site prep is done - herbicide, mechanically working the ground, etc. (no brush management projects)

Planting

- Seed is ordered by TPWD & shipped to biologist
- Landowner plants seed
Additional Details

- $140/acre for seed
- 2 year agreements
- Rolling enrollment
Post Oak Savannah and Blackland Prairie
Wildlife Management

Pastures For Upland Birds

Program Goal
The Pastures for Upland Birds Program (PUB) provides cost-share incentives and technical guidance to private landowners to restore native grass and forage vegetation on pastures and hayfields dominated by exotic grasses such as Bermudagrass, bahiagrass, and Old World bluestems. Funding for this TPWD Program is made possible in part through a cooperative agreement with the USFWS Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program. All projects approved for funding are thereby subject to the terms and conditions of that Agreement.

Background
Historically, native tallgrass prairies and prairie-oak savannas dominated over 24 million acres in east-central Texas. These ecosystems provided essential habitats for many forms of wildlife, including for grassland birds. Grassland birds that were part of the native prairie ecosystem included Eastern Meadowlark, Northern Harrier, Le Conte’s Sparrow, Short-eared Owl, Dickcissel, Scissor-tailed Flycatcher, Mourning Dove, Northern Bobwhite, Eastern Wild Turkey, and others.

Over the last century and a half, the region’s native prairies and savannah grasslands were converted to agricultural land uses and have virtually disappeared. One of the obvious consequences of this massive prairie conversion was the loss of millions of acres of natural biological diversity and wildlife habitat. Breeding Bird Surveys show that most grassland bird species have continued to experience long-term declines.
Questions?

All photos credited to TPWD and USFWS