

Wildlife Restoration Act (Pittman-Robertson Act)
Wildlife Restoration Program Hunter Education Funds
WSFR Success Stories in the Southwest Region - R2

Texas - Hunter Safety Education

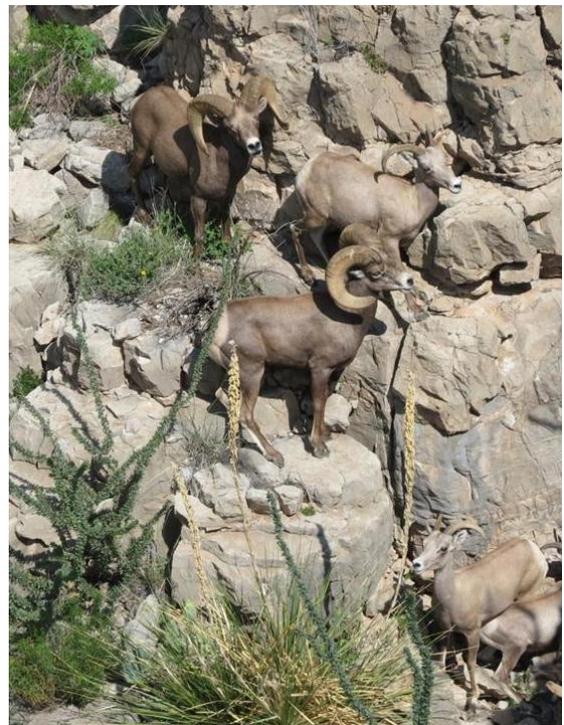
Through support from Pittman-Robertson hunter education dollars, a record 67,493 people received a Texas hunter education certification between September 2013 and August 2014. The Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) was able to train more than 400 new instructors and offer 61 new and advanced instructor workshops. Growing support for the program increased volunteer efforts with a record 50,274 volunteer instructor hours, which is equivalent to 24 full-time staff.

Texas – Recovery of Desert Bighorn Sheep

Desert bighorn sheep were extirpated from Texas by the early 1960s, and are now back in ten of the historic 16 mountain ranges. Current population estimates are comparable to 1880s’ levels.

With support from the Wildlife Restoration Program grants, the Desert bighorn once again are fulfilling an ecological role across the West Texas landscape.

This success is a result of the restoration efforts initiated by the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD), in partnership with other state agencies, conservation organizations, private landowners and many volunteers.



Oklahoma – Habitat Conservation

Experiencing a number of conservation issues due to habitat loss and fragmentation within a variety of landscapes, the Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation (ODWC) recognized a need to provide public access to land, both to manage wildlife habitat and to allow for additional public recreational opportunities.

In 2014, ODWC used four Wildlife Restoration grants to acquire 13,863 acres for wildlife conservation.

Two of those grants allowed ODWC to considerably expand the size of an existing wildlife management area, Sandy Sanders State Wildlife Management Area, from 19,100 acres to 28,820 acres.

Learn more about this park at:
www.stateparks.com/sandy_sanders.html



Oklahoma – Hunter Education

The Oklahoma Scholastic Shooting Sports Program has been a huge success thanks to the support of the Wildlife Restoration Program Hunter Education Funds.

Just in its second year of existence, the program has 85 active High Schools and 20 Junior High Schools participating.



The program allows schools to form teams that participate in shoots. Every student that is involved with the team is required to complete a hunter education course.

Around 1,600 students are scheduled to participate at regional shoots in March and the state shoot in May 2015.

New Mexico – Youth Hunting Camp

Using Wildlife Restoration Program Hunter Education Funds, the New Mexico Department of Game and Fish implemented an inaugural youth hunting camp. A small group of hunter education graduates between the ages of 10-17 who had never purchased a license were taken for their first hunt. The goal was not just to get these youth to harvest a quail or dove, this was an educational experience to teach the youth shotgun skills, hunter responsibility and ethics. Additionally they learned game identification, game care and the importance conservation and wildlife management through hunting.



This hunt was made possible through various partnerships from local conservation organizations and support from the Service's Bosque del Apache National Wildlife Refuge and a private land owner. Follow-up surveys indicate these youth are now more interested in hunting because of this experience and plan to purchase a license and hunt next license year.

New Mexico – Hunter Education, Mobile Shooting Trailers

With support from the Wildlife Restoration Program Hunter Education Funds, the New Mexico Department of Game and Fish was able to obtain and implement two mobile pellet shooting trailers.

One trailer is stationed in the northern half of the state of New Mexico and second trailer is stationed in the southern part of the state. The intent of these trailers is to increase the live-firing capabilities and provide more hunter education classes in areas without access to a shooting range.



These trailers will allow hunter education instructors the ability to evaluate student comprehension of proper sight picture, marksmanship and shooting fundamentals through this live-fire activity.



New Mexico - New Mexico Outdoor Expo



The New Mexico Department of Game and Fish held its 12th Annual New Mexico Outdoor Expo, with support from the Wildlife Restoration Program Hunter Education Funds and other funding.

The most recent Expo welcomed nearly 4,200 members of the public of various ages and backgrounds to the two-day event.

Participants were introduced to a number of outdoor activities as well as responsible and rewarding shooting practices using .22rifles and pistols, bows and arrows, muzzleloaders, and shotguns.

