



### **Texas Parks and Wildlife Foundation**

Texas Parks and Wildlife Foundation's mission is to provide private support to Texas Parks and Wildlife Department to manage and conserve the natural and cultural resources of Texas and to provide hunting, fishing, and outdoor recreation opportunities for the use and enjoyment of present and future generations.

To accomplish its mission, Texas Parks and Wildlife Foundation has established a competitive program, the Buffer Lands Program, to contribute matching grants to accredited land trusts for costs incurred in the establishment of conservation easements adjacent to or in close proximity to existing Texas State Parks, State Natural Areas, Wildlife Management Areas or Texas Parks and Wildlife projects focused on the restoration or conservation of high-priority wildlife species.

### **Buffer Lands Program Description**

To be considered for funding, land trusts must be accredited by the Land Trust Accreditation Commission and fill out the Texas Parks and Wildlife Foundation's Buffer Lands Program application.

Projects being considered for funding will be scored based on the following priorities: (1) strategic importance of conservation easement in Texas Parks and Wildlife Department's ability to fulfill its mission as laid out in the *Land and Water Resources Conservation and Recreation Plan*, (2) competitive pricing of conservation easement and quality of project's habitat and water resources (3) conservation of biological or aesthetic values that maintain or increase the integrity of existing Texas Parks and Wildlife Department assets or projects, (4) percentage of matching funds provided by accredited land trust, and (5) ability to leverage project with public funding.

Grant funds may be used to cover the following acquisition expenses incurred by accredited land trusts during the acquisition or donation of conservation easements: appraisals, baseline inventory reports, environmental assessments, legal descriptions, legal fees, mineral reports, stewardship endowment costs, and title commitment and insurance. Applicants are required to provide up to a 50% match for approved acquisition expenses. Grant funds will be awarded prior to closing, but will only be dispersed to the accredited land trust upon successful completion and legal closing of the project.

Texas Parks and Wildlife Foundation's Land Committee will review applications on a quarterly basis or as needed to award grants and administer the program. In the process of review, Texas Parks and Wildlife Foundation will coordinate with the director of Land Conservation at Texas Parks and Wildlife Department to organize a project site visit with the land trust applicant.



**Conservation Easement Project Description**

Name of project:

Name of landowner:

Physical address:

Land Trust Name:

*Attach proof of 501(C)(3) status*

Land trust address:

Land trust contact name and title:

Total acreage:

Watershed:

Current use:

Would easement prohibit further subdivision?

Would easement prohibit separate sale of existing or future legal parcels?

Term of proposed easement:

Project summary: *Describe the project, type and purpose of the easement, its impact on the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department mission, need for funding and outcomes.*



Texas Parks and Wildlife Foundation  
Buffer Lands Program  
Program Description and Application

Environmental description: *Describe the biological or aesthetic values of the project. Include maps and images.*

Applicant land trust background: *Provide information on land trust's history, mission, annual budget and staff.*



Additional information: *Include any information you believe Texas Parks and Wildlife Foundation should consider as it reviews your application.*

**Grant Information:**

Easement Price (*total price and price per acre*):

Easement Price (total price and price per acre):

Item	Cost (\$)	% of acquisition expense
Appraisal		
Baseline inventory report		
Environmental assessment		
Legal description		
Legal fees		
Mineral report		
Stewardship endowment		
Title commitment and insurance		
<b>Total acquisition expense</b>		
TPWF grant request		
Funds contributed from applicant		
<b>Funds contributed from other source</b>		



**Work Plan and Schedule Narrative:**

Task	Estimated Completion Date
Appraisal	
Baseline inventory report	
Environmental assessment	
Legal description	
Legal fees	
Mineral report	
Stewardship endowment	
Title commitment and insurance	

Signature of Applicant:

Date:

Signature of Landowner:

Date:

**Dates and requirements:**

Applications will be accepted on a rolling basis and reviewed at the end of each quarter, beginning the second quarter of 2016. Send completed applications questions to Jay Kleberg at [jkleberg@tpwf.org](mailto:jkleberg@tpwf.org). For addition information contact:

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