



TEXAS PARKS AND  
WILDLIFE FOUNDATION

2019 ANNUAL REPORT



# THE RIPPLE EFFECT

Just as a single stone creates an ever-extending ripple, the commitment of our donors and the incredible expertise of our many partners have combined with our efforts to create an everlasting effect on Texas' special places and the unique creatures that inhabit them. As the ripple effect of our work touches future generations, so too does it extend to all that we hold dear: our native wildlife, our iconic landscapes, and the waters that bring it all to life. This annual report celebrates our shared work.

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*Since 1991, Texas Parks and Wildlife Foundation has leveraged public funds with private philanthropy to advance Texas' proud outdoor traditions and conserve our state's wildlife, habitat and natural resources. Our vision is for all Texans to have access to the wild things and wild places in our state, both now and for generations to come.*



From rivers and streams to hidden aquifers, artesian springs, and the salty bays and estuaries of the Gulf, our waters are dependent on the health of our lands. In West Texas, restoring native grasslands conserves the Pecos River’s rare fishes, and on the shores of the Gulf, the coastal prairie of Powderhorn Ranch helps oyster beds thrive.

Just as the health of our lands and waters is inextricably bound, TPWF’s work to conserve native species, steward our irreplaceable lands, nurture future conservation leaders, and support Texas Game Wardens is intertwined with a network of strong conservation partnerships. This year’s annual report focuses on the ripple effect that amplifies our shared conservation efforts.

The impact of these combined efforts flows across our state, from the Panhandle to the Gulf. Through collaborative efforts with all who love Texas, together we are ensuring the future of our natural heritage.

*Michael S. Greene*

MICHAEL S. GREENE

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*Executive Director  
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Garner State Park  
Photograph by Gina Barasa, 1138 Studios





## CONSERVE

Coursing its way across the famously arid landscape of far West Texas, the Pecos River and its watershed are home to a breathtaking array of species, from pronghorn to pupfish. Many have experienced significant declines, attributed to habitat loss, degradation, and fragmentation. In partnership with Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) and the Rio Grande Joint Venture, TPWF is supporting private landowners in restoring thousands of acres of the grassland habitat that West Texas' iconic species need. Because grassland health is directly linked to water quality, the impact of these restoration efforts sends ripples across the watershed, benefitting native species and humans alike.

On the other side of Texas, the Gulf of Mexico's rich marine resources are the purview of TPWD coastal fisheries biologists. These professionals depend on research vessels and lab facilities to monitor fish populations and provide scientific data to inform resource management. Unfortunately, these vital facilities and equipment were hard hit by Hurricane Harvey. Thanks to TPWF's generous donors and a \$1.4 million fundraising effort, Rockport facilities were up and running within months, and repairs to facilities in Dickinson were completed in 2018, with repairs in Corpus Christi and Palacios completed in 2019. Today, each dollar contributed to the repair efforts is conserving the rich biological diversity of Texas' marine waters through the dedicated efforts of TPWD's biologists.

From restoring a sea of grasslands across West Texas to fortifying America's Sea, the Gulf of Mexico, TPWF is conserving the wild places of Texas – and the wild things that call them home.

### — ON THE HORIZON —

The desert bighorn sheep, another majestic West Texas species, was once extirpated from the region. Smaller in size but not in significance, Texas' quail populations struggle in the face of declining grassland habitat. Looking into the future, TPWF will continue to support efforts to restore these and other native species across the state.



**Tyler Schacht** | Hatchery Biologist  
Perry R. Bass Marine Hatchery | Texas Parks and Wildlife Department





ENGAGE

Since the earliest days of the state park system, Balmorhea State Park and its historic spring-fed swimming pool have stood as an oasis in the West Texas desert. When Balmorhea's pool closed due to damage caused by erosion, state park supporters rallied to save the Civilian Conservation Corps treasure. In early 2019, Apache Corporation presented a \$1 million check for pool repairs, culminating a \$2 million fundraising effort led by TPWF. To ensure the longevity of this special place, Apache pledged an additional \$1 million to establish an endowment to benefit the park in perpetuity. Today and for years to come, visitors from far and wide will dive into Balmorhea's storied desert waters and forever carry with them the memory of an unforgettable outdoor experience.

Just as the cool, clear waters of Balmorhea draw visitors from around the state, Texans are drawn to state parks featuring beaches, lakes and waterways. But experiencing their beauty presents unique challenges for people with disabilities. Making state parks accessible for all is a priority for TPWD, and through support from the Austin Blake Howell Foundation, TPWF is helping to realize this goal. Equipment such as beach-accessible wheelchairs and adaptive fishing and kayaking equipment will soon be available at no charge at several state parks. True to the nearly century-old mission of the state park system, TPWF and TPWD are working to help all Texans experience our wild things and wild places.

— ON THE HORIZON —

TPWF has launched a \$9 million fundraising effort to amplify \$12.5 million in state funds to open Palo Pinto Mountains State Park, which will be the first new state park in North Texas in 20 years. This public-private funding partnership will have a transformative impact that will touch generations of Texans.



Ten years later, the impact of the Deepwater Horizon oil spill continues to ripple across the Gulf Coast. Some of the effects, like TPWF’s creation of the Gulf Coast Conservation Loan Fund in 2017, have made a positive impression on the landscape, in Texas and beyond. In 2019, TPWF leveraged the Loan Fund to complete the acquisition of the Sartwelle property adjacent to the Perry R. Bass Marine Fisheries Research Center in Palacios and turned it over to TPWD. This remarkable 453-acre acquisition includes frontage on Matagorda Bay, Turtle Bay and Sartwelle Lake and forever conserves sensitive coastal habitats, including prairie, tidal flats, seagrasses and oyster reefs.

The Loan Fund, which provides zero percent interim financing for priority land acquisitions, has become a national model of innovative conservation financing. TPWF is partnering with The Gulf of Mexico Alliance, The Water Institute of the Gulf and The US Endowment for Forestry and Communities to pilot the concept across the four other Gulf states. This work is being supported through the highly competitive USDA Conservation Innovation Grant program, which has lauded the unique public-private model.

Powderhorn Ranch, which ultimately inspired the creation of the Loan Fund, was one of the early recipients of funding that flowed in the wake of the Deepwater Horizon spill. TPWF’s 2014 acquisition of the property conserves one of the largest remaining tracts of unspoiled coastal prairie in the state. In late 2018, TPWF donated the majority of Powderhorn Ranch, about 16,000 acres, to TPWD as a wildlife management area, and in 2019, the property was integrated into TPWD’s public hunting program.



STEWARD

Sartwelle Lake



Powderhorn Ranch on Matagorda Bay  
Photograph by Earl Nottingham

— ON THE HORIZON —

Powderhorn Ranch State Park will become a reality in the years to come as TPWF will transfer the remainder of the property, about 1,300 acres, to TPWD by 2022.





James Ramirez | Texas Game Warden

Being a Texas Game Warden is not just a job, it's a way of life. James Ramirez was exposed to that life as a young boy. Growing up, he fished the coastal waters of South Texas with his father and their family friend, who happened to be a game warden. That game warden inspired James' field of study in college and his career goals. An internship funded by the Coastal Conservation Association through TPWF confirmed his passion. In 2018, his dream came full circle when he graduated from the Texas Game

Warden Training Center. He now serves the people of Texas from his duty station in Nueces County, patrolling the coastal waters he loves.

"The internship gave me the opportunity to work alongside some of the state's best, and the experiences were invaluable," said James. "I really love being outdoors, and there is no better life than protecting the people of Texas and its natural resources."

The shallow coastal waters where James patrols contain an often overlooked but critical resource: seagrass. Seagrass beds are critical for the health of Texas' marine resources, including prized sportfish such as red drum and spotted sea trout. Game wardens need specialized equipment to safely patrol these sensitive shallow waters. To help meet this need, FlatsWorthy, an organization devoted to mutual respect for bay users and the natural resources they share, partnered with TPWF to raise funds for a custom-made skiff. The new skiff will enable game wardens to enforce seagrass regulations and better patrol difficult to reach areas.

— ON THE HORIZON —

Since its launch in 2017, Gear Up for Game Wardens has outfitted game wardens across Texas with specialized equipment ranging from thermal drones to night vision. The program also supports Texas' hardworking K-9 game wardens. TPWF is raising \$70,000 for the K-9 Assistance Fund, which purchases new K-9s as the current K-9 game wardens reach retirement age.



TPWF is inspiring current and future generations through innovative partnerships that will help ensure the wild things and wild places of Texas endure for all to cherish.

TPWF's We Will Not be Tamed campaign, first launched in 2018, continues to embolden Texans by sharing stories of remarkable outdoorsmen and women, including people like Debbie Richardson, who is a 12-time veteran of the legendary Texas Water Safari. As a We Will Not Be Tamed Ambassador, Richardson is engaging new audiences and creating awareness for TPWF's leading role in Texas conservation. Stewards of the Wild, TPWF's young professionals' organization, is likewise bringing together Texans in their commitment to conservation through activities like mentored hunts and by partnering with other conservation groups throughout the state. The conservation message of these programs is reverberating across the state and connecting Texans from all walks of life in their passion for the wildlife, waters and iconic landscapes that are the heart and soul of our natural heritage.

From inspiring conservationists like Debbie Richardson to Stewards of the Wild members across the state, the vein of commitment and passion for Texas' wild things and wild places runs deep and true. With help from our generous supporters and many other partners, TPWF carries this commitment and passion beyond the boundaries of any individual project, creating an unbroken ripple that connects us to all that we love about Texas and all who will love Texas in the days, years, and generations to come.



FOREVER WILD

Debbie Richardson | We Will Not Be Tamed Ambassador



CONDENSED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

For the Years Ended December 31, 2019 & 2018

ASSETS	2019	2018
Cash and Investments	\$ 50,373,754	\$ 44,685,202
Receivables, net	2,486,734	3,698,153
Fixed Assets, net	10,549,583	11,482,836
Assets Held for Others	429,407	360,854
Other Assets	164,562	272,567
Total Assets	\$ 64,004,040	\$ 60,499,612

LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS

Liabilities:		
Accounts Payable and Other Liabilities	\$ 1,168,412	\$ 1,139,276
Assets Held for Others	429,407	360,854
Total Liabilities	1,597,819	1,500,130
Net Assets:		
Without Donor Restrictions	25,549,654	24,691,302
With Donor Restrictions	36,856,567	34,308,180
Total Net Assets	62,406,221	58,999,482
Total Liabilities And Net Assets	\$ 64,004,040	\$ 60,499,612

The 2019 Condensed Statement of Financial Position is unaudited. For the most recent audited financial information as of December 31, 2018, please contact TPWF.

CONDENSED STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES AND CHANGES IN NET ASSETS

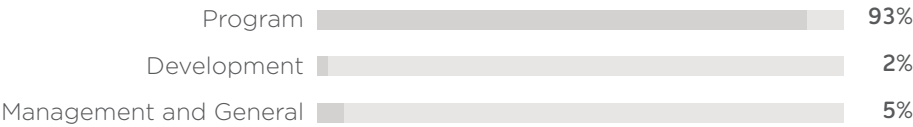
For the Year Ended December 31, 2019

REVENUES AND ADDITIONS TO NET ASSETS	2019
Contributions:	
Individuals	\$ 1,224,628
Foundations	911,960
Corporations	3,520,031
Government & Other Organizations	803,879
Total Contributions	6,460,498
Special Event (net of DBC)	1,400,626
Investment Income (Loss)	6,175,897
Other Income (Loss)	255,582
Total Revenues and Additions to Net Assets	\$ 14,292,603

EXPENSES AND DEDUCTIONS TO NET ASSETS

Program:	
Conserve	\$ 2,559,576
Engage	4,459,587
Lead	2,396,394
Steward	756,807
Total Program	10,172,364
Support Services:	
Development	124,171
Management and General	589,332
Total Support Services	713,503
Total Expenses and Deductions to Net Assets	10,885,867
Net Increase in Net Assets	\$ 3,406,736

2019 EXPENSES



The 2019 Condensed Statement of Activities and Changes in Net Assets is unaudited. For the most recent audited financial information as of December 31, 2018, please contact TPWF.



THANK YOU

to the many generous donors who supported Texas Parks and Wildlife Foundation from January 1, 2019 to December 31, 2019.

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Devils River State Natural Area Dan Allen Hughes Unit  
*Photograph by Chase Fountains*





Please consider remembering  
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