



2022

ANNUAL REPORT
& OTHER TALES



Stories From Around the Campfire



⚡ Since 1991, Texas Parks and Wildlife Foundation has raised and invested over \$235 million 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.

CAMPFIRE STORIES

The campfire has been at the heart of human connection for centuries, and this is especially true for generations of Texans. The enticing crackle of bark under dancing blue-orange flames and billowing pine-scented smoke remains a popular lure to end a hard day's work or long day's play.

No campfire is complete without the quintessential campfire story, and Texas boasts some of the best. Ember by ember, tale by tale, stories of Texas heroes, legends and myths have been passed down for generations. Tornado-taming cowboys and kings of wild frontiers remain popular protagonists, but tales of a new Texas conservation hero are beginning to gain ground.

Carter Smith's trailblazing story began with a single spark—a magazine subscription his grandmother bought him when he was young. Captivated by the stories within each *Texas Parks & Wildlife* magazine he read, Carter grew up to lead the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department,

the very organization that first kindled his love of all things wild.

Carter Smith didn't just lead TPWD, he lived it. He spent long hours in the field and traversed countless miles of our home ground where the campfire became Carter's conference room, podium and bargaining table. Fireside chats with stakeholders and colleagues served as the great uniter, turning lively debate into collaborative, transformational conservation wins worthy of both story and history books.

Enjoy the following selection of tales inspired by a true Texas conservation legend — Carter Smith.



At the end of 2022, Texas Parks and Wildlife Foundation bid a fond farewell to consummate conservation champion, Carter Smith, who had led TPWD since 2008. For almost 15 years, Carter stood shoulder-to-shoulder with TPWF, forging a powerful partnership that would stoke the coals of our wildest conservation ambitions.

For this annual report, we gathered a few campfire regulars to retell the true tales born of the powerful partnership between Carter Smith and TPWF. While some stories like Powderhorn have already made it around the campfire, we also want to share other favorite yarns from this transformational era of Texas conservation.

None of these stories would have ever made it onto the page without the enduring support of our donors, and your collective passions and contributions are reflected in each and every story. Thank you for helping Texas craft countless future chapters for our wild things and wild places.



Michael S. Greene

*Chairman
Texas Parks and Wildlife Foundation*



Anne Brown

*Executive Director
Texas Parks and Wildlife Foundation*



GAINING A NEW PAL AND TRAINING CENTER IN HAMILTON

Every year Texas Game Wardens patrol 10 million miles by vehicle and 160,000 hours by boat to keep careful watch over our state, inspiring endless tales about these heroes of our home ground.

Since 1975, game warden training had taken place in a converted Austin warehouse, but by 2005, the six-acre site had become overcrowded. Luckily, our game wardens had a PAL in Hamilton. The Police Activities League (PAL) generously donated 200 acres of their ranch in rural Hamilton County to TPWD. And with this gift, the dream of a new training ground was hatched.

The multi-million dollar plan began in 2008, Carter's first year as TPWD's leader. The effort was ignited by a \$2 million donation from former Texas Governor Bill Clements, an avid outdoorsman and longtime supporter. Private foundations, corporate sponsors and generous individual donors followed Clements' lead to raise the \$11 million needed for Phase I.

And as the story goes, Hamilton opened its doors to aspiring cadets in 2009. Since then, 411 Game Warden and State Park Police Cadets have graduated from the new training center.

HEARD AROUND THE CAMPFIRE

"No other state agency helps Texas put its best foot forward than the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department and Texas Game Wardens. I'm proud to support our game wardens by donating to Texas Parks and Wildlife Foundation for the Texas Game Warden Training Center."

William P. "Bill" Clements, Jr.

Governor of Texas, 1979-1983 and 1987-1991

"Texas Game Wardens tirelessly protect the natural resources of our state and serve on the front lines during times of natural disasters to provide lifesaving help for the people of Texas. They are the best-trained corps of conservation officers in the country, and the Texas Game Warden Training Center ensures their readiness for duty."

Lee M. Bass

*TPW Commission Chairman Emeritus;
TPW Commission Chairman, 1995-2001*

A TEAM BUILT FROM DOGGED DETERMINATION

In times of crisis, man's best friend is often a victim's best hope. When the idea of adding a K-9 team was raised, TPWF quickly adopted this pet project and, with donor support, got it running on all fours. The first K-9 unit was established in 2013, and the program is still going strong. All in a day's work and a wag of the tail for these four-legged, frontline heroes.

HEARD AROUND THE CAMPFIRE

"The K-9 team is an indispensable force multiplier for our game wardens and law enforcement agencies across the state. It is gratifying to support these intrepid K-9 officers and their human partners by making sure they have the gear they need to literally save lives."

Margaret Martin

TPWF Trustee



SHIFTING INTO HIGH GEAR

While the state provides the standard-issue tools for our Texas Game Wardens, there is always a need for specialty equipment, which was the genesis of TPWF's signature program, Gear Up for Game Wardens. Established in 2017, the program has raised over \$3 million to support Texas Game Wardens' core mission.

HEARD AROUND THE CAMPFIRE

"I have always had great respect for game wardens because they do a dangerous and thankless job, and I am proud to support them any way I can. The Gear Up program has been a game changer in terms of providing the specialty gear our game wardens need to get the job done."

Russell Gordy

TPWF Trustee

**GEAR UP
FOR GAME
WARDENS**





DEVILS RIVER EXPANSION

Under Carter Smith's leadership in 2010, TPWD acquired the Devils River South Unit, a stunning 18,000-acre plot of land with 10 untamed miles of river frontage. Combined with the existing 19,000-acre Del Norte Unit, the Devils River State Natural Area footprint was instantly doubled to over 37,000 acres, forever protecting this heavenly habitat for the people and wild things of Texas.



HEARD AROUND THE CAMPFIRE

“On Dec. 22, 2010, the deal was done. An extraordinary array of conservation-minded donors from around the state came forward to support the acquisition of the new property. Major newspaper editorials heralded it as a Christmas present for all Texans. Indeed it was. The dividends will be unfolding for generations to come.”

Carter Smith

TPWD Executive Director, 2008-2022

“The Devils River acquisition is a testament to the power of philanthropy to amplify public resources and catalyze transformational change. Future generations will appreciate the foresight and wisdom of protecting this spectacular piece of wild Texas.”

S. Reed Morian

TPW Commission Chairman, 2019-2021; TPWF Trustee

KEEPING IT WILD CAMPAIGN

One wild pairing, one daring campaign Herein lies the tale of a talented twosome whose combined passions for Texas conservation resulted in not just a moment, but a movement. Carter Smith and Anne Brown ran in the same circles for decades, but in 2012, their paths paralleled when Anne became TPWF's executive director. The two would go on to lead a colossal campaign that would change the landscape of Texas forever—Keeping it Wild: The Campaign for Texas.

STEWARDS



POWDERHORN RANCH

17,351 acres representing the single most important coastal land initiative in Texas



“The projects funded through the Keeping it Wild campaign span every corner of the state.

The first project out of the gate was the acquisition of Powderhorn Ranch in 2014. This landmark acquisition forever conserves irreplaceable wildlife habitat and brings an exciting new recreational opportunity to the people of Texas. It demonstrates how Texas' community of conservationists can work hand-in-hand with the state to preserve an extraordinary piece of our natural heritage for generations to come.”

T. Dan Friedkin

TPW Chairman Emeritus; TPW Commission Chairman, 2011–2013 and 2015–2018

XO RANCH

5,500 acres of vanishing habitat conserved in the Cross Timbers region



“Thanks to the engagement and support of TPWF, we've added a new Wildlife Management Area (WMA) to our inventory. XO Ranch in Palo Pinto County is arguably one of the best remaining examples of historic Cross Timbers habitat left in the state and the only one of its kind in the WMA system.”

Carter Smith



Launched in 2014, the campaign raised a record-breaking \$120 million, more than doubling TPWF's funds raised in the prior 23 years. While Carter and Anne collectively inspired this tale, the true protagonists were the thousands of Texans who heroically championed the cause for our Texas wilds.



CONSERVE



PRONGHORN RESTORATION

West Texas pronghorn populations increased by 66% from a 30-year low in 2012



"As Texas continues to grow, focused and long-term commitment to species conservation will ensure the wild things that are so precious to us are around for future generations. From iconic pronghorn in West Texas to the butterflies and quail that depend on healthy grassland habitat to thrive, Texas Parks and Wildlife Foundation is supporting science-based research and management that will protect the habitat that Texas species need."

Kelly R. Thompson
TPWF Chairman Emeritus

ARTIFICIAL REEF PROJECT

700 concrete pyramids make up the second largest reef site ever permitted in Texas Waters

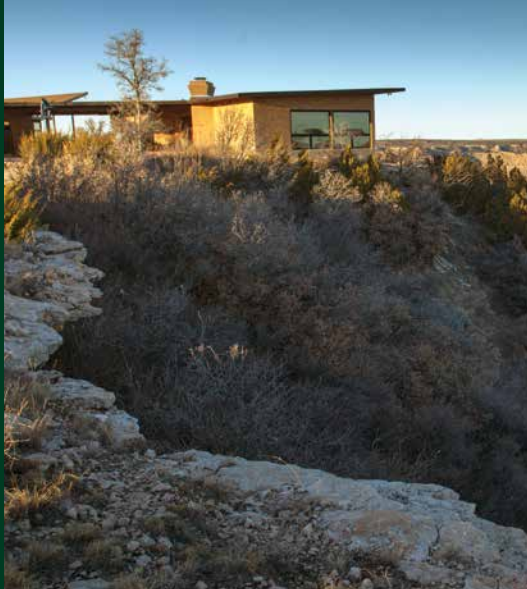


"The Keeping It Wild Reef is an amazing example of a really cool partnership. Coastal Conservation Association (CCA), Building Conservation Trust (CCA's habitat program), TPWD and TPWF all came together to create a critically important nearshore reef at a time when anglers really needed it. It's a big deal and a true legacy piece."

Patrick Murray
*President, Coastal Conservation Association;
TPWF Trustee, 2002-2017*



ENGAGE



CAÑONCITA RANCH, PALO DURO CANYON STATE PARK

Transformed to cliffside conference and research center, complete with kitchen and bunkhouses



“This initiative is the biggest conservation fundraising campaign in Texas history. It’s gratifying to be involved in this comprehensive effort that will have such a positive impact on the landscape of Texas. Cañoncita at Palo Duro Canyon in the Panhandle is a small piece of the package, but an impactful one that demonstrates how TPWF can realize cost savings and nimbly complete a project that would have been much more difficult otherwise.”

Mark Bivins

TPWF Vice Chairman

PALO PINTO MOUNTAINS STATE PARK

Located 75 miles west of Fort Worth and sitting on almost 5,000 acres, say hello to the newest state park in Texas



“Palo Pinto is a great example of how TPWF helped the Commission make this transformational project possible. Although the Department secured an appropriation from the Legislature, it was conditioned upon matching that appropriation with private funds. The Commission turned to TPWF and its board, which then met that challenge. Because of TPWF’s efforts, the Department expects to open this park in the near future. Texas owes a big thanks to TPWF.”

Ralph Duggins

TPW Commission Chairman, 2018–2019



As the last embers of our campfire fizzle to their slumber, we arrive at our story’s conclusion. This small selection of tales is easily eclipsed by the hundreds of other courageous Carter tales left untold. Though he always managed to “Leave No Trace” among the many fields he navigated, he has left an indelible impression on our Texas wild that will endure for centuries.

LEAD

GAME WARDEN TRAINING CENTER, PHASE II

Completed construction of new cadet dormitories and renovations of leadership quarters, kitchen and dining hall



“The completion of the Texas Game Warden Training Center has been transformational for Texas Game Wardens across the state. The rigorous training Texas Game Wardens undergo to prepare them for their first field assignment is second to none, and the ongoing training provided to Texas Game Wardens throughout their careers ensure the highest standards of service to the people of Texas.”

Danny Shaw

*Operation Game Thief Executive Director;
Lt. Colonel Texas Game Warden (Retired)*





PARTING WORDS FROM CARTER SMITH

It was the fall of 2007. I needed a nudge to throw my proverbial hat into the ring to be considered as TPWD's next executive director. My predecessor Bob Cook told me emphatically, and repeatedly, it would be the best job I would ever have. Andy Sansom, Bob's predecessor, said pretty much the same thing. So too did the late Dickie Travis, Andy's predecessor.

Fifteen years later, I can say without hesitation, they were absolutely right. But, as they also readily knew, the job really wasn't a job. It was a privilege, one arguably without measure or equal.

It seems a bit surreal to look back on it all now. My hope is that I have been able to give something back to what has given so much to me—a mission, a place, and a team of colleagues I will always care deeply for and about. I'll have no shortage of memories to take with me. All the good the men and women of this Department have done for our home ground—the fish and wildlife they have conserved and protected; the new parks, coastal areas, and wildlife management areas they have acquired; the habitats and watersheds they have restored on private and public lands; the paddling trails and boat ramps they have built; the hiking trails and campsites they have developed; the lives and properties they have saved; the countless kids, grownups and families that have been introduced to the outdoors through TPWD programs and places. The list is a very long one. That list includes many projects that but for the leadership, resources, and entrepreneurial conservation of TPWF would never have happened.

Think of Powderhorn Ranch and Palo Pinto Mountains; Cañoncita and Devils River; the Game Warden Training Center and Freshwater Fisheries Center; pronghorns and bighorns; Guadalupe bass and ShareLunkers; restoration of coastal reefs and prairie grasslands. TPWF was there through Hurricane



Harvey and the fires of Bastrop; they are with us now for the State Park Centennial and will be there for so much more to come.

As Bob, Andy and Dickie all aptly implied, the job has been a privilege. One of the greatest privileges of all has been to work with my friends and partners at TPWF to ensure our wild things and wild places will be here forevermore.

HEARD AROUND THE CAMPFIRE

“There are very few people who I respect as much as Carter Smith, who I have had the pleasure of working with for many years. He is especially masterful at bringing together stakeholders and constituents with varying opinions to unite over our one common goal of conserving Texas’ natural heritage. This will be one of his enduring legacies.”

T. Dan Friedkin

*TPW Commission Chairman Emeritus
TPW Commission Chairman, 2011-2013
and 2015-2018*

“Carter Smith has been a transformative leader and has helped TPWD adapt to the times and challenges of the last 14+ years. He has inspired people with his credibility, integrity and his character. That’s what a real leader has to have.”

Lee M. Bass

*TPW Commission Chairman Emeritus;
TPW Commission Chairman, 1995-2001*

“Carter Smith is a consummate conservationist and has been a superb leader of the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department. His support of and appreciation for the Foundation has made the two entities stronger than ever.”

Mike Greene

TPWF Chairman

2022 IMPACT

In 2022, Texas Parks and Wildlife Foundation's efforts spanned the reaches of our great state thanks to support from our generous donors and dedicated partners.

100 Years of Texas State Parks • Angler Education and Outreach • Bastrop State Park • Bentsen-Rio Grande Valley State Park • Big Lake Bottom Wildlife Management Area • Black Gap Wildlife Management Area • Brazos Bend State Park • Buffer Lands Incentive Program • Conservation Internships and Scholarships • Edwin L. Cox, Jr., Texas Freshwater Fisheries Center • Enchanted Rock State Natural Area • Falcon State Park • Franklin Mountains State Park • Fulton Fishing Pier Reconstruction • Game Warden Training Center • Gear Up for Game Wardens • Goose Island State Park • Grassland Restoration Incentive Program • Great Texas Birding Classic • Guadalupe River State Park and Honey Creek State Natural Area • Gulf Coast Land Conservation • Lake Corpus Christi State Park • Lone Star Land Steward Awards • Mason Mountain Wildlife Management Area • Mentored Hunting and Fishing • Mesquite Point Public Boat Ramp Restoration • Mustang Island State Park • Neighborhood Fishin' Program •



Operation Wild Web • Oyster Reef Restoration • Palo Duro Canyon State Park • Palo Pinto Mountains State Park • Parrie Haynes Ranch Mitigation • Pecos River Watershed Grassland Restoration • Powderhorn Wildlife Management Area • Pronghorn Restoration • Quail Conservation License Plate • Richland Creek Wildlife Management Area • Roger R. Fawcett Wildlife Management Area • Sea Center Texas • Sea Rim State Park • Sheldon Lake State Park • Species Research and Conservation • Stewards of the Wild • Toyota ShareLunker Program • TPWF's Robbie Davis Ranch • TPWF's Wanda Young Ranch • Tyler Nature Center • We Will Not Be Tamed • West Texas Black Bear Research and Outreach Program



A black bear family is shown in a rocky, desert-like environment. An adult bear is on the left, looking towards the camera, while two cubs are on the right, walking away. The background features a steep, rocky cliff face with sparse vegetation, including cacti and shrubs.

2022 HIGHLIGHTS

CONSERVE

Supporting vital new research into the re-emergence of the once-extirpated black bear populations in the Trans-Pecos region. A comprehensive multiyear study conducted by Borderlands Research Institute at Sul Ross State University will monitor black bear range expansion in West Texas and foster that expansion through science-based management strategies.

A river flows through a dense, lush forest. The water is calm, reflecting the surrounding greenery. The banks are covered in thick vegetation, including trees and shrubs. The scene is peaceful and natural.

STEWARD

Acquiring a critical 427-acre property along the Trinity River in East Texas, conserving high-quality bottomland hardwood habitat. All told in 2022, TPWF and partners have permanently protected over 12,800 acres of diverse habitat across the state.



ENGAGE

Inspiring the next generation of conservation leaders through TPWF's Stewards of the Wild. The program engages Texans aged 21 to 45 to actively participate in the stewardship of our state's wild things and wild places by providing education, networking, and outdoor experiences.



LEAD

Advancing the capabilities of Texas Game Wardens. Since 2017, TPWF has invested more than \$3 million in specialty equipment, ranging from night vision to swift-water rescue boats, through the Gear Up for Game Wardens program.

CONDENSED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

For the Years Ended December 31, 2022 & 2021

	2022	2021
ASSETS		
Cash and Investments	\$ 63,955,664	\$ 63,666,736
Receivables, net	899,480	2,371,259
Fixed Assets, net	8,908,259	7,588,988
Assets Held for Others	5,750,749	6,081,886
Other Assets	129,047	92,659
TOTAL ASSETS	\$ 79,643,199	\$ 79,801,528
LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS		
Liabilities:		
Accounts Payable and Other Liabilities	\$ 2,195,179	\$ 899,859
Assets Held for Others	5,750,749	6,081,886
Total Liabilities	7,945,928	6,981,745
Net Assets:		
Without Donor Restrictions	25,493,253	24,978,497
With Donor Restrictions	46,204,018	47,841,286
Total Net Assets	71,697,271	72,819,783
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS	\$ 79,643,199	\$ 79,801,528

The 2022 Condensed Statement of Financial Position is unaudited. For the most recent audited financial information as of December 31, 2021, please contact TPWF.

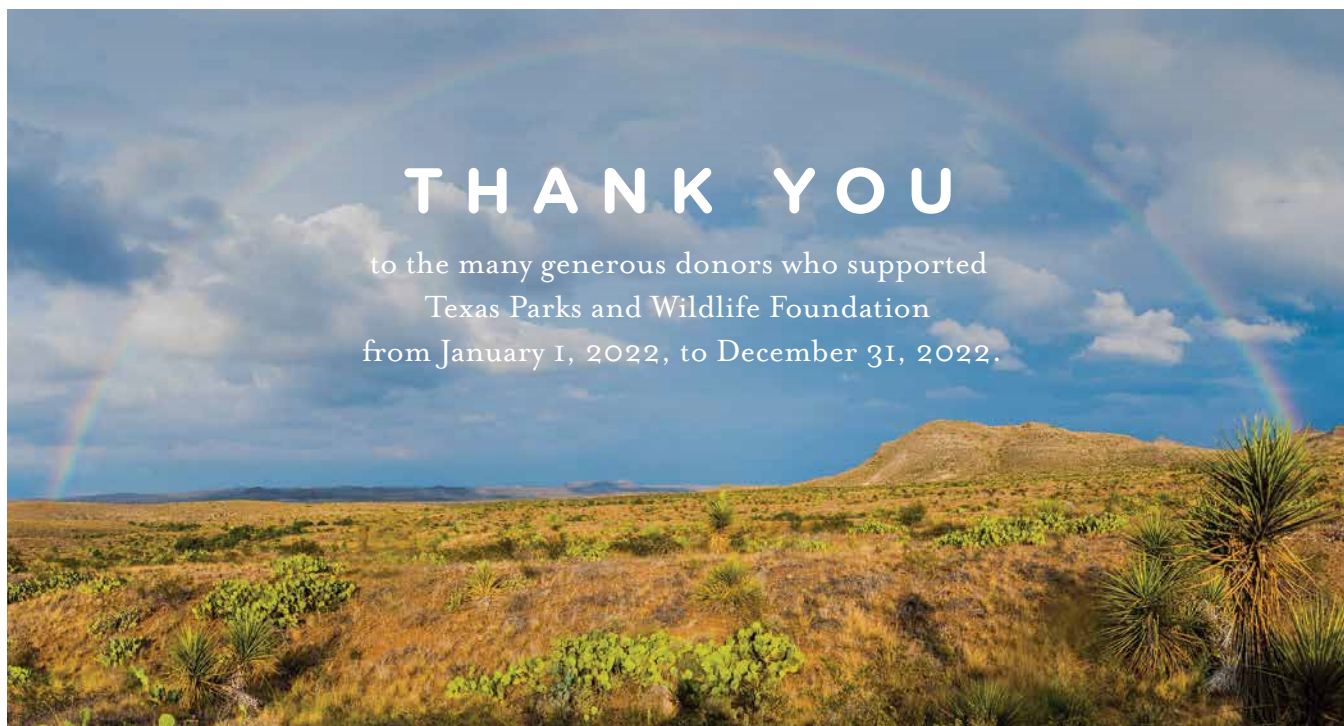
CONDENSED STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES AND CHANGES IN NET ASSETS

For the Year Ended December 31, 2022

	2022
REVENUES AND ADDITIONS TO NET ASSETS	
Contributions:	
Individuals	\$ 4,298,420
Foundations	4,953,387
Corporations	3,284,037
Government & Other Organizations	661,684
Total Contributions	13,197,529
Investment Income (Loss)	(5,926,112)
Other Income (Loss)	302,436
TOTAL REVENUES AND ADDITIONS TO NET ASSETS	\$ 7,573,852
EXPENSES AND DEDUCTIONS TO NET ASSETS	
Program:	
Conserve	\$ 2,553,139
Engage	3,385,515
Lead	1,155,174
Steward	789,239
Total Program	7,883,067
Support Services:	
Development	171,341
Management and General	641,956
Total Support Services	813,297
TOTAL EXPENSES AND DEDUCTIONS TO NET ASSETS	8,696,364
DECREASE IN NET ASSETS	\$ (1,122,512)

2022 EXPENSES

Program	<div><div></div></div>	91%
Development	<div><div></div></div>	2%
Management and General	<div><div></div></div>	7%



THANK YOU

to the many generous donors who supported
Texas Parks and Wildlife Foundation
from January 1, 2022, to December 31, 2022.

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Bill Zorn

Names in italics are members of the John Graves Legacy Society.

‡ Realized Bequest

Please contact us for information on including a gift to TPWF in your will or estate plan.

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Austin County Wildlife Management Association
CCA Texas
Caesar Kleberg Wildlife Research Institute
Colorado River Land Trust
Cross Timbers Quail
Dallas Safari Club
Dallas Zoo
Ducks Unlimited
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Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo
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Simms Creek Wildlife Association
Smith County
Sportsmen's Club of Fort Worth
Texas A&M Forest Service
Texas A&M Natural Resources Institute
Texas Agricultural Land Trust
Texas Farm Bureau
Texas Land Trust Council
Texas Ornithological Society
Texas & Southwestern Cattle Raisers Association
Texas Tech University Center at Junction Llano River Field Station
Texas Wildlife Association
Trinity River Authority of Texas
USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
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