

Who needs wild things and wild places?





Texas Parks and Wildlife Foundation believes we all do.

This fundamental belief has guided our work for more than 32 years. Together with countless dedicated Texans, we are committed to conserving the very nature of Texas through transformational, science-based initiatives to safeguard our state's lands, waters, and wildlife for the benefit of present and future Texans.

Since 1991, Texas Parks and Wildlife Foundation has raised and invested more than \$250 million to advance Texas' proud outdoor traditions and conserve our state's lands, waters, and wildlife. 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.



There's just something about Texas' alluring outdoors that always seems to draw out our cameras, inspiring our inner photographer to capture every stunning moment amidst the wild.

An endless sunset over the Chihuahuan Desert, a celebratory selfie atop Enchanted Rock, a child's first catch with rod and reel, a covey of quail flying overhead – our experiences and observations evoke powerful emotions. Our snapshots serve as a reminder of the wellspring of enduring inspiration we find in nature.

For more than 32 years, the wild things and wild places of Texas have guided our every endeavor. For this annual report, we introduce you to a few friends we've met along the way and highlight their unique contributions to our collective effort to keep Texas wild.

Thank you for your part in this shared mission. Everything we do is wholly possible because of your unyielding support and passion for conservation in Texas.



Anne & Jerry at Bucksnag



Mike @ Palo Pinto Mountains State Park

Michael S. Greene

Michael S. Greene
Chairman
Texas Parks and Wildlife Foundation

Anne Brown

Anne Brown
Executive Director
Texas Parks and Wildlife Foundation

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Engage

2023 marked 100 years of Texas State Parks, and Texas' wild places were on full display for the millions who celebrated and experienced firsthand the wonders of our state park system.

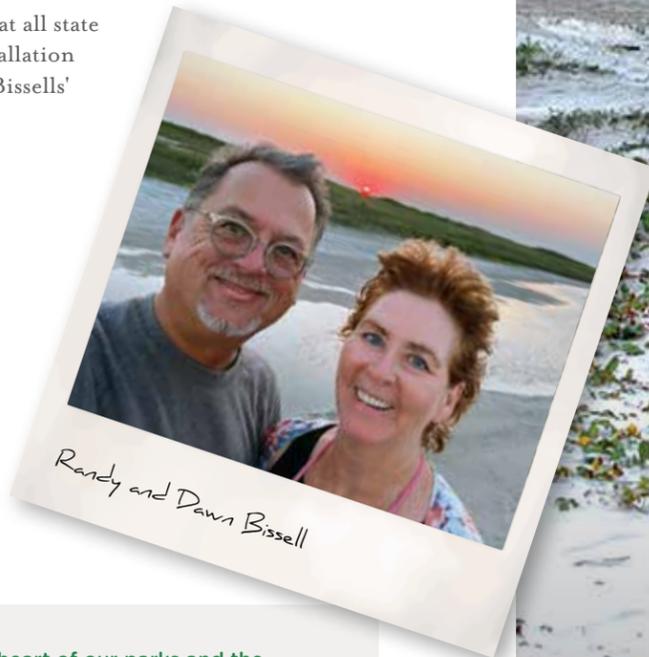
Dawn and Randy Bissell are an enthusiastic two among these millions. Together, they have volunteered for years at Mustang Island State Park, from picking up trash on the beach to developing and facilitating special visitor programs. In 2019, the two lifelong geoscientists became Texas Master Naturalists and grew even more engaged with the parks along Texas' Coastal Bend.

"Being right here on the water in front of the ocean's natural vista, it's an openness you can see forever. It's been amazing to get involved and become advocates to protect these special places," said Dawn. "To have the natural classroom of a state park and the opportunity to share our expertise as volunteers, it's a hugely gratifying feeling," added Randy.

As part of the centennial celebration, Texas Parks and Wildlife Foundation (TPWF) raised \$2 million to bring priority projects to life at all 88 state parks. This milestone effort was led by our Centennial Champions – Fondren Foundation, The John M. O'Quinn Foundation, The Elkins Foundation, The J.W. Couch Foundation, and The James A. "Buddy" Davidson Charitable Foundation – who collectively offered a \$1 million match.

Countless philanthropic organizations, businesses, and individuals answered the call, including the Bissells, who earmarked their donation for the parks closest to their hearts: Mustang Island, Goose Island, and Lake Corpus Christi state parks.

Thanks to campaign support, new projects at all state parks are now underway, including the installation of new heavy-duty shade structures on the Bissells' favorite beach, Mustang Island.



"Randy and Dawn Bissell exemplify the heart of our parks and the very best of our park volunteers and stewards. As we head into a new century, we are excited to implement projects that will provide more accessibility, amenities, and awe for all our visitors."

RODNEY FRANKLIN, *Texas State Parks Director*

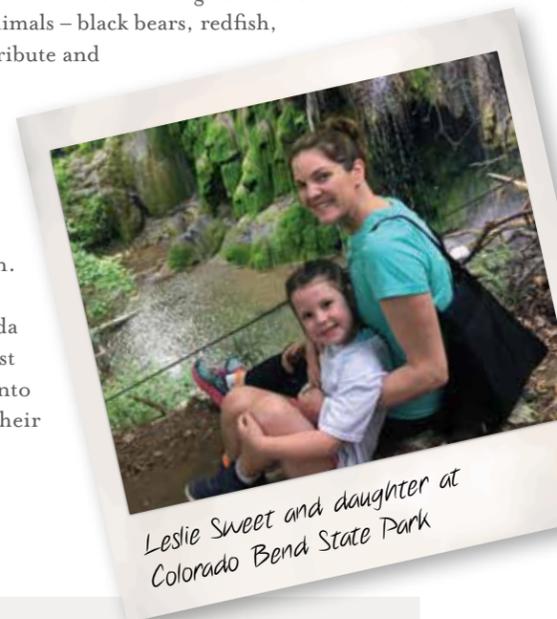




H-E-B PROMOTES CENTENNIAL CAMPAIGN



Enjoying s'mores at Guadalupe River State Park



Leslie Sweet and daughter at Colorado Bend State Park

Conserve

Over the last 118 years, H-E-B has grown from one store to 449 stores throughout Texas and Mexico. Now serving eight million customers, H-E-B is a Texas success story like no other. For 20 years, Leslie Sweet has been a part of H-E-B's every chapter. As Managing Director of Sustainability & Environmental Affairs, Leslie is also a driving force behind H-E-B's steadfast partnership with TPWF.

When it comes to celebrations, Texas goes big, and H-E-B celebrated the Texas State Parks centennial anniversary in true Texas fashion. As the presenting sponsor of 100 Years of Texas State Parks, H-E-B invested \$1 million to mark the historic milestone. From hosting park staff inside their stores to providing s'mores essentials for "100 S'more Years" events at parks across the state, to running a yearlong campaign to inspire all Texans to discover our Texas State Parks, H-E-B boosted the buzz around our state parks.

H-E-B capped the year by releasing the Our Texas, Our Future docuseries, created in partnership with Fin and Fur Films. The stunning docuseries includes five short films featuring iconic Texas animals – black bears, redbird, ocelots, and bats – plus, a breathtaking tribute and history of Texas State Parks. The parks film garnered millions of views on social media and more, bringing Texas' natural treasures to a wider audience.

H-E-B's generous support doesn't end or begin with the centennial celebration. Since 2022, H-E-B has bolstered coastal conservation along the Matagorda Peninsula, black bear restoration in West Texas, and the establishment of Palo Pinto Mountains State Park through sales of their Field & Future by H-E-B™ line of eco-friendly products.

"H-E-B has a deep commitment to support all Texans, and that includes helping to protect, conserve, and beautify our great state for people to enjoy now and for generations to come. Through our partnership with TPWF, we have been able to effectively amplify vital conservation initiatives throughout the state."

LESLIE SWEET, H-E-B Managing Director of Sustainability & Environmental Affairs

"TPWF's partnership with H-E-B continues to pay dividends for all Texans. H-E-B already supports multiple efforts through Field & Future, and H-E-B's tremendous centennial campaign placed Texas State Parks center stage and reached millions of Texans. It even included an award-winning short film as part of an incredible environmental docuseries."

MIKE GREENE, TPWF Chairman

Steward

Corky Kuhlmann has walked just about every acre in Texas. His innate talent for unearthing wild land opportunities has driven his lifelong dedication to conserving the Texas wild.

Corky joined Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) in 1980, amid the Golden Age of Texas State Parks. During this time, over 30 parks were added, and Corky stakes the rare claim of having worked in all state parks, fish hatcheries, and almost all Wildlife Management Areas in Texas, first as a surveyor and finally as the senior project manager of TPWD's Land Conservation Program.

With his trademark overalls and authentic charm, Corky has initiated countless conversations with landowners in his mission to conserve Texas habitats, including the landmark acquisition of Old Baldy at Garner State Park in 2010. According to Corky, "At Garner, there are three main things to do: tubing, dancing, and hiking. For generations, Old Baldy was private land. Had we not inked that deal when it went up for sale, it would've put an end to the third major attraction at Garner!"

Palo Duro Canyon's Fortress Cliff is another win topping his list. "Every campsite inside the canyon looks up on that cliff. Without that deal, there'd be houses all along that bluff."

In 2016, Corky retired from TPWD only to join TPWF as our Land Conservation Manager. With TPWF, he has completed a dozen more deals, forever conserving thousands of acres, including the 2,178-acre Burns Ranch in 2023. Now protected as the Paul and Toni Burns Wildlife Management Area, this rare property is located in the Cross Timbers and Plains Ecological Region and provides essential grassland habitat and sustenance for hundreds of native and migratory species.

"Corky is a force for good in Texas' vast conservation landscape. It's been a true pleasure working alongside such a dedicated individual, and our state is better because of his selfless service."

ZACH SPECTOR, TPWF Director of Conservation Programs

"Corky has spent the last half century successfully championing our wild landscapes, and his ability to negotiate landmark acquisitions is owed to his natural ability to get along with landowners and to always see the value of the land through the eyes of its stewards."

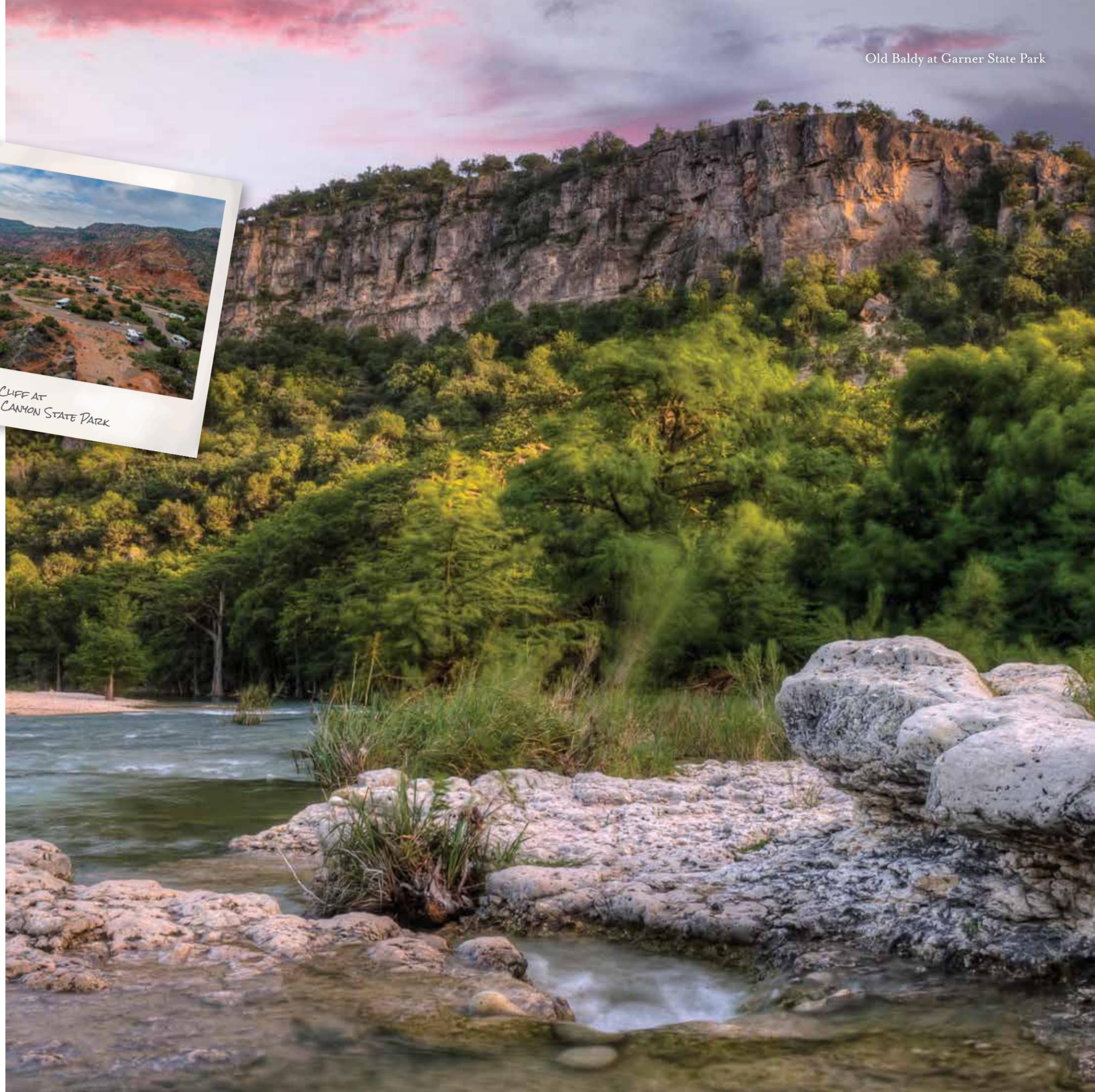
THE HONORABLE TRAVIS "BLAKE" ROWLING,
TPW Commission, TPWF Ex Officio Trustee



Fortress Cliff at Palo Duro Canyon State Park



Corky Kuhlmann



Lead

Margaret Martin's longtime connection to the outdoors has inspired a lifelong commitment to conservation. Always active in her rural ranching community near Laredo, Margaret served on various local agriculture-focused boards before being appointed to the Texas Parks and Wildlife Commission in 2007.

"That experience changed my life. I didn't realize the vast scope of TPWD's purview until I joined the Commission. TPWD touches so many things that Texans hold dear," said Martin.

After eight years on the Commission, Martin joined TPWF's Board in 2016, where she is a devoted champion of TPWF's Gear Up for Game Wardens program. "I may be short in stature, but I'm a big mama bear when it comes to our game wardens!"

Margaret serves on Gear Up's Leadership Committee, where she energetically drives awareness and support for the program. In 2023, Gear Up for Game Wardens funded and secured 863 specialty items valued at \$1.8 million. From airboats to K-9 units to life-saving thermal drones and more, Margaret and thousands of ardent supporters are outfitting Texas Game Wardens with the equipment they need to safeguard Texas' lands, waters, wildlife, and people.

"Margaret is an enthusiastic, supportive leader in everything she strives to accomplish. Over the past seven years in building Gear Up for Game Wardens, it has been very gratifying to have Margaret's continued support and encouragement. We are blessed to have such a caring, giving person involved in Gear Up's efforts to support our game wardens who so carefully watch over us."

RANDY RISHER,
TPWF Trustee
Chair, Gear Up for Game Wardens



Margaret with Texas Game Warden Kevin Winters & K-9 Officer Tex



Belton Lake in Central Texas



Stewards of the Wild Mentored Fishing Trip along Texas Gulf Coast

Texas' proud outdoor traditions span ten incredibly distinct geographic regions and traverse generational divides. But for our work to continue, we must bring new generations into the conservation conversation.

This was the premise upon which TPWF's Stewards of the Wild program was founded – to engage the next generation of conservation leaders. Volunteer-led chapters across the state connect young leaders from diverse backgrounds with opportunities to actively participate in the conservation of our wild things and wild places.

Brad Wharton joined Stewards of the Wild in 2014, and he remains an active member today. According to Brad, "I grew up ranching and was fortunate enough to spend every day outdoors. Stewards of the Wild provides a great avenue to pay forward some of the outdoor traditions I value." After serving as Co-Chair for the Fort Worth Chapter, Brad was selected for TPWF's Board Fellows program, which allowed him to gain invaluable experience and mentorship in nonprofit management and board governance.

In 2023, following his board fellowship, Brad was officially elected to TPWF's Board of Directors, where he brings to the table an entirely new generational perspective.



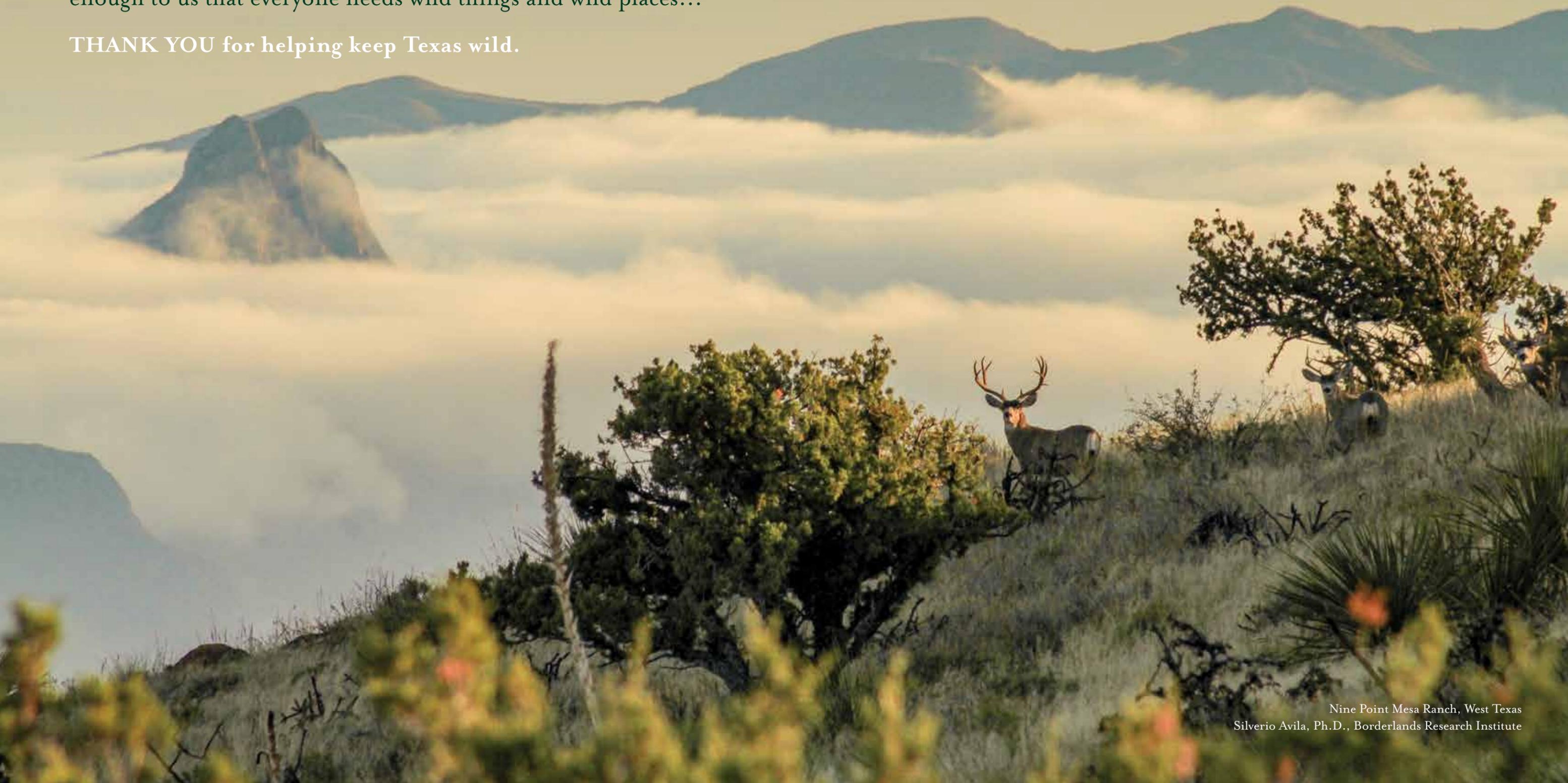
Brad and daughter reel in catch of the day!

"Brad is a great addition to the board and a living example of what TPWF envisioned when establishing Stewards of the Wild. With over 800 active members, TPWF is engaging and inspiring rising generations of Texans to join the conservation arena to ensure we keep Texas wild."

KELLY THOMPSON,
TPWF Chairman Emeritus

It's often said that a picture is worth a thousand words, but the raw untamed wildscapes of the Lone Star State render us speechless in their stead. In the midst of Texas' scenic outdoors, modern-day worries fade and nature comes into focus, centering our spirits and inspiring our tomorrows. Proof enough to us that everyone needs wild things and wild places...

THANK YOU for helping keep Texas wild.



Our Impact

In 2023, Texas Parks and Wildlife Foundation's efforts forever changed the landscape of Texas, thanks to the generous support of our donors and dedicated partners.

100 Years of Texas State Parks * American Bird Conservancy * Angler Education and Outreach * Aoudad Management Project * Big Time Texas Hunts * Bentsen-Rio Grande Valley State

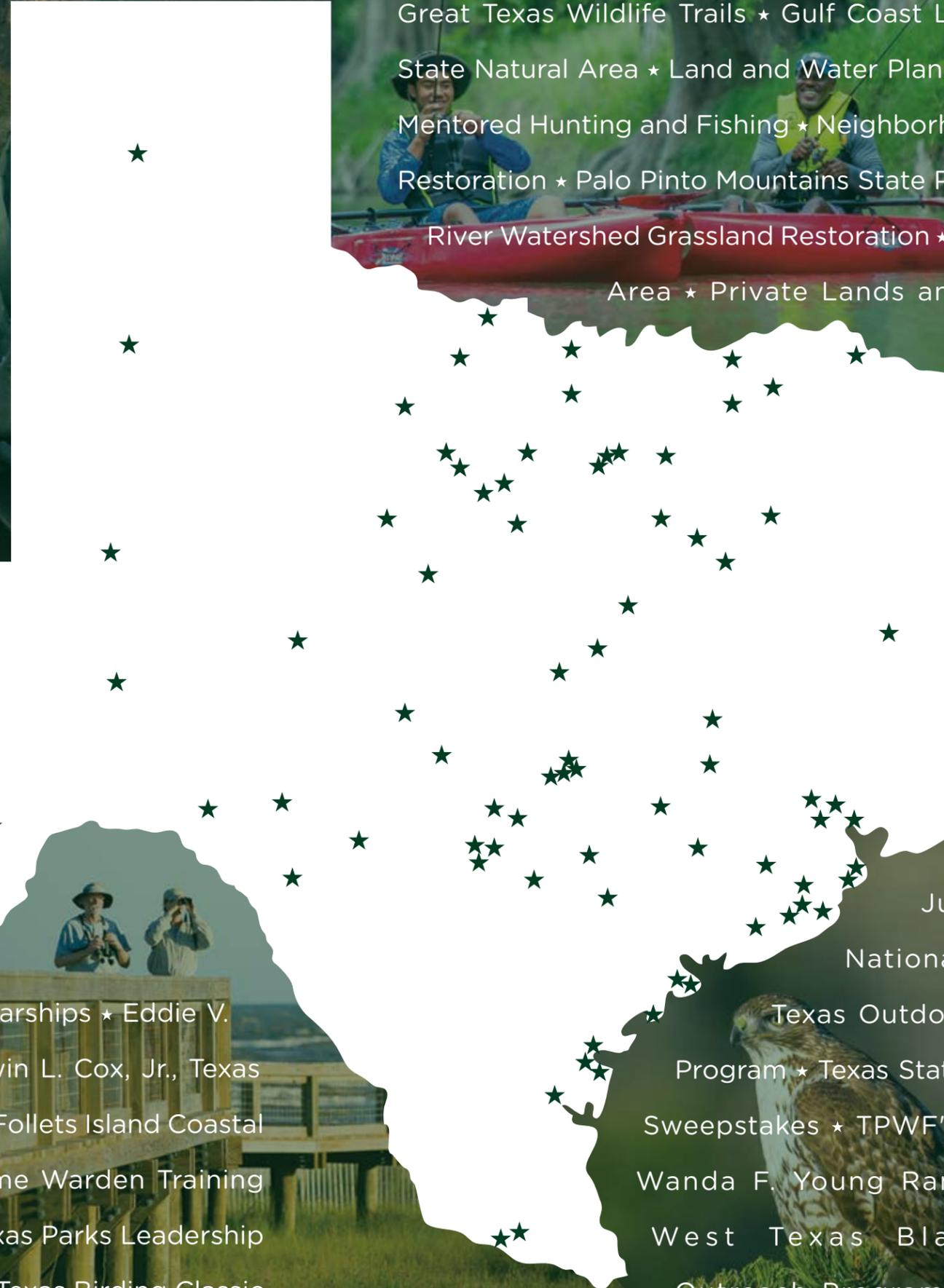
Park * Brazos Bend State Park * Buffer Lands Incentive Program * Conservation Internships and Scholarships * Eddie V. Gray Wetlands Education and Recreation Center * Edwin L. Cox, Jr., Texas Freshwater Fisheries Center * Education and Outreach * Follets Island Coastal Management Area * Friends of the Pecos River * Game Warden Training Center * Gear Up for Game Wardens * George Bristol Texas Parks Leadership Fund * Grassland Restoration Incentive Program * Great Texas Birding Classic

Great Texas Wildlife Trails * Gulf Coast Land Conservation * Honey Creek State Natural Area * Land and Water Plan * Lone Star Land Steward Awards * Mentored Hunting and Fishing * Neighborhood Fishin' Program * Oyster Reef Restoration * Palo Pinto Mountains State Park * Parrie Haynes Ranch * Pecos River Watershed Grassland Restoration * Powderhorn Wildlife Management

Area * Private Lands and Habitat Program * Quail and Grasslands 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 * Texas

Junior Ranger Program * Texas National Archery in Schools Program * Texas Outdoor Family * Toyota ShareLunker Program * Texas State Parks Centennial Toyota Tundra Sweepstakes * TPWF's Robbie Davis Ranch * TPWF's Wanda F. Young Ranch * We Will Not Be Tamed * West Texas Black Bear Research and Outreach Program * White-tailed Deer Research



Your Loyal Support Has Enabled TPWF to:

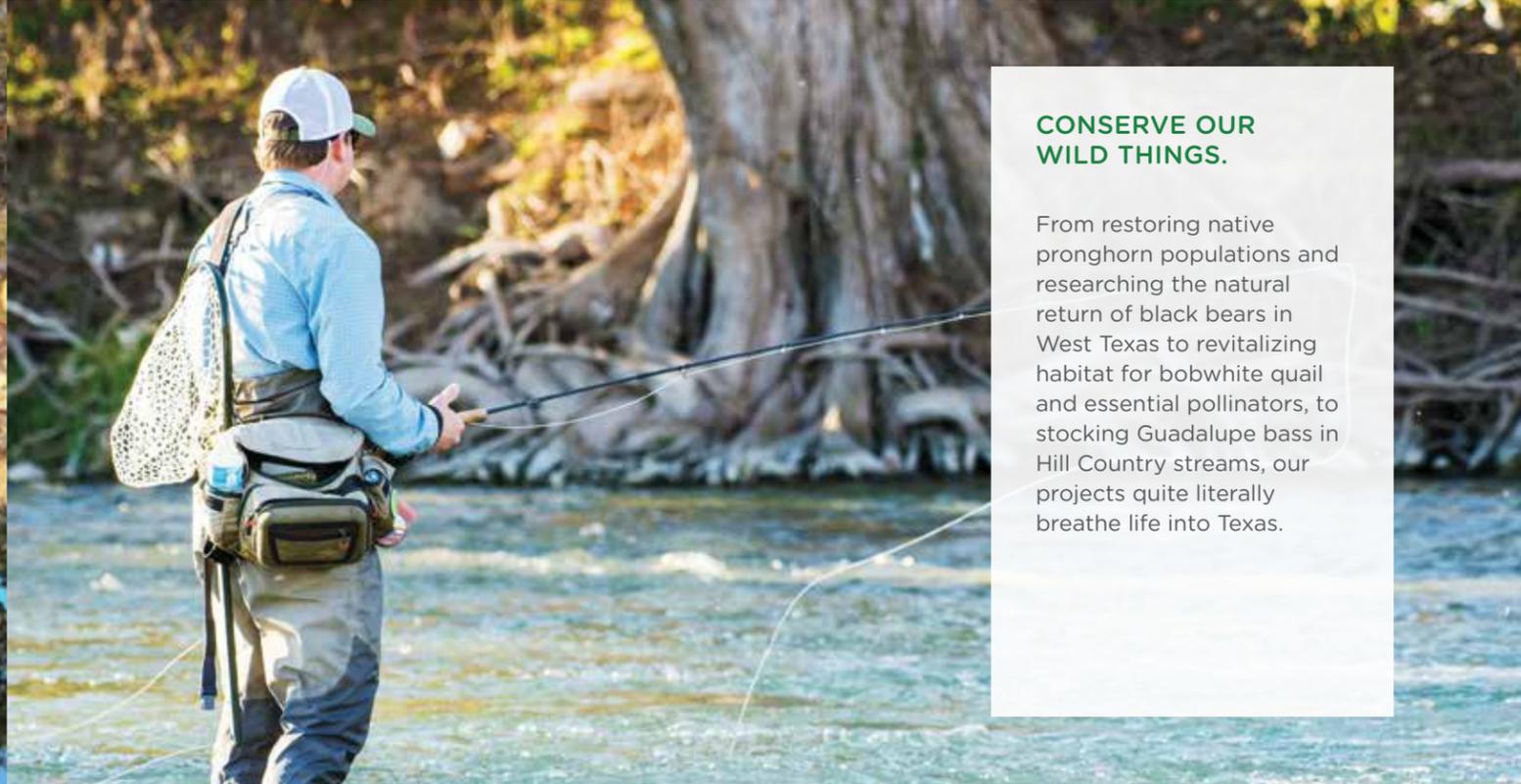
STEWARD OUR WILD PLACES.

Since 1991, TPWF and partners have permanently protected more than 200,000 acres of vital habitat, including almost 11,000 acres in 2023, forever conserving valuable territories for migratory birds and native wildlife from the Trans-Pecos region to the Hill Country, Piney Woods, and Gulf Coast.



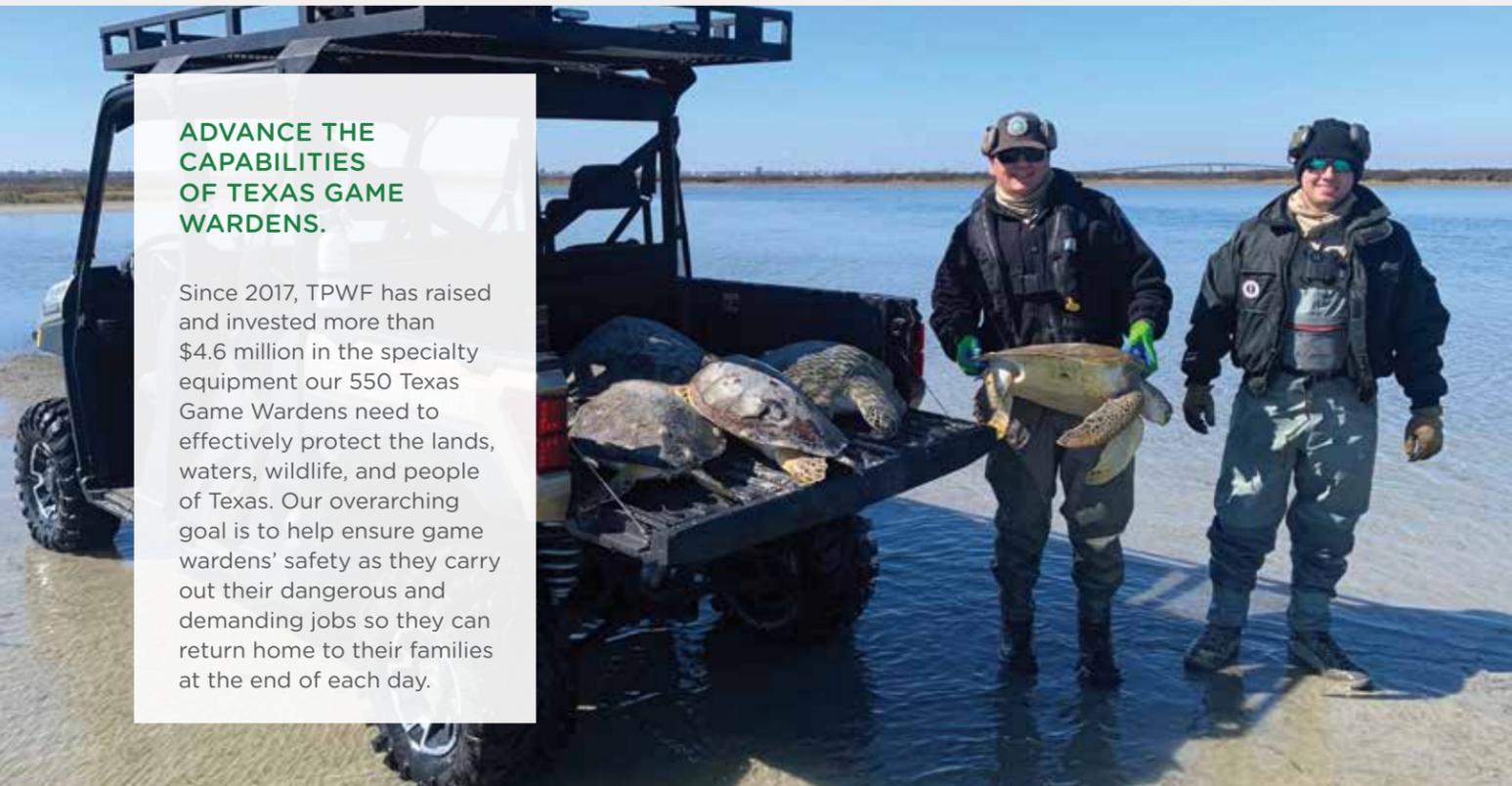
CONSERVE OUR WILD THINGS.

From restoring native pronghorn populations and researching the natural return of black bears in West Texas to revitalizing habitat for bobwhite quail and essential pollinators, to stocking Guadalupe bass in Hill Country streams, our projects quite literally breathe life into Texas.



ADVANCE THE CAPABILITIES OF TEXAS GAME WARDENS.

Since 2017, TPWF has raised and invested more than \$4.6 million in the specialty equipment our 550 Texas Game Wardens need to effectively protect the lands, waters, wildlife, and people of Texas. Our overarching goal is to help ensure game wardens' safety as they carry out their dangerous and demanding jobs so they can return home to their families at the end of each day.



ENGAGE MORE TEXANS WITH NATURE.

During the centennial anniversary of Texas State Parks, TPWF encouraged all Texans to give back to the parks they love, successfully funding park projects at all 88 parks. TPWF also raised \$10 million and recently broke ground on the construction of visitor facilities at Palo Pinto Mountains State Park, the newest state park in North Texas in over 25 years.



Condensed Statement of Financial Position

For the Years Ended December 31, 2023 & 2022

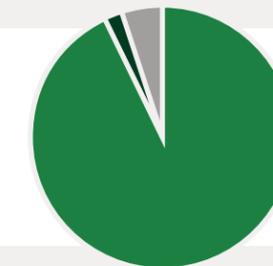
	2023	2022
Assets		
Cash and Investments	\$ 77,240,477	\$ 63,974,212
Receivables, net	853,196	880,931
Fixed Assets, net	7,251,795	8,908,259
Assets Held for Others	6,533,745	5,750,749
Other Assets	176,684	129,046
TOTAL ASSETS	\$ 92,055,897	\$ 79,643,197
Liabilities and Net Assets		
Liabilities:		
Accounts Payable and Other Liabilities	\$ 568,364	\$ 2,195,179
Assets Held for Others	6,533,745	5,750,749
Total Liabilities	7,102,109	7,945,928
Net Assets:		
Without Donor Restrictions	29,647,382	25,339,872
With Donor Restrictions	55,306,406	46,357,397
Total Net Assets	84,953,788	71,697,269
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS	\$ 92,055,897	\$ 79,643,197

Condensed Statement of Activities and Changes in Net Assets

For the Year Ended December 31, 2023

	2023
Revenues and Additions to Net Assets	
Contributions:	
Individuals	\$ 6,878,441
Foundations	5,633,082
Corporations	2,921,881
Government & Other Organizations	343,533
Total Contributions	15,776,937
Investment Income	6,664,037
Other Income	834,961
TOTAL REVENUES AND ADDITIONS TO NET ASSETS	\$ 23,275,935
Expenses and Deductions to Net Assets	
Program:	
Conserve	\$ 2,551,578
Engage	3,717,408
Lead	1,474,347
Steward	1,690,715
Total Program	9,434,048
Support Services:	
Development	36,648
Management and General	548,720
Total Support Services	585,368
TOTAL EXPENSES AND DEDUCTIONS TO NET ASSETS	10,019,416
INCREASE IN NET ASSETS	\$ 13,256,519

2023 Expenses



- Program 93%
- Development 2%
- Management and General 5%



Thank You

to the many generous donors who supported
Texas Parks and Wildlife Foundation
from January 1, 2023, to December 31, 2023.

Individuals & Foundations

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Written by Joy Laukoter and Lydia Saldaña

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

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