

With deep gratitude
for your support
of our wild things
and wild places



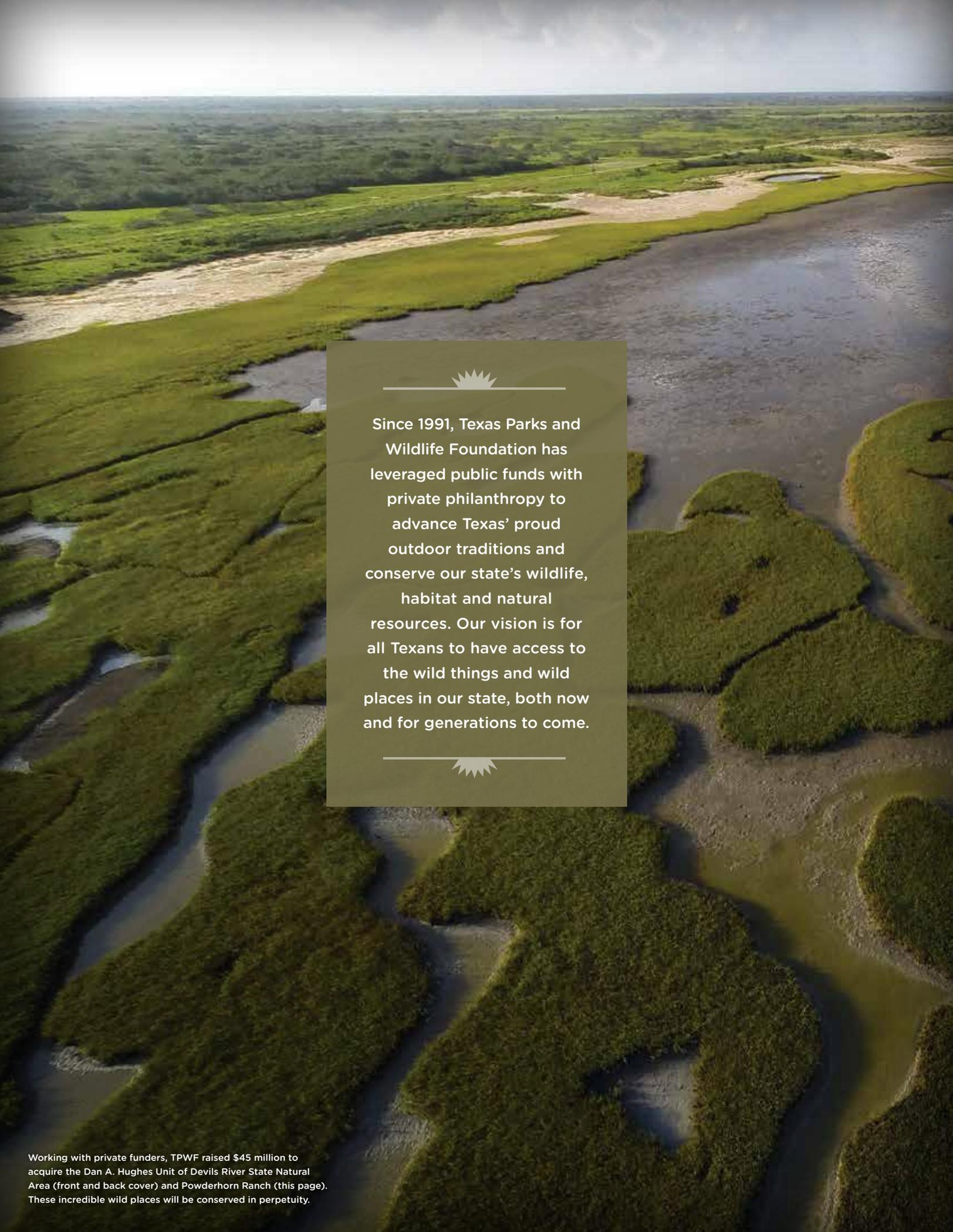
ANNE BROWN
Executive Director
Texas Parks and Wildlife
Foundation



Texas Parks and Wildlife Foundation

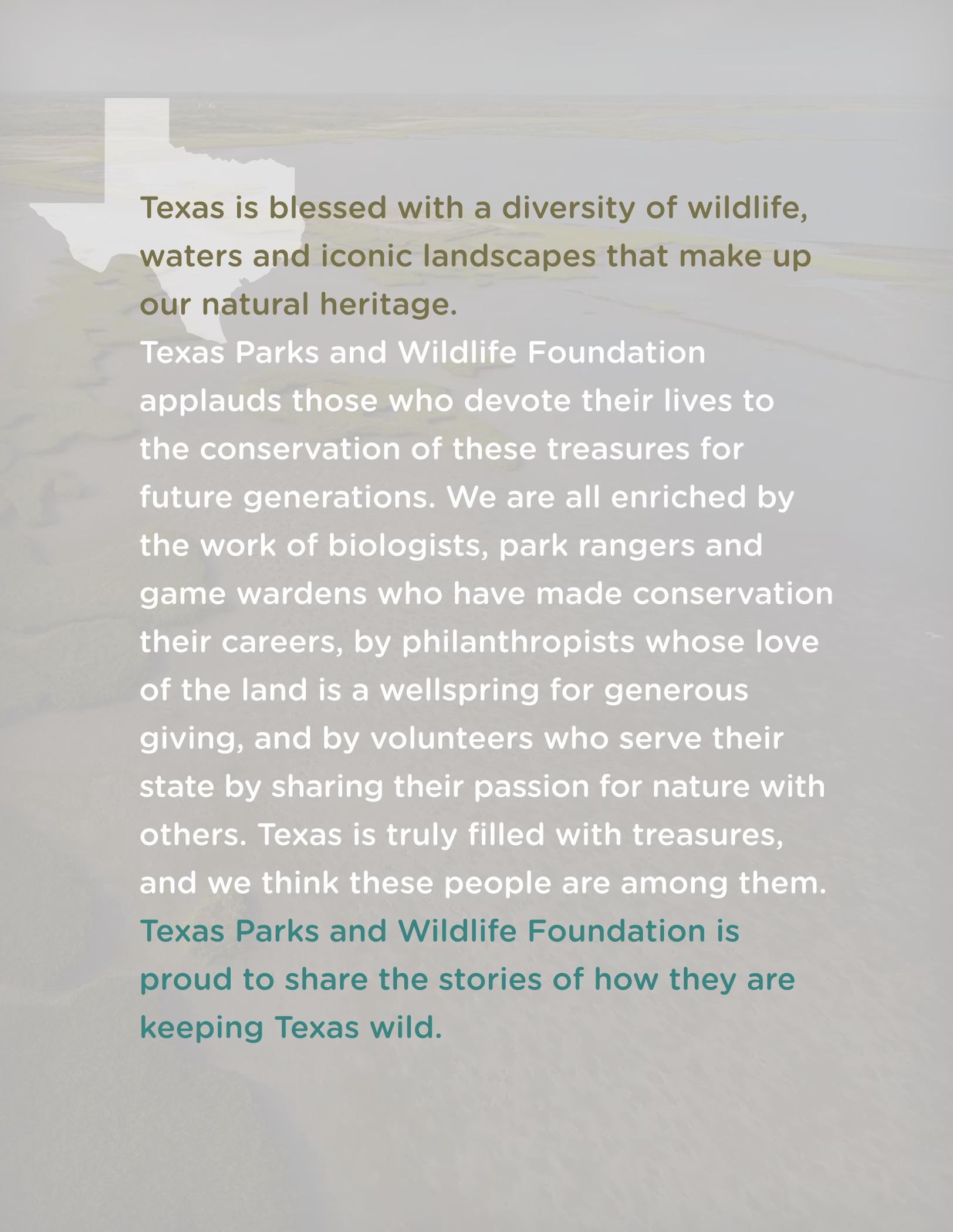
2015 ANNUAL REPORT





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.

Working with private funders, TPWF raised \$45 million to acquire the Dan A. Hughes Unit of Devils River State Natural Area (front and back cover) and Powderhorn Ranch (this page). These incredible wild places will be conserved in perpetuity.



Texas is blessed with a diversity of wildlife, waters and iconic landscapes that make up our natural heritage.

Texas Parks and Wildlife Foundation applauds those who devote their lives to the conservation of these treasures for future generations. We are all enriched by the work of biologists, park rangers and game wardens who have made conservation their careers, by philanthropists whose love of the land is a wellspring for generous giving, and by volunteers who serve their state by sharing their passion for nature with others. Texas is truly filled with treasures, and we think these people are among them.

Texas Parks and Wildlife Foundation is proud to share the stories of how they are keeping Texas wild.



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Texas Parks and Wildlife Foundation is dedicated to funding high-impact, meaningful projects that will ensure future generations can enjoy the wild things and wild places that are part of the character of our state.

From ensuring the long-term health of Texas rivers and restoring native wildlife to enhancing the Texas State Park system and training the next generation of Texas Game Wardens, Texas Parks and Wildlife Foundation is committed to conserving the very nature of Texas.

Behind every one of these projects are dedicated professionals who are passionate about conservation. And fortunately, there are philanthropists who are equally dedicated to conserving the very best of Texas. The Foundation brings together the projects and people who are making a difference for present and future generations of Texans.

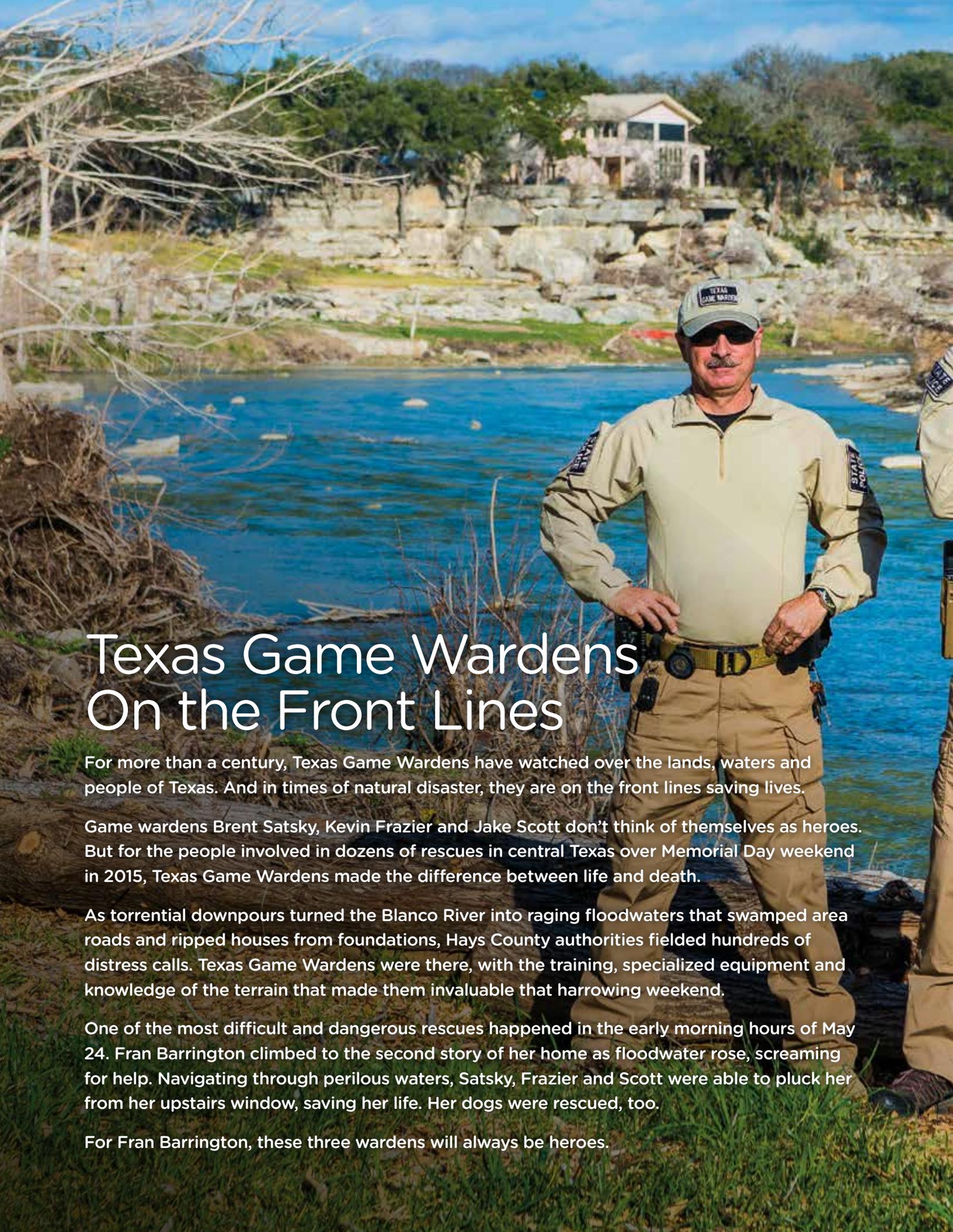
As we reflect on our past year's accomplishments in this annual report, we also look to the future and celebrate those who are making a difference. Thank you for your support of the people who are keeping it wild.



KELLY R. THOMPSON
Chairman
Texas Parks and Wildlife Foundation



ANNE BROWN
Executive Director
Texas Parks and Wildlife Foundation

A Texas Game Warden in uniform stands in the foreground, looking towards the camera. He is wearing a tan jacket with "STATE POLICE" patches on the sleeves, tan pants, a green belt, and a grey cap with "TEXAS GAME WARDEN" on it. He has a mustache and is wearing sunglasses. The background shows a blue river flowing through a rocky, wooded area. A house is visible on a hillside in the distance. The sky is blue with some clouds.

Texas Game Wardens On the Front Lines

For more than a century, Texas Game Wardens have watched over the lands, waters and people of Texas. And in times of natural disaster, they are on the front lines saving lives.

Game wardens Brent Satsky, Kevin Frazier and Jake Scott don't think of themselves as heroes. But for the people involved in dozens of rescues in central Texas over Memorial Day weekend in 2015, Texas Game Wardens made the difference between life and death.

As torrential downpours turned the Blanco River into raging floodwaters that swamped area roads and ripped houses from foundations, Hays County authorities fielded hundreds of distress calls. Texas Game Wardens were there, with the training, specialized equipment and knowledge of the terrain that made them invaluable that harrowing weekend.

One of the most difficult and dangerous rescues happened in the early morning hours of May 24. Fran Barrington climbed to the second story of her home as floodwater rose, screaming for help. Navigating through perilous waters, Satsky, Frazier and Scott were able to pluck her from her upstairs window, saving her life. Her dogs were rescued, too.

For Fran Barrington, these three wardens will always be heroes.



LOUIS H. STUMBERG, SR.†

TPW Commissioner

Louis Stumberg called many Texas Game Wardens friends. Over the years, Stumberg and his children developed lifelong relationships with the local wardens who patrolled the back roads and ranches of Dimmit County in South Texas.

“I can still remember Jim Ponds coming to the ranch and trading stories with my dad,” said Herb Stumberg. “There was such camaraderie and trust there. Game wardens are true community policemen.”

Stumberg gained a different perspective on the work of game wardens when he was appointed to the Texas Parks and Wildlife Commission in the 1970s. And after he left the commission, Stumberg presented the prestigious Shikar-Safari International Wildlife Officer of the Year Award to a Texas Game Warden annually for many years.

Stumberg passed away in 2011, but family ties to game wardens are still strong. To honor their father’s memory, his children made a \$1 million gift to the Texas Game Warden Training Center.

“Our dad had a sincere affection and appreciation for our wildlife officers. And we know game wardens are integral to conserving the outdoor experience in Texas, which has blessed us,” said Eric Stumberg.

“Helping to provide the training and equipment game wardens need is meaningful for our family.”



HEATHER KUHLKEN

Families in Nature Founder

Heather Kuhlken is on a mission to promote and support Families in Nature. The nonprofit organization aims to connect children and their families to nature and to each other through time spent learning, playing and volunteering outdoors.

Families in Nature has partnered with Texas Parks and Wildlife to receive the Master Outdoor Leadership Training, which is provided by the Texas Outdoor Family program. Thanks to the partnership, Families in Nature now has seven trained volunteers to expand the organization's reach.

"These programs have made it possible for an organization as small as ours to include families that do not have the means to go camping on their own," said Kuhlken. "Without the loaner gear provided by Texas Parks and Wildlife Foundation and the training from the Texas Outdoor Family program we would only have been able to take a few families camping. Because of this partnership, we are able to reach hundreds of families and bring more diversity to the outdoors."

For Kuhlken, it's all about families and the future.

"It is my hope that we will help create strong families and strong communities through family time spent in nature. I also hope to create the next generation of conservationists. Nature is for everyone!"





Connecting Texas Families to Nature

What some of us may take for granted is now being confirmed by research: Spending time in nature is good for mind, body and soul. And there is no better way to connect as a family than by spending time together outdoors. But in the fast-paced urban world most of us live in, connecting with nature as a family can be elusive. For some, lack of experience is a formidable barrier.

The Texas Outdoor Family program at Texas Parks and Wildlife Department aims to remove that obstacle by providing hands-on opportunities at Texas State Parks. Experienced park rangers take the mystery out of that first camping trip by helping families learn the ropes. Since the program began, thousands of families have connected with each other and with nature at a Texas Outdoor Family weekend.

Thanks to private funding from Texas Parks and Wildlife Foundation, Texas Outdoor Family is amplifying its impact. A pilot program in Houston has trained leaders from more than a dozen organizations so that more families can be reached. The Master Outdoor Leadership Training program is now expanding into Austin, San Antonio and Dallas/Fort Worth. Soon, even more Texas families will experience the joys of nature, together.



Enduring Partnerships for Palo Duro Canyon

Wales Madden, Jr. has been visiting Palo Duro Canyon all his life. He remembers when the roads and trails built by the Civilian Conservation Corps were new. Since the canyon became a state park in the 1930s, partnerships have transformed it into a world-class destination.

In 1961, the Amarillo Area Foundation asked Madden to lead a fundraising effort for an amphitheater. The result was the Texas Panhandle Heritage Foundation and production of the outdoor musical “Texas,” which is still going strong today.

Madden has spent much time in the canyon, including with Wanda and Pete Gilvin, who owned the Cañoncita Ranch on the rim, now a part of the park. Madden also hiked the canyon countless times over the years with his good friend Mack Dick. Dick’s love of the canyon led to a \$1 million donation to build the Mack Dick Group Pavilion. The park’s friends group, Partners in Palo Duro Canyon Foundation, helped furnish the interior of the spectacular building.

“The legacy of partnerships is not just about our history, it’s our future,” said Palo Duro Canyon State Park superintendent Shannon Blalock. “Whether it’s helping with smaller needs or visionary development down the road, there are many individuals and organizations that will continue to enhance the visitor experience at Palo Duro Canyon.”



WANDA AND PETE GILVIN†

Philanthropists

Wanda and Pete Gilvin lived and breathed Palo Duro Canyon. Their beautiful ranch home was perched right on the canyon's rim. They unabashedly supported efforts to enhance canyon amenities.

"How lucky we were to have Pete and Wanda," said Wales Madden, Jr. "Pete was the leader of anything we did at the canyon and a key supporter of building the amphitheater. They both loved that canyon."

The Gilvins were generous benefactors in Amarillo and were involved in many civic organizations. Wanda passed away in 1995 and Pete in 1997. They bequeathed their beloved Cañoncita to the Amarillo Area Foundation. In 2001, the ranch was sold to Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, forever safeguarding the property and its incredible views. Proceeds from the sale are now held in an endowment fund to help care for the property.

Texas Parks and Wildlife Foundation raised additional funds to restore and rebuild the ranch house. The new facilities will now be used for educational purposes, including a research partnership with West Texas A&M University.

"They always wanted to learn more about the canyon," said Mark Bivins, Texas Parks and Wildlife Foundation board member and former TPW commissioner. "I think they would be very pleased to see how Cañoncita has been transformed and conserved. I think it's exactly how they would have pictured it."





TIM BIRDSONG

Fisheries Biologist

Tim Birdsong is a Texas Parks and Wildlife Department fisheries biologist who is leading the Conserving Texas Rivers Initiative.

“I feel like it is my job as a biologist to help people understand what would be lost if we didn’t take care of these river resources,” said Birdsong. “There are 220 native fishes found in Texas rivers and 30 percent have conservation needs. These species could easily slip away and very few might notice. It’s up to programs like ours to help people understand what would be lost if we let that happen.”

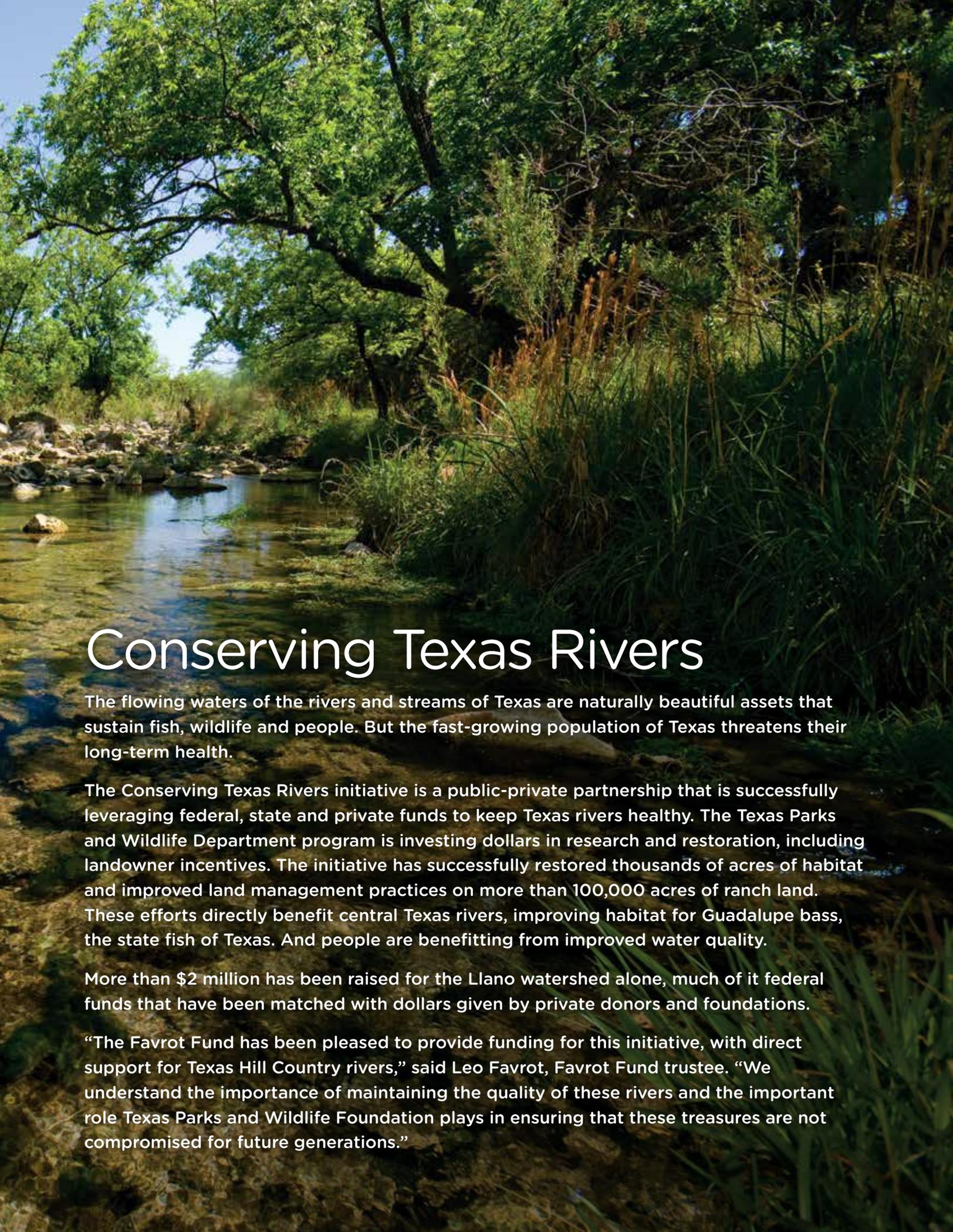
Birdsong is deeply appreciative of Texas Parks and Wildlife Foundation’s role in raising funds to match federal dollars.

“We’re now expanding this model to the Blanco, Pedernales and Devils rivers,” Birdsong said. “And in every situation we would not be able to access federal funds without the Foundation bringing private donations to cover that non-federal cost share. That’s a problem for most state agencies. The federal grantors want to see leveraging. Texas Parks and Wildlife Foundation fills that gap for us.”

Birdsong is hopeful about the future.

“For me, conservation is an optimistic, forward-looking concept. As a conservation professional, I am filled with hope and a desire to make a difference and a lasting impact on the health of our natural resources.”





Conserving Texas Rivers

The flowing waters of the rivers and streams of Texas are naturally beautiful assets that sustain fish, wildlife and people. But the fast-growing population of Texas threatens their long-term health.

The Conserving Texas Rivers initiative is a public-private partnership that is successfully leveraging federal, state and private funds to keep Texas rivers healthy. The Texas Parks and Wildlife Department program is investing dollars in research and restoration, including landowner incentives. The initiative has successfully restored thousands of acres of habitat and improved land management practices on more than 100,000 acres of ranch land. These efforts directly benefit central Texas rivers, improving habitat for Guadalupe bass, the state fish of Texas. And people are benefitting from improved water quality.

More than \$2 million has been raised for the Llano watershed alone, much of it federal funds that have been matched with dollars given by private donors and foundations.

“The Favrot Fund has been pleased to provide funding for this initiative, with direct support for Texas Hill Country rivers,” said Leo Favrot, Favrot Fund trustee. “We understand the importance of maintaining the quality of these rivers and the important role Texas Parks and Wildlife Foundation plays in ensuring that these treasures are not compromised for future generations.”

A photograph of two men standing in a field of tall grass and brush. The man on the left has a beard and is wearing a red quilted jacket. The man on the right is wearing a dark green jacket. They are both smiling at the camera. The background shows a line of trees under a clear blue sky.

Leaving a Legacy

The rural landscape of Texas embodies a ruggedness of character that both teaches and inspires. As land held in families for generations is subdivided or sold in smaller parcels, Texas' heritage is at risk of being lost forever. Our responsibility as stewards is all the more vital today.

In partnership with landowners and donors, Texas Parks and Wildlife Foundation is working to save the landscapes of Texas for future generations. From spectacular acquisitions like Powderhorn Ranch to smaller land holdings in strategic locations, the Foundation is actively involved in conserving the wide open spaces that define us as Texans.

"We're working to identify, fund and conserve iconic landscapes across Texas before they are lost forever," said Jay Kleberg, associate director for Texas Parks and Wildlife Foundation. "We're also actively seeking gifts of land for their habitat value."

Bob Starnes chairs the land committee of the Foundation's board of trustees.

"Because of our partnership with Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, we know we're focusing on priority needs," said Starnes. "We're also able to leverage donor funds through strategic collaborations."

Last year, through outright gifts, establishment of donor advised funds or planned gifts, Texas Parks and Wildlife Foundation was able to conserve over 13,389 acres and dedicate \$18,980,528 to land conservation.

"We hope more Texans will consider a legacy gift to help conserve the wild things and wild places of Texas," said Starnes.



ROBBIE DAVIS[†]

Philanthropist

Robbie Davis had a deep-rooted connection to the land. She grew up on her family's ranch in Stephens County, and when her parents passed away, the 2,800-acre ranch came to her. Though she did not live there as an adult, she cared deeply for the land legacy her parents left.

As she began planning her estate in her later years, she consulted with Jim Farley, senior V.P. of the Trust Division, SouthWest Bank in Lubbock.

"Robbie approached me about helping her manage the ranch interests," said Farley. "She also expressed a strong desire for the ranch to ultimately benefit the people of Texas."

Farley researched several options.

"Texas Parks and Wildlife Foundation rose to the top," he said. "It's a respected charitable entity with goals that matched hers."

The trust recently deeded the property to TPWF. The Foundation will manage the ranch, working to improve habitat for the next few years and will eventually work with Texas Parks and Wildlife Department to open it up for public hunting.

"I know Robbie would be very pleased that her desire for the ranch to be maintained and enjoyed by future generations has been fulfilled," said Farley.



JIM FARLEY

Financial Advisor



CONDENSED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

For the Year Ended December 31, 2015 & 2014

	2015	2014
ASSETS		
Cash and Investments	\$ 19,723,599	\$ 17,805,956
Receivables, net	12,259,443	12,922,912
Fixed Assets, net	33,794,883	18,218,425
Assets Held for Others	470,908	1,909,693
Other Assets	98,944	260,536
TOTAL ASSETS	\$ 66,347,777	\$ 51,117,522
LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS		
Liabilities:		
Accounts Payable and Other Liabilities	\$ 86,503	\$ 132,500
Assets Held for Others	470,908	1,909,693
TOTAL LIABILITIES	557,411	2,042,193
Net assets:		
Unrestricted	40,428,094	23,112,558
Temporarily restricted	24,040,034	25,062,771
Permanently restricted	1,322,238	900,000
TOTAL NET ASSETS	65,790,366	49,075,329
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS	\$ 66,347,777	\$ 51,117,522

Land Acquisition of \$16M and \$17.7M is recorded as an asset of the Foundation on the Condensed Statement of Financial Position for FY2015 and FY2014, respectively.

The 2015 Condensed Statement of Activities and Position is unaudited. For the most recent audited financial information as of December 31, 2014, please contact TPWF.



CONDENSED STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES AND CHANGES IN NET ASSETS

For the Year Ended December 31, 2015 & 2014

	2015	2014
REVENUES AND ADDITIONS TO NET ASSETS		
Contributions:		
Unrestricted	\$ 4,340,174	\$ 1,230,223
Restricted	14,768,134	33,709,373
Total Contributions	19,108,308	34,939,596
Special Event (net of DBC)	376,779	895,439
Investment Income	(255,450)	778,691
Other Income	5,593,473	150,068
TOTAL REVENUES AND ADDITIONS TO NET ASSETS	24,823,110	36,763,794
EXPENSES AND REDUCTIONS TO NET ASSETS		
Program:		
Grants	4,554,679	1,328,587
Direct Project Cost and Scholarships	3,253,777	2,096,375
TOTAL PROGRAM	7,808,456	3,424,962
Support Services:		
Development	115,829	124,439
Management and General	183,788	167,632
TOTAL SUPPORT SERVICES	299,617	292,071
TOTAL EXPENSES AND REDUCTIONS TO NET ASSETS	8,108,073	3,717,033
NET INCREASE IN NET ASSETS	\$ 16,715,037	\$ 33,046,761

The 2015 Condensed Statement of Activities and Position is unaudited. For the most recent audited financial information as of December 31, 2014, please contact TPWF.

Thank you

to the many generous donors who supported Texas Parks and
Wildlife Foundation from January 1, 2015 to December 31, 2015.

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