

HOUSTON WILDERNESS

CONSERVATION FUNDING
OPPORTUNITIES

A COMPENDIUM OF INFORMATION TO SUPPORT OUR MEMBERS' GOALS

SUMMER 2005

Welcome to Houston Wilderness' Compendium of Funding Opportunities!

One of our goals at Houston Wilderness is to help increase public funding coming into our area for conservation initiatives. Our hope is for this notebook to be a helpful resource for quick information about possible conservation dollars. In many cases, Houston Wilderness has and will be able to play a catalytic role along with other groups in our Network of Organizations to take advantage of conservation funding opportunities that might not be feasible through the efforts of any single existing organization.

Houston Wilderness wishes to support the goals and missions of the organizations within our network by helping disperse information about funding opportunities. One role for us is in helping to educate landowners, the public and conservation organizations regarding the opportunities and mechanics of land conservation.

With this in mind, Houston Wilderness has begun to develop a Compendium of Funding Opportunities for your use in searching for funding for conservation initiatives.

This notebook will hopefully provide useful and concise information about different public funding opportunities for conservation initiatives. The guide attempts to focus on programs that will specifically support land acquisition; yet also includes programs that support other conservation activities and management practices.

The following pages, called "The Guide to the Guide" are filled with details on how the fact sheets are organized. This piece will show the information we have tried to include for each program and the resource we used to gather the information.

Please remember this is a work in progress. We welcome your comments and suggestions about the programs in the notebook, and/or any information that should be added.

Thank you.

Rosie Zamora
President, Houston Wilderness

Comments and Suggestions may be Submitted to:

Consfundopp@houstonwilderness.org

(713) 524 - 7330

The Guide to the Guide...

Each sheet is divided into the following sub-headings. The description after the heading outlines what type of information is found there.

Title	This is the official/long name of the program.
Nickname	Often the program is referred to by a shorter name or acronym.
CFDA Number	Every Federal program can be found in the Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance. The number here works as the call number to find the fact sheet/information page within the catalog for that program. The CFDA can be searched online at: http://12.46.245.173/cfda/cfda.html .
Date of Inception	Either the date of the legislation that enacted the program or the first year the program funds were available.
Agency	Federal agency which provides the funding and the state affiliated office.
Primary Contact	The contact listed for the program at the time of printing. This is the person most closely related to the program and our HW area of East Texas.
Appropriated	Current fiscal year appropriated amount at time of printing.
Authorized	Current fiscal year/bill authorized amount at time of printing.
Match	Details for cost-sharing, including but not limited to the dollar amount, percentage, or types of matching eligible.
Application/Deadline Information	Includes application details, such as submission deadline, office of submission, timeline for approval, etc. May also include types of eligible applicants and how to determine eligibility if necessary.
Important Details	May include the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Additional application details• Information about what makes a winning proposal• Constraints on fund usage
Texas History	Examples of the program at work in Texas. May have chronology or reference to source of history for the state.
Synopsis	Provides a summary of the purpose of the program and any key constraints on how the funds may be used. Often this section may outline the goals as they are stated by the agency responsible for the program.
Sources	References to information sources; often posts web address for agency site related to the program.

Additional Helpful Points:

- Every attempt has been made to fill in all categories for each funding program. However, in some instances either the information was not found or does not apply. For example, if it is only a Texas program and not associated with any Federal agency, then CFDA # does not apply (N/A). Otherwise, the space is filled with [----] to represent information that probably does exist yet was not located in the piecing together of this book.
- Each Federal program should have an accompanying CFDA printout with exact information about the program and where to find out more information.
- Some programs are awarded to applicants directly from the government and some are doled out to states first.
- If funds were appropriated to state agencies first, then normally the applicant would send a proposal to the state agency requesting money. It is then the State's decision what projects get approved.
- Often there are not specific funds earmarked for states, but rather the total amount appropriated is divided between all eligible states based on a **formula**. For example, Federal Aid for Wildlife Restoration, and also Federal Aid for Sportfish Restoration are both doled out to states based on land area, plus the number of licensed hunter or fishers, respectively.
- Others are awarded to states using a **competitive process**; where states send proposals to the Federal Agency and compete amongst each other. Often individual applicants for specific projects will send their proposal to the appropriate state agency and then it will be submitted to the Federal Agency for final approval.
- Most agencies have at least a state office, if not a regional office exists.

More Notes:

Land Restoration/Habitat Improvement	Acquisition	Coastal	Conservation Management Practices	Planning-Development-Technical Assistance	Endangered Species
Challenge Cost Share Program	Coastal Wetlands Planning Protection and Restoration	Coastal Program	Challenge Cost Share Program	Coastal Wetlands Planning Protection and Restoration	HCP – Land Acquisition Grants
Coastal Wetlands Planning Protection and Restoration	HCP- Land Acquisition Grants	Coastal Wetlands Planning Protection and Restoration	Coastal Program	FWS Partners for Fish and Wildlife	HCP- Planning Assistance
Conservation on Private Lands Grant	LWCF	Conservation Security Program	Coastal Wetlands Planning Protection and Restoration	HCP – Planning Assistance	Texas Landowner Incentive Program
Conservation on Private Lands Grant	Migratory Bird Conservation Fund		Conservation Innovation Grants	LWCF	
Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program	Recovery Land Acquisition Grants		Conservation on Private Lands Grant	Resource Conservation and Development	
Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration	Texas Landowner Incentive Program		Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program	Rivers, Trails and Conservation Assistance	
Grassland Reserve Program			Conservation Security Program		
LWCF			EQIP		
Migratory Bird Conservation Fund			ESA Private Stewardship Grants		
Migratory Bird Joint Venture			Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration		
Neotropical Migratory Bird Conservation Act			FWS Partners for Fish and Wildlife		
Recovery Land Acquisition Grants			Grassland Reserve Program		
State Wildlife Grants			LWCF		
Texas Landowner Incentive Program			Migratory Bird Conservation Fund		
Texas Recreational Trails Fund			Migratory Bird Joint Venture		
Texas Recreational Trails Fund			Neotropical Migratory Bird Conservation Act		
Urban Parks and Recreation Recovery Program			Resource Conservation and Development		
Wetlands Reserve Program			Texas Forest Legacy Program		
WHIP			Texas Landowner Incentive Program		

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Texas Landowner Incentive Program
Migratory Bird Joint Venture
North American Wetlands Conservation Fund
Texas Recreational Trails Fund
Resource Conservation and Development
Rivers, Trails and Conservation Assistance
State Wildlife Grants
Urban Parks and Recreation Recovery Program
Wetlands Reserve Program
Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program

Title: Challenge Cost Share Program
Nickname: N/A

CFDA Number: 15.642

Date of Inception: 2004

Agency: FWS

Primary Contact: Bill Myer
U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service
505.766.2036

Appropriated: ----

Authorized: FY 03 \$6.8 M; FY 04 est. \$9.75 M; FY 05 est. \$12 M

Match: Requires the cooperator(s) to provide a minimum of 50% of cost-share from non-Federal sources.

**Application/
Deadline Information:** **Applicants** – individual/family, minority group, specialized group, small business, profit organization, private nonprofit/organization, quasi-public nonprofit institution/organization, native American, Federal, Interstate, Intrastate, State, Local, Sponsored organization, public nonprofit institution/organization, other public institution/organization, U.S. territory, or any organization with interests which support the mission of the Service.

Interested parties contact the local National Wildlife Refuge, Partners for Wildlife, or other Fish and Wildlife Service to design a project that will support the mission of the Service. Proposals, including Standard Form 424 “Application for Federal Assistance,” are submitted to the cooperating Service office that forwards them to their servicing Regional Office.

Deadlines are announced on a yearly basis, by Region (TX is Region 2). **Contact the appropriate Regional Office for application deadlines.**

Important Details: Purpose is to conserve fish and wildlife resources and natural habitats on public and private lands. Available statewide.

Funds should be spent within one year. Upon approval, agreements may be extended beyond the one-year for reasonable cause.

Texas History:

Synopsis:

Definition: A challenge cost-share grant is one where a certain amount of funding is promised to an agency contingent on the agency coming up with additional funds equaling the whole or some portion of the grant from other sources.

- Projects must conserve, protect, and enhance fish, wildlife and plants for the continuing benefit of the American people.
- Projects must identify one or more partners.
- The project aims to encourage **partnerships between non-federal governments, private individuals and organizations, educational institutions, philanthropic and charitable groups, and businesses to support the mission of the Service.**

Sources:

CDFA Fact Sheet for Challenge Cost Share Program

Title: Coastal Program

CFDA Number: 15.630

Date of Inception: 1992

Agency: TPWD

Primary Contact: Texas Coastal Program
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
17629 El Camino Real, Suite 211
Houston, Texas 77058
Phone: 281-286-8282 FAX: 281-282-9344
TexasCoastalProgram@fws.gov
<http://www.fws.gov/texascoastalprogram/>

Appropriated: -----

Authorized: FY 04 little over \$10 M for all 16 priority areas; FY 05 budget is \$11.6 for both administrative and project costs nationwide.

Match: It is a goal of the Coastal Program to secure at least 50 percent of project costs, including cash and in-kind services, from non-Service sources. This goal applies to the program as a whole, and does not have to be achieved on a project-by-project basis.

Application/Deadline Information: Deadline for State proposals; Contact the appropriate Coastal Program Office for application

Important Details: Only applicable to 21 different priority regions, including the Texas Coast as one. Purpose is to protect important estuarine systems.

Projects are ranked using the following criteria:

We will give **funding priority status** to proposed projects that **benefit**:

- National Wildlife Refuge System. A proposed project will complement activities on National Wildlife Refuge System lands or contribute to the resolution of problems on refuges that are caused by off-refuge land use practices.
Examples include:
 - enhancing the quality of water that enters a refuge,
 - facilitating wildlife dispersal
 - establishing corridors between refuges and other protected habitats
- Species at risk. The proposed project must **improve habitat** for migratory bird species of management concern; anadromous fish of special concern to the Service; endangered, threatened, or candidate species or species proposed for listing; and/or other declining species.

Secondary ranking factors include consideration of:

Ecoteam priorities.

Projects identified by Service ecosystem teams or in collaboration with State fish and wildlife agencies, conservation districts, and other partners.

Links and augmentation.

Projects that **reduce habitat fragmentation.**

Globally or nationally imperiled habitats.

Projects that **conserve or restore a natural community** that a State Natural Heritage Program or Heritage Database has designated as globally or nationally imperiled.

Whether the project is self-sustaining.

Projects that result in self-sustaining systems that are not dependent on artificial structures are favored. If such structures are necessary for project success, they must be designed to blend with the natural landscape and to minimize future operational and maintenance costs.

Buffers. Projects that serve as buffers for other important State or Federal conservation lands.

If other considerations are roughly equal, we will give priority to funding projects that have agreements that are longer in duration; that involve greater non-Service partnerships and cost-sharing; and/or that have the greatest cost-effectiveness.

Texas History:

The FWS Texas Coastal Program, established in 1992 as one of sixteen U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) Coastal Program offices, focuses on restoring and protecting economically, recreationally and ecologically important coastal fish and wildlife habitats through partnerships.

The Coastal Program depends on collaboration with many interested parties -- U.S. FWS biologists in other programs, staff at other federal and state agencies, national, state and local conservation groups, industry representatives, local officials, and *willing landowners*.

FWS Texas Coastal Program plays a vital role in supporting and implementing coastal conservation initiatives that succeed through *partnerships*.

Synopsis:

The Coastal Program focuses the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's efforts in bays, estuaries and watersheds around the U.S. coastline. The purpose of the Coastal Program is to conserve fish and wildlife and their habitats to support healthy coastal ecosystems. The Service provides funding through the program to **21 high-priority coastal ecosystems.**

The program is guided by **4 goals:**

1. Serve coastal communities by providing assessment and planning tools to identify priority habitats that should be protected and restored.

2. Conserve pristine coastal habitats through support of locally initiated conservation efforts.
3. Restore degraded coastal wetland, upland, and stream habitats by working with partners to implement on-the-ground projects.
4. Focus resources through conservation alliances that leverage the financial and technical resources of our partners and multiply the impact of the taxpayer's dollar.

Sources:

Coastal Program Website: <http://www.fws.gov/texascoastalprogram/>

Federal Notice of Availability FY 05: copy available at HW; or online at <http://www.fws.gov/coastal/CoastalProgram/pdfs/grantsgov05coastal.pdf>

Title: Texas Coastal Management Program

Nickname: CMP

CFDA Number: 11.419

Date of Inception: Approved January 1997 (Texas Program)
Federal Coastal Zone Management Program was authorized by the Coastal Zone Management Act of 1972.

Agency: Federal: NOAA State: Texas General Land Office (GLO)

Primary Contact: Texas GLO
Coastal Resources Program
1700 North Congress Avenue
Austin, TX 78701

Debbie Danford
Phone: 1.800.998.4GLO
Alt. Phone: 512.463.4228
Email: debbie.danford@glo.state.tx.us

Appropriated: For the Whole Federal Program: Grants FY 04 actual \$140,200,000; FY 05 est \$129,500,000; and FY 06 est \$71,500,000.

Authorized: -----

Match: **A percentage of the total project cost which varies by fiscal year, must be provided by the applicant.** Federal funds from other sources cannot be used to match. Awards must be not less than one percent of the amount appropriated each fiscal year. Eighty to ninety percent of awards are allocated by formula. The statistical factors used for fund allocation are: (1) Population in counties within the state's legally defined coastal zone, and the source is the 2000 Decennial Census; and (2) miles of coastal shoreline and the source is "The Coastline of the United States," NOAA. The remaining funds are allotted by cooperative criteria established annually.

Application/Deadline Information: State that have an approved Coastal Zone Management Plan are eligible for funds to be used to support the projects and even administrative costs of keeping up their Coastal Management Program.

Important Details: The CMP supports access to outdoor recreation and the protection of natural habitats and wildlife through:

- the award of federal grant funds to local entities for projects that support access to beaches, bays and other coastal natural resources areas;
- the development and implementation of the Texas Coastal Non-point Source Pollution Control Program (NPS), which supports the protection of natural habitats and wildlife by identifying sources of coastal NPS pollution and developing recommendations for its prevention;
- the review of proposed federal actions that are in or may affect land and water resources in the Texas coastal zone;
- the work of the Permit Service Center's (PSC) in providing direct access to permitting agency staff and offering project specific technical assistance during the pre-application process;
- the Beach Watch program which provides Texans with baseline data on the health of the Gulf waters by analyzing water samples.

Range: \$300,000 to \$2,000,000; \$1,300,000 average per financial assistance award

Grants are normally made for 18 months.

Texas History:

Texas coastal managers are confronting issues of dredging, erosion, beach access, and wetlands and dune protection. The coastal resources program seeks to balance commercial and recreational activity with preservation of its unique coastal resources.

Chemical production and oil and gas exploration, processing, and refining are the state's top coastal industries. Coastal tourism, the state's second largest industry, is also important to the state's economy.

Synopsis:

Once a State has submitted a plan to the Federal government and it is approved, then that state is eligible to receive federal grant funds.

The CMP was designed to meet requirements for participation in the federal coastal zone management program. Once a state's program is federally approved, the state receives federal coastal grant funding and may require federal activities in the coastal zone to comply with the program's policies through a process known as consistency review. Under the CMP, the General Land Office administers the following programs for the Coastal Coordination Council.

Coastal management programs have been actively involved in protecting wildlife and fisheries habitats, and regulating land use impacts on water quality.

Sources:

Program Website, under NOAA:
<http://www.ocrm.nos.noaa.gov/czm/czmtexas.html>

Program Homepage, under TX GLO: <http://www.glo.state.tx.us/coastal/cmp.html>

Title: Coastal Wetlands Planning Protection and Restoration Act
Nickname: CWPPRA

CFDA Number: 15.614

Date of Inception: -----

Agency: U.S. FWS

Primary Contact: Jamie Schubert
TPWD
Phone:
Email: William.Schubert@tpwd.state.tx.us

Appropriated: (Grants) FY 04 \$16.8 M; FY 05 est. \$12.4 M; FY 06 est. \$13.4 M.

Authorized: -----

Match: The Federal share of project costs is not to exceed 50%; except that the Federal share may be increased to 75% if a coastal State has established a trust fund for the purpose of acquiring coastal wetlands, other natural areas, or open spaces.

Application/Deadline Information: Available to all States bordering on the Atlantic, Gulf (except Louisiana – because they have their own independent program), and Pacific Coasts, States bordering the Great Lakes, Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, Guam, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, the Trust Territories of the Pacific Islands, and American Samoa.

Funds are awarded to applicable states through a nationwide competitive process.

Important Details: Funds are used for **acquisition of coastal lands or waters**, and for restoration, enhancement or management of coastal wetlands ecosystems. **Proposed projects must provide for long-term conservation** of such lands or waters and the hydrology, water quality, and fish and wildlife dependent thereon.

A performance report is required for each annual segment within 90 days after the end of the segment.

Funding for the program comes from excise taxes on fishing equipment and motorboat and small engine fuel.

Texas History:

October 2004 TPWD received \$1 M grant from this program for a multi-partner land acquisition and marsh restoration initiative along West Galveston Bay, also known as West Bay Conservation Corridor. Scenic Galveston is part of the partnership, and also had the project considered for approval under the North American Wetland Conservation Act Council (USFWS). **Please see NAWC page for more information, along with Wetlands Publication in the resource folder for this program**

Synopsis:

Projects awarded funding in FY 04 proposed to restore or acquire 17,594 acres of coastal wetlands. In FY 03 projects awarded funding proposed to restore or acquire 17,718 acres of coastal wetlands.

Sources:

C DFA Fact Sheet for Coastal Wetlands Planning Protection and Restoration Act

Texas Wetlands News. TPWD. January 2005

Title: Conservation Innovation Grants
Nickname: CIG

Date of Inception: Nationwide 2004; Statewide competition piloted 2005

Agency: Texas NRCS

Primary Contact: Claude Ross
254-742-9800

Appropriated: -----

Authorized: up to \$500,000 for FY 2005; Grants typically range from \$75,000 to \$500,000 per project, with \$1 million being the maximum per project.

Match: As a part of EQIP, Conservation Innovation Grants (CIG) provide 50% of the cost to stimulate the development and adoption of *innovative conservation approaches* and technologies. Not more than 25% of the matching funds can be in-kind donations.

Application/Deadline Information: Applications must be received in the NRCS Texas State Office by **5 p.m., Friday, April 22, 2005**. National Competition.

Funding provided under the EQIP program. Funds are awarded through a competitive statewide process. Applications are accepted from eligible government or non-government organizations or individuals for single or multi-year projects.

Important Details: Private landowners, non-profit organizations, and local or state governments who can provide the necessary technical assistance required to successfully complete the project are eligible to apply for CIG. Lands must also meet the eligibility requirements under EQIP.

Commonly used technologies and approaches to conservation are *ineligible* and should be used under EQIP not CIG. This is due to the purpose of inspiring new and *innovative* approaches to conservation.

Texas History: Texas is one of 12 states to participate in the pilot program for the State component of CIG.

Synopsis: Emphasis is placed on projects that benefit large geographic areas, such as watershed-based, regional, multi-state, or national projects.

Sources: NRCS Texas State Page: <http://www.tx.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/CIG/>

Title: Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program
Nickname: CREP

CFDA #: 10.069

Date of Inception: Food Security Act of 1985

Agency: USDA – NRCS – Farm Service Agency

Primary Contact: Local USDA Service Center: Farm Service Agency
Sammy Orange
Consolidated Farm Service Agency
409.260.9235 (phone)
979.680.5207 (phone)
<http://www.fsa.usda.gov/dafp/cepd/default.htm>

Authorized: -----

Appropriated: -----

Match: Up to 50% cost-share.

Application/Deadline Information: Landowners may apply for 10 or 15 year contracts to retire cropland and receive annual rental payments based on the agricultural rental value of the land. The applicant must have owned or operated the land for at least one-year prior to close of the CRP sign-up period.

Important Details: To be eligible, *privately owned cropland must be highly erodible, contribute to water quality problems, or provide important wildlife habitat.* Eligible land must be either cropland that is planted or considered planted to an agricultural commodity four of the previous six crop years from 1996 to 2001, or certain marginal pastureland that is enrolled in the Water Bank Program.

In addition to the eligible land requirements, cropland must meet one of the following criteria:

- Have a weighted average erosion index of 8 or higher
- Be expiring CRP acreage
- Be located in a national or state CRP conservation priority area.

Texas History: A total of 27 sites are located across 14 counties in Congressional Districts 2, 9, 14, 15, 22, 27, and 29. *(See attached map of districts)*

Synopsis:

The Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) aims to retire highly erodible cropland and plant long term, resource-conserving covers to improve the quality of water, control soil erosion, and enhance wildlife habitat on private property. CRP also provides 50% of the cost for landowners to plant vegetation.

Nonprofit conservation organizations have been instrumental in developing CREP projects and implementing CREP easements in states such as Maryland, Kentucky and Michigan. These nonprofit partners have played an important role in helping producers and states leverage significant federal assistance for conservation. In many cases, USDA will cover up to 80 percent of the total project costs, with states and other program participants, including nonprofit partners, providing the remainder.

Sources:

Farm Agency Website for Conservation Programs:
<http://www.fsa.usda.gov/dafp/cepd/default.htm>

Environmental Defense Website for Farm Bill Programs:
<http://www.environmentaldefense.org/farbill/overview.cfm?nav=nonprofits#Conservation%20Reserve%20Enhancement%20Program>

Title: Conservation Security Program
Nickname: CSP

CFDA : 10.921

Date of Inception: Part of 2002 Farm Bill

Agency: USDA

Primary Contact: Norm Bade
Temple, Texas
Phone: 254-742-9800
Email: norman.bade@tx.usda.gov

Appropriated: \$41 M was allocated for the 18 selected watersheds in 22 states.

Authorized: In FY05 Congress \$202 M in the latest Omnibus Bill.

Match: N/A

Application/Deadline Information: Began accepting applications **March 28 and Ended May 27, 2005.**

Interested landowners can complete an online self-assessment worksheet at <http://csp.sc.egov.usda.gov/> to determine eligibility and submit a full application to a local USDA Service Center.

Important Details: The CSP identifies watersheds in which to direct funding each fiscal year. Private landowners in selected watershed are eligible to apply for CSP. Furthermore, eligible landowners must be in compliance with highly erodible land and wetland provisions of the Food Security Act of 1985.

Texas History: There are two watersheds within the HW area that are part of the CSP. The **West Galveston Bay Watershed** (900,200 acres) and The **West Matagorda Bay Watershed** (575,462 acres).

Synopsis: The Conservation Security Program (CSP) provides financial and technical assistance to private landowners for the purpose of promoting the conservation and improvement of soil, water, air, energy, plant and animal life, and other conservation purposes on working lands in selected watersheds. Working lands include cropland, grassland, prairie land, improved pasture, and range land.

CSP is different from other USDA programs in that it rewards landowners for maintaining the highest conservation and environmental standards while trying to address resource concerns. Wildlife concerns are addressed through the habitat enhancement provisions.

Sources:

March 2005 – Farm Bill 2002 Conservation Security Program
Fact Sheet

Texas NRCS Website:

<http://www.tx.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/CSP/>

Title: ESA Private Stewardship Grants Program
Nickname:

CFDA Number: 15.632

Date of Inception: 2002; first grants issued FY 03

Agency: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Primary Contact: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Branch of State Grants
Endangered Species Program
4401 N. Fairfax Drive
Room 420
Arlington, VA 22203
Telephone: 703-358-2061

Region Two — Southwest U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
500 Gold Avenue SW., Room 4012
Albuquerque, NM 87102
Program Contact: Tracy Scheffler, 505.248.6665

There is a field service office in Houston, it is the Clear Lake Field Service office.

Clear Lake ES Field Office
17629 El Camino Real #211
Houston TX 77058-3051
Ph: 281-286-8282
E-mail: FW2_Housmail_ES@fws.gov

Authorized:

Appropriated: ~ \$6.5 Million for FY 2005
~ \$7.0 Million for FY 2004

Match: A ten percent (10%) match of cash or through in-kind contributions is required.

Application/Deadline Information:

Landowners and their partners may submit proposals directly to the Fish and Wildlife Service. Grant proposals for the FY 2005 funding period were accepted between **January 18, 2005 and March 21, 2005**.

Proposals are reviewed by diverse panels of representatives from state and federal governments, conservation organizations, agricultural and development interests, and the science community.

Proposals compete at a regional level for funding. Applicants are encouraged to contact the Program Contact before beginning a proposal

to find out if there are other ways the Service may be of help, such as outlining a conservation plan.

Important Details: **Does not** fund direct land acquisition; but rather supports on the ground conservation initiatives, and partnerships between conservation organizations and private landowners. Private land under this program is considered any land not owned by a government entity.

Texas History: -----

Synopsis: This program provides Federal grants on a competitive basis to individuals and groups engaged in voluntary conservation efforts on private lands that benefit **imperiled species** including federally listed endangered or threatened species as well as proposed, candidate and other at-risk species.

Sources: Program Fact Sheet:
http://www.fws.gov/endangered/grants/private_stewardship/index.html

Title: Environmental Quality Incentive Program
Nickname: EQIP

Date of Inception: Re-authorized under 2002 Farm Bill

Agency: Federal: NRCS State: State Office NRCS

Primary Contact: Sammy Orange
Consolidated Farm Service Agency
Phone: 409.260.9235
Phone: 979.680.5207

State NRCS – USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service
101 South Main
Temple, TX 76501
Phone: 254-742-9800
FAX: 254-742-9819

*The following website will present Texas divided into three regions, Click on the eastern region, which will present all counties. From there click on your **county of interest** to find the local service center.

http://oip.usda.gov/scripts/ndCGI.exe/oip_public/state?state=TX

Appropriated: Over \$50 K was given to Texas in FY 05 for all of the following Farm Bill programs, combined: Conservation Security Program, Grassland Reserve Program, Farm and Ranch Lands Protection Program, **Environmental Quality Incentives Program** (including Ground and Surface Water Conservation and Klamath Basin), Wetlands Reserve Program, and Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program.

Authorized: (Grants) FY 04 \$689 M; FY 05 est. \$754 M; FY 06 est. \$735 M

Match: Up to 75% cost-share for conservation practices

Application/Deadline Information: Apply on a county-by-county basis. Each county has different criteria and priority projects. Applications by landowners are **due in January of each year**, but may be submitted at any time for consideration during the following fiscal year.

EQIP is a continuous sign-up program that allows landowners or operators to apply for financial and technical assistance for specific conservation practices. **For 2005* all applications received as of March 18, 2005** will be evaluated for assistance this year.

Higher priority will be given to those applications that address the local or state priorities and provide the most environmental benefit.

Important Details: **Eligible lands** include cropland, rangeland, pastureland, private non-industrial forestland, and other farm and ranch lands as determined by the Secretary of Agriculture. Some eligible practices include fencing, water development, irrigation systems, wells or brush management.

Applicants are ranked based on either county programs or state priority needs. Those that rank high enough to be selected for plan development and contracting must have a conservation plan developed.

Texas History: ***as of Aug. 3, 2005 the Texas link from the NRCS EQIP site is not up and running***

Synopsis: EQIP provides voluntary conservation programs for farmers and ranchers that promote agricultural production and environmental quality as compatible goals. EQIP offers financial and technical help to assist eligible participants install or implement structural and management practices on eligible agricultural land.

Sources: NRCS EQIP website: <http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/eqip/index.html>

CFDA Fact Sheet for EQIP

Title: Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration
Nickname: Related to *Federal Aid in Sport Fish Restoration Program*

CFDA Number: 15.611

Date of Inception: Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration Act of 1937

Agency: FWS

Primary Contact: Rosie Roegner
Federal Aid Coordinator
512-389-4858 / fax: 512-389-8043
email: rosie.roegner@tpwd.state.tx.us

Texas Parks and Wildlife Department
4200 Smith School Road
Austin, TX 78744

http://www.fws.gov/southwest/fedaid/text_wrTX.html

Appropriated: Funds are divided among states; 50% is divided and awarded based on land area of the state and the other 50% is divided among states based on the number of hunting-license holders.

Program totals for grants given: FY 04 \$195 M;
FY 05 est. \$226 M; FY 06 est. \$221 M.

Annual Average for Texas: \$9.8 M

Authorized: Range and Average of Financial Assistance:
\$268,000 to \$7,187,000; \$2,750,000

Match: Federal aid funds pay for up to 75% of the cost of each project while the states contribute at least 25% of the cost.

Application/Deadline Information: -----

Important Details: Distribution of the restoration funds to the states is based on the land and water area and the number of license holders in each state. **Texas receives the maximum 5% allowable under the program.**

Texas History: **Annual Average Stats TX:**
Wildlife Restoration Funding: \$9.8 million
No. of Hunters 16 years and older: 1.2 million

No. of Days Spent Hunting: 14.1 million
Economic Impact: \$1.5 billion
No. of Wildlife Watchers: 3.2 million
Economic Impact: \$1.3 billion

Synopsis:

Wildlife restoration funds from the Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration Program (Pittman-Robertson Act) are used for wildlife-related projects and hunter education. Projects funded through this program include efforts to increase access to Wildlife Management Areas, the eastern wild turkey restoration program in East Texas, land acquisition for white-winged dove habitat and the desert bighorn sheep restoration program. Wildlife restoration monies are also used for big game and small game population and harvest surveys, waterfowl distribution studies and research.

Since its inception the Federal Sport Fish and Wildlife Restoration Program has provided more than \$4 billion to states for wildlife restoration projects. The money is distributed to the states for projects proposed by the states and approved by the USFWS.

Sources:

FWS Website on the Program:

<http://federalaid.fws.gov/wr/fawr.html>

More general FWS Website on Wildlife Grant Programs:

<http://federalaid.fws.gov/>

Apportionment Information for FWS Grant Programs:

<http://federalaid.fws.gov/apport/apport.html>

Title: Texas Forest Legacy Program
Nickname: Forest Legacy (FLP)

CFDA Number:

Date of Inception: 2003 Gov. Rick Perry appointed the Texas Forest Service to be the agency authorized to carry out the Assessment of Need required to participate in the program.

Agency: Cooperative effort between the Texas Forest Service and the USDA Forest Service.

Primary Contact: Office of the Director, Texas Forest Service
301 Tarrow
Suite 364
College Station, TX 77840-7896
Phone: 979-458-6606
Fax: 979-458-6610

Appropriated: -----

Authorized: -----

Application/Deadline Information: August 31, 2005

Important Details: Eligible lands are those forest areas within the Forest Legacy Area as outlined by the *Assessment of Need*. The Texas Forest Service compiled the *Assessment* by evaluating existing forest resources and conditions, identifying threats to Texas forests, and detailing how the program is to work in Texas.

Texas History: The four goals of the FLP program in Texas are to:

1. Support Texas rural communities, traditional land uses, and cultural heritage by maintaining large, privately owned working forest landscapes managed according to sustainable best management practices.
2. Promote conservation of biological diversity by protecting habitat connectivity, unique ecosystems, and endangered species.
3. Promote watershed protection to enhance water quality and quantity and to protect aquatic habitats.

4. Support open space initiatives to decrease forest fragmentation, protect unique habitats or ecological features, and reduce negative effects of urban sprawl.

Synopsis:

The purpose of the program is to protect environmentally important forestlands from conversion to non-forest uses. This goal is accomplished through the purchase of conservation easements from willing Texas landowners within the Forest Legacy Area as designated by the Assessment of Need.

There were not any projects in Texas for FY 05; there is one project in East Texas proposed for FY 06. Please see: http://www.fs.fed.us/spf/coop/library/fy06_proposed_project_map.pdf

Sources:

Texas Forest Legacy Program: "Assessment of Need" Texas Forest Service, August 2004.

U.S. Forest Service, Website for the Program:
<http://www.fs.fed.us/spf/coop/programs/loa/flp.shtml>

Title: FWS Partners for Fish and Wildlife
Nickname: Partners Program

CFDA Number: 15.631

Date of Inception: 1990 in Texas

Agency: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Primary Contact: *State Partner Coordinator*
Don Wilhelm
711 Stadium Drive
Suite 252
Arlington, TX 76011
817-277-1100
FAX: 817-277-1129

**Region 2 FWS Coordinator*
Mike McCollum
711 Stadium Drive
Suite 252
Arlington, TX 76011
817-277-1100
FAX: 817-277-1129

Local Contact

Clear Lake Office: Ecological Services
17629 El Camino Real
Suite 211
Houston, TX 77058
Phone: 281.286.8282

Appropriated: FY 05 \$57 M

Authorized: FY 03 \$28.M; FY 04 est. \$32 M; and FY 05 est. \$32 M

Match: assistance is up to 100% cost-share

Application/Deadline Information:

May contact Coordinator through out the year, there is no specific deadline.

Application Process: (direct from FWS Region 2)

1. Landowner, NRCS personnel, etc. contacts appropriate FWS field office.
2. FWS conducts a site visit, often with NRCS representative.
3. Proposed project developed with landowner, often with NRCS input - especially if engineering required.

4. Private Lands Agreement which stipulates FWS/ landowner's cost-shares, project design, and management plan is signed by landowner and submitted to FWS field office.

5. Once the project is approved at the field office level and based upon the availability of funds, the Agreement is sent to the Regional office (Albuquerque, NM) for final approval, archaeological clearance (if necessary), and other processing.

6. Landowner receives signed agreement from FWS regional office; project construction may begin.

7. Landowner reimbursed cost-share amount after project completed.

Important Details: Any privately owned land is potentially eligible for restoration. Projects are focused in watersheds where conservation efforts will provide the greatest benefits for Federal Trust species, which include: migratory birds, anadromous and catadromous fish, and federally listed threatened and endangered species. Does not fund planning or research.

Texas History: *See Texas fact sheet.

Synopsis: Project selection is based on estimated benefits for wildlife and fish as well as cost. The program provides assistance to landowners who want to improve or restore habitat on their property. Demand for the service is strong and has outpaced delivery capacity since inception.

Sources: Ecological Services Website –Link to Partners Program Information
<http://www.fws.gov/southwest/clearlakees/PartnersProgram.htm>

Online Copy of Texas Fact Sheet from FWS:
<http://www.fws.gov/partners/pdfs/TX-needs.pdf>

Title: Grassland Reserve Program

CFDA Number: 10.920

Date of Inception: Authorized under the 2002 Farm Bill.

Agency: USDA

Primary Contact: Local USDA Service Center
Chuck Kowaleski
Farm Bill Coordinator, Texas Parks & Wildlife Department
Phone: (254) 742-9874
Fax: (254) 742-9848

Texas NRCS Office
Norm Bade
Temple, Texas
Phone: 254.742.9800
Email: Norman.Bade@tx.usda.gov

Appropriated: Direct Payments: FY 04 \$41.9 M; FY 05 est. \$66.75 M;
FY 06 est. \$0

Authorized: A total of \$254 M will be available from FY 04 – 07.

Match: The criteria are different for the different options. See options outlined below.

Application/Deadline Information: Private landowners with at least *40 contiguous acres* of grassland, rangeland, or pastureland (or areas historically covered by grasslands) can apply for the GRP. *Landowners can apply year round.*

Important Details: As of 07.14.05 it is undetermined who will run the GRP.

Texas History: A hard copy of the 2005 Texas Ranking Criteria for eligible lands is found at the HW office.

Or online at: <http://www.tx.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/GRP/>

Synopsis: The Grassland Reserve Program (GRP) serves to restore, enhance and protect grasslands through easements, while maintaining existing grazing practices. The program conserves vulnerable grasslands from conversion to cropland or other uses and conserves valuable grasslands by helping maintain viable ranching operations. **Landowners can choose between**

perpetual or 30-year conservation easements, rental agreements, or restoration agreements.

Restoration agreements may be used in conjunction with easements or rental agreements if restoration is deemed necessary. Conservation easements and rental agreements prohibit the production of crops (other than hay), fruit trees and vineyards that require breaking the soil surface, and any other activity that disturbs the surface of the land, except for appropriate land management activities included in a conservation plan.

- **Permanent Easement:** Conservation easement payments equal the fair market value, less the grazing value of the land. Values are determined by appraisal.
- **30-year Easement:** Conservation easement payments equal 30% of the fair market value of the land, less the grazing value of the land, for the 30-year duration of the easement.
- **Rental Agreement:** 10 year, 15 year, 20 year or 30 year contracts. USDA provides annual payments up to 75% of the grazing value of the land covered by the agreement, for the life of the agreement.
- **Restoration Agreement:** 90% of restoration costs are covered for land never cultivated; 75% of restoration costs are covered for restored grasslands.

Sources:

Texas NRCS Website for the Program:

<http://www.tx.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/GRP/>

CFDA Fact Sheet: Grassland Reserve Program

Title: Habitat Conservation Plan Land Acquisition Grants
Nickname: HCP Land Acquisition

Date of Inception: Congress approved FY 1997; Under Section 6 of ESA there is the CESCOF (Cooperative Endangered Species Conservation Fund) that provides for grants using federal funds to be awarded for the conservation of threatened and endangered species. There are three types of these grants: HCP Planning Assistance, Recovery Land Acquisition; and **HCP Land Acquisition**.

Agency: Federal: U.S. FWS; State: TPWD

Primary Contact: Proposal should be mailed to:
Dr. Craig Farquhar
Wildlife Science, Research & Diversity Program
Texas Parks and Wildlife Department
3000 IH 35, South, Suite 100
Austin, TX 78704
Telephone: 512-912-7018
Fax: 512-912-7058

Appropriated: FY 05 \$48.6 M; see FY 04 projects outlined below

Authorized:

Match:

Application/Deadline Information: Funds are distributed through national competition based on states proposals. TPWD along with other state fish and wildlife agencies submit proposals to the federal government and then funds are distributed to states on a competitive basis. **Deadline to submit a proposal in Texas: April 16. For 2005 the time period from announcement to deadline was March 14 to April 16. See announcement sheet.** Grants are awarded in late spring.

Important Details: These grants are used in the planning and development of Habitat Conservation Plans. Therefore there must be a federally listed endangered or threatened fish or wildlife (or suite of species) or candidate species present.

Texas History: Grant Amounts/Project Locations Fiscal Year 04:

- \$3.4 M for Balcones Canyonlands Habitat Conservation Plan land acquisition in Travis County,
- \$1.3 M for acquisition of Bone Cave Harvestman Preserve in Williamson County,

- \$1.8 M to facilitate purchase of a conservation easement on the Storm Ranch in Hays County,
- \$1 M for development of a Regional Habitat Conservation Plan in Williamson County and \$300,000 for acquisition of a critical tract of land in Dallas County.

Synopsis:

This program was designed to reduce conflicts between the conservation of listed species and land uses on specific parcels of land. Under this program, the Service (FWS) provides grants to States for land acquisitions that are associated with approved HCPs. The Service considers the use of Federal acquisition dollars by States for habitat protection within and adjacent to HCP areas to be an important and effective mechanism to promote the recovery of threatened and endangered species.

The HCP Land Acquisition program has three primary purposes:

1. To fund land acquisitions that complement, but do not replace, private mitigation responsibilities contained in HCPs
2. To fund land acquisitions that have important benefits for listed, proposed, and candidate species
3. To fund land acquisitions that have important benefits for ecosystems that support listed, proposed and candidate species

Sources:

"Endangered Species Conservation Funds Available".
TPWD News Release. March 14, 2005.

FWS Website: Index Page for Endangered Species Grants
<http://www.fws.gov/endangered/grants/>

Title: Habitat Conservation Plan – Planning Assistance
Nickname: HCP

Date of Inception: 1997; Under Section 6 of ESA there is the CESCOF (Cooperative Endangered Species Conservation Fund) that provides for grants using federal funds to be awarded for the conservation of threatened and endangered species. There are three types of these grants: **HCP Planning Assistance**, Recovery Land Acquisition; and HCP Land Acquisition.

Agency: U.S. FWS; then distributed to regions – Texas is in Region 2, The Southwest; Proposals sent by, and money received by the TPWD.

Primary Contact: Proposal should be mailed to:
Dr. Craig Farquhar
Wildlife Science, Research & Diversity Program
Texas Parks and Wildlife Department
3000 IH 35, South, Suite 100
Austin, TX 78704
Telephone: 512-912-7018
Fax: 512-912-7058

Appropriated: \$8.5 million

Authorized:

Match:

Application/Deadline Information: Funds are distributed through national competition based on states proposals. TPWD along with other state fish and wildlife agencies submit proposals to the federal government and then funds are distributed to states on a competitive basis. **Deadline to submit a proposal in Texas: April 16. For 2005 the time period from announcement to deadline was March 14 to April 16. See announcement sheet.** Grants are awarded in late spring.

Important Details: These grants are used in the planning and development of Habitat Conservation Plans. Therefore there must be a federally listed endangered or threatened fish or wildlife (or suite of species) or candidate species present.

Texas History: For FY04 TPWD received approval for grants that included close to \$3.4 M for Balcones Canyonlands Habitat Conservation Plan land acquisition in Travis County, \$1.3 M for acquisition of Bone Cave Harvestman Preserve in Williamson County, \$1.8 M to

facilitate purchase of a conservation easement on the Storm Ranch in Hays County, \$1 M for development of a Regional Habitat Conservation Plan in Williamson County and \$300,000 for acquisition of a critical tract of land in Dallas County. (TPWD News Release; March 14, 2005/Endangered Species Conservation Funds Available)

Synopsis:

Through the development of regional Habitat Conservation Plans (HCP), local governments incorporate species conservation into local land use planning, which streamlines the project approval process and facilitates economic development. The Habitat Conservation Planning Assistance Grants program provides funding to states to support the development of HCPs. Planning assistance grants may support planning activities such as document preparation, outreach, and baseline surveys and inventories.

Sources:

FWS index page for grants relating to the ESA:
<http://www.fws.gov/endangered/grants/>

Title: Texas Landowner Incentive Program
Nickname: LIP

CFDA Number: 15.633

Date of Inception: Operational since 1997

Agency: Federal: FWS State: TPWD

Primary Contact: Peggy Horner
512-912-7047
peggy.horner@tpwd.state.tx.us

TPWD
4200 Smith School Rd.
Austin, TX 78744

Cecily Warren
Texas Parks & Wildlife Department
4200 Smith School Road
Austin, TX 78744
(512) 389-4799

Appropriated: FY 04 \$25.8 M; FY 05 est. \$18.9 M; FY 06 est. \$34.9 M

Authorized: \$21,694,365 FY 2005

Match: The applicant should expect to contribute **at least 25% of total project cost in materials or in-kind services**. Payment schedules will be negotiated with the landowner to meet the objectives of the management plan. Receipt of final payment will be contingent on the landowner's fulfillment of the agreement and completion of the project.

Application/Deadline Information: Grant proposals must be submitted by the State agency having responsibility for management of the State's wildlife resources. Projects are selected and approved based on criteria contained in the FWS Director's guidelines and 43 CFR 12.

Important Details: Designed for the protection/conservation of rare, endangered or threatened species. **Can be used for land acquisition so long as it applies to species protection.** LIP is unique in that it applies to both wildlife and plant species protection.

Texas History: The Texas LIP was the first program in the nation to target private landowner incentives specifically for the conservation of rare species. More than 6500 acres have been impacted through habitat improvement

projects targeting species, such as the lesser prairie- chicken, Attwater's prairie chicken, the Texas poppy mallow, the Texas tortoise, and the ocelot. In addition, 200 traps have been distributed and operated to curtail cowbird parasitism of endangered songbird nests.

Synopsis: Applications will be reviewed on a first-come, first-served basis and will be ranked according to the Landowner Incentive Program Ranking Criteria by the LIP Advisory Committee. Primary selection criteria will be based on the extent to which the action achieves species recovery or alleviates threats to the species balanced against the cost effectiveness of the proposed action. Applicants not selected will be eligible to reapply.

Sources: Texas Parks and Wildlife Website on the Program:
<http://www.tpwd.state.tx.us/landwater/land/private/lip/>

Title: Land and Water Conservation Fund
Nickname: LWCF

CFDA Number: N/A

Date of Inception: 1964

Agency: TPWD

Primary Contact: Recreation Grants Branch –
Texas Parks & Wildlife Department
4200 Smith School Road
Austin, TX 78744
Telephone: (512) 912-7124

Appropriated: \$4,710,927 FY 05 → Total Texas Apportionment
\$235,546 FY 05 → Total Available for State Admin. Grants
Estimated ~ \$30 M for FY06 for Program Whole

Authorized: -----

Match: -----

Application/Deadline Information: Eligible recipients include: states, counties and cities.

Important Details: LWCF allocates funds for federal and state programs. The federal program funds the acquisition of land and water areas for conservation and recreation purposes through the Bureau of Land Management, Fish and Wildlife Service, Forest Service and National Park Service.

Lands acquired and designated for recreational purposes using funds from the LWCF, remain recreational perpetually. The fund has inspired and shaped State planning for recreational areas, and added thousands of sites dedicated to recreation for use by our children and grandchildren.

Texas History: **An Example Project from the HW area:** Matagorda Bay Park and Preserve, LWCF Funding Assistance: **\$2,000,000**
Located on the Matagorda Peninsula at the mouth of the Colorado River, this will be the third major park and preserve along the Colorado River Trail.

Development plans include an 1,100-acre conservation area, water and terrestrial trail, wildlife viewing platforms, boardwalk, fishing piers, pavilion, playground, and a beach area.

There is the **state side** where recreation areas locally are added to and maintained, and then the **federal side** where land is added to federally owned land that is part of the national parks, forest, wildlife refuge, river and trails systems.

In Texas Federal acquisition through the LWCF has occurred in Big Thicket National Preserve, Rio Grande Wild and Scenic River. Lower Rio Grande Valley Nat. Wildlife Refuge, (U.S. Fish and Service), Gulf Island's National Seashore, Padre Island's National Seashore

**See Texas Fact-Sheet, Timeline of projects funded.*

Synopsis:

Uses federal revenues from offshore oil and gas receipts for the purchase of land and water to support creation of national and community parks, forests, wildlife refuges, and open spaces to guarantee outdoor recreation opportunities and a clean environment. A state assistance program. The LWCF program provides matching grants to States and local governments for the acquisition and development of public outdoor recreation areas and facilities. The program is intended to create and maintain a nationwide legacy of high quality recreation areas and facilities and to stimulate non-federal investments in the protection and maintenance of recreation resources across the United States.

Sources:

LWCF -- "A Little Bit of History". California Parks and Recreation Society.
www.cprs.org/membersonly/Legislation-LWCF_history.htm

NPS Website for the Program: <http://www.nps.gov/ncrc/programs/lwcf/history.html>

Title: **Migratory Bird Joint Venture**
Nickname: *See glossary for detailed definitions of program terms.*

CFDA Number: 15.637

Date of Inception: Fish and Wildlife Act as amended

Agency: U.S. FWS

Primary Contact: Vernon Bevill
Texas Parks and Wildlife Department
Austin, Texas
Phone: 512.389.4578

Appropriated: FY 03 \$1.5 M; FY 04 est. \$3 M; and FY 05 est. \$3 M

Authorized: ~\$11.5M FY05;

Match: assistance is up to 100% cost-share

Application/Deadline Information: Applicants may include, Federal, State and local government agencies, Federally recognized Indian Tribal governments, private nonprofit institutions/organizations; public nonprofit institutions/organizations; profit organizations, interstate and intrastate entities, and individuals or families who are also **private landowners**.

Important Details: Three regions, called Joint Ventures are eligible in Texas: the Gulf Coast, the Lower Mississippi Valley (East Texas) and the Playa Lakes. Most of HW is under the Gulf Coast Joint Venture.

Texas History: There are several different conservation initiatives held by the partnership, with the Texas Mid-Coast falling within the Houston Wilderness area.

*The Texas Mid-Coast Initiative area includes 16 Texas counties along the coast from Galveston Bay to Corpus Christi and inland. The goal of the initiative is to provide wintering and migration habitat for significant numbers of dabbling ducks, redheads, lesser snow geese and greater white-fronted geese, as well as year-round habitat for mottled ducks. The Texas Mid-Coast Initiative Plan focuses on the three habitat types most important to waterfowl populations of the area, coastal marsh, agricultural lands that are dominated by rice and pasture, and sea grasses associated with estuarine subtidal aquatic bed wetlands.

Synopsis:

FWS provides funding to 15 different Joint Venture Operations nationwide. The Texas Coast falls under the supervision of the Gulf-Coast Joint Venture.

The objective of the program is to protect, restore, and enhance wetland and upland ecosystems for the conservation of migratory birds.

Sources:

CFDA Fact Sheet for the Migratory Bird Joint Venture Program

FWS Website for Bird Habitat – Texas Page:

<http://www.fws.gov/birdhabitat/nawca/projects/usprojects/TX.htm>

Gulf Coast Joint Venture Home Page:

<http://www.fws.gov/southwest/gulfcoastjv/Default.htm>

Title: North American Wetlands Conservation Fund
Nickname: NAWCF

CFDA Number: 15.623

Date of Inception: North American Wetlands Conservation Act

Agency: U.S. FWS

Primary Contact: Vernon Bevill
Texas Parks and Wildlife Department
512.389.4578

Appropriated: FY 05 \$38 M

Authorized: (Grants) FY 04 \$59 M; FY 05 est. \$61.5 M; FY 06 est. \$75.89 M

Match: Up to 50% cost-share; available state-wide

Application/Deadline Information: Funds are possibly available to private or public organizations or to individuals who have developed partnerships to carry out wetlands conservation projects in the U.S., Canada and Mexico.

Important Details: **Funds may be used to acquire real property interest** in lands or waters, including water rights. Funds may also be used to **restore, manage, and/or enhance** wetland ecosystems and other habitat for migratory birds and other fish and wildlife. Lands and waters must have as their primary purpose long-term conservation for the benefit of migratory birds and other wildlife dependent thereon. Coastal Wetlands Planning, Protection and Restoration Act-derived funds eligible for NAWCA projects may only be used in U.S. coastal wetlands ecosystems. There are other guidelines which can be found on the NAWCF website or in the grants information.

Texas History: In December 2004 the West Bay Conservation Corridor (Galveston Bay) – Hitchcock Prairie project was considered for funding under this program. The project was also receiving funding from Coastal Wetland Planning Protection Act.

Synopsis: The objective is to provide grant funds for wetlands conservation projects in the United States, Canada, and Mexico.

The goal is to encourage partnerships, through 10-year agreements, among public and private entities to conserve and manage wetlands for migratory bird use.

Sources: Texas Wetland News. TPWD. January 2005

Title: Texas Recreational Trails Fund under Recreational Trails Program

Nickname: *This is a state program to carry out the Federal Recreational Trails Program.*

CFDA Number: 20.219

Date of Inception:

Agency: Federal: DOT: Federal Highway Administration
State: TPWD

Primary Contact: **Andrew Goldbloom, Program Admin**
Texas Parks and Wildlife Dept
4200 Smith School Road
Austin TX 78744-3291
Phone: 512-912-7128
Fax: 512-389-4469
Email: andy.goldbloom@tpwd.state.tx.us

Alternate TPWD info:

Email: rec.grants@tpwd.state.tx.us
Phone: 512.912.7124.

U.S. Department of Transportation
Federal Highway Administration
300 East 8th Street, Rm 826
Austin, Texas 78701

Appropriated: Funds are distributed to the States. **50% of the funds are appropriated equally to all 50 states, and 50% is appropriated in proportion to the estimated amount of non-highway recreational fuel use in each State.**

In general the **maximum Federal share** for each project from Recreational Trails Program funds is 80%. A Federal agency project sponsor may provide additional Federal funds, provided the total Federal share does not exceed 95%.

The **non-federal match** must come from project sponsors or other fund sources. Funds from any other Federal program may be used for the nonfederal match if the project also is eligible under the other program. States also may allow a programmatic match: if some project sponsors in a State provide more match funds than required, other sponsors in the State may provide less. Some in-kind materials and services may be credited toward the project match.

Authorized:	Grant totals are reported under Federal-aid Highway program totals.
Match:	Project sponsors must initiate their approved projects with their own funds and be reimbursed up to 80% of allowable costs after submitting documentation of expenses.
	Individual trail grants can range from \$4,000 (\$5,000 total project cost) to \$100,000 (\$125,000 total project cost).
Application/Deadline Information:	The agency selected by the governor to administer the program is eligible to receive funds. In Texas that is TPWD . States then submit a proposal for a project or combination of projects to the FHWA division office located in that state. Approval from that FHWA office constitutes a commitment to pay the Federal share of the project.
	Project applications should be post-marked by June 1 . And mailed to the following address: Texas Parks and Wildlife Department Recreational Trails Program 4200 Smith School Road Austin, TX 78744
Important Details:	Those eligible to receive funds include: cities, counties, state agencies, (including TPWD state parks and wildlife management areas), other governmental bodies created under state law such as river authorities, water districts, municipal utility districts, or public school districts, federal land managers, private not for profit organizations (e.g. trail user groups, conservation clubs, "Friends of the Park") For purposes of implementing the Texas Recreational Trails Fund (TRTF), organizations must be incorporated with the Secretary of State or must have filed with the county to do business in Texas.
	Allows for the purchase of land or easements for the development of recreational trails for non-motorized and motorized forms of recreation.
Texas History:	This is solely a Texas project, given it receives funds from the TPWD. Only one entity will be considered a project sponsor. Acquisition of land is not permitted , however the construction of a new trail or signs or bench area is allowed for trails used both for motorized and non-motorized recreation. Funds may not be

used for areas that are used for other forms of recreation such as swimming.

Synopsis:

Funding provided by this program is on a cost reimbursement basis. Projects will be selected for funding with the help of the Texas Trails Advisory Board made up of both motorized and non-motorized trail users. Selected projects must comply with FHWA funding requirements and be in accordance with all a state and federal laws, and executive orders. The Texas Parks and Wildlife Commission will authorize funding for selected projects based on the recommendations of the Texas Trails Advisory Board.

Funds from this program may be used for:

1. Maintenance and restoration of existing trails
2. Development and rehabilitation of trailside and trailhead facilities and trail linkages
3. Purchase and lease of trail construction and maintenance equipment
4. Construction of new trails – with restrictions for new trails on Federal lands
5. Acquisition of easements or property for trails
6. State administrative costs related to this program – limited to 7% of a State's funds
7. Operation of educational programs to promote safety and environmental protection related to trails – limited to 5% of a State's funds

Funds may not be used for: property condemnation; constructing new trails for motorized use on National Forest or Bureau of Land Management lands unless the project is consistent with resource management plans; or facilitating motorized access on otherwise non-motorized trails.

Sources:

TPWD Website for the Program:
www.tpwd.state.tx.us/grants/trails

Title: Resource Conservation and Development
Nickname: RC&D

CFDA Number: 10.901

Date of Inception: 1964

Agency: USDA: NRCS

Primary Contact: Gary Valentine
Natural Resources Conservation Service
817.774.1291

Appropriated: \$51.64 M

Authorized: No set amount.

Match: Assistance is up to 25% cost-share for construction and vegetative costs

Application/Deadline Information: Written application must be in the form suggested in the National Resource Conservation and Development Manual. This program is subject to the provisions of OMB Circular No. A-110.

Important Details: Accelerate resource protection prospects in multi-county RCD areas as a base for economic development and environmental protection. Available statewide.

Texas History: **See hard copy of 2005 publication from TX NRCS.*

Synopsis: Proposals for projects are judged on relevance of the project to the individual RC&D's area plan goals and objectives. Criteria for setting priorities are usually published in the RC&D area plan or are available from the local sponsors of the RC&D area. Proposals for projects should be submitted to the local USDA designated RC&D area. If an area does not exist, contact the field or state office of the Natural Resources Conservation Service.

Sources: Resource Conservation & Development in Texas – Helping others Help Themselves

Title: Rivers, Trails and Conservation Assistance
Nickname: RTCA
CFDA Number: 15.921
Date of Inception: ----
Agency: Department of the Interior: National Parks Service
Primary Contact: <http://www.nps.gov/ncrc/programs/rtca/nri/states/tx.html>

Attila Bality
National Park Service
Rivers, Trails & Conservation Assistance
1220 St. Francis Drive
PO Box 728
Santa Fe, NM 87504-0728
(505) 988-6092

Email: attila_bality@nps.gov

Appropriated: RTCA provides staff assistance to community conservation and outdoor recreation projects. RTCA is prohibited by Congress to directly fund conservation projects.

Authorized: N/A

Match: N/A

Application/Deadline Information: Application information is available electronically at <http://www.nps.gov/rtca> or you may contact the appropriate regional RTCA program leader. This program is excluded from coverage under OMB Circular Nos. A-102 and A-110.

Important Details: The objective of this program is to work with community groups and local and State governments to conserve rivers, preserve open space, and develop trails and greenways.

Example Project: A workshop was held with citizens representing different stakeholders to develop a plan that all could enjoy. The Preserving Community Character Workshop convened conservation and planning stakeholders to develop a common vision balancing commerce, development and natural resource

conservation for the 252-mile St. Croix River Valley, which bridges Minnesota and Wisconsin.

Texas History:

There are many rivers in Texas that are part of the program including: Brazos, Colorado, Concho, Devils, Frio, Guadalupe, Medina, Neches, Nueces, Pecos, Perdenales, Red, Sabinal, Sabine Rivers; and Village, Terlingua, and Big Sandy Creeks.

Synopsis:

RTCA works collaboratively, by invitation, with partners on a wide variety of conservation and recreation projects. These partners include nonprofit organizations, community groups, tribes or tribal governments, and local, State, or federal government agencies. RTCA provides a variety of assistance tailored to the partner's needs, but does not provide direct grants.

RTCA often acts as a catalyst to help assemble the necessary pieces to achieve on-the-ground conservation success. RTCA helps identify what types of aid a partner needs and either supplies or locates sources for the assistance. RTCA helps partners navigate the planning process, converting ideas into actions, and often provides assistance in conceptual planning, organizational development and capacity building.

RTCA offers an outside perspective, encouragement and experience from a database of hundreds of projects and thousands of partners from around the nation. Projects are primarily focused on organization-building, planning, and coordination for conservation and outdoor recreation.

On average, our partners protect more than 700 miles of rivers, created over 1400 miles of trails, and conserved more than 63,700 acres of open space each year. By working side-by-side with grassroots groups and local governments in communities throughout the country, the National Park Service is building a nationwide system of parks, open spaces, rivers, and trails.

Sources:

NPS Website describing the program:
<http://www.nps.gov/ncrc/programs/rtca/index.html>

Title: State Wildlife Grants
Nickname: N/A

CFDA Number: 15.634

Date of Inception: Created by Congress 2001; Department of the Interior and Related Agencies Appropriations Act of 2002; Public Law 107-63, Title I.

Agency: TPWD

Primary Contact: Distributed through TPWD.

Appropriated: Funds are allocated to states based on a formula calculation. The formula is based on land area (1/3) and population (2/3). No state may receive more than 5% or less than 1% of the available funds. For Fiscal Year 2005 Texas had the following figures:

FY05 \$5,812,499 TWW (Teaming With Wildlife) Request; FY05 \$3,583,700 Presidents Budget; FY05 amount received \$3,104,430.

Authorized: The Consolidated Appropriations Act for FY 2005 allotted ~ \$64 Million for state wildlife grants derived from the Land and Water Conservation Fund.

Match: The Federal share of project costs is not to exceed 75 percent for a planning grant, nor 50 percent for an implementation grant. Matching and cost-sharing requirements are discussed in 43 CFR Part 12, Section 12.64.

Application/Deadline Information: All State fish and wildlife, for Texas – TPWD, may submit grant proposals, grant agreements and associated documents to the appropriate Regional Federal Assistance Office for review and approval.

Only that agency (TPWD) that has management responsibility for fish and wildlife resources within the State may apply for these grants. **No State, territory, or other jurisdiction shall receive a grant unless it has developed or committed to develop by October 1, 2005, a comprehensive wildlife conservation plan**, which must consider the broad range of the State, territory, or other jurisdiction's wildlife and associated habitats, with appropriate priority placed on those species with the greatest conservation need and taking into consideration the relative level of funding available for the conservation of those species.

Important Details: All states have committed to the completion of Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Plans or Strategies by **October 1, 2005**.

Approved activities include those which develop and implement programs for the benefit of wildlife and their habitat, including species that are not hunted or fished.

Texas History: Texas held a series of Public Comment meetings for the Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Plans during the summer of 2005.

Synopsis: Used for the protection of non-game wildlife species and protect them from becoming endangered.

Sources: Federal Grants Website, Program page:
http://www.federalgrantswire.com/state_wildlife_grants.html

FWS: [http://www.teaming.com/pdf/FWS SWG Guidance Letter May 2002.pdf](http://www.teaming.com/pdf/FWS_SWG_Guidance_Letter_May_2002.pdf)

Title: Urban Parks and Recreation Recovery Program
Nickname: UPARR

CFDA Number: 15.919

Date of Inception: November 1978 by Public Law 95-625

Agency: U.S. NPS

Primary Contact: Roger Knowlton - National Park Service
1309 Jackson Street
Omaha, NE 68102
(402) 221-3310

Appropriated: N/A

Authorized: N/A

Match: -----

Application/Deadline Information: The pre-application handbook was being revised in the event that the program again receives funding. The new handbook will include eligible areas based on the most recent census data.
Source: <http://www.nps.gov/uprr/>

Important Details: The program did not receive funding in 2004. This program provides three different types of grants: rehabilitation, innovation, and planning. **Only cities and urban counties meeting established criteria are eligible for assistance.**

Texas History: Houston has received over \$1 M from this grant.
\$450,800 Houston FY 01
\$200,000 Beaumont FY 01
\$105,560 Pasadena FY 02
\$800,000 Houston FY 02

Synopsis: The Urban Park and Recreation Recovery (UPARR) program authorized \$725 million to provide matching grants and technical assistance to economically distressed urban communities. The purpose of the program is to provide direct Federal assistance to urban localities for rehabilitation of critically needed recreation facilities. The law also encourages systematic local planning and commitment to continuing operation and maintenance of recreation programs, sites, and facilities.

Sources: National Park Service: <http://www.nps.gov/uprr/>

Title: Wetlands Reserve Program
Nickname: WRP

CFDA Number: 10.072

Date of Inception: 1994 began in Texas

Agency: USDA: NRCS – local USDA Service Center

Primary Contact: Doug Sharer
Telephone: 254-742-9800
Email: Doug-Sharer@usda.gov
Temple, TX

Gary Valentine
Natural Resources Conservation Service
817.774.1291

Appropriated: \$239 M FY 05

Authorized: National enrollment limit is based on acreage enrolled in WRP, not a fixed dollar amount.

Match: Assistance: restoration cost-share ranges between 50-100%
Easement payment based on agricultural value of land.

Application/Deadline Information: Enrollment is on a continuous sign-up process at local USDA Service Centers.

Important Details: Lands of interest for WRP funds include privately owned agricultural lands adjacent to wetlands, farmed wetland pasture, and riparian areas that link protected wetlands. For conservation easements, the owner must own the land for at least one year, unless it was inherited.

Texas History: See Texas map of Wetlands Reserve Program Project Locations. In the HW area there have been projects in Liberty and Brazoria counties.

Total in Texas there are 27,799 acres enrolled in the WRP program with an additional 4,571 acres in unfounded applications.

The Texas State Technical Committee has established a cap of \$550 per acre, thus most landowners receive full agricultural value for their land and maintain ownership and hunting and fishing rights.

There are many successful partnerships between organizations like Nature Conservancy, and the Conservation Fund in different counties throughout Texas. Also, NRCS has partnered with FWS and TPWD to form partnerships under the WRP.

Synopsis:

For the purpose of conserving wetlands by retiring marginal land from agriculture, landowner's participation in the Wetlands Reserve Program (WRP) will establish perpetual or 30-year conservation easements.

In exchange for establishing a permanent easement, the landowner receives payment **for 75% of the agricultural value of the land and 100% of the restoration costs for restoring the wetland.**

Landowners can also enter 10-year **restoration cost-share agreements**. The restoration cost-share agreements cover 75% of the restoration costs and the protection and restoration of wetlands must be the primary land-use for the duration of the agreement.

Sources:

440 Conservation Programs Manual from NRCS – See Wetlands Reserve Program Manual (Part 514)

Texas NRCS Website for the Program:
<http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/wrp/states/tx.html>

Title: **Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program**
Nickname: WHIP

CFDA Number: 10.914

Date of Inception: Authorized under 2002 Farm Bill

Agency: NRCS

Primary Contact: Local USDA Service Center
Gary Valentine
Natural Resources Conservation Service
817.774.1291

Appropriated: Over \$50 K was given to Texas in FY 05 for all of the following Farm Bill programs, combined: Conservation Security Program, Grassland Reserve Program, Farm and Ranch Lands Protection Program, Environmental Quality Incentives Program (including Ground and Surface Water Conservation and Klamath Basin), Wetlands Reserve Program, and **Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program**.

Authorized: A total of \$360 million will be available nationally between FY 02-07; it was \$50 million between 1996 - 2002

Match: The Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program (WHIP) provides technical assistance and financial assistance of up to 75% to private landowners for improvements to wildlife habitat in uplands, wetlands, riparian, and aquatic areas.

NRCS and program participants enter into a cost-share agreement for wildlife habitat development. Cost-sharing is available for up to 75% of the cost of practice establishment. The cost-share agreement typically lasts a minimum of 5 years from the date that the contract is signed.

Application/Deadline Information: Landowners can apply on a continuous basis to the local USDA-NRCS Service Center.

Go to <http://offices.sc.egov.usda.gov/locator/app> and click on Texas. From there a county map should appear, and you will be able to find the most local service office for your county of interest.

Important Details: All land is eligible for WHIP projects. However, land enrolled in another USDA conservation program is not eligible for WHIP.

Example projects include fishponds, plantings, wildlife water facilities, installing wells, and managing invasive species.

Texas History: **please see: <http://www.tx.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/whip/>
Texas has not yet named priority habitats.*

Synopsis: The Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program (WHIP) provides technical assistance and financial assistance of up to 75% to private landowners for improvements to wildlife habitat in uplands, wetlands, riparian, and aquatic areas. **An emphasis is placed on projects that improve habitat for declining species, practices beneficial to fish and wildlife that would otherwise not be funded, and wildlife and fishery habitats identified by local and state partners and Indian tribes.**

Contract agreements for this program can range from 5-10 years. For particular circumstances, landowners can enter into agreement for 15 years or longer and will receive greater cost-share assistance than the 5-10 year agreements.

Sources: NRCS Website for Program:
<http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/whip/>