

# TEXAS FARM AND RANCH LANDS CONSERVATION PROGRAM



TEXAS  
PARKS &  
WILDLIFE

**Chris Abernathy, Program Coordinator  
Texas Farm and Ranch Lands Conservation Program  
Texas Parks and Wildlife Department**

**Saving Family Lands: Tools for Landowners in Comal County  
February 15, 2019**

**Let's keep this  
informal**



More country  
humor



"Yeah, my wife said it was *scaring* the children."

One last one



# Texas Farms and Ranch Lands Conservation Program (TFRLCP)

- 2005: Established by the Texas Legislature and placed under the Texas General Land Office
- 2015: Transferred by the Texas Legislature under House Bill 1925 to Texas Parks and Wildlife Department
  - An initial appropriation of \$2 million came with the program transfer. We expect to receive the same appropriation each biennium.

# Mission of the TFRLCP

- Protecting habitat, sensitive species, and water quality on working lands (i.e. contributing to the food and fiber industry).
  - Working lands includes traditional farm lands, ranch lands, timber lands, and lands managed for wildlife
  - Priority is given to lands that conserve water, protect native plant and animal habitats, or are threatened with development
  - Providing grants to qualified organizations for acquisition of conservation easements

# TPWD Management of TFRCLCP

- Administered by Land Conservation Program
- Program oversight by Texas Farm and Ranch Lands Conservation Council (TFRLLCC)
  - 12 members:
    - 6 ex-officio
    - 6 appointed by the Governor





# **TFRLCC**

## **Ex-Officio Members**

- Presiding Officer of TPW Commission – **Mr. Reed Morian, Chairman**
- Commissioner of Agriculture - **Mr. Sid Miller**
- NRCS State Conservationist - **Mr. Salvador Salinas**
- Soil & Water Conservation Board - **Mr. Rex Isom**
- TAMU Institute of Renewable Natural Resources - **Dr. Roel Lopez**
- Texas Water Development Board Chairman - **Mr. Peter Lake**

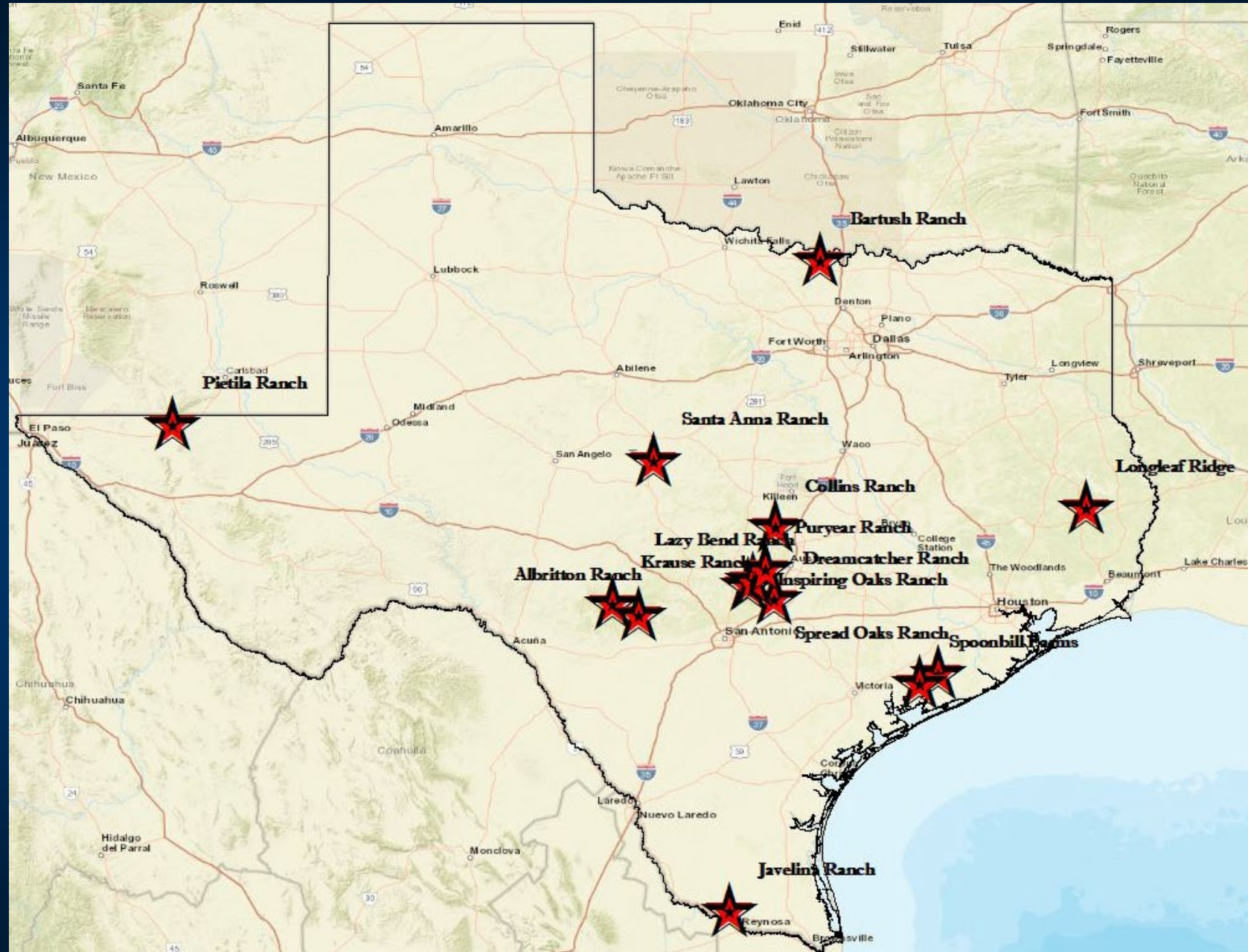
# TFRLCC

## Governor Appointments

- Agriculture Banking or Lending Organization – **Mr. John Zacek**
- Statewide Non-profit/Land Trust Representative – **Mr. Thomas Kelsey**
- Farm or Ranch Landowner – **Mr. Gilbert Riojas**
- Statewide Agricultural Representative – **Mr. Dave Scott**
- Statewide Agricultural Representative – **Mrs. Leslie L.W. Kinsel**
- Farm or Ranch Landowner – **Ms. Natalie Cobb Koehler**

# Program Accomplishments

- 13 individual properties currently under easement or working towards closing
- Over 26,000 acres in conservation
- \$3.63 million of TPWD funds have leveraged over \$30 million in total conservation value...an 8:1 ratio



# Proposed Schedule for 2019 Application Process

- March – Application Process Opens
- May – Application Initial Review by Selection Team
- June – Site Visits Conducted on Shortlist
- July – Council Application Review and Approval
- August – Contracts drafted and approved
- September – Projects begin

Questions?



# Current Projects

# Albritton Ranch

- The Nature Conservancy
- Bandera County
- 650 Acres
- Total Project Value - \$975,000
- Status – Easement Completed

## Property Highlight –

The property has numerous canyons and springs that support a relict bigtooth maple forest.



# Dreamcatcher Ranch

- Guadalupe Blanco River Trust
- Hays County
- 211 Acres
- Total Project Value - \$3,375,589
- Status – Easement Completed

## Property Highlight –

This ranch contains restored grassland native to the Hill Country.





# Javelina Ranch

- Valley Land Fund
- Hildago County
- 280 Acres
- Total Project Value - \$1,315,000
- Status – Easement Completed



## Property Highlight –

This ranch contains two globally rare plant communities; Texas Ebony - Snake Eyes Scrub and the Blackbrush Acacia - Texas Ebony - Texas Barometerbush Shrubland.

# Lazy Bend Ranch

- Hill Country Conservancy
- Hays County
- 142 Acres
- Total Project Value - \$1,026,925
- Status – Easement Completed

## Property Highlight –



This ranch contains Golden-cheeked Warbler and Black-capped Vireo habitat.

# Puryear Ranch

- Hill Country Conservancy
- Travis County
- 425 Acres
- Total Project Value - \$5,656,850
- Status – Easement Completed

## Property Highlight –

Puryear Ranch supports important habitats including riparian corridors, grassland/savannah, and mature juniper-oak woodland protection for endangered and declining songbirds including Golden-cheeked Warbler.



# Pietila Ranch

- The Nature Conservancy
- Culberson County
- 9,992 Acres
- Total Project Value - \$1,125,000
- Status – Easement Negotiation in process

## Property Highlight –

Pietila Ranch is adjacent to the Guadalupe Mountains National Park and contains a biologically diverse desert grassland.



# Santa Anna Ranch Lower Tract

- Texas Agricultural Land Trust
- Coleman County
- 1,369 Acres
- Total Project Value - \$834,060
- Status – Easement under negotiation with landowner



## Property Highlight –

Santa Anna Ranch is one of the larger parcels in Coleman County and has over a half mile of frontage on the Colorado river.

# Longleaf Ridge

- Texas A&M Forest Service
- Jasper County
- 5,511 Acres
- Total Project Value - \$2,670,000
- Status – Easement Completed



## Property Highlight –

Longleaf Ridge lies within the longleaf pine ecosystem

# Spread Oaks Ranch

- Katie Prairie Conservancy
- Matagorda County
- 5,332 Acres
- Total Project Value - \$6,168,500
- Status – Easement Completed

## Property Highlight –

Spread Oak Ranch is an active farm and ranch that contains approximately 300-400 acres of globally rare coastal prairie.



# Inspiring Oaks

- Hill Country Conservancy
- Hays County
- 1,000 Acres
- Total Project Value - \$5,642,500
- Status – Easement Completed



## Property Highlight –

Inspiring Oaks is in a high quality natural condition with very few invasive plants. The ranch also contains four rare plant communities.



# Krause Ranch

- The Nature Conservancy
- Real County
- 1,640 Acres
- Total Project Value - \$2,196,800
- Status – In Process



## Property Highlight –

The Krause Ranch has almost a mile of frontage on the Frio River, a significant spring called Church Spring, and several karst features.

# Bartush Ranch

- The Nature Conservancy
- Cooke County
- 1,620 Acres
- Total Project Value - \$1,489,000
- Status – In Process

## Property Highlight –

The Bartush Ranch contains a globally rare plant community and hardwood forests



# Collins Ranch

- The Nature Conservancy
- Williamson County
- 615 Acres
- Total Project Value - \$2,030,000
- Status – In Process



## Property Highlight –

The ranch protects both sides of the San Gabriel River and tributary creeks as well as significant historic and cultural features.