TEXAS FARM AND RANCH LANDS CONSERVATION PROGRAM
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Texas Parks and Wildlife Department

Saving Family Lands: Tools for Landowners in Comal County
February 15, 2019
Let’s keep this informal
“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 TFRLCP

• Administered by Land Conservation Program

• Program oversight by Texas Farm and Ranch Lands Conservation Council (TFRLCC)
  – 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 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.