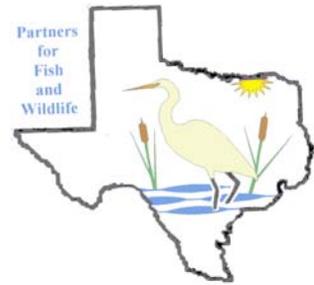




## THE PARTNERS FOR FISH AND WILDLIFE PROGRAM IN TEXAS



### BACKGROUND:

Initiated in Texas in 1990, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Partners for Fish and Wildlife (PFW) program restores and enhances fish and wildlife habitat on private lands. The PFW program initially targeted wetland habitat for restoration and enhancement work. However, the success of this landowner friendly program encouraged the Service to expand it to benefit habitats for all federal trust resources, including waterfowl, other migratory birds, and candidate, threatened, and endangered species. Projects generally involve wetland, native prairie, and/or riparian restoration activities. The PFW program provides cost-sharing and technical assistance to non-federal landowners, including private landowners, local governments, native American tribes, educational institutions, and other entities.

Through 2000, the Service has entered into 646 partnerships with private landowners, covering approximately 103,000 acres in Texas. Approximately 50,000 acres of wetlands, 108 miles (2000 acres) of riparian corridors, two miles of instream habitat, and 51,000 acres of native prairie and other upland habitats have been restored and/or enhanced by the PFW program in Texas. Throughout the State, the PFW program has also participated in projects seeking to educate the public regarding the benefits of wetland and other wildlife habitat by providing funds used to develop outdoor environmental classrooms.

The PFW program has been very well received by participating private landowners, known as Cooperators. In fact, many interested landowners remain on field office waiting lists at the end of each fiscal year. Several Cooperators have been honored as recipients of National and Regional wetland stewardship awards and also with local "Wildlife Conservationists" awards. A close working relationship often exists with personnel from the Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS), local Soil and Water Conservation Districts, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, Texas Forest Service, other government agencies, and private organizations such as Ducks Unlimited.

### APPLICATION AND APPROVAL PROCESS:

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.

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### PROGRAM CONTACTS:

**State PFW Coordinator: Don Wilhelm, Ecological Services Field Office, Arlington, 817- 277-1100**

Northcentral/Northeast Texas: Don Wilhelm

East Texas: Jeff Reid, Lufkin, 409-639-8546

Texas Panhandle: John Hughes, Canadian, 806-323-6636; or Dave Haukos, Lubbock, 806-742-2841

Texas Coast: Dave Curtis (Texas Prairie Wetlands Project), Victoria, 361-576-0230

Southeast Texas, South Texas, and Texas Coast: Ron Jones, Houston, 281-286-8282

Central, West (Trans Pecos), and Southwest Texas: Tim Schumann, Austin, 512-490-0057

