

TXD P 400.3 AN78 2005/6
Texas Parks and Wildlife annual report

WHAT IT TAKES

to fulfill our **Mission**

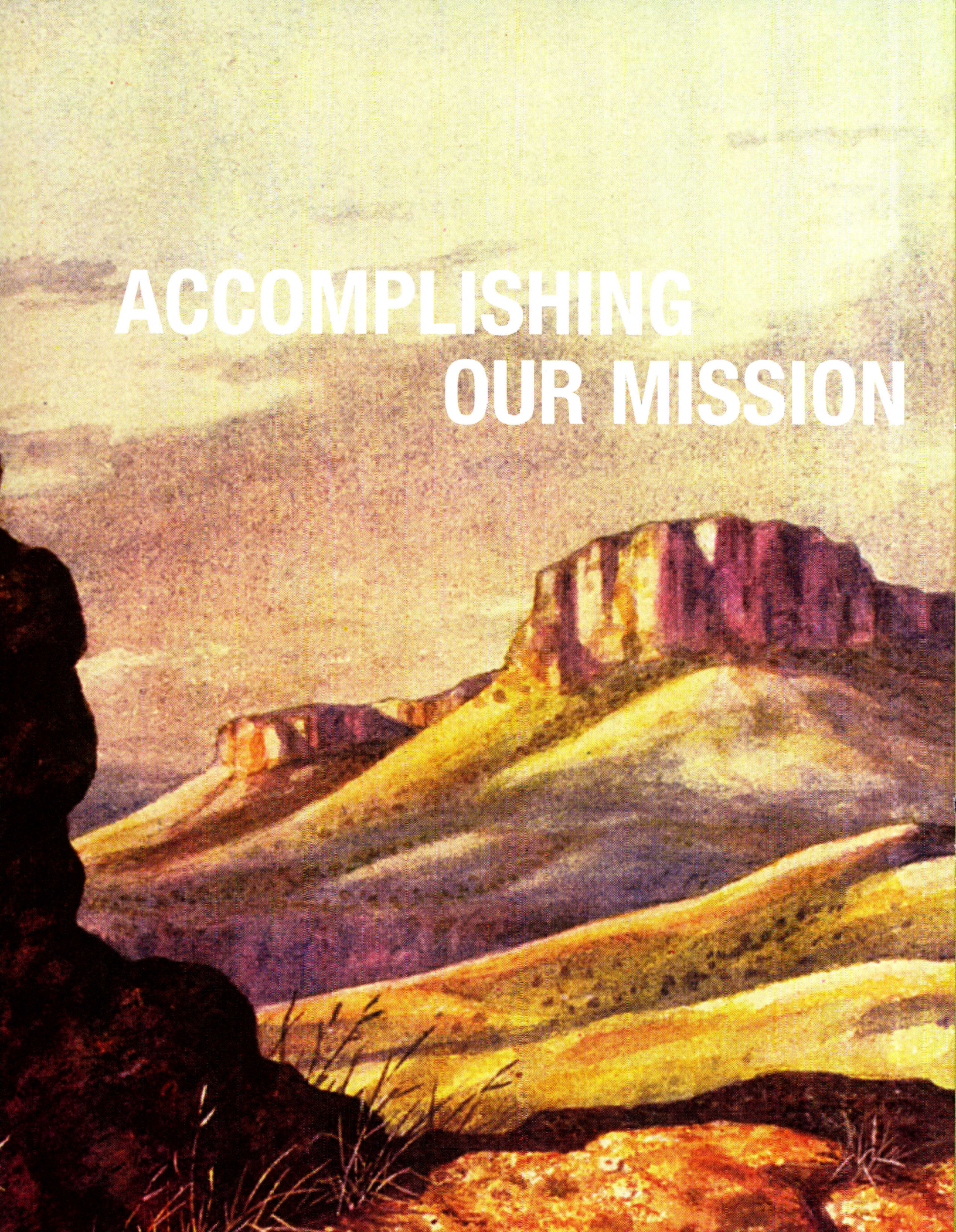
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2006 ANNUAL REPORT

**TEXAS
PARKS &
WILDLIFE**

ACCOMPLISHING OUR MISSION



“to manage and conserve the natural and cultural resources of Texas and to provide hunting, fishing and outdoor recreation opportunities for the use and enjoyment of present and future generations.”

The mission of the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department is “to manage and conserve the natural and cultural resources of Texas and to provide hunting, fishing and outdoor recreation opportunities for the use and enjoyment of present and future generations.” Fulfilling such a vital mission for the state of Texas requires a diverse and committed team, with our staff working in every county around the state, engaged in tasks that range from complex scientific analysis to the most down-to-earth cleanup duties. It is not enough for us simply to maintain the state’s historic landmarks, fish and wildlife habitats, park headquarters, camping sites, interpretive programs, trails, and the myriad other facilities and resources placed under our care that inevitably require repair and upkeep. We’re responsible for ensuring the safety and viability of outdoor activities on public lands and waters, including hunting, hiking, fishing, boating and birdwatching. And that includes communicating with the public about how to safely enjoy—and how to treasure—the outdoors and our natural and cultural heritage.

The agency’s *Land and Water Resources Conservation and Recreation Plan* calls for strategic planning and accommodation for the state’s growing population and consequent increasing demands on our natural and cultural resources. So our job includes not only maintaining what we have, but also looking toward the future to meet the goals of that plan. It means mustering our employees and our science to anticipate and mitigate the pressures of population growth on our natural resources and to continue to provide access to the outdoors for that growing population. And when nature throws us a curve, there is even more to do to take care of the people, places and resources that depend on us, with much of that activity above and beyond the call of duty.

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TO THE PEOPLE OF TEXAS

from the Chairman and Executive Director

Fiscal Year 2006 brought challenges to the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department on several fronts, from hurricanes, fires and floods to fiscal crunches. Still, it's crucial that we keep our focus on the agency's core responsibilities to the state of Texas. As directed by the Legislature, we're the agency responsible for collecting and analyzing the information necessary to establish and enforce seasons, bag limits and regulations to conserve, protect and manage the state's fish and wildlife resources.

Just as important, we're the state agency responsible for conserving, protecting, promoting and managing the state parks, natural areas, historic sites, wildlife management areas and fish hatcheries of Texas. In addition, we must provide and improve public access to these sites and resources.

This is who we are and what we do. Our mission is "to manage and conserve the natural and cultural resources of Texas and to provide hunting, fishing and outdoor recreation opportunities for the use and enjoyment of present and future generations." To accomplish our work, we must have good science; excellent law enforcement; long-term, common-sense conservation strategies; and outstanding customer service at every level.

While never losing sight of our core responsibilities, we must also focus on the single most important conservation issue in Texas today: water. That means water for people, for industry, for agriculture and for fish and wildlife. We must do everything we can to conserve fresh water for Texas by providing accurate scientific data on the water needs of fish and wildlife, by improving watershed habitats through our public and private land management programs, and by educating Texans about the importance of these issues to our future.

Our work this year included preparing our Legislative Appropriations Request for the upcoming biennium. The request calls for additional funding for state parks, for which our staff worked hard in gathering the needed information and justification for each item. The request also reflects support from thousands of citizens across the state, as well as assistance and guidance from our elected officials, and especially the work done by the Chairman's State Parks Advisory Committee.

The strong support we received this year reflects the hard work and dedication of the state park employees who do such a great job every day in our state parks. They are there every day to welcome the public and to help them enjoy the great natural and cultural resources that are part of our state's heritage.

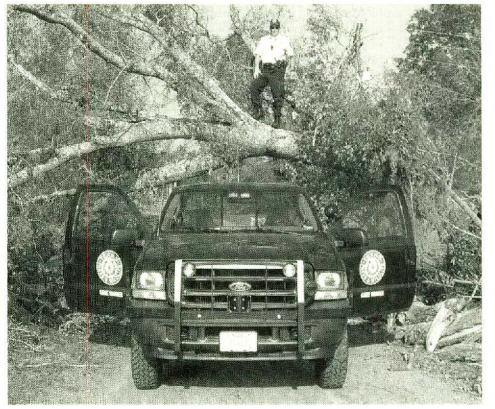
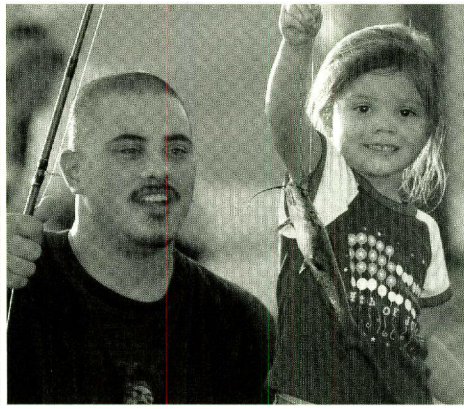


Joseph B. C. Fitzsimons
Chairman



Robert L. Cook
Executive Director

A family arrives at a historic site hoping to learn about Texas history • The riverbank supporting the floor of a state park's fabled riverside dance hall begins to sag and needs repair • A landowner needs guidance about improving habitat for the wildlife that shelter on his property • Family members from around the state plan a reunion at a state park • A poacher tries to take white-tailed deer out of season • Vultures tear a hole in a fishery pond liner • A child living in a city wants to learn how to fish • A birdwatcher seeks direction along a trail to a lookout point in a state park • A fire sweeps through a landmark canyon • A proposed road, reservoir or development might impact wildlife or aquatic habitat • A hurricane churns up the Gulf Coast, bringing floods and displacement to wildlife and people • Exotic vegetation and diminishing seagrass affect the habitat of our fresh and saltwater fisheries



**WE ARE THERE,
ON THE JOB,
READY TO HELP.**

With 112 state parks, natural areas and historic sites to manage that are scattered across the state's vast and diverse regions, the State Parks Division is faced with an enormous task, simply to keep these treasures open and welcoming to the public.

There are cabins, trails, campsites, visitors' centers to maintain, interpretive programs to develop and sustain. By the time something's fixed in one area, it's time to fix something somewhere else. Extra challenges are thrown at us by nature, with fires, floods, hurricanes and drought that require extra care and resources. During Fiscal Year 2006, the division worked hard to maintain our current facilities, despite budget constraints and growing costs for just about everything, from utilities to gasoline for our vehicles, and despite the unexpected setbacks from natural disasters that affected many parts of the state.



WHAT IT TAKES

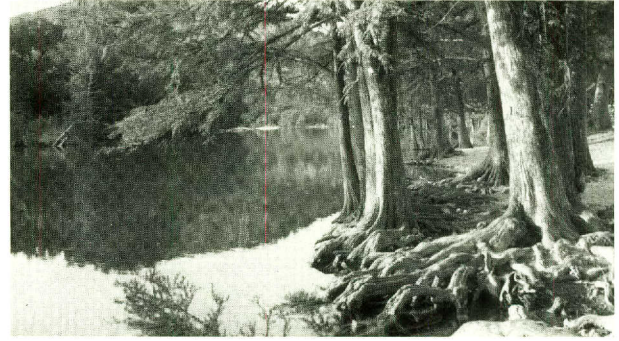
to operate a Park System: **State Parks Division**

By September 2005, it was apparent that TPWD would not be able to meet its budget and that strong measures would have to be taken. On December 1, TPWD implemented changes that impacted personnel and park services. Seventy-three positions were eliminated, including openings that were not filled and nearly 40 jobs that were occupied. Services at approximately 50 parks were reduced, including hours and days of operation, as well as recreational and educational programs, though no parks were closed. As a result, the public began to ask questions about why park services were being reduced. TPWD responded to dozens of requests to answer questions from concerned citizens at community meetings, resulting in widespread media coverage of the situation.

With such cutbacks and with a growing backlog of necessary repairs for park infrastructure and facilities of more than \$400 million, it has been a challenge for TPWD to meet the goals set by the agency's *Land and Water Resources Conservation and Recreation Plan* that look toward the future. The plan calls for improving the public's access to the outdoors and for conserving, managing, operating and promoting agency sites for recreational opportunities, biodiversity and the cultural heritage of Texas. Nevertheless, by using innovative funding strategies, including partnerships with public and private entities, the State Parks Division made progress in meeting those goals. With the help of a grant from the Amarillo Area Foundation, TPWD added more than 7,800 acres of scenic and historic undeveloped land to Palo Duro Canyon State Park,

which has been a priority park for expansion under the Land and Water Plan. Additional milestones included the completion of the Estero Llano Grande World Birding Center site in the Rio Grande Valley, near the city of Weslaco, and the grand opening of the 8,622-acre Government Canyon State Natural Area, which sits only 16 miles from downtown San Antonio. Government Canyon represents one of Texas' most significant conservation stories, resulting from a public-private partnership involving municipal, state and federal government agencies, as well as a host of community and environmental organizations and philanthropists.

In order to address the challenges facing the parks system, TPW Commission Chairman Joseph Fitzsimons appointed a State Parks Advisory Committee, charged to explore funding options for the state park system; to consider possible transfer of some units of the park system; to examine the role of public-private partnerships in the park system; and to consider options to accomplish goals for parks in TPWD's *Land and Water Resources Conservation and Recreation Plan*. Recommendations by the committee, led by former State Senator John Montford, became the foundation for an exceptional item included in TPWD's Legislative Appropriations Request, which is the agency's official request for funding for the next biennium.



Garner State Park is a Texas icon,

with generations of families coming back again and again to its 1,484 acres along the Frio River. Garner attracts almost a quarter-million visitors every year, most of them concentrated between May and September, lining up outside five park entrance stations, which are manned daily, from 8 a.m. to 11 p.m. Eager campers spread out among the park's more than 400 campsites, including tent sites, shelters, RV sites and cabins. That's the equivalent population of a small city, using park facilities, including aging rest rooms, year after year. In fact, Garner operates much like a municipality, with its own water and water treatment systems and crews for cleaning, trash removal and mowing. Some of the park's 17 rest room buildings are 30 years old and are wearing out. Every night during the summer, between 800 and 1,000 visitors crowd Garner's fabled dance floor on the riverside bluff, where Texans have danced and courted since the 1930s. When the bank below the bluff began to erode, the pavilion and dance floor were threatened, requiring a \$700,000 project—completed in FY06—to stabilize the bank and save a Texas landmark for future generations. Proposition 8 bonds approved by voters supported the work.

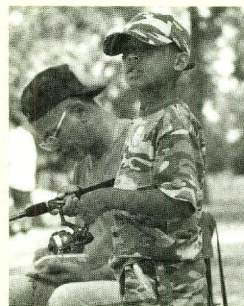


State Parks Advisory Committee and TPW Commissioners. Seated, left to right: George Bristol, Dianne Dies Schoch, John T. Montford, Peter M. Holt (TPW Commissioner), Joseph Fitzsimons (TPW Commission Chairman), Clyde Alexander, Beth McDonald. Standing, left to right: Jeff Rogers, Michael Massey, Hector Gutierrez, Brad Locker, Sandy McNab, David Woodcock, Paul Serff. Not pictured: Ann Hamilton, Al Henry, Ann Lents, Andrew Sansom, Carter Smith.

STATE PARKS DIVISION HIGHLIGHTS



Implemented the transfer to other entities of the Admiral Nimitz Museum in Fredericksburg, Bright Leaf State Natural Area in Austin, Lake Houston State Park, and the Copano Bay Fishing Pier near Rockport, as well as the reassignment of Matagorda Island State Park as a Wildlife Management Area.



Continued the Family Fishing Celebration, which offers free fishing in state parks, encouraging more park visitors to try angling and attracting more out-of-state visitors to Texas parks.

WHAT IT TAKES

to maintain our Facilities: **Infrastructure Division**

The Infrastructure Division is responsible for the repair of TPWD's physical assets, which include:

**75 state parks,
7 state natural areas,
25 state historic sites,
5 state park and state historic sites,
51 wildlife management areas,
8 fish hatcheries
and 28 law enforcement offices.**

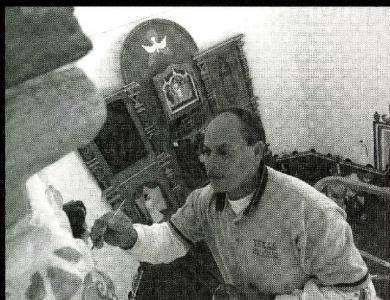
**And that includes
maintaining 642 rest rooms,
7,374 campsites,
75 fishing piers,
1,756 miles of roads and
3,163 miles of trails.**

The division faced strong challenges because TPWD had entered the fiscal year anticipating that the Proposition 8 bond money would be available for \$18 million in crucial repairs. But Hurricane Rita struck, and it was necessary to divert capital bond funds that would have been spent on parks repair to the coast to help with recovery from the disaster.



The division oversaw a number of important construction and repair projects, including the \$5.4 million development of Government Canyon and the \$3.1 million development of the Estero Llano Grande site of the World Birding Center. The restoration work at Goliad State Park and Mission Espíritu Santo State Historic Site brought together a diverse team of artists, architects, historians and craftsmen skilled in historic restoration. Also requiring special expertise and care was the \$4.5 million, five-year-long restoration of Indian Lodge, the historic lodge built in the Davis Mountains by the Civilian Conservation Corps in a unique Southwestern Pueblo architectural style. The project restored the lodge to its 1930s appearance and updated its mechanical systems.

INFRASTRUCTURE DIVISION HIGHLIGHTS



Completed the \$850,000 project to repair the Mission Espíritu Santo State Historic Site and grounds of Goliad State Park.

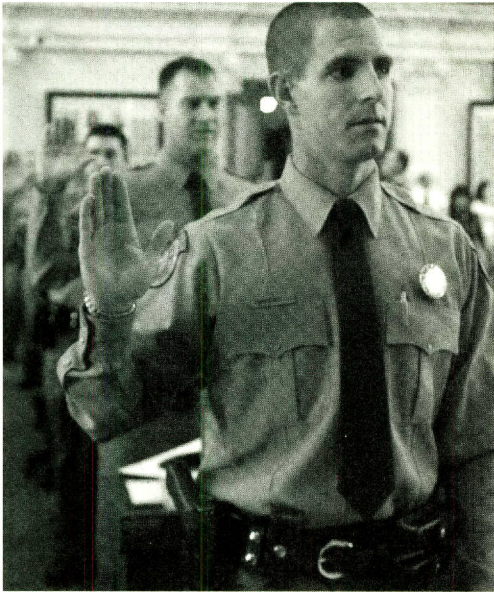


Completed \$2.3 million emergency fire safety repair project at San Jacinto Monument.

Completed construction on the new Education/ Learning Center at the Gus Engeling Wildlife Management Area.

to protect our Fish and Wildlife: **Law Enforcement Division**

The Law Enforcement Division staff carried out their duties enforcing game, fish and water safety laws and protecting wildlife on public lands and waterways, while also meeting the challenges of carrying out emergency operations and helping with Homeland Security duties on the border with Mexico.



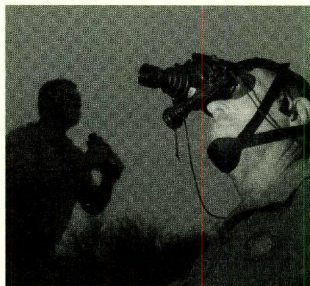
The division is making efforts to educate the public, particularly through outreach to schools. In a sense, a game warden's work is never done. A warden might begin his or her job before daylight, talking to duck hunters in a marsh, then driving to a school classroom to talk to students about conservation, and then moving out to the waterways to do a search and rescue or fishery patrol, all while being on call.

Training for game wardens made a big step in FY06 with the donation by the Police Activities League to TPWD of 220 acres of the organization's ranch located in Hamilton County, where the agency plans to relocate the Texas Game Warden Training Center, currently based in the city of Austin. The proposed development would provide a facility that would house all the training components not only for new cadets but also for current wardens seeking updated training. TPWD has begun a capital campaign for the project, along with the Texas Game Warden Association and the Texas Parks and Wildlife Foundation. The Legislature has approved use of funds from the sale of the current facility in Central Austin for facilities at the new location.

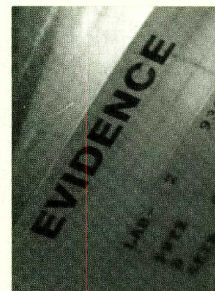
LAW ENFORCEMENT DIVISION HIGHLIGHTS

Started another cadet class, including two cadets from the state of Nuevo Leon, Mexico, which will increase cooperation between both sides of the border in working toward common goals.

Increased patrols on Falcon and Amistad Reservoirs and Gulf of Mexico as well as patrols in the mountains and other border areas as part of Homeland Security.



Implemented Operation Pescador, resulting in more than 275,000 feet of gill net seized on Falcon Reservoir.

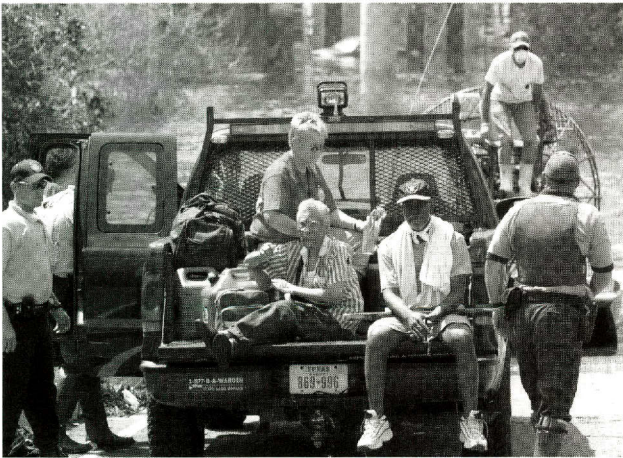


National certification of the division's forensic lab by the American Society of Crime Lab Directors.

WHAT IT TAKES

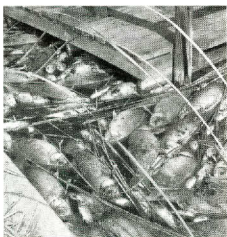
to cope with Nature

TPWD game wardens, biologists and park staff found themselves providing critical help during not one, but two back-to-back major hurricanes in 2005.



During Hurricane Katrina, a team of more than 110 Texas game wardens rescued nearly 5,000 stranded victims in New Orleans. Three weeks later, Hurricane Rita tore through East Texas, and game wardens were called on to help with peacekeeping efforts as well as support in delivering food, water and medical assistance. Wildlife biologists also assisted in rescue efforts. Nearly 1,000 evacuees were given free camping at Texas state parks.

In the aftermath of Rita, more than 20 state parks were closed temporarily, and wildlife and fisheries biologists began assessing damages to natural resources. The damage to TPWD facilities from Rita was estimated at \$3.1 million, with seven state parks, three wildlife management areas and one state fish hatchery sustaining damage. There was also damage to marine habitats in Galveston Bay and Sabine Lake. TPWD will use a hurricane disaster relief grant to map damaged oyster beds, leading to a better understanding of undersea conditions.



As if that weren't enough to deal with, during FY06 there were fires in Palo Duro Canyon, drought conditions around the state, and continued problems with golden alga blooms in some of the state's lakes, all requiring attention and resources from TPWD.

to sustain our Wildlife and
Habitat: **Wildlife Division**

The Wildlife Division oversees 51 Wildlife Management Areas, as well as hunting activities on 44 state parks and nine other units of public hunting lands under lease or license to TPWD. But the division's actual purview is far greater.

The Wildlife Division has steadily been increasing its outreach to private landowners, with clinics, meetings and incentive programs that have brought practical results. More and more private lands are now being managed under TPWD-approved management plans. The division has also been steadily improving the quality of its programs using scientific research and reviews. As a result, habitat for game animals as well as rare species is being conserved. An example of such progress is the new Candidate Conservation Agreement with Assurances agreement between TPWD and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, which is expected to help private landowners conserve the lesser prairie chicken, a rare bird whose fate is tied to the health of grassland ecosystems that sustain many other wildlife species. By undertaking voluntary conservation measures on their property under the new



agreement, landowners will be assured that no further land use restrictions or conditions will be required from them if the lesser prairie chicken is ultimately listed under the federal Endangered Species Act.

WILDLIFE DIVISION HIGHLIGHTS

Increased the acreage in TPWD-approved Wildlife Management Plans on private lands to 21,030,843 million acres and increased the total number of TPWD-approved Wildlife Management Plans to 5,842.

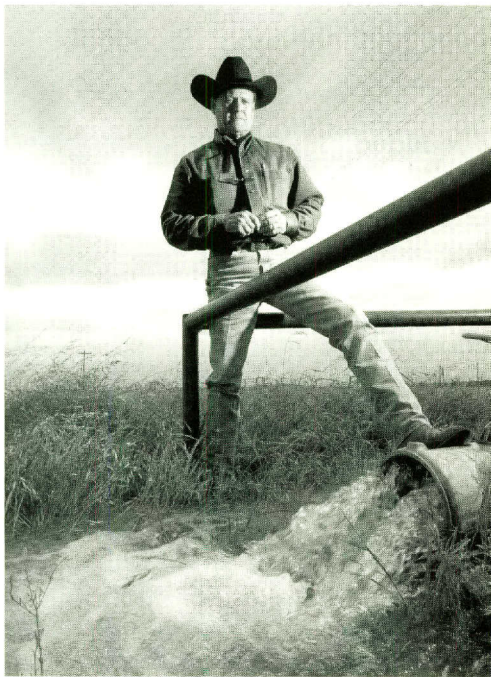
Totally redesigned and implemented white-tailed deer, mule deer and pronghorn surveys as recommended by an independent scientific review.

Achieved first-year implementation of Managed Lands Deer Permits for mule deer.

Accepted administrative responsibility of Matagorda Island facilities.

to plan for **Water and Emerging Conservation Issues**

The state's rapidly growing population is expected to reach 40 million people by the year 2046, putting ever-increasing pressure on all the state's resources. TPWD plays a critical role in the state's water planning and in evaluating the impact of new technologies, new projects and new developments on the state's natural resources.



TPWD has made important strides in coordinating with other agencies and groups to ensure the continued health of the state's wildlife habitat as well as that of our lakes, rivers, bays and estuaries as the state prepares for future demand. Plans for the Trans-Texas Corridor, for example, will be evaluated for impact on the state's water, wildlife and recreation, as well as on landowners. TPWD will participate in mitigation issues as the state endeavors to balance economic benefits with conservation needs. Similarly, plans to increase the state's wind power also need to be evaluated, balancing the possible impact on birds with the benefits of using a clean, renewable resource. TPWD is currently involved in evaluating research on a major wind farm project located on a major migratory path and in working with stakeholders and other groups in developing guidelines for wind power development in Texas. Plans for expanding LNG (liquefied natural gas) terminals must be evaluated for their impact on aquatic habitat and species health. TPWD has worked closely with the industry, with the result that onshore-based LNG facilities have chosen to use closed-loop systems, thus minimizing the impact on water resources.

TPWD's Legal, Coastal and Inland Fisheries Divisions are supporting the Environmental Flows Advisory Committee created by Governor Rick Perry. Joseph Fitzsimons, Chairman of the TPW Commission, is serving on the committee, whose charge is to develop recommendations to establish a process that will achieve a consensus-based, regional approach to integrate environmental flow protection into the water allocation process.

WATER AND CONSERVATION PLANNING HIGHLIGHTS



Interagency coordination to resolve pollution problems in the San Jacinto River. TPWD worked with TCEQ to deal with the presence of waste pits and dioxin contamination in a sandbar in the river.

Participated in the **State Water Plan**, looking out for bays and estuaries. TPWD has participated since 1997 in the planning process conducted by 16 regional water-planning groups and provided review comments on the state's draft 2007 plan.

TPWD entered into an agreement with Texas State University in which Texas State agreed to deposit 33,108 acre-feet of water from the San Marcos River into the **Texas Water Trust**, thus providing additional protection for environmental flows in the river.

WHAT IT TAKES

to sustain our Aquatic Resources: **Inland Fisheries Division**

The Inland Fisheries Division is responsible for managing the state's diverse freshwater fisheries resources, which include five fish hatcheries and a research center as well as 800 public impoundments covering 1.7 million acres and 80,000 miles of rivers and streams. The goal of this management is to provide the best possible angling while protecting and enhancing freshwater aquatic resources.

The division's activities include fisheries management and research, ecosystem and habitat assessment, instream flow and river studies, fish production, fish kill assessments, environmental contaminant analysis, natural resources damage recovery, wetlands conservation, permitting, angler education and information, and fishing access.

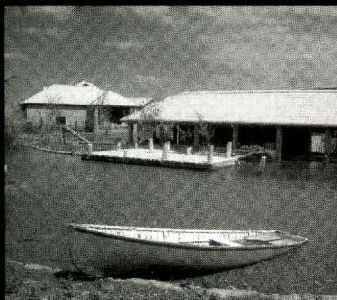
In FY06 the division continued to make progress on the new East Texas fish hatchery, with tremendous cooperation from the county of Jasper, which supports a regional emphasis for the hatchery. The division continued its study of golden alga, making progress in understanding what makes it toxic. The division held public meetings in areas hardest hit by golden alga blooms, which caused fish kills in more than a dozen water bodies in North Central Texas. Officials asked for public input and provided updates on golden alga research projects and discussed fisheries management strategies. The division also reported progress on controlling the invasive hydrilla plant in Lake Austin. Data from that project is being applied to a hydrilla control program in Lake Conroe.



Urban Fishing Program

TPWD has introduced a pilot program to educate new anglers in urban areas. In a period of eight months, 30,000 new anglers took part in the program.

INLAND FISHERIES DIVISION HIGHLIGHTS



Began construction on a new conservation education building at the Texas Freshwater Fisheries Center in Athens. Construction of the new facility is being funded solely from private donations. The new facility will be named after Bass Pro Shop founder John L. Morris, who contributed more than \$600,000 to the effort.



Thirty-two lunkers were contributed to the Budweiser ShareLunker program, the third-highest number since the introduction of the program in 1986. The division was able to stock 168,000 ShareLunker babies into the public waters of Texas.

to sustain our Saltwater Habitat and Species:

Coastal Fisheries Division

The Coastal Fisheries Division has been focusing on moving to an ecosystem management approach, with a more holistic view of habitat monitoring and restoration.



The division has also emphasized working with partners and stakeholders in implementing its policies to help conserve marine life. Action was taken to protect seagrasses in the Redfish Bay Scientific Area by adopting rules to make the damaging of seagrasses in the area a violation, with boundary markers and preferred-access-lane markers installed, and implementing an education program to elevate awareness of the new rules and the importance of protecting fragile seagrasses.

Coastal Fishery Monitoring

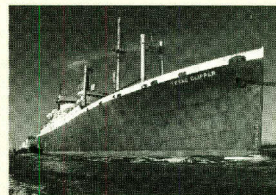
Some of the division's most important work lies in the painstaking monitoring of the status of water and species by many different means. A total of 8,652 population and harvest surveys, including sampling trawls, bag seines, oyster dredges and recreational harvest surveys, are conducted by the division each year.



COASTAL FISHERIES DIVISION HIGHLIGHTS

A symposium marking the 30th anniversary of the division's nationally renowned marine resource monitoring program brought experts and stakeholders together to discuss the program; recommendations were incorporated into the Coastal Fisheries Division Operating Plan.

Wetlands restoration work was accomplished on Galveston Island State Park, restoring marsh and seagrass beds; on Jumbile Cove, creating 40 acres of estuarine marsh complex and more than an acre of bird nesting habitat; and on North Deer Island, protecting habitat from erosion and creating estuarine marsh complex.



Progress was made on the transfer of the *Texas Clipper* ship to TPWD for use as an artificial reef, which will serve as a dive attraction and habitat for marine life.

Recovery of the endangered Kemp's Ridley sea turtle was marked by the largest single-day release of hatchlings, nearly 240,000, into the Gulf of Mexico from the beach at Tepehuajes, north of Tampico.

WHAT IT TAKES

to reach the public with our Message: **Communications Division**

The Communications Division continued to improve its outreach to the public, working with other divisions and with hundreds of volunteers and partners to get the job done.



Annual traditions like the Texas Parks & Wildlife Expo drew more than 36,000 visitors, and many other programs offered year-round education and outreach

opportunities through schools and youth groups.

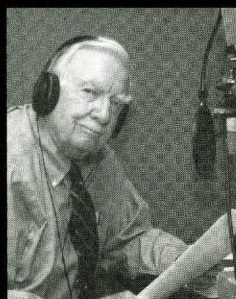
The division also produces a monthly magazine, a weekly PBS television series, a daily radio show, video news reports and news releases—all with the mission of increasing responsible use of the outdoors and an appreciation for the conservation of our state's natural and cultural resources. Content and delivery have been boosted on TPWD's most utilized outreach product, its Web site, so that the public can access interactive information on the agency's offerings.



Texas Paddling Trails

Communications worked with other divisions to develop and promote the new nature tourism program, including the launch of the new Luling-Zedler Mill Paddling Trail.

COMMUNICATIONS DIVISION HIGHLIGHTS



Continued the multi-year water communications initiative, including a fifth annual special issue of the magazine and production of a third hour-long television documentary on Texas Springs.

Developed a Public Service Announcement to run in rural real estate publications that targeted landowners and promoted the free services that TPWD offers to help them manage their land.

Worked with ad agency GSD&M on the catchy "Life's better outside.™" campaign designed to lure families away from TV, gaming consoles and PCs and get them outside where they can relax and enjoy the outdoors.

Developed a "hunter education deferral" program that has become a national model for hunting recruitment.

to make the most of our Staff and Skills: **Human Resources**

TPWD employs more than 2,900 people scattered through every county in the state. Their job classifications range from Ph.D. scientists to maintenance workers. We have our own TV production crews, police force, marketers, accountants and wildlife biologists. It's a big job, to keep us all pointed in the same direction, carrying out the mission of TPWD, maintaining the agency's culture. A survey of employee attitudes on organizational excellence during the past year showed improvement in 17 of 20 areas.

Human Resources Highlights

Redesign of the employee evaluation system, moving to a competency model.

Improvements to the intern program, with 135 interns placed throughout every division.

Response to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Civil Rights Audit, certifying that TPWD is nondiscriminatory in all its services.

to administer our Fiscal Resources: **Administrative Resources**



TPWD, with its multiple funding sources and great volume and diversity of transactions, is one of the most fiscally complex state agencies to administer. The staff in administrative resources is responsible for transactions ranging from boat titling and registrations to hunting and fishing licensing to fiscal oversight of varied activities conducted by all TPWD divisions.

Texas State Parks Advisory Committee Chairman and former state Senator John Montford explains park funding needs to news reporters. On Aug. 24, 2006, Montford made public his committee's recommendations to increase state funding for parks in a briefing to the TPW Commission. In this news conference immediately afterward, committee members and the commission chairman answered questions from reporters with the Associated Press and major newspapers across the state.

ADMINISTRATIVE DIVISION HIGHLIGHTS

Staff spent much of the summer preparing our Legislative Appropriations Request for the upcoming biennium. Request included a 10 percent reduction to our general revenue-related funding, as directed by the Governor's Office and the Legislative Budget Board. Seven exceptional items, totaling \$305.1 million over the biennium, are included to request an increase to our base budget of \$409.2 million over the biennium. The top priority is to restore the 10 percent funding reduction, followed by a request for additional needed State Park funding, as recommended by the State Parks Advisory Committee.

Improved the BRITS (boat registration, implementation and titling system) with a new Web-based system for boat registration and titling, allowing tax assessors to do boat license renewals.

Worked on reviewing TPWD's hunting and fishing licensing system and extended our contract with Verizon for a point-of-sale licensing system, allowing a move to a Web-based, PC-driven system.

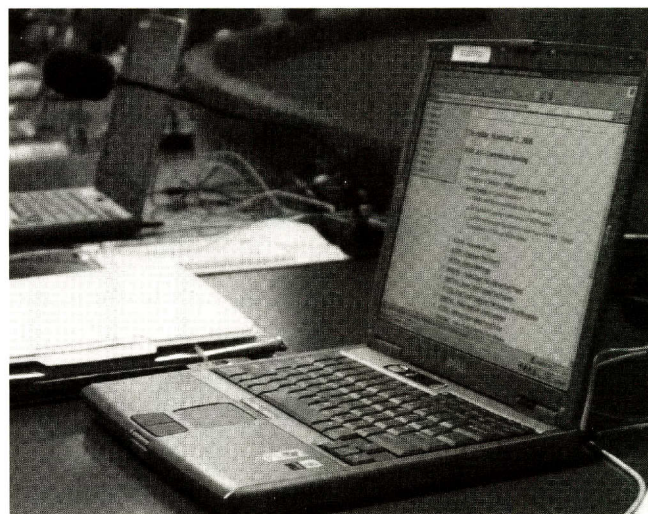
WHAT IT TAKES

to keep our Systems Running:

Information Technology Division

The Information Technology Division works behind the scenes to further the technological advancements for the agency in support of its mission. The division works to align technology with the needs of our users, with the goal of making TPWD's information technology systems fast, reliable and secure.

The Information Technology staff has been deeply involved in preparing for the pending data center consolidation, which will affect 27 of the state's largest agencies and result in a major shift from how TPWD currently delivers information technology service. It is the division's responsibility to make sure the changes are positive for the agency and as seamless as possible.



Security

Intrusions as simple and annoying as SPAM and as damaging as computer viruses can cause huge headaches for an agency that deals in so much information. During FY 2006 the exchange server processed a total of 22.5 million external e-mails. Of those, some 75 percent were tagged as SPAM. More than 2.6 million e-mails were infected with viruses that were filtered out by the system.

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY DIVISION HIGHLIGHTS



The successful rollout of the new boat registration system closed the book on agency mainframe applications and set the stage for the delivery of new Web-based systems. The new system offers a number of advantages, including the ability for tax assessor/collectors to print ID cards and issue decals for boat renewals.

Efficient communications are essential for an agency with so many people out in the field. We continue to expand and improve on voice and data communication services for our field users and expand the ongoing pilot for the development of wireless technology for our state parks.



helping us accomplish our Mission:

The Value of Volunteers

Our 3,400 trained volunteers provided 46,289 of actual teaching hours, a value of \$740,624 to the agency, in training and certifying 30,866 students in the mandatory hunter education program and in training and certifying 9,840 students in the mandatory Texas Boater Education program.

TPWD held 378 angler education classes and outreach events for 22,150 participants. Angler education volunteers performed a total of 8,162 hours of service at a value of \$138,754 to the agency.

2006 EMPLOYEE RECOGNITION AWARDS

OUTSTANDING TEAM Boat Registration System Project Team *Information Technology and Administrative Resources*

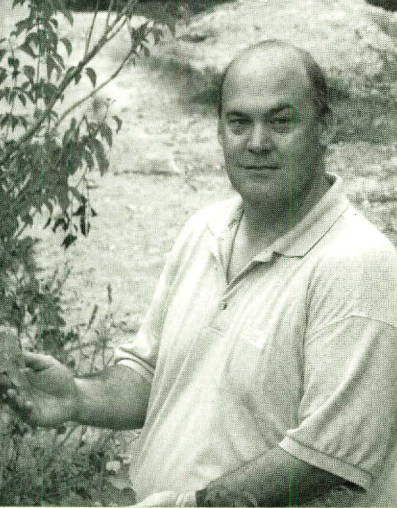


Recognized for their exceptional teamwork and innovation, the Boat Registration System Project was made up of members from the Information Technology and Administrative Resources Divisions. Boat registration is one of the most common ways that folks interact with TPWD, making it a priority for the agency. Working closely with the Law Enforcement Division and Tax Assessor Collector's offices around the state to make the transition a success, the team developed a boats registration system that is easier to navigate and allows better access to reports and accurate financial data.

OUTSTANDING TEAM Hurricane Katrina LE Response Team *Law Enforcement*

When TPWD Game Wardens were called to assist the people of New Orleans after Hurricane Katrina, they put aside their own comfort and safety and set out for Louisiana. In the midst of death and destruction, the team saved 4,940 people (mostly by boat) from hospitals and housing projects in New Orleans. These unfortunate residents of the Crescent City included the critically ill, the elderly and young children. Dubbed "the Texas Navy," the TPWD Game Wardens showed that they are ready, willing and able to respond to natural disasters in a positive way.





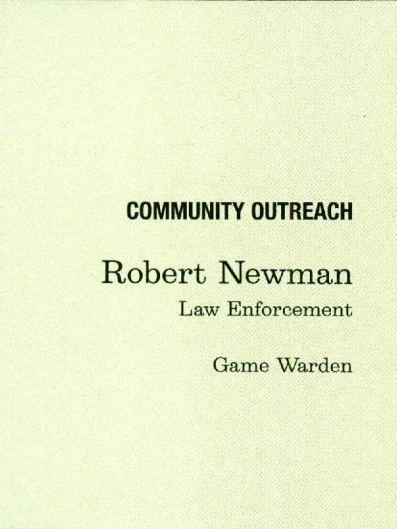
CONSERVATION

Duane German
Executive Office/GIS Lab
Ecologist/
Remote Sensing Analyst



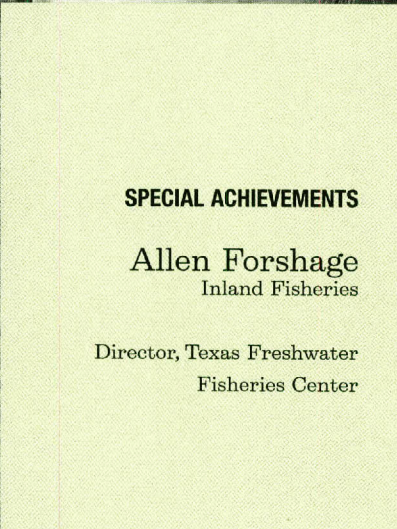
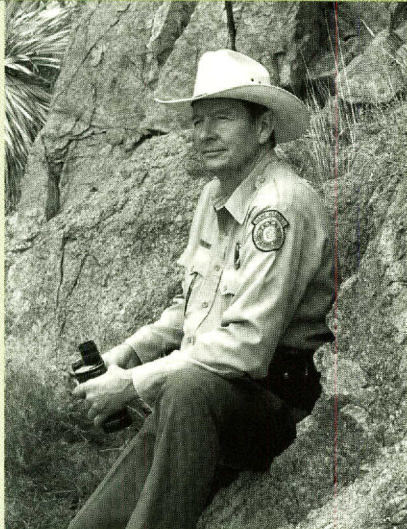
LEADERSHIP

Steve Bender
Wildlife
Wildlife Planner



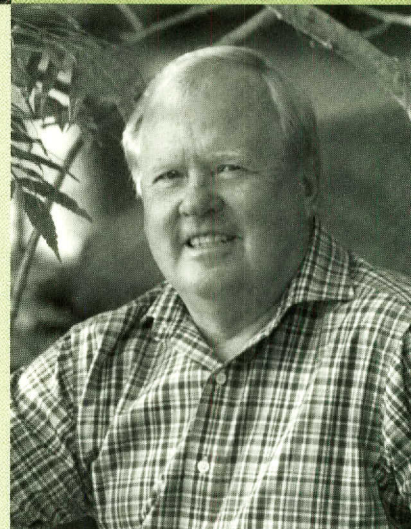
COMMUNITY OUTREACH

Robert Newman
Law Enforcement
Game Warden



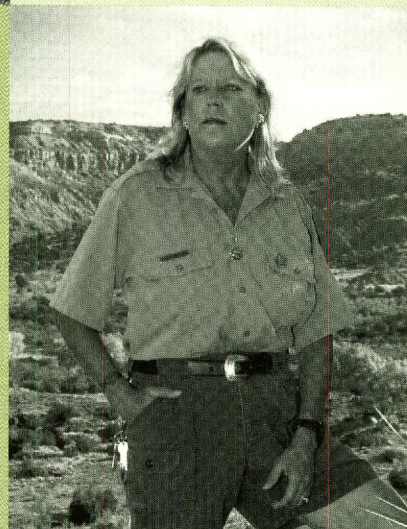
SPECIAL ACHIEVEMENTS

Allen Forshage
Inland Fisheries
Director, Texas Freshwater
Fisheries Center



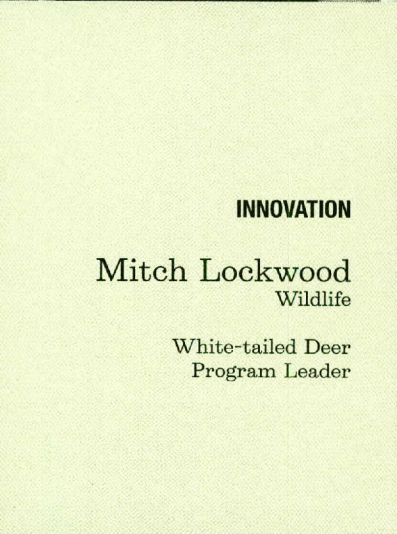
NATURAL QUALITY SERVICE

Kelly Gurley
Human Resources
HR Specialist



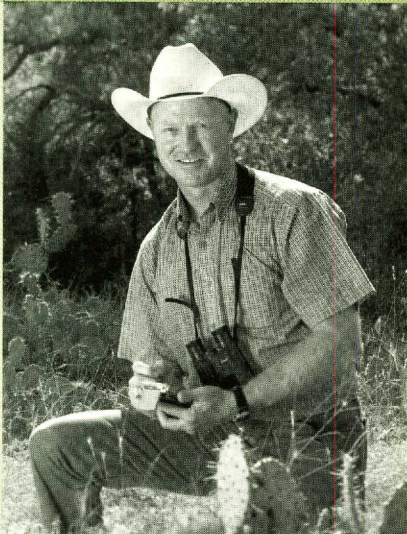
CUSTOMER SERVICE

Susan Henderson
State Parks
Assistant Office Manager



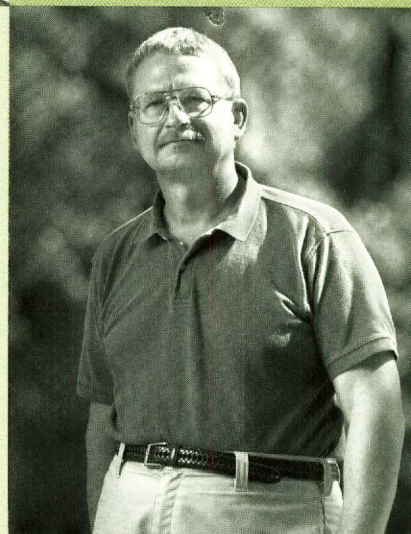
INNOVATION

Mitch Lockwood
Wildlife
White-tailed Deer
Program Leader



PARTNERSHIP

Chuck Kowaleski
Wildlife
Farm Bill Coordinator



TPWD LEADERSHIP



THE TEXAS PARKS AND WILDLIFE DEPARTMENT LEADERSHIP TEAM:

Front row, from left:

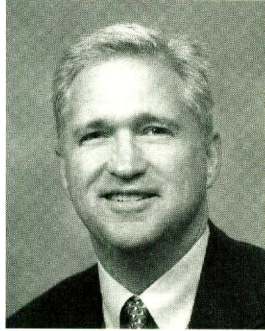
Col. Pete Flores, Law Enforcement Division Director
Al Bingham, Human Resources Division Director
Lydia Saldaña, Communications Division Director
Gene McCarty, Deputy Executive Director, Administration

Back row, from left:

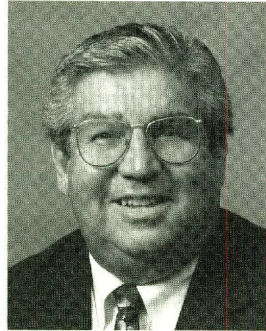
George Rios, Information Technology Division Director
Dr. Mike Berger, Wildlife Division Director
Dr. Larry McKinney, Coastal Fisheries Division Director
Mary Fields, Administrative Resources Division Director
Scott Boruff, Deputy Executive Director, Operations
Robert L. Cook, Executive Director
Walt Dabney, State Parks Division Director
Ann Bright, General Counsel
Phil Durocher, Inland Fisheries Division Director
Steve Whiston, Infrastructure Division Director

TPW COMMISSIONERS

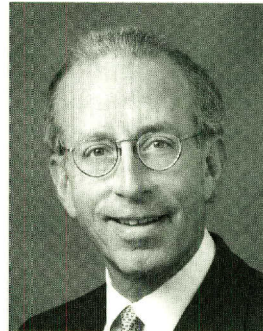
The nine-member, governor-appointed Texas Parks and Wildlife Commission governs the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department and bears the responsibility of adopting policies and rules to carry out all department programs. The executive director oversees the work of implementing and administering all department programs as directed by the Commission.



Joseph B. C. Fitzsimons
Chairman
San Antonio



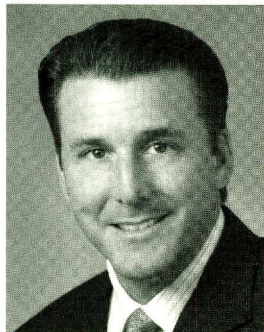
Donato D. Ramos
Vice-Chairman
Laredo



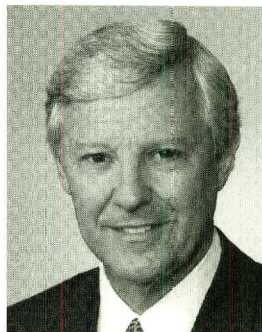
Mark E. Bivins
Amarillo



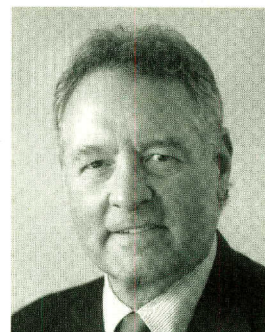
J. Robert Brown
El Paso



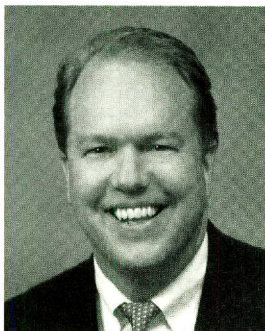
T. Dan Friedkin
Houston



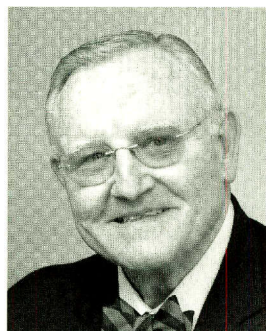
Ned S. Holmes
Houston



Peter M. Holt
San Antonio



Philip Montgomery
Dallas



John D. Parker
Lufkin



Lee M. Bass
Chairman-Emeritus
Fort Worth



Robert L. Cook
Executive Director

ACCOUNTABILITY MEASURES

ACCOUNTABILITY MEASURES (By Topic)	Responsible Division ¹	FY04	FY05	FY06
FISH PRODUCTION²				
Number of fingerlings stocked in fresh water	IF	12,710,877	13,748,432	11,662,828
Number of fingerlings stocked in salt water	CF	16,024,767	22,225,011	19,163,191
PARK VISITATION				
Estimated number of state park visits (in millions)	SP	9.7	9.6	10.2
CONSERVATION				
Percent of private land acreage in Texas managed to enhance wildlife	WL	11.6%	12.59%	13.92%
Percent of fish and wildlife kills or pollution cases resolved successfully	CF, IF	77.2%	76.74%	82.85%
Public compliance rate	LE	95.8%	97.7%	97.56%
EFFICIENCY				
Ratio of fingerlings produced to hatchery employees	CF, IF	331,246:1	424,465:1	330,574:1
INFRASTRUCTURE				
Percent of state park maintenance and minor repair projects completed ³	SP	31.7%	28.6%	2.3%
Number of minor repair projects completed	SP	334	287	204
Percent of scheduled major repair projects completed	INF	52.4%	46.9%	63.89%
Number of major repair/construction projects completed	INF	82	70	96
DIRECT SERVICE				
Percentage of agency's direct service expenditures to total expenditures	AR	90.8%	89.9%	89.2%

¹ Abbreviations as follows: Administrative Resources (AR), Coastal Fisheries (CF), Communications (K), Executive Office (EO), Infrastructure (INF), Inland Fisheries (IF), Law Enforcement (LE), State Parks (SP), Wildlife (WL).

² The number of fingerlings stocked in FY2006 showed a decline from prior years mainly due to various planned repair and construction projects that temporarily shut down production at several hatcheries.

³ FY2006 performance showed a decline compared to prior years due to the statewide entry of needs into the Facilities Management Information System, resulting in a significant increase in the master list of needs.

ACCOUNTABILITY MEASURES (By Topic)	Responsible Division¹	FY04	FY05	FY06
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PUBLIC ACCESS

Number of WMAs available for wildlife viewing and other non-hunting forms of outdoor recreation	WL	51	51	51
Acres of public hunting land provided (including state parks)	WL, SP	1,400,380	1,413,021	1,399,622
Annual percentage change in public hunting days provided	WL	-4.18%	-9.0%	-4.3%
Number of state parks open to public hunting	WL, SP	42	44	44

STATE PARKS AND PUBLIC LANDS

State park reservations ⁴	SP	254,076	254,628	233,057
Texas Conservation Passports sold ⁵	AR	13,037	25	0
Volunteer hours in state parks (including inmate labor)	SP	526,612	689,850	632,196
New state parks opened	SP	0	0	1
State park acreage	EO	601,590	610,319	608,716
Number of acres in the agency's Public Lands System per 1,000 Texans	EO	62.4	61.01	59.9

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

Local park grants awarded ⁶	SP	\$10,760,000	\$10,890,000	\$6,699,886
Boat ramp grants awarded	SP	\$2,100,000	\$1,900,000	\$2,290,000
Students trained in Hunter Education	K	34,571	31,004	30,866
Students trained in Boater Education	K	9,941	10,467	9,840
Average monthly TPW magazine circulation	K	105,555	108,000	121,044

⁴ Figures represent Customer Service Center reservations only.

⁵ Conservation passports discontinued as of January 2004.

⁶ The amount of local park grants awarded decreased due to legislatively mandated reductions in funding for the program.

ACCOUNTABILITY MEASURES, CONTINUED

ACCOUNTABILITY MEASURES (By Topic)	Responsible Division ¹	FY04	FY05	FY06
FACILITIES MANAGED				
WMAs managed	WL	51	51	51
State parks managed ⁷	SP	117	117	112
HUNTING, FISHING AND BOATING				
Resident hunting-type licenses	AR, LE	445,549	452,496	433,766
Non-resident hunting-type licenses	AR, LE	68,312	73,167	75,491
Hunting stamps	AR, LE	166,558	177,044	260,806
Resident fishing-type licenses	AR, LE	992,374	994,245	940,259
Non-resident fishing-type licenses	AR, LE	81,305	92,471	95,714
Fishing stamps ⁸	AR, LE	473,699	31,442	24,004
Combination hunting/fishing-type licenses	AR, LE	558,021	535,131	516,050
Annual boat registrations	AR, LE	324,542	337,046	317,928
Public hunts on TPWD lands, leases	WL	6,188	5,587	5,660
FISH AND WILDLIFE				
Deer harvested	WL	441,564	438,116	470,854
Turkeys harvested	WL	62,722	63,723	52,287
Mourning doves harvested	WL	4,269,080	3,655,041	6,361,779
Ducks harvested	WL	815,000	909,600	1,252,460
Geese harvested	WL	299,400	248,100	457,300
LAW ENFORCEMENT				
Vehicle miles patrolled by game wardens	LE	10,730,000	10,675,225	10,973,592
Boat hours patrolled by game wardens	LE	113,782	127,681	133,100
Arrests (game and fish)	LE	20,704	21,534	20,086
Arrests (water safety)	LE	9,033	9,904	8,234
Law enforcement contacts by game wardens	LE	1,532,551	3,676,066	3,269,054
RESOURCE PROTECTION				
Environmental permit/document reviews	CF, IF, WL	1,500	1,409	1,227
Fish kills and pollution complaints investigated	CF, IF	307	258	210

⁷ FY2006 reflects the transfer of several park sites to other entities.

⁸ FY2005 and 2006 figures reflect direct sales only, and do not capture freshwater or saltwater stamps sold as part of a combination or other package.

ABOUT THIS REPORT

This is the Annual Report of the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department for the fiscal year ending August 31, 2006 [FY2006]. The report is one of several documents the department produces to provide information to our employees and the public. More information can be found on the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department Web site at www.tpwd.state.tx.us. This report was prepared by the Communications Division, with information provided by all other divisions.

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If you believe that you have been discriminated against in any TPWD program, activity or event, you may contact the Human Resources Director, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, 4200 Smith School Road, Austin, Texas, 78744, (512) 389-4808 (telephone), al.bingham@tpwd.state.tx.us (email). Alternatively, you may contact the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Division of Federal Assistance, 4401 N.

Fairfax Drive, Mail Stop: MBSP-4020, Arlington, VA 22203, Attention: Civil Rights Coordinator for Public Access.

