

Protecting the State's NATURAL RESOURCES



Challenges

- > Population growth, urbanization, land conversion and increasing water demand threaten Texas' natural resources.
- > Environmental factors such as drought, floods, nonpoint source water pollution and exotic species invasion have placed the state's water supply under tremendous stress.



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AgriLife Extension Response

The Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service delivers a wide range of researched-based educational resources and programs on water quality, water-use efficiency, wildlife and fisheries practices, ecosystem and parks management, tourism and open-space planning to improve habitat. These programs delivered more than 2,800 educational events, planning meetings and workshops in 2019 to more than 675,000 educational and other contacts..

- > **Water resource** programs focus on watershed health and protection, onsite wastewater treatment systems, water-use efficiency, private water wells and soil nutrient management.
- > **Wildlife and fisheries** programs focus on restoration and conservation of wildlife habitat, disease and predator control, harvest management practices and aquaculture and pond management tools.
- > **Land and ecosystem** programs address the ecology and restoration of rangeland and coastal wetlands, including best practices for brush, pasture, rangeland and weed management.
- > **Community and economic development** programs bolster parks tourism, including open-space planning and outreach to support planned development and growth as well as the **\$28 billion** outdoor recreation and tourism industry.
- > **Texas Master Naturalist** encompasses **5,188 volunteers** who help with research and provide stewardship education at nature centers, parks, and other nature-based sites totaling more than 227,000 acres.
- > **Texas 4-H Youth Development** Program engaged more than **68,000 youth** in natural resource and environmental learning activities.

Economic Impacts

- > **Wildlife management** programs led to estimated economic gains of **\$14.0 million** by reducing property damages from feral hogs and improving quail biology and habitat.
- > **Wildlife Services' predation and beaver damage** management efforts led to **\$52.4 million** in economic benefits for landowners.
- > **Texas Master Naturalists** contributed 491,000 hours of volunteer service in 2019, which was valued at **\$12.5 million**.
- > **Water conservation** programs produced estimated cost savings of **\$11.2 million**, while **groundwater protection education** led to over **\$880,000** in economic benefits for private well owners.
- > Participants in **ecosystem management** programs reported anticipated economic benefits of **\$29.2 million** on 1.3 million managed acres.



EXTENDING KNOWLEDGE | PROVIDING SOLUTIONS

2020

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