



For More Information:

Landowner Incentive Program
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San Angelo, Texas 76904
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(903) 566-1626

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Rockport, Texas 78382
(361) 790-0308

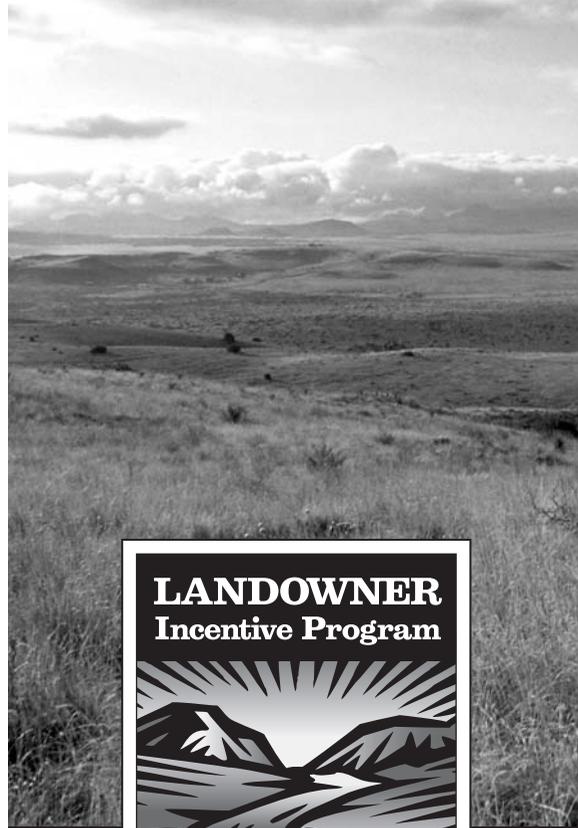


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Landowner Incentive Program



*Working together for the conservation
of rare plants, animals and habitats
on private lands in Texas.*

Why Participate in the Landowner Incentive Program?

Many plant and animal species, as well as entire habitat types in our state are in serious jeopardy. Human population increases, and land-use changes are impacting these resources as never before. Since the vast majority of the state of Texas is privately-owned, it will require an active partnership between the state's landowners, our conservation partners and Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) to have any hope of helping these species. The Landowner Incentive Program's (LIP) goal is to provide direct technical and financial assistance to landowners interested in conserving rare species and habitats on their property. In 2006 TPWD completed the Texas Wildlife Action Plan, taking a proactive approach to conserve wildlife and vital natural areas before they become too rare and costly to protect. LIP functions as a valuable tool for the implementation of the Action Plan goals enabling these goals to become reality on the private lands that make up the vast majority of Texas.

What Projects are Eligible for Funding?

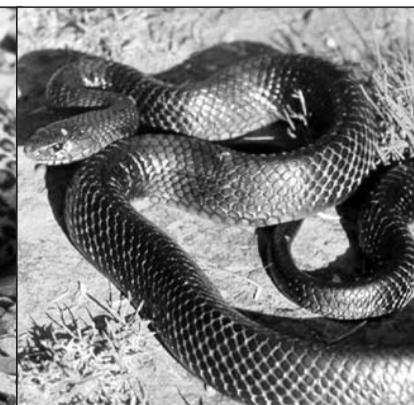
Actions that serve to implement the goals of the Action Plan and ultimately to conserve rare species/habitats on private lands at reasonable costs. Submissions of all projects benefiting rare plant species, animal species or habitats defined as high priority by the action plan are strongly encouraged.

What is the Minimum Acreage Required?

Although there is no minimum acreage requirement for a project to be considered for LIP funding, some projects may require larger acreage than others to achieve the desired management objectives. While some projects can be successfully implemented on an acre or less (i.e. protection of a cave), others may require considerably more area (management of lesser prairie chicken nesting habitat). Your local TPWD staff biologist can help you determine if LIP can help you achieve your wildlife management goals.



Ocelot



Texas Indigo Snake



Lesser Prairie Chicken

U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

LANDOWNER INCENTIVE PROGRAM

What are the Criteria for Applying?

The LIP program is a cost-share program in which the state provides a maximum of 75% of the project funding and the landowner is expected to provide a minimum of 25% of the funding. The cost-share may include labor and materials. The proposed action by the landowner must contribute to the enhancement of at least one rare species or habitat type (as defined in the action plan and the LIP Target Species List – see TPWD LIP website) in a significant way.

While in its early years the Texas LIP program focused on federally threatened or endangered species, in recent years LIP focus has changed and now proactively seeks to protect primarily federal candidate species and state threatened species. Contact your local TPWD office or check the Texas LIP web site for the current list of LIP target species. Please note the Texas LIP will consider projects designed to conserve species not on the LIP target species list, but federally listed as candidate species or state threatened species. Contact



Black-capped Vireo



DON MACCARTER, NEW MEXICO DEPT. OF GAME AND FISH

Swift Fox

TPWD for more information regarding species and habitats being emphasized by this program. The results of the action must be measurable.

A TPWD biologist will work with the landowner on the property for a pre-survey and return for periodic progress checks with the landowner at a mutually agreed time to assess the success of the project objectives. The landowner and biologist will develop a project agreement or management plan. Each agreement or management plan will be designed to meet the landowner's individual conservation and land use needs and objectives. For the long term benefit of both the species a project is concerned with and the LIP program, landowners are encouraged to allow the data collected to be used by TPWD biologists to further conserve these species in the state of Texas.

Inability to complete the agreed management actions due to weather or other conditions beyond the landowner's control will be considered individually and rescheduled as necessary.

How do I get Involved with the Landowner Incentive Program?

Contact your Regional Wildlife Office for a local wildlife biologist's assistance, or call (512) 581-0657. A TPWD staff member will contact you to discuss your options. If necessary, a site visit will be scheduled to further discuss appropriate management activities for your property. TPWD will assist you in completing and submitting the LIP application form which will outline the proposed management actions to be taken. Application forms will be provided by the TPWD staff member.

How will Proposals be Selected?

Applications are accepted twice a year. Submitted applications will be evaluated by TPWD species specialists for biological soundness. Applications and staff appraisals are then provided to the LIP Advisory Committee, which recommends proposals of greatest merit for funding. This committee consists of



Ferruginous Pygmy-owl



Gulf Coast Marsh

landowner representatives as well as members from various resource agencies and conservation organizations. Applicants will be encouraged to allow their project to be used for mutually-coordinated demonstration purposes and field days for landowners. Additional weight in the selection process will be given to applications from landowners willing to contribute cost sharing greater than the minimum 25%. All projects will be considered on their merit, regardless of size. While no duration limits exist for proposed projects, preference will be given to projects that show measurable results in five years or less. Successful applicants will be notified and arrangements will be made to draft a contract between TPWD and the landowner and to then begin work on the project. The TPWD staff will provide the landowner technical assistance, as needed, throughout the entirety of the project.

Are There Funding Limitations?

Each project is considered on an individual basis, with priority going to those that demonstrate the greatest cost-effectiveness.