WHF

Photo credit: Susan Conaty

whf-texas.org

Conserving Texas Habitats

What We Do

The Problem:

Extreme weather events, flooding, urbanization, and agricultural conversions are all contributing to population declines for many wildlife species in our Texas grasslands.

The Solution:

As these populations fall due to this habitat loss, it is critical to educate the public about how certain landscapes will improve the overall health of our environment.

WHF works with landowners and like-minded conservation groups to create resilient prairie ecosystems that can consistently provide benefits and resist environmental changes. Every alliance receives a custom strategy for each site ranging from targeted treatment to full scale restoration of the site into a more natural state.

Vision

Resilient prairies and healthy watersheds providing benefits to our land and water resources as well as the communities that depend on them.

Mission

WHF provides on-the-ground restoration, management, and generational sustainability of prairie habitat for the conservation of soil, water, air and wildlife.

2023-2025 Strategic Plan

Key Pillars	Strategies	3-Year Total
Education and Outreach	Direct technical guidance to landowners through planned outreach at events, field days, workshops, group engagements, and on-site consultations.	**9,000 People**
Conservation Plans	Engaging land managers in the planning of conservation practices with the goal of providing measurable improvements of all natural resources present.	**150 Plans**
Implementation Putting it on the Ground	Acres under improved management as a result of planned grazing, prescribed burning, rangeland plantings, etc.	**60,000 acres**
Collaborative Alliances	Engaging with like-minded organizations to achieve common goals. Co-hosting education and outreach events with allied organizations to inform the public about land conservation practices and programs.	**15 Organizations** **25 Events**

Working to Create Resilient Prairie Ecosystems

Public and Private Benefits:

Water Quality - Coastal Prairies and Marsh habitats managed under improved practices significantly reduce pollution from the local environment which benefits the quality of water for freshwater aquatic species and for municipal drinking sources.

Water Quantity - Grasslands are a key component in reducing major flooding events. The runoff from 20 acres of native grasslands is equivalent to runoff of one acre of paved land. 60,000 acres under improved management strategies can store up to 18 billion gallons of water over a three-year period. This is roughly the amount of water 134,000 single-family homes use every year.

Enhancements in Biodiversity - Research has shown that there are three times as many species of birds on a large restored native grassland and wetland restoration site in northeast Texas compared to a similar unrestored parcel. Research within the Katy Prairie experienced a similar (3x) increase in the number of plant species on one of their restoration sites.

Carbon Sequestration - Soil carbon sequestration is the term used to describe the process of atmospheric CO_2 being absorbed by grasses and stored in their roots and the soil. This creates cleaner air and water, effectively reducing the effects of climate change. Up to five tons of carbon can be stored in one acre of native prairie which is the same amount of carbon that is produced by one car in one year.

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