

RESOURCE AGENCY MANAGEMENT PLAN SUMMARY

A summary of Federal, State, Regional, and Local agencies responsible for natural or historic resources and conservation plans

NORTH CENTRAL TEXAS COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS
TRANSPORTATION DEPARTMENT

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North Central Texas
Council of Governments

The following is a compilation of strategic management plans for Federal, State, Regional, and Local agencies responsible for natural or historic resources, and conservation plans. This inventory and summary of each agencies mission and goals will support efforts by NCTCOG to consider conservation goals earlier in the transportation planning process. Efforts were made to secure the most recent copy of an agencies plan available at the time of publishing.

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FEDERAL AGENCIES

Advisory Council on Historic Preservation

Six-Year Strategic Plan 2006 - 2012



GOVERNMENT LEVEL: Federal

DESCRIPTION: The Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (ACHP) is an independent federal agency that promotes the preservation, enhancement, and productive use of our nation's historic resources, and advises the President and Congress on national historic preservation policy.

The goal of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA), which established the ACHP in 1966, is to have federal agencies act as responsible stewards of our nation's resources when their actions affect historic properties. The ACHP is the only entity with the legal responsibility to encourage federal agencies to factor historic preservation into federal project requirements.

MISSION: Promote the preservation, enhancement, and productive use of our Nation's historic resources, and advise the President and Congress on national historic preservation policy.

GOALS:

- **Advocate Preservation** - To advance effective public policies that promote the protection, enhancement, and productive use of historic resources and support and encourage historic preservation activities carried out by federal, state, local, and tribal governments, and the private sector.
- **Improve Federal Preservation Programs** - Long-Range Goal: To foster the development of federal agency programs that enhance the stewardship of historic properties and contribute to tribal, state, local, and private historic preservation efforts.
- **Identify, Protect, Enhance Historic Properties** - Long-Range Goal: Foster outcomes in the federal consideration of impacts to historic properties that advance the purposes of the National Historic Preservation Act and the Preserve America initiative.
- **Communicated the ACHP's Message** - Long-Range Goal: To inform and educate stakeholders, the public, and their governmental representatives about the ACHP's mission and activities, the national historic preservation program, and the Preserve America initiative.
- **Support and Enhance ACHP Organizational Performance** - Long-Range Goal: To maximize the effectiveness and efficiency of the members and staff in meeting the needs of the ACHP's customers and in carrying out the ACHP's mission.

RESOURCES OF INTEREST:

- National Historic Preservation Act
- Section 106 Archaeology Guidance
- American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009
- National Register of Historic Places

WEBSITE: www.achp.gov

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

Strategic Plan 2006 - 2011



GOVERNMENT LEVEL: Federal

DESCRIPTION: The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) leads the nation's environmental science, research, education, and assessment efforts. Since 1970, EPA has been working for a cleaner, healthier environment for the American people. The EPA: develops and enforces regulations; gives grants; studies environmental issues; sponsors partnerships; teaches people about the environment; and publishes information.

MISSION: To protect human health and the environment.

GOALS:

- **Clean Air and Global Climate Change** - Protect and improve the air so it is healthy to breathe and risks to human health and the environment are reduced. Reduce greenhouse gas intensity by enhancing partnerships with businesses and other sectors.
- **Clean and Safe Water** - Ensure drinking water is safe. Restore and maintain oceans, watersheds, and their aquatic ecosystems to protect human health, support economic and recreational activities, and provide healthy habitat for fish, plants, and wildlife.
- **Land Preservation and Restoration** - Preserve and restore the land by using innovative waste management practices and cleaning up contaminated properties to reduce risks posed by releases of harmful substances.
- **Healthy Communities and Ecosystems** - Protect, sustain, or restore the health of people, communities, and ecosystems using integrated and comprehensive approaches and partnerships.
- **Compliance and Environmental Stewardship** - Protect human health and the environment through ensuring compliance with environmental requirements by enforcing environmental statutes, preventing pollution, and promoting environmental stewardship. Encourage innovation and provide incentives for governments, businesses, and the public that promote environmental stewardship and long-term sustainable outcomes.

RESOURCES OF INTEREST:

- CFR Title 40: Protection of Environment
- Clean Water Act
- Clean Air Act – State Implementation Plan and Conformity
- Endangered Species Act
- National Environmental Policy Act
- Environmental Data Registry
- Pollution Prevention Act
- Responsible for administering many other acts
- Transportation Conformity
- Texas Ecological Assessment Protocol
- EPA Region 6 Headquarters- Dallas

WEBSITE: www.epa.gov/



GOVERNMENT LEVEL: Federal

DESCRIPTION: The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) was founded in 1862 as the "People's Department". USDA serves the nation through food and farming, and works in areas like science, marketing, trade, conservation, rural economic development, etc. to keep America agriculture strong and competitive while protecting the fragile land and conserving its natural resources.

MISSION: Provide leadership on food, agriculture, natural resources, rural development, and related issues based on sound public policy, the best available science, and efficient management.

GOALS:

- **Enhance International Competitiveness of American Agriculture** – Objectives: Expand and maintain international export opportunities; support international economic development and trade capacity building; and improve sanitary and phytosanitary system to facilitate agricultural trade.
 - **Enhance the Competitiveness and Sustainability of Rural Farm Economics** – Objectives: Expand domestic market opportunities; increase the efficiency of domestic agricultural production and marketing systems; and provide risk management and financial tools to farmers and ranchers.
 - **Support Increased Economic Opportunities and Improved Quality of Life in Rural America** – Objectives: Expand economic opportunities by using USDA financial resources to leverage private sector resources and create opportunities for growth; and improve the quality of life through USDA financing of quality housing, modern housing, and needed community facilities.
 - **Enhance Protection and Safety of the Nation's Agriculture and Food Supply** – Objectives: Reduce the incidence of foodborne illnesses related to meat, poultry, and egg products in the U.S.; and reduce the number and severity of agricultural pest and disease outbreaks
-

- **Improve the Nation's Health and Nutrition** – Objectives: Ensure access to nutritious food; promote healthier eating habits and lifestyles; and improve nutrition assistance program management and customer service.
- **Protect and Enhance the Nation's Natural Resource Base and Environment** – Objectives: Protect watershed health to ensure clean and abundant water; enhance soil quality to maintain productive working cropland; protect forests and grasslands; and protect and enhance wildlife habitat to benefit desired, at-risk and declining species.

RESOURCES OF INTEREST:

- 2008 Farm Bill
- Natural Resources Conservation Service
- American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009

WEBSITE: www.usda.gov



DESCRIPTION: Since 1935, the Natural Resources Conservation Services (NRCS) has provided leadership in a partnership effort to help people conserve, maintain, improve, and protect our natural resources and environment. NRCS provides technical assistance to land owners, local governments, communities, and federal agencies in planning and implementing conservation systems. Specifically, NRCS provides services related to watershed rehabilitation, watershed protection and flood prevention, and watershed surveys and planning, all within the guidance of the Watershed Protection and Flood Prevention Act of 1954.

MISSION: Help People Help the Land

GOALS:

- **High Quality, Productive Soils** - Soil Quality: The quality of intensively used soils is maintained or enhanced to enable sustained production of a safe, healthy, and abundant food supply.
- **Clean and Abundant Water** - Water Quality: The quality of surface waters and groundwater is improved and maintained to protect human health, support a healthy environment, and encourage a productive landscape. Water Management: Water is conserved and protected to ensure an abundant and reliable supply for the Nation.
- **Healthy Plant and Animal Communities** - Grassland, Rangeland, and Forest Ecosystems: Grassland, rangeland, and forest ecosystems are productive, diverse, and resilient. Fish and Wildlife Habitat: Working lands and waters provide habitat for diverse and healthy wildlife, aquatic species, and plant communities. Wetlands: Wetlands provide quality habitat for migratory birds and other wildlife, protect water quality, and reduce flood damages.
- **Clean Air** - Agriculture makes a positive contribution to local air quality and the Nation's efforts to sequester carbon.
- **An Adequate Energy Supply** - Agricultural activities conserve energy and agricultural lands are a source of environmentally sustainable biofuels and renewable energy.
- **Working Farm and Ranch Lands** - Connected landscapes sustain a viable agriculture and natural resource quality.

RESOURCES OF INTEREST:

- Watershed Protection and Flood Prevention Act of 1954.
- Technical Processes
- Tools
- Natural Resource Inventory
- Conservation Technical Assistance
- Soil Survey Programs
- American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009
- Planning documents and data sets

WEBSITE: www.nrcs.usda.gov



GOVERNMENT LEVEL: Federal

DESCRIPTION: The Forest Service (FS) was established in 1905 and is an agency of the USDA. The FS administers programs for applying sound conservation and utilization practices to natural resources of the national forests and national grasslands, for promoting these practices on all forest lands through cooperation with states and private landowners, and for carrying out extensive forest and range research.

MISSION: Sustain the health, diversity, and productivity of the Nation's forests and grasslands to meet the needs of present and future generations.

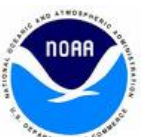
GOALS:

- **Restore, Sustain, and Enhance the Nation's Forests and Grasslands** – Objectives: Reduce the risk to communities and natural resources from wildfire; suppress wildfires efficiently and effectively; build community capacity to suppress and reduce losses from wildfires; reduce adverse impacts from invasive and native species, pests, and diseases; and restore and maintain healthy watersheds and diverse habitats.
- **Provide and Sustain Benefits to the American People** – Objectives: Provide a reliable supply of forest products over time that (1) is consistent with achieving desired conditions on NFS lands and (2) helps maintain or create processing capacity and infrastructure in local communities; provide a reliable supply of rangeland products over time that (1) is consistent with achieving desired conditions on NFS lands and (2) helps support ranching in local communities; help meet energy resource needs; and promote market-based conservation and stewardship of ecosystem services.
- **Conserve Open Space** – Objectives: Protect forests and grasslands from conversion to other uses; and help private landowners and communities maintain and manage their land as sustainable forests and grasslands.
- **Sustain and Enhance Outdoor Recreation Opportunities** – Objectives: Improve the quality and availability of outdoor recreation experiences; secure legal entry to national forest lands and waters; and improve the management of off-highway vehicle use.
- **Maintain Basic Management Capabilities of the Forest Service** – Objectives: Improve accountability through effective strategic and land-management planning and efficient use of data and technology in resource management; and improve the administration of national forest lands and facilities in support of the agency's mission.
- **Engage Urban America With Forest Service Programs** – Objectives: Promote conservation education to increase environmental literacy through partnerships with groups that benefit and educate urban populations; and improve the management of urban and community forests to provide a wide range of public benefits.
- **Provide Science-Based Applications and Tools for Sustainable Natural Resources Management** – Objectives: Increase the use of applications and tools developed by Forest Service R&D stations and T&D centers.

RESOURCES OF INTEREST

- Healthy Forests Initiative
- FLAG Report

WEBSITE: www.fs.fed.us



GOVERNMENT LEVEL: Federal

DESCRIPTION: The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) is an agency that enriches life through science. From daily weather forecasts, severe storm warnings, and climate monitoring to fisheries management, coastal restoration, and supporting marine commerce, NOAA's products and services support economic vitality and affect more than one-third of America's gross domestic product. NOAA's scientists use cutting-edge research and high-tech instrumentation to provide citizens, planners, emergency managers, and other decision makers with reliable information. NOAA's roots date back to 1807, when the Nation's first scientific agency, the Survey of the Coast, was established. NOAA maintains a presence in every state and has emerged as an international leader on scientific and environmental matters.

MISSION: To understand and predict changes in Earth's environment and conserve and manage coastal and marine resources to meet our Nation's economic, social, and environmental needs.

GOALS:

- **Ecosystems** - Protect, restore, and manage the use of coastal and ocean resources through an ecosystem approach to management.
- **Climate** - Understand climate variability and change to enhance society's ability to plan and respond.
- **Weather and Water** - Serve society's needs for weather and water information.
- **Commerce and Transportation** – Support the nation's commerce with information for safe, efficient, and environmentally sound transportation.
- **Mission Support** – Provide critical support to NOAA's mission.

RESOURCES OF INTEREST:

- National Environmental Satellite, Data, and Information Service
- Marine Mammal Protection Act
- Endangered Species Act

WEBSITE: www.noaa.gov



GOVERNMENT LEVEL: Federal

DESCRIPTION: With environmental sustainability as a guiding principle, the Corps team is working diligently to strengthen our Nation's security by building and maintaining America's infrastructure and providing military facilities where our service members train, work, and live. The USACE is also: researching and developing technology for war fighters while protecting America's interests abroad by using engineering expertise to promote stability and improve quality of life; dredging America's waterways to support the movement of critical commodities; providing recreation opportunities at campgrounds, lakes, and marinas; devising hurricane and storm damage reduction infrastructure, to reduce risks from disasters; protecting, restoring, and sustaining the Nation's environment.

The USACE Regulatory Program implements Section 404 of the Clean Water Act and Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899 through regulations that serve to protect that nation's valuable aquatic resources. These permit programs protect wetlands and all "waters of the United States".

MISSION: Contribute to the national welfare and serve the public by providing the Nation and the Army with quality and responsive: development and management of the Nation's water resources; protection, restoration, and management of the environment; and disaster response and recovery; engineering and technical services in an environmentally sustainable, economic, and technically sound manner through partnerships.

GOALS:

- Provide sustainable development and integrated management of the Nation's water resources.
- Repair past environmental degradation and prevent future environmental losses.
- Ensure that projects perform to meet authorized purposes and evolving conditions.
- Reduce vulnerabilities and losses to the nation and the Army from natural and man-made disasters, including terrorism.
- Be a world-class public engineering organization.

RESOURCES OF INTEREST:

- Federal Section 404 Permits
- Section 10 Permits
- Planning documents and data sets

WEBSITE: www.usace.army.mil



GOVERNMENT LEVEL: Federal

DESCRIPTION: The Department of Energy's (DOE) overarching mission is to advance the national, economic, and energy security of the U.S.; to promote scientific and technological innovation in support of that mission; and to ensure the environmental cleanup of the national nuclear weapons complex.

MISSION: Discovering the solutions to power and secure America's future

STRATEGIC THEMES:

- **Energy Security** - Promoting America's energy security through reliable, clean, and affordable energy.
- **Nuclear Security** - Ensuring America's nuclear security.
- **Scientific Discovery and Innovation** - Strengthening U.S. scientific discovery, economic competitiveness, and improving quality of life through innovations in science and technology.
- **Environmental Responsibility** - Protecting the environment by providing a responsible resolution to the environmental legacy of nuclear weapons production.

RESOURCES OF INTEREST:

- American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009

WEBSITE: www.energy.gov



GOVERNMENT LEVEL: Federal

DESCRIPTION: This Department of Homeland Security's overriding and urgent mission is to lead the unified national effort to secure the country and preserve our freedoms. While the Department was created to secure our country against those who seek to disrupt the American way of life, our charter also includes preparation for and response to all hazards and disasters.

MISSION: To secure the nation from the many threats we face.

GOALS:

- **Protect Our Nation from Dangerous People** – Objectives: Achieve effective control of our borders; protect our interior and enforce immigration laws; strengthen screening of travelers and workers; and improve Security through Enhanced Immigration Services
- **Protect Our Nation from Dangerous Goods** Objectives: Prevent and detect radiological/nuclear attacks; prevent, detect, and protect against biological attacks; prevent and detect chemical and explosive attacks; and prevent the introduction of illicit contraband while facilitating trade
- **Protect Critical Infrastructure** – Objectives: Protect and strengthen the resilience of the nation's critical infrastructure and key resources; ensure continuity of government communications and operations; improve cyber security; and protect transportation sectors
- **Strengthen Our Nation's Preparedness and Emergency Response Capabilities** – Objectives: Ensure preparedness; and strengthen response and recovery
- **Strengthen and Unify DHS Operations and Management** – Objectives: Improve department governance and performance; advance intelligence and information sharing; and integrate DHS policy, planning, and operations coordination

RESOURCES OF INTEREST:

- Homeland Security Act of 2002

WEBSITE: www.dhs.gov



GOVERNMENT LEVEL: Federal

DESCRIPTION: The United States Coast Guard (USCG) is a military, multimission, maritime service within the Department of Homeland Security and one of the nation's five armed services. Its core roles are to protect the public, the environment, and U.S. economic and security

interests in any maritime region in which those interests may be at risk, including international waters and America's coasts, ports, and inland waterways. The USGC provides unique benefits to the nation because of its distinctive blend of military, humanitarian, and civilian law-enforcement capabilities. The USCG has a broad and important role in homeland security, law enforcement, search and rescue, marine environmental pollution response, and the maintenance of river, intracoastal, and offshore aids to navigation (ATON).

MISSION: Protect the public, the environment, and the U.S. economic and security interests in any maritime region in which those interests may be at risk, including international waters and America's coasts, ports, and inland waterways.

FUNDAMENTAL ROLES: To serve the public, the Coast Guard has the following five fundamental roles.

- **Maritime Safety** - Eliminate deaths, injuries, and property damage associated with maritime transportation, fishing, and recreational boating.
- **Maritime Security** - Protect America's maritime borders from all intrusions by: halting the flow of illegal drugs, aliens, and contraband into the U.S. through maritime routes; preventing illegal fishing; and suppressing violations of federal law in the maritime arena.
- **Maritime Mobility** - Facilitate maritime commerce and eliminate interruptions and impediments to the efficient and economical movement of goods and people, while maximizing recreational access to and enjoyment of the water.
- **National Defense** - Defend the nation as one of the five U.S. armed services. Enhance regional stability in support of the National Security Strategy, utilizing the Coast Guard's unique and relevant maritime capabilities.
- **Protection of Natural Resources** - Eliminate environmental damage and the degradation of natural resources associated with maritime transportation, fishing, and recreational boating

RESOURCES OF INTEREST:

- Research and Development Center

WEBSITE: www.uscg.mil



FEMA

GOVERNMENT LEVEL: Federal

DESCRIPTION: The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) is the federal agency responsible for leading the Nation's efforts to prepare for, protect and mitigate against, respond to, and recover from the impacts of natural disasters and man-made incidents or terrorist events. FEMA's formation in 1979 by a Presidential executive order directed the combination of federal programs that addressed emergency management for all types of incidents into a single agency.

FEMA's vision is to transform the agency into the Nation's Preeminent Emergency Management and Preparedness Agency—the New FEMA. FEMA will rely on the following key building blocks to achieve this vision: Strengthening core competencies; building strong regions; enhancing current partnerships and creating new ones; investing in its people; developing a business approach to achieving desired results; professionalizing the national emergency management system.

MISSION: Reduce the loss of life and property and protect the Nation from all hazards, including natural disasters, acts of terrorism, and other man-made disasters, by leading and supporting the Nation in a risk-based, comprehensive emergency management system of preparedness, protection, response, recovery, and mitigation.

GOALS:

- Lead an integrated approach that strengthens the Nation's ability to address disasters, emergencies, and terrorist events.
- Deliver easily accessible and coordinated assistance for all programs.
- Provide reliable information at the right time for all users.
- FEMA invests in people and people invest in FEMA to ensure mission success.
- Build public trust and confidence through performance and stewardship.

RESOURCES OF INTEREST:

- National Flood Insurance Program
- National Advisory Council
- Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act
- Flood Map Modernization
- U.S. Fire Administration
- Hazard Mitigation
- FEMA Region VI Offices- Denton
- Planning documents and data sets

WEBSITE: www.fema.gov

**GOVERNMENT LEVEL:** Federal

DESCRIPTION: The Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) was created by the Department of Housing and Urban Development Act of 1965 as a Cabinet-level agency. To fulfill the mission identified below, HUD will embrace high standards of ethics, management, and accountability, and forge new partnerships - particularly with faith-based and community organizations - that leverage resources and improve HUD's ability to be effective on the community level.

MISSION: To increase homeownership, support community development, and increase access to affordable housing free from discrimination

GOALS:

- **Increase Homeownership Opportunity** - Fight predatory lending; simplify the homebuying process; help HUD-assisted renters become homeowners; and insure loans for first-time and low-income homebuyers to increase access to the benefits of homeownership.
- **Promote Decent Affordable Housing** - Expand access to affordable rental housing; improve the physical quality and management of public housing; and provide housing opportunities for populations with special needs.
- **Strengthen Communities** – Eliminate chronic homelessness; mitigate housing conditions that threaten health; and provide grants to communities to help meet locally defined needs for housing, economic development, and public infrastructure.
- **Ensure Equal Opportunity In Housing** - Resolve discrimination complaints swiftly; promote awareness of fair housing laws; improve housing accessibility for persons with disabilities, and ensure that HUD-assisted programs provide equal opportunity.
- **Promote Participation of Faith-Based and Community Organization** - Remove the regulatory barriers that discourage these organizations from partnering with HUD.

RESOURCES OF INTEREST:

- U.S. Housing Act of 1937
- Department of Housing and Urban Development Act of 1965
- Federal Housing Administration
- American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009

WEBSITE: www.hud.gov

**GOVERNMENT LEVEL:** Federal

DESCRIPTION: The Department of the Interior (DOI) is the nation's principal conservation agency. Since Congress created DOI in 1849, it has become the steward for: land, water, recreation and cultural opportunities, Native American lands and needs, U.S. energy needs, scientific research, and fish and wildlife.

MISSION: Protect and manage the Nation's natural resources and cultural heritage; provide scientific and other information about those resources; and honor its trust responsibilities or special commitments to American Indians, Alaska Natives, and affiliated Island Communities.

GOALS:

- **Resource Protection** - Protect the Nation's natural, cultural and heritage resources.
- **Resource Use** - Manage natural resources to promote responsible use and sustain a dynamic economy.
- **Recreation** - Improve recreation opportunities for America.
- **Serving Communities** - Safeguard lives, property and assets, advance scientific knowledge, and improve the quality of life for communities we serve.

RESOURCES OF INTEREST:

- DOI Bureaus: Bureau of Indian Affairs, Bureau of Land Management, Bureau of Reclamation, Minerals Management Service, National Park Service, Office of Surface Mining, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, U.S. Geological Survey

WEBSITE: www.doi.gov

**GOVERNMENT LEVEL:** Federal

DESCRIPTION: The Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) is the oldest bureau of the U.S. Department of the Interior. Established in 1824, BIA currently provides services (directly or through contracts, grants, or compacts) to approximately 1.7 million American Indians and Alaska Natives. There are 562 federally recognized American Indian tribes and Alaska Natives in the U.S. BIA is responsible for the administration and management of 66 million acres of land held in trust by the U.S. for American Indian, Indian tribes, and Alaska Natives. Bureau of Indian Education (BIE) provides education services to approximately 44,000 Indian students.

MISSION: Enhance the quality of life, to promote economic opportunity, and to carry out the responsibility to protect and improve the trust assets of American Indians, Indian tribes, and Alaska Natives.

GOALS:

- **Tribal government GPRA program activity** - To provide Tribes with the resources they need to foster strong and stable Tribal governments and exercise their authority as sovereign nations.
- **Public safety and justice GPRA program activity**
- **Partner** with tribes to help them achieve their goals for self-determination
- **Maintain** its responsibilities under the Federal-Tribal trust and government-to-government relationships

RESOURCES OF INTEREST:

- The Tribal Environmental and Energy Information Clearinghouse (TEEIC)

WEBSITE: www.doi.gov/bia

**GOVERNMENT LEVEL:** Federal

DESCRIPTION: The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) was established in 1946 through the consolidation of the General Land Office (created in 1812) and the U.S. Grazing Service (formed in 1934). The functions of the BLM are also addressed in the *Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976* (FLPMA).

The BLM is responsible for carrying out a variety of programs for the management and conservation, of resources on 256 million surface acres, as well as 700 million acres of subsurface mineral estate. These public lands make up about 13 percent of the total land surface of the U.S. and more than 40 percent of all land managed by the Federal government. In addition to its minerals management responsibilities noted above, the BLM administers mineral leasing and oversees mineral operations on Federal mineral estate underlying other state, private, or Federally-administered land, and manages most mineral operations on Indian lands. The BLM has a role in number of land-related things such as: energy, fire, grazing, planning, recreation, etc.

MISSION: To sustain the health, diversity, and productivity of the public lands for the use and enjoyment of present and future generations.

GOALS:

- **Service Current and Future Publics** - Provide opportunities for environmentally responsible recreation; provide opportunities for environmentally responsible commercial activities; preserve natural and cultural heritage resources; reduce threats to public health, safety, and property; provide land, resource, and title information; provide economic and technical assistance
- **Restore and Maintain the Health of the Land** - Understand and Plan for the condition and use of the public lands; restore at-risk resources and maintain functioning systems
- **Improve Organizational Effectiveness**

RESOURCES OF INTEREST:

- Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976
- Geographic Coordinate Data Base

WEBSITE: www.blm.gov

Bureau of Reclamation

**GOVERNMENT LEVEL:** Federal

DESCRIPTION: The Bureau of Reclamation was established in 1902, and is the largest wholesaler of water in the country. Reclamation is also the second largest producer of hydroelectric power in the western United States. Today, Reclamation is a contemporary water management agency with a Strategic Plan outlining numerous programs, initiatives, and activities that will help the Western States, Native American Tribes, and others meet new water needs and balance the multitude of competing uses of water in the West. The mission is to assist in meeting the increasing water demands of the West while protecting the environment and the public's investment in these structures. Great emphasis is placed on fulfilling water delivery obligations, water conservation, water recycling and reuse, and developing partnerships with customers, states, and Native American Tribes, and in finding ways to bring together the variety of interests to address the competing needs for our limited water resources.

MISSION: The mission of the Bureau of Reclamation is to manage, develop, and protect water and related resources in an environmentally and economically sound manner in the interest of the American public.

GOALS:

- Directing leadership and technical expertise in water resources development and in the efficient use of water through initiatives including conservation, reuse, and research.

- Protecting the public and the environment through the adequate maintenance and appropriate operation of Reclamation's facilities.
- Managing Reclamation's facilities to fulfill water user contracts and protect and/or enhance conditions for fish, wildlife, land, and cultural resources.
- Working with Reclamation's customers and stakeholders to achieve mutual objectives.
- Assisting the Secretary in fulfilling Indian Trust responsibilities.
- Implementing innovative, sound business practices with timely and cost-effective, measurable results.
- Promoting a culturally diverse workforce which encourages excellence, creativity, and achievement.

RESOURCES OF INTEREST:

- Reclamation Reform Act of 1982
- Power Program

WEBSITE: www.usbr.gov

U.S. National Park Service

Strategic Plan FY 2001 - 2005



GOVERNMENT LEVEL: Federal

DESCRIPTION: The National Park Service (NPS) was established in 1872 by an act of Congress. The NPS cares for national parks, a network of nearly 400 natural, cultural, and recreational sites across the nation. The treasures in this system – the first of its kind in the world – have been set aside by the American people to preserve, protect, and share the legacies of this land. Beyond national parks, the NPS helps communities across America preserve and enhance important local heritage and close-to-home recreational opportunities. Grants and assistance are offered to register, record, and save historic places; create community parks and local recreation facilities; conserve rivers and streams; and develop trails and greenways.

MISSION: Preserve unimpaired the natural and cultural resources and values of the national park system for the enjoyment, education, and inspiration of this and future generations, and to cooperate with partners to extend the benefits of natural and cultural resource conservation and outdoor recreation throughout this country and the world.

GOALS:

- Protect the environment and preserve our nation's natural and cultural resources.
- Provide recreation for America.
- Manage natural resources for a healthy environment and a strong economy.
- Provide science for a changing world.
- Meet our trust responsibilities to Indian tribes and our commitments to island communities.

RESOURCES OF INTEREST:

- National Register of Historic Places
- Expertise on historic resources
- Grants/assistance available
- Data sets and guidance

WEBSITE: www.nps.gov

Office of Surface Mining



GOVERNMENT LEVEL: Federal

DESCRIPTION: The Office of Surface Mining (OSM) is a bureau within the U.S. Department of Interior. OSM was created in 1977 when Congress enacted the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act, and is charged with balancing the nation's need for continued domestic coal production with protection of the environment. OSM works with State and Indian Tribes to ensure that citizens and the environment are protected during coal mining and that the land is restored to beneficial use when mining is finished. OSM and its partners are also responsible for reclaiming and restoring lands and water degraded by mining operations before 1977. OSM focuses on overseeing the State programs and developing new

tools to help the States and Tribes get the job done. OSM works with colleges and universities and other State and Federal agencies to further the science of reclaiming mined lands and protecting the environment, including initiatives to promote planting more trees and establishing much-needed wildlife habitat.

MISSION: Carry out the requirements of the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act (SMCRA) in cooperation with States and Tribes. The primary objectives are to ensure that coal mines are operated in a manner that protects citizens and the environment during mining and assures that the land is restored to beneficial use following mining, and to mitigate the effects of past mining by aggressively pursuing reclamation of abandoned coal mines.

GOALS:

- **Regulate Active Coal Mining** - Maintain compliance at high levels and ensure that all mines are properly operated and promptly reclaimed to the standards established under the Act; emphasize prevention and ensure that long-term environmental problems do not occur; and ensure that the premining productivity of the land is restored.
- **Reclaim Abandoned Mine Lands** - Pursue reclamation with a primary emphasis on correcting the most serious problems related to public health, safety, and the general welfare; and ensure maximum public benefit through the prompt and fair distribution of public funds.
- **Cooperate with State Regulatory Authorities** - Promote a shared commitment to the goals of the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act (SMCRA); develop comprehensive understandings about the fairness, effectiveness, and efficiency of SMCRA programs; provide constructive program reviews, oversight monitoring, and technical assistance that focus on results; and act independently to protect the public interest in situations of imminent harm or when a State does not implement an approved regulatory program.
- **Deal with Those Who Are Affected by Mining and Reclamation** - Ensure the protection of citizens from abusive mining practices; be responsive to their concerns; and allow them full access to information needed to evaluate the effect of mining on their health, safety, general welfare, and property.
- **Have Relations with the Coal Industry** - Have clear, fair, and consistently applied policies; and respect the importance of coal production as a source of our Nation's energy supply.
- **Communicate** - Maintain open, courteous, constructive, and timely dialogue; and use information to understand and improve programs and those of State and Tribal partners.
- **Demonstrate Leadership in Mining and Reclamation** - Promote the development of the highest quality technical information and research; and seek the transfer of technology to those who would benefit.
- **Meet Responsibilities** - Be a diverse, competent, innovative, and highly-trained work force; serve with integrity, and demonstrate technical, legal, administrative, and professional excellence at all times; strive to create a more responsive, efficient, and effective process for achieving SMCRA's objectives.

RESOURCES OF INTEREST:

- Surface Mining Control & Reclamation Act (SMCRA)

WEBSITE: www.osmre.gov



GOVERNMENT LEVEL: Federal

DESCRIPTION: The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) origins date back to 1871 when Congress established the U.S. Fish Commission. The USFWS is the premier government agency dedicated to the conservation, protection, and enhancement of fish, wildlife and plants, and their habitats. It is the only agency in the federal government whose primary responsibility is management of these important natural resources for the American public. The Service also helps ensure a healthy environment for people through its work benefiting wildlife, and by providing opportunities for Americans to enjoy the outdoors and our shared natural heritage.

The USFWS recognizes the critical role transportation plays in the economic and ecological well being of human communities. Transportation designs can influence the plant, fish, and wildlife habitat and the ecological health of the U.S. The USFWS encourages the design of transportation projects that provide the greatest value to the greatest number of people while avoiding or minimizing impacts to habitat and the disruption of the ecological processes that naturally sustain these areas.

The USFWS Project Planning Program develops and guides policy and products that facilitate the agency's role in transportation planning.

- Provides Service involvement in statewide/ metropolitan planning process or State Transportation Plans.
- Gathers and shares information on current events and issues related to environmental protection and transportation planning.
- Identifies and promotes innovative practices that protect natural resources.
- Identifies and promotes innovative practices that streamline the environmental review process.
- Promotes partnerships with other federal, state, and local governments and non-governmental organizations to address the efforts above.

MISSION: Work with others to conserve, protect, and enhance fish and wildlife and their habitats for the continuing benefit of the American people.

GOALS:

- **Sustainability of Fish & Wildlife Populations** - Conserve, protect, restore, and enhance fish, wildlife, and plant populations entrusted to our care.
- **Habitat Conservation: A Network of Lands and Waters** - Conserve an ecologically diverse network of lands and waters — of various ownerships — providing habitats for fish, wildlife, and plant resources.
- **Public Use & Enjoyment** - Provide opportunities to the public to enjoy, understand, and participate in the use and conservation of fish and wildlife resources.
- **Partnerships in Natural Resources** - Support and strengthen partnerships with tribal, state, and local governments and others in their efforts to conserve and enjoy fish, wildlife, plants and their habitats.

RESOURCES OF INTEREST:

- Clean Water Act Section 404
- National Wetlands Inventory
- Endangered Species Act
- Migratory Bird Treaty Act
- Marine Mammal Protection
- North American Wetlands Conservation Act
- Lacey Act
- Planning documents and data sets

WEBSITE: www.fws.gov



GOVERNMENT LEVEL: Federal

DESCRIPTION: The U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) was established in 1879 by an act of Congress. Today, the USGS stands as the sole science agency for the Department of the Interior. The USGS is the science provider of choice in accessing the information and understanding to help resolve complex natural resource problems across the Nation and around the world. The USGS provides a broad range of expertise in geography, geology, hydrology, and biology. This natural and biological science expertise supports informed decision making by land and resource managers at all levels of government, business, industry, and the public.

MISSION: Provide the Nation with reliable, unbiased information to describe and understand the earth; minimize loss of life and property from natural disasters; manage water, biological, energy, and mineral resources; and enhance and protect our quality of life.

STRATEGIC DIRECTIONS:

- **Understanding Ecosystems and Predicting Ecosystem Change** - Ensuring the Nation's economic and environmental future.
- **Climate Variability and Change** - Clarifying the record and assessing consequences
- **Energy and Minerals for America's Future** - Providing a scientific foundation for resource security, environmental health, economic vitality, and land management.
- **A National Hazards, Risk, and Resilience Assessment Program** - Ensuring the long-term health and wealth of the nation.
- **The Role of Environment and Wildlife in Human Health** - A system that identifies environmental risk to public health in America.

- **A Water Census of the United States** - Quantifying, forecasting, and securing freshwater for America's future

RESOURCES OF INTEREST:

- National Weather Data
- National Wetlands Inventory
- Planning documents and data sets
- Maps, aerial photographs, and satellite images
- Technical expertise and advisement

WEBSITE: www.usgs.gov



GOVERNMENT LEVEL: Federal

DESCRIPTION: The U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) was established by an act of Congress in 1966. DOT occupies a leadership role in global transportation, and is dedicated to improving transportation by making it safer, less congested, better connected, environmentally friendly, and fully operational in all conditions. Since its first official day of operation in 1967,

DOT's transportation programs have evolved to meet the economic demands of the Nation

MISSION: Serve the U.S. by ensuring a fast, safe, efficient, accessible and convenient transportation system that meets our vital national interests and enhances the quality of life of the American people, today and into the future.

GOALS:

- **Safety** – DOT's premier goal is to improve safety throughout the transportation network. Significant strides are being made to reduce transportation-related fatalities and injuries, despite increasing exposure to safety risk from demographics, globalization, and economic activity.
- **Reduced Congestion** - In May 2006, DOT announced an innovative *National Strategy to Reduce Congestion on America's Transportation Network*. This initiative signals a new era of Federal leadership in the transportation sector and, for the first time in DOT's history, makes congestion reduction a strategic goal. DOT's *National Strategy to Reduce Congestion* provides a framework for dramatically improving the performance of America's transportation system, and introduces new approaches to fund and manage the system in the years ahead.
- **Global Connectivity** - The globalization of the American economy has put pressure on our ports, borders, and airports. This goal addresses international transportation issues with two synergistic strategies. One is directed toward opening international transportation markets; and the other is directed toward improving essential, intermodal transportation linkages. Both are needed to achieve outcomes that will yield better global connectivity and a more competitive and efficient global marketplace.
- **Environmental Stewardship** - DOT will continue to work toward a balance between environmental challenges and the need for a safe and efficient transportation network. Current data reveal that transportation is exerting significant pressure on the environment worldwide. Commercial and personal transportation have grown substantially in recent years and are projected to increase in the future despite higher prices for petroleum and warnings about climate change. This goal describes how DOT will reduce pollution and other adverse effects from transportation to protect the environment.
- **Security Preparedness and Response** - It is essential for all transportation service providers to consider their future roles and responsibilities in emergencies that affect the viability of the transportation sector. DOT recognizes that the first element of facing a challenge is to prepare for it, and preparing involves many different activities: policymaking, reviewing and validating intelligence, planning, building capabilities, training, and exercising scenarios. This goal puts those elements in place to prepare DOT to deal with both expected and unexpected future emergencies.
- **Organizational Excellence** – DOT's strategic goals cannot be achieved without vision, leadership and a culture of teamwork, collaboration, and continuous improvement. DOT resolves to be leaders in pursuing best practices and achieving results that benefit taxpayers and the Nation. The central management strategy for achieving organizational improvement will be delivering the results described in this Strategic Plan and full implementation of the President's Management Agenda (PMA).

RESOURCES OF INTEREST:

- Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act
- Transportation Equity Act
- American Recovery and Reinvestment Act 2009
- Grants
- Federal Lands Highway

WEBSITE: www.dot.gov

Federal Aviation Administration

Flight Plan 2009 - 2013



GOVERNMENT LEVEL: Federal

DESCRIPTION: The Federal Aviation Act of 1958 created the agency under the name Federal Aviation Agency. The present name was adopted in 1967 when the agency became part of the Department of Transportation. The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) is responsible for the safety of civil aviation. The major roles include: regulating civil aviation to promote safety; encouraging and developing civil aeronautics, including new aviation technology; developing and operating a system of air traffic control and navigation for both civil and military aircraft; researching and developing the National Airspace System and civil aeronautics; developing and carrying out programs to control aircraft noise and other environmental effects of civil aviation; and regulating U.S. commercial space transportation

MISSION: Provide the safest, most efficient aerospace system in the world.

GOALS:

- **Increased Safety** – Goal: Achieve the lowest possible accident rate and constantly improve safety.
- **Greater Capacity** – Goal: Work with local governments and airspace users to provide increased capacity and better operational performance in the U.S. airspace system that reduces congestion and meets projected demand in an environmentally sound manner.
- **International Leadership** – Goal: Increase the safety and capacity of the global civil aerospace system in an environmentally sound manner.
- **Organizational Excellence** – Goal: Ensure the success of the FAA's mission through stronger leadership, a better-trained and safer workforce, enhanced cost-control measures, and improved decision-making based on reliable data.

RESOURCES OF INTEREST:

- Federal Aviation Act
- Aviation Climate Change Research Initiative

WEBSITE: www.faa.gov

Federal Highway Administration

Strategic Plan



GOVERNMENT LEVEL: Federal

DESCRIPTION: The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) is a cabinet-level organization of the Executive Branch and is a major agency of the U.S. Department of Transportation. FHWA is charged with the broad responsibility of ensuring that America's roads and highways continue to be the safest and most technologically up-to-date. Although State, local, and tribal governments own most of the Nation's highways, FHWA provides financial and technical support for constructing, improving, and preserving America's highway system. The annual budget of more than \$30 billion is funded by fuel and motor vehicle excise taxes. The budget is primarily divided between two programs: Federal-aid funding to State and local governments; and Federal Lands Highways funding for national parks, national forests, Indian lands, and other land under Federal stewardship.

MISSION: Improve mobility on our nation's highways through national leadership, innovation, and program delivery.

GOALS:

- **System Performance** – The Nation’s Highway system provides safe, reliable, effective and sustainable mobility for all users.
- **National Leadership** – FHWA leads in developing and advocating solutions to national transportation needs.
- **Program Delivery** – Federal Highway programs are effectively and consistently delivered through successful partnerships, value-added stewardship, and risk based oversight.
- **Corporate Capacity** – Organizational resources are optimally deployed to meet today’s and tomorrow’s missions.

RESOURCES OF INTEREST:

- Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century
- Federal Highway Act
- Transportation and Community and System Preservation
- Federal Lands Highway
- HEPGIS

WEBSITE: www.fhwa.dot.gov**Federal Railroad Administration****Five Year Strategic Plan 2002****GOVERNMENT LEVEL:** Federal

DESCRIPTION: The Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) was created by the Department of Transportation Act of 1966 (49 U.S.C. 103, Section 3(e)(1)). The purpose of FRA is to: promulgate and enforce rail safety regulations; administer railroad assistance programs; conduct research and development in support of improved railroad safety and national rail transportation policy; provide for the rehabilitation of Northeast Corridor rail passenger service; and consolidate government support of rail transportation activities. Today, the FRA is one of ten agencies within the U.S. Department of Transportation concerned with intermodal transportation. It operates through seven divisions under the offices of the Administrator and Deputy Administrator.

MISSION: Promotes safe and environmentally sound rail transportation.**GOALS:**

- Build leadership commitment.
- Develop a profile of current projects and workforce.
- Link the project base to strategic goals.
- Collect data on future resource requirements.
- Identify workforce planning objectives and analyze the issues potentially impacting the ability to meet them; develop strategies and plans.
- Evaluate workforce planning process and results.
- Revise process/results based on findings.

RESOURCES OF INTEREST:

- Railway Labor Act

WEBSITE: www.fra.dot.gov/us**Federal Transit Administration****Highlights of the FTA’s Impact on Public Transportation****GOVERNMENT LEVEL:** Federal

DESCRIPTION: The Federal Transit Administration (FTA) is one of 11 operating administrations within the U.S. Department of Transportation and has 10 regional offices across the nation. As authorized by the Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users of 2005 (SAFETEA-LU), the FTA provides stewardship of combined formula and discretionary programs totaling more than \$10B to support a variety of locally planned, constructed, and operated public transportation systems throughout the U.S. Transportation systems typically include buses, subways, light rail, commuter rail, streetcars, monorail, passenger ferry boats, inclined railways, or people movers.

MISSION: FTA's capital investments and support for transit promote transportation choices that increase mobility and enhance the quality of life for millions of Americans.

GOALS:

- **Capacity and Coverage** - FTA's strategic investments in a variety of public transportation systems and facilities result in greater capacity in more places to meet demand.
- **Ensuring Affordable Mobility and Accessibility For All** - Working together, FTA and its state and local partners have made public transportation available to far more Americans than ever—from the nation's large population centers to rural communities and small cities.
- **Spurring Economic Growth and Opportunity** -FTA invests in public transportation projects that bring long-term economic benefits and promote efficient land use.
- **Making Environmental Stewardship a Priority** - FTA is a federal leader in promoting environmentally responsible policies and programs that address climate change and air quality challenges.

RESOURCES OF INTEREST:

- Efficient Transportation Equity Act
- National Transportation Policy

WEBSITE: www.fta.dot.gov

TRIBAL GROUPS

These federally recognized tribes have areas of interest located within the 12-county Metropolitan Planning Area boundary (Collin, Dallas, Denton, Ellis, Hood, Hunt, Johnson, Kaufman, Parker, Rockwall, Tarrant, and Wise Counties).

The Department of the Interior, Bureau of Indian Affairs, defines a federally recognized tribe as an American Indian or Alaska Native tribal entity that is recognized as having a government-to-government relationship with the United States, with the responsibilities, powers, limitations, and obligations attached to that designation, and is eligible for funding and services from the Bureau of Indian Affairs.

At present, there are 564 federally recognized American Indian and Alaska Native tribes and villages.

Tribes with an interest in Texas Department of Transportation Dallas District (Collin, Dallas, Denton, Ellis, Kaufman, Navarro and Rockwall counties)

- Comanche Nation of Oklahoma
- Kiowa Indian Tribe of Oklahoma
- Mescalero Apache Tribe
- The Delaware Nation
- Tonkawa Tribe of Indians of Oklahoma
- Wichita and Affiliated Tribes

Tribes with an interest in Texas Department of Transportation Fort Worth District (Erath, Hood, Jack, Johnson, Palo Pinto, Parker, Somervell, Tarrant and Wise counties)

- Apache Tribe of Oklahoma
- Caddo Nation of Oklahoma
- Comanche Nation of Oklahoma
- Kialegee Tribal Town
- Kickapoo of Oklahoma
- Kickapoo Traditional Tribe of Texas
- Kiowa Indian Tribe of Oklahoma
- Mescalero Apache Tribe
- Poarch Band of Creek Indians
- Pokagon Band of Potawatomi Indians of Michigan
- The Delaware Nation
- Tonkawa Tribe of Indians of Oklahoma
- Wichita and Affiliated Tribes

Tribes with an interest in Texas Department of Transportation Paris District (Delta, Fannin, Franklin, Grayson, Hopkins, Hunt, Lamar, Rains and Red River counties)

- Absentee-Shawnee Tribe of Oklahoma
- Caddo Nation of Oklahoma
- Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma
- Comanche Nation of Oklahoma
- Kialegee Tribal Town
- Kiowa Indian Tribe of Oklahoma
- Muscogee (Creek) Nation of Oklahoma
- Quapaw Tribe of Indians
- The Delaware Nation
- Thlopthlocco Tribal Town
- Tonkawa Tribe of Indians of Oklahoma
- Wichita and Affiliated Tribes

STATE AGENCIES

North Texas Tollway Authority



GOVERNMENT LEVEL: State

DESCRIPTION: The North Texas Tollway Authority (NTTA), a political subdivision of the State of Texas under Chapter 366 of the Transportation Code, is empowered to acquire, construct, maintain, repair, and operate turnpike projects; to raise capital for construction projects through the issuance of Turnpike Revenue Bonds; and to collect tolls to operate, maintain, and pay debt service on those projects.

MISSION: Enhance mobility through responsible and innovative tolling solutions.

GOALS:

- **Leadership:** To continue to be a leader in regional mobility and the toll industry.
- **Relationships with stakeholders:** Gain recognition and support as a regional asset that provides the public, Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT), and elected and appointed leaders with tolling solutions that reduce demand on TxDOT resources and increase the efficient use of government resources.
- **Entrepreneurship:** Create a new business model that delivers responsive, cost effective, on-time, on-budget, locally accountable tolling solutions.
- **Stewardship of Resources:** NTTA will achieve the highest and best use of human, financial and material resources in its core business operations.

RESOURCES OF INTEREST:

- Texas Transportation Code – Chapter 366

WEBSITE: www.ntta.org

Texas Department of Transportation



GOVERNMENT LEVEL: State

DESCRIPTION: The Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT), in cooperation with local and regional officials, is responsible for planning, designing, building, operating, and maintaining the state's transportation system.

MISSION: Work cooperatively to provide safe, effective, and efficient movement of people and goods.

GOALS:

- **Reduce Congestion** - Use all financial options to build transportation projects.
- **Enhance Safety** - Empower local leaders to solve local transportation problems.
- **Expand Economic Opportunity** - Increase competition to drive down costs.
- **Improve air quality**
- **Preserve the Value of Transportation Assets** - Demand consumer-driven decisions.

RESOURCES OF INTEREST:

- Toll Violation Recovery Program
- Several Maps available – County Grid Map, Right of Way Maps, Statewide Planning Map, Wildflower Map – Natural Region of Texas

WEBSITE: www.txdot.gov



GOVERNMENT LEVEL: State

DESCRIPTION: The Texas Commission on Environmental Quality is the environmental agency for the State of Texas.

MISSION: The Texas Commission on Environmental Quality strives to protect our state's human and natural resources consistent with sustainable economic development. Our goal is clean air, clean water, and the safe management of waste.

GOALS:

- **Assessment, Planning, and Permitting** - To protect public health and the environment by accurately assessing environmental conditions, by preventing or minimizing the level of contaminants released to the environment through regulation and permitting of facilities, individuals, or activities with potential to contribute to pollution levels.
- **Drinking Water and Water Utilities** - To protect public health and the environment by assuring the delivery of safe drinking water to the citizens of Texas consistent with requirements in the Safe Drinking Water Act; by providing regulatory oversight of water and sewer utilities; and by promoting regional water strategies.
- **Enforcement and Compliance Assistance** - To protect public health and the environment by administering enforcement and environmental assistance programs that promote compliance with environmental laws and regulations, voluntary efforts to prevent pollution, and offer incentives for demonstrated environmental performance while providing strict, sure, and just enforcement when environmental laws are violated.
- **Pollution Cleanup** - To protect public health and the environment by identifying, assessing, and prioritizing contaminated sites, and by assuring timely and cost-effective cleanup based on good science and current risk factors.
- **Texas River Compacts** - To ensure the delivery of Texas' equitable share of water.

RESOURCES OF INTEREST:

- Clean Air Act – State Implementation Plan and Conformity
- National Flood Insurance Program
- Clean Water Act Section 401
- Expertise and advisement.

WEBSITE: www.tceq.state.tx.us

Texas Forest Service



GOVERNMENT LEVEL: State

DESCRIPTION: The Texas Forest Service was created in 1915 by the 34th Legislature as an integral part of the Texas A&M University System. It is mandated by law to "assume direction of all forest interests and all matters pertaining to forestry within the jurisdiction of the state."

MISSION: To provide statewide leadership to assure the state's trees, forests, and related natural resources are protected and sustained for the benefit of all.

GOALS: None specified

RESOURCES OF INTEREST:

- Guidance, data, research, and advisement
- Planning documents

WEBSITE: <http://txforestsERVICE.tamu.edu>



GOVERNMENT LEVEL: State

DESCRIPTION: The General Land Office (GLO) was originally responsible for managing the public domain by collecting and keeping records, providing maps and surveys, and issuing land titles. The GLO's duties have evolved, but its core mission is still the management of state lands and mineral-right properties totaling 20.3 million acres. Included in that portfolio are the beaches, bays, estuaries, and other "submerged" lands out to 10.3 miles in the Gulf of Mexico, institutional acreage, grazing lands in West Texas, timberlands in East Texas, and commercial sites in urban areas throughout the state. In managing that property, the land office now leases drilling rights for oil and gas production on state lands, producing revenue and royalties which are funneled into the state's Permanent School Fund.

MISSION: To serve the schoolchildren, veterans, and all people of Texas by preserving their history, protecting their environment, expanding economic opportunity, and maximizing state revenue through innovative administration and prudent stewardship of state lands and resources.

GOALS:

- Enhance the value of state assets, and the revenues they generate through prudent and innovative management, acquisition, and investments of agency and state-owned land, minerals, and other assets.
- Preserve, protect, improve, and restore the Texas environment, beaches and coastal areas, and promote the wise use of resources while creating new markets and jobs, while creating resilient coastal communities through environmental and community initiatives that partner the public and private sector.
- Provide Texas veterans with self-supporting benefit programs offering below-market interest rate loans for land, homes, and home improvements; high quality long-term nursing home care; and an honorable final resting place.
- Establish and carry out policies governing purchasing and service contracts that foster meaningful and substantive inclusion of Historically Underutilized Businesses (HUBs).

RESOURCES OF INTEREST:

- Texas Wetlands Information Network
- Texas Natural Resources Inventory
- Aerial photography
- Planning documents

WEBSITE: www.glo.state.tx.us



GOVERNMENT LEVEL: State

DESCRIPTION: The THC is the state agency for historic preservation. Projects that include the disturbance of existing features should include a search of the THC database to screen for potential historic significance. Projects that include ground disturbance should include an assessment of the potential for disturbance of archeological or other culturally significant sites.

The main functions of the THC are as follows:

- Archeological Heritage Protection - Protect Texas' diverse archeological heritage through state and federally mandated cultural resource reviews, historic property management programs, volunteer efforts, and public outreach.
- Architectural Assistance - Protect Texas' diverse architectural heritage by providing technical assistance for the responsible rehabilitation and preservation of properties.
- Evaluate and Interpret Resources - Provide information, programs, and services to private, public, and nonprofit constituents for the identification, evaluation, preservation, and interpretation of historic resources.
- Development Assistance - Provide technical assistance to public, private, and nonprofit entities to encourage the process of preservation and revitalization of Main Street cities, promotion and development of heritage tourism, and advancement of local policy and planning for preservation through the Visionaries in Preservation and Certified Local Government programs.
- Texas Preservation Trust Fund - Provide financial assistance through this fund for critical preservation projects.

- Courthouse Preservation - Provide financial and technical assistance through the Texas Historic Courthouse Preservation Program for critical county courthouse preservation projects.
- Indirect Administration - Serve the entire agency and preservation public through effective leadership, planning and management; marketing and outreach; and staff services.

MISSION: To protect and preserve the state's historic and prehistoric resources for the use, education, enjoyment and economic benefit of present and future generations.

GOALS:

- **Identify, Evaluate, and Protect Historic Resources** - We will work with our partners to identify, evaluate and protect the diverse historic resources of Texas (Government Code, Chapter 442).
- **Foster Vital Communities** - We will foster the economic vitality and quality of life of existing historic communities in Texas using historic preservation (Government Code, Chapter 442).
- **Provide Preservation Incentives** - We will grow and distribute appropriate financial resources to encourage the preservation and protection of historic resources in the state (Government Code, Chapter 442).
- **Engage and Motivate Current and New Constituents** - We will enable our existing constituents to be knowledgeable and motivated in preservation methods through pertinent education, training and dynamic information exchange using advanced technologies and engage new constituents to be the future leaders in historic preservation (Government Code, Chapter 442).
- **Cultivate an Internal Culture of Creativity (Indirect Administration)** - We will cultivate a culture of creativity at the agency that results in a motivated and diverse staff working to maximize the quality and effectiveness of services to the public.

RESOURCES OF INTEREST:

- State Archeological Landmark (SAL) designation program
- Texas Historic Sites Atlas

WEBSITE: www.thc.state.tx.us



GOVERNMENT LEVEL: State

DESCRIPTION: TPWD is a state agency with a 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. TPWD can offer services to local municipalities such as habitat assessments, habitat restoration assistance, erosion control techniques, and ecologically sensitive landscaping. TPWD's primary functions are management and conservation of the state's natural and cultural resources, provision of outdoor recreational opportunities, conservation education and outreach, and cultural/historical interpretation.

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.

GOALS:

- **Conserve Fish, Wildlife, and Natural Resources** - Conserve fish, wildlife and other natural resources and enhance the quality of hunting and fishing and other recreational opportunities by using sound management practices and the best science available.
- **Access to State and Local Parks** - Ensure access to state parks, state historic sites and local parks by conserving and managing natural and cultural resources of state park properties and facilities, by improving the quality and safety of the visitor experience, and by supporting local parks and recreational needs.
- **Increase Awareness and Compliance** - Inform and educate the public about the state's natural and cultural resources and recreational opportunities, and ensure compliance with state statutes, rules and licensing requirements.
- **Manage Capital Programs** - Manage capital programs for TPWD lands and facilities efficiently and effectively, and in support of the conservation of natural and cultural resources of the state.
- **Indirect Administration**

RESOURCES OF INTEREST

- State of Texas Threatened and Endangered Species Regulation
- Planning documents and other data and expertise



GOVERNMENT LEVEL: State

DESCRIPTION: The Texas Railroad Commission (TRC) was established in 1891 under a constitutional and legislative mandate to prevent discrimination in railroad charges and establish reasonable tariffs. It is the oldest regulatory agency in the state and one of the oldest of its kind in the nation. TRC's main functions are to protect the environment, protect public safety, protect the correlative rights of mineral interest owners, prevent waste of natural resources, and assure fair and equitable utility rates in those industries over which it has been granted authority.

MISSION: Serve Texas by our stewardship of natural resources and the environment, our concern for personal and community safety, and our support of enhanced development and economic vitality for the benefit of Texans.

GOALS:

- **Energy Resources** - Support the development, management, and use of Texas' lignite, oil, and gas energy resources to protect correlative rights, provide equal and fair energy access to all entities, ensure fair gas utility rates, and promote research and education on use of alternative fuels.
- **Safety Programs** - Advance safety in the delivery and use of Texas petroleum products and in the operation of the Texas pipeline system through training, monitoring, and enforcement.
- **Environmental Protection** - Assure that Texas fossil fuel energy production, storage, and delivery is conducted to minimize harmful effects on the state's environment and to preserve natural resources
- **Public Access to Information** - Strive to maximize electronic government and to minimize paper transactions by developing technological enhancements that promote efficient regulatory programs and preserve and increase access to public information.

RESOURCES OF INTEREST:

- Public GIS Map Viewer
- Clean Water Act Section 404 projects associated with oil and gas

WEBSITE: www.rrc.state.tx.us



GOVERNMENT LEVEL: State

DESCRIPTION: The Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board (TSSWCB) was created in 1939 by the Texas Legislature to organize the State into soil and water conservation districts (SWCDs) and to serve as a centralized agency for communicating with the Texas Legislature as well as other state and federal entities. TSSWCB is the state agency that administers Texas' soil and water conservation law and coordinates conservation and nonpoint source pollution abatement programs throughout the State. Headquartered in Temple, Texas, the TSSWCB offers technical assistance to the state's 217 soil and water conservation districts (SWCDs). A seven-member State Board governs the TSSWCB. The State Board is composed of two Governor appointees and five landowners elected from across Texas by the more than 1,000 local SWCD Directors. TSSWCB is the lead state agency for the planning, management, and abatement of agricultural and silvicultural (forestry) nonpoint source pollution, and administers the Texas Brush Control Program. TSSWCB maintains regional offices in strategic locations in the State to help carry out the agency's responsibilities.

MISSION: In conjunction with local soil and water conservation districts, to encourage the wise and productive use of natural resources, and to ensure the availability of those resources for future generations so that all Texans' present and future needs can be met in a manner that promotes a clean, healthy environment, and strong economic growth.

GOALS:

- **Soil and Water Conservation Assistance** – Objective: Support soil and water conservation districts- provide a level of financial assistance, technical guidance, and administrative support to all districts allowing

them to identify 100% of their soil and water resource needs; develop and manage conservation plans and programs to meet district needs.

- **Nonpoint Source Pollutant Abatement** – Objective: Reduce nonpoint source pollution - reduce the potential loadings from agricultural and silvicultural nonpoint sources by designing and implementing pollution prevention programs in each area with identified problems and concerns within four years of identification.
- **Water Supply Enhancement** – Objective: Conserve and enhance water supplies for the state of Texas; manage and direct water conservation and water yield programs in targeted areas.
- **Indirect Administration**

RESOURCES OF INTEREST:

- Clean Water Act, Section 319(h) Grant Program
- Chapter 201 and 203 of the Texas Agriculture Code
- Certified Water Quality Management Plan Program
- Total Maximum Daily Loads
- Watershed Protection Plans
- Texas Groundwater Protection Committee
- Drought Preparedness Council
- Water Conservation Advisory Council
- 12-digit HUC files for Texas

WEBSITE: www.tsswcb.state.tx.us



GOVERNMENT LEVEL: State

DESCRIPTION: The Texas Water Development Board's (TWDB) mission is a vital part of Texas' overall vision and its mission and goals which relate to maintaining the viability of the state's natural resources, health and economic development. To accomplish its goals of planning for the state's water resources and for providing affordable water and wastewater services, the TWDB provides water planning, data collection and dissemination, financial assistance, and technical assistance services to the citizens of Texas.

The main functions of the TWDB are to:

- Support the development of regional water plans and incorporate them into a statewide water plan for the orderly and responsible development, management, and conservation of the state's water resources.
- Provide loans to local governments for water supply projects; water quality projects, including wastewater treatment, municipal solid waste management, and nonpoint source pollution control; flood control projects; agricultural water conservation projects; rural and small community water and wastewater projects; and expenses for creating groundwater conservation districts.
- Provide grants and loans for the water and wastewater needs of the state's economically distressed areas.
- Provide agricultural water conservation and water-related research and planning grants.
- Conduct studies of the occurrence, quantity, quality, and availability of the state's surface water and groundwater, including development of groundwater availability models for the state's major and minor aquifers.
- Collect data and conduct studies concerning the freshwater needs of the state's bays and estuaries. In conjunction with other natural resources agencies, maintain an instream flow data collection and evaluation program. This includes conducting studies and analyses to determine appropriate methodologies for determining flow conditions in the state rivers and streams necessary to support a sound ecological environment.
- Facilitate the state's efforts to determine the feasibility and identify the requirements for implementing large-scale seawater desalination projects and support their implementation as appropriate. Support ongoing desalination research and the sharing of technological information to enhance brackish groundwater and seawater desalination activities throughout the state.
- Maintain a centralized data repository of information on the state's natural resources called the Texas Natural Resources Information System (TNRIS) and manages the Strategic Mapping (StratMap) Initiative, a Texas-based, public and private sector cost-sharing program to develop consistent, large-scale digital base maps describing surface water, elevation, transportation, aerial photography, and other information. In addition, TNRIS houses the Geospatial Emergency Management Support System and works in coordination with the U.S. EPA, FEMA, and the Governor's Division of Emergency Management.

- Coordinates the National Flood Insurance Program within the state of Texas acting as a liaison between the federal component of the program and the local communities.

MISSION: To provide leadership, planning, financial assistance, information, and education for the conservation and responsible development of water for Texas.

GOALS:

- **Water Resources Planning Plan** and guide the conservation, orderly and cost-effective development, and best management of the state's water resources for the benefit of all Texans.
- **Water Project Financing** Provide cost-effective financing for the development of water supply for water quality protection and for other water-related projects.
- **Indirect Administration**

RESOURCES OF INTEREST:

- Water-related maps
- Texas Natural Resources Information System distributes digital GIS data for Texas
- Texas Strategic Mapping Program
- Texas Water Information Network
- Ground Water Resources Division
- Planning documents and other water data

WEBSITE: www.twdb.state.tx.us



GOVERNMENT LEVEL: Regional

DESCRIPTION: Dallas Area Rapid Transit (DART) gets passengers around Dallas and 12 surrounding cities with modern public transit services and customer facilities tailored to make the trip fast, comfortable, and economical. The extensive network of DART Rail, Trinity Railway Express (TRE), and bus services moves more than 220,000 passengers per day across the 700-square-mile service area. DART promotes ridesharing, and also operates a system of high occupancy vehicle (HOV) lanes allowing carpoolers to whiz past freeway traffic jams. More than 145,000 commuters use the HOV lanes each weekday.

MISSION: Build, establish, and operate a safe, efficient, and effective transportation system that, within the DART Service Area, provides mobility, improves the quality of life, and stimulates economic development

GOALS:

- **Mobility** - Identify future market needs and new market opportunities; provide a system that attracts new customers, particularly single occupant vehicle users, while serving transit dependent customers; provide an integrated transportation system with the appropriate level of capacity, accessibility, and performance to meet customer needs; and consider opportunities to preserve right-of-way options for future transit use.
- **Fiscal Responsibility** - Provide a system that is efficient, cost-effective, and affordable.
- **Land Use and Economic Development** - Promote a region that is transit-oriented and places priority on transit; support transportation and land use planning that helps achieve a better quality of life within the North Texas region; provide a system that is compatible with the community it serves and minimizes environmental impacts, support member cities' economic development objectives by coordinating improved transit services; and encourage initiatives to invest at or near transit facilities.
- **Planning Process** - Establish a common vision for transportation that is regionally accepted, progressively implemented through a comprehensive system plan, and periodically revisited; develop and enhance coalitions with all organizations that have a vested interest in regional transportation issues; and develop a system plan that provides a sound basis.

RESOURCES OF INTEREST:

- Trinity Railway Express

WEBSITE: www.dart.org

North Central Texas Council of Governments



North Central Texas
Council of Governments

GOVERNMENT LEVEL: Regional

DESCRIPTION: The North Central Texas Council of Governments (NCTCOG) was established in is one of 24 regional councils serving contiguous areas across the State of Texas. NCTCOG's purpose is to strengthen both the individual and collective power of local governments and to help them recognize regional opportunities, eliminate unnecessary duplication, and make joint decisions.

NCTCOG serves a 16-county region of North Central Texas, which is centered around the two urban centers of Dallas and Fort Worth. NCTCOG has over 230 member governments including 16 counties (Collin, Dallas, Denton, Erath, Ellis, Hood, Hunt, Johnson, Kaufman, Navarro, Palo Pinto, Parker, Rockwall, Somervell, Tarrant, Wise), numerous cities, school districts, and special districts.

Each member government appoints a COG voting representative from its governing body. These voting representatives make up the General Assembly, which annually elects the Executive Board. The Executive Board, composed of 13 locally elected officials, is the policy-making body for all activities undertaken by the Council of Governments, including program activities and decisions, regional plans, and fiscal and budgetary policies. The

Board is supported by technical, study, and policy development committees and a professional staff headed by the Executive Director.

MISSION: To be an association of, by, and for local governments, to assist members in planning for common needs, cooperating for mutual benefit, and recognizing regional opportunities for improving the quality of life in North Central Texas.

VALUES:

- **Regionalism** – We believe regionalism is the cornerstone of our existence, and that our unique regional perspective provides us the vantage point to address issues that extend beyond traditional boundaries. It is our goal to be the catalyst for building consensus from diverse viewpoints and maximizing regional unity.
- **Governance** - We feel that policy decisions are best made by the level of government closest to the people. Therefore, we directly involve local governments in our decision-making process, which is made up of an executive board of local elected officials with support from numerous study, technical, and policy committees.
- **Service** - We seek to provide high quality service to our members. Our charge is to work with our local governments and other service providers to identify the most useful and beneficial plans, services, and products to satisfy their needs, and, then, to provide them in a courteous and timely manner.
- **Employees** - We value our employees and respect both individual excellence and dedicated teamwork. We support the principles of professional development, fair and consistent personnel practices, and competitive compensation.
- **Ethics** - We maintain the highest standards of professional integrity in providing competent, technically sound products and services. Honesty and impartiality are minimum standards for all our dealings with our members, the general public, other agencies, and each other.
- **Innovation** - We recognize that our members are best served by our ability to anticipate the consequences of dynamic change. We, therefore, will help local governments find innovative solutions to both existing and future challenges facing North Central Texas.

RESOURCES OF INTEREST: NCTCOG's *Strategic Plan for 2007-2011* identifies more than 30 regional issues that the agency is working to address on a regional basis through six departments: Community Services, Emergency Preparedness, Environment and Development, Research and Information Services, Transportation, and Workforce Development.

WEBSITE: www.nctcog.org

Tarrant Regional Water District



GOVERNMENT LEVEL: Regional

DESCRIPTION: For more than 80 years, the Tarrant Regional Water District (TRWD) has provided quality water to its customers, implemented vital flood control measures and created recreational opportunities for Tarrant County residents and their communities. Led by a publicly elected five-member board, TRWD owns and operates four major reservoirs in the area, including Lake Bridgeport, Eagle Mountain Lake, Cedar Creek, and Richland-Chambers Reservoirs. It also has constructed more than 150 miles of water pipelines, 27 miles of floodway levees, more than 40 miles of Trinity River Trails and a 260-acre wetland water reuse project aimed at increasing future water supplies for the area.

Another of TRWD's primary functions is to manage an extensive flood control system in Tarrant County. Featuring more than 27 miles of floodway levees designed by the U. S. Army Corp of Engineers, the system provides vital flood protection to area residents along the West and Clear Forks of the Trinity River. Although water supply and flood control remain the Water District's top priorities, lakes and floodway levees provide excellent recreational opportunities for residents and visitors to the area. The floodway's Trinity River Trails stretch more than 40 miles through Tarrant County and offer users a safe and scenic venue to enjoy activities such as walking, running, cycling and horseback riding.

MISSION: Not specified

GOALS: None specified, but are likely related to: water quality and water conservation.

RESOURCES OF INTEREST:

- Trinity Trails Map- East and West
-

- Adopt-a-River Program

WEBSITE: www.trwd.com

Trinity River Authority

Basin Master Plan 2007



GOVERNMENT LEVEL: Regional

DESCRIPTION: Created in 1955 as a political subdivision of the State of Texas, TRA provides valuable services to the public including wastewater treatment, water treatment, recreation, and reservoir facilities. TRA also serves as a conduit for tax-exempt financing for municipal water and wastewater facilities and industrial air and water pollution control facilities. TRA is a political subdivision charged by legislative mandate with three functions: maintaining a Master Plan for basin-wide development; serving as local sponsor for federal water projects; and providing services authorized by the Texas Legislature within TRA's defined territory.

MISSION: To plan for the conservation, management, and use of the soil and water resources of the Trinity River Basin in an efficient, economical, and environmentally sound manner so as to provide the maximum benefits for both present and future residents of the watershed.

GOALS:

- Promote human and economic well-being.
- Foster an understanding of the complex interrelationships among the people, resources, economy and environment of the basin.
- Improve the quality of the water within the Trinity River Basin in order to provide supplies of good quality water for all beneficial purposes.
- Reduce flooding and flood damage.
- Maintain existing run-of-the-river navigation to Liberty.
- Conserve soil resources through the programs of the Soil and Water Conservation Districts of the Trinity River Basin.
- Conserve water.
- Provide facilities, and access thereto, for public water-oriented recreation.
- Promote the productivity and diversity of aquatic life in the Trinity River Basin and Trinity Bay.
- Preserve selected natural areas.

RESOURCES OF INTEREST:

- Clean Rivers Program

WEBSITE: www.trinityra.org

Upper Trinity Regional Water District



GOVERNMENT LEVEL: Regional

DESCRIPTION: The Upper Trinity Regional Water District (UTRWD) is a conservation district, created by the State of Texas in 1989 to provide towns, cities, and utilities with a sound, long-term water supply. UTRWD is authorized to provide water, wastewater, solid waste, and storm water (watershed protection) services—all on a wholesale basis. The boundaries of UTRWD include all of Denton County, plus limited portions of Collin and Dallas Counties. The District is composed of 25 Member entities; 21 cities and towns, 1 utility authority, and 3 special districts. In addition, Denton County appoints 2 representatives to the Board. UTRWD serves its Members plus other utility and municipal customers. Current District services include treated water, non-potable water, wastewater treatment, and collection of household hazardous wastes.

MISSION: Plan, develop, and manage water and wastewater services in the interest of members, using consensus based strategies that are environmentally and economically sound.

GOALS: None specified, but are likely related to: treated water supply, reclaimed water, water conservation, watershed protection, and household hazardous waste.

RESOURCES OF INTEREST:

- Water Conservation Plan
- Drought Contingency Plan
- Lewisville Lake Watershed Protection Program

WEBSITE: www.utrwd.com

NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS

National Audubon Society

Strategic Plan



GOVERNMENT LEVEL: Non-governmental organization

DESCRIPTION: Audubon works toward a future in which public policy and individual choice are framed by environmental consciousness and sensitivity; a future where environmental conflict and divisiveness are supplanted by cooperation and respect; a future where debate and dialogue are shaped by environmental literacy, not by political rhetoric and dogma; a future where economic strategies are not simply sustainable but environmentally restorative as well; a future where nature is a common, not a special, interest; a future distinguished by the harmony of environmental, social, and economic concerns.

MISSION: Conserve and restore natural ecosystems, focusing on birds, other wildlife, and their habitats for the benefit of humanity and the earth's biological diversity.

STRATEGIC RECOMMENDATIONS:

- Focus efforts and resources on a limited set of priorities directly relating to birds, other wildlife, and their habitats to the continuance and prosperity of humankind.
- Use ongoing programs and coordinated, targeted conservation initiatives as the vehicles for focusing resources on Audubon Habitats and Audubon Issues that directly affect birds, other wildlife, and their habitats.
- Strengthen its distinctive grassroots network and enhance the partnership among members, Chapters, State Offices, Centers, staff, and the Board to promote effective conservation.
- Use education as a primary tool to develop an appreciation, awareness, and understanding of birds, wildlife, and their habitats and their essential connection to people and to move people to take conservation action.
- Expand upon the tradition of developing and maintaining successful local education and nature centers by creating a network of Audubon Centers that are community focal points for fostering a culture of conservation and an environmental ethic, focused on birds, other wildlife, and their habitats.
- Influence public and private policies and practices as a primary tool to conserve birds, wildlife, and their habitats.
- Develop a human resources strategy that encourages teamwork and collaboration, emphasizes Audubon values, and makes Audubon an even more rewarding and inspiring place to work and volunteer.
- Integrate all major activities and competencies (sanctuaries, science, communications, and membership) to support these recommendations and to help develop a culture of conservation and an environmental ethic.
- Improve its financial strength and practices by increasing income, investing only in strategically important activities, and appropriately leveraging the Audubon name.
- Conduct a five-year and annual planning process that sets priorities among elements of this Strategic Plan and will measure progress in meeting them.
- Audubon's Board of Directors is ultimately accountable for keeping Audubon focused on its strategy. Board members must be committed to and have a passion for Audubon's vision and values.

RESOURCES OF INTEREST:

- Texas Centers and Sanctuaries- Dogwood Canyon (Cedar Hill), Trinity River (Dallas)
- State Offices and Local Chapters- Audubon Texas, Dallas, Fort Worth, Prairie and Timbers (McKinney)

WEBSITE: www.audubon.org

Connemara Conservancy



connemara conservancy

GOVERNMENT LEVEL: Non-governmental organization

DESCRIPTION: Connemara Conservancy (CC) is a nonprofit land trust dedicated to preserving and protecting open space and the natural beauty in North Texas for both present and future generations. CC was founded in 1981 with an initial gift of 72 acres on the border of Allen and Plano called the Connemara Meadow Preserve, or simply, The Meadow. CC soon became one of Texas' first land trusts, a qualified organization to hold conservation

easements on private land in partnership with willing landowners. CC is now one of over 40 land trusts working to preserve natural lands throughout Texas. It is also the only regional land trust focusing solely on North Texas preservation.

MISSION: To work with landowners and communities who share the love of the land to protect and conserve the critical natural landscapes remaining throughout North Texas.

GOALS: None specified.

RESOURCES OF INTEREST:

- Conserved Properties- Over 2,000 acres of protected land in Collin, Dallas, Denton, Delta, Hood, Hunt, and Titus counties
- Tools for Conservation

WEBSITE: www.connemaraconservancy.org

The Conservation Fund

THE CONSERVATION FUND

America's Partner in Conservation

GOVERNMENT LEVEL: Non-governmental organization

DESCRIPTION: The Conservation Fund (TCF) is dedicated to advancing America's land and water legacy. TCF works with partners to conserve land, train leaders, and invest in conservation at home. TCF has saved land in all 50 states—over 6 million acres of wild havens, working lands, vibrant communities, and more.

TCF started in 1985 as a smart solution to an old problem: how to balance environmental and economic goals. For decades, environmentalists and business or development leaders had been at odds, with each group favoring its own use of the landscape. TCF is meant to bring economics and the environment together—providing a win for all of America.

That idea became TCF—a business of conservation, staffed by a skilled team with real estate, finance, legal, investment, and science expertise. The TCF partners with community, government and corporate organizations—fulfilling their conservation priorities. Everything they do has environmental and economic value, from protecting "working" forests and recreation destinations that provide local revenue to helping communities grow thoughtfully.

MISSION: Create and sustain an American land legacy for this and future generations.

SERVICES:

- **Strategic Conservation Guidance** - Consultation to solve complex conservation planning questions and to design effective conservation strategies that foster collaboration, and leverage available resources.
- **GIS Modeling and Mapping** - Compilation and synthesis of data to develop high quality cartographic products and design conservation databases and tools that support decision making and resource allocation.
- **Green Infrastructure Plans** - Development of comprehensive green infrastructure plans that identify community priorities and goals, inventory current community assets, map green space networks, develop strategies for implementation, and build capacity for communities to achieve their conservation visions.
- **Decision Support Tool Design and Implementation** - Integrate data, knowledge, and analyses (e.g. ecosystem services, optimization, suitability analysis) to support land use decision-making and prudent use of resources.
- **Mitigation Support** - Identify and evaluate mitigation opportunities for agencies and business organizations from Habitat Conservation Plans (HCPs), transportation improvement projects, military compatible use buffer programs, and pipeline/transmission/energy corridors.

RESOURCES OF INTEREST:

- The Federal Land Policy and Management Act (FLTPA)
- Awards and Grants Program

WEBSITE: www.conservationfund.org

The Nature Conservancy



GOVERNMENT LEVEL: Non-governmental organization

DESCRIPTION: The Nature Conservancy (TNC) was found in 1951 and is the leading conservation organization working around the world to protect ecologically important lands and waters for nature and people. The TNC works to protect land, rivers, and habitats, and to address threats to conservation involving climate change, fire, freshwater, forests, invasive species, and marine ecosystems. The TNC has been successful because it: uses a science-based approach; pursues non-confrontational, pragmatic solutions to conservation challenges; partners with indigenous communities, businesses, governments, multilateral institutions, and other non-profits.

MISSION: The mission of The Nature Conservancy is to preserve the plants, animals, and natural communities that represent the diversity of life on earth by protecting the land and waters they need to survive.

GOALS:

- **Climate Change** - Working for solutions that will reduce emissions to levels compatible with a healthy planet, preserve forests and help nature adapt to global warming.
- **Marine** - Linking land and sea conservation strategies for the survival of our oceans and coasts now and for future generations.
- **Lakes and Rivers** - Protecting the world's freshwater resources through policy and conservation for the health of communities and nature.
- **Protected Areas** - Creating a global network of well-managed parks and protected areas for the world's most important habitats.

RESOURCES OF INTEREST:

- Ecological Gap Assessments
- Ecologically Sustainable Water Management
- Ecological Limits of Hydrologic Alteration
- Indicators of Hydrologic Alteration

WEBSITE: www.nature.org

River Legacy Foundation



GOVERNMENT LEVEL: Non-governmental organization

DESCRIPTION: River Legacy Parks is the product of a public/private partnership between River Legacy Foundation (RLF) and the City of Arlington. RLF was founded in 1988, and the name River Legacy Parks was adopted to indicate the importance of conserving resources for future generations.

MISSION: To preserve and enhance land along the Trinity River and its tributaries as an extraordinary recreational, educational, and natural resource.

VALUES:

- **Preservation** Preserve land along the Trinity River and its tributaries- River Legacy Parks should be preserved, managed and restored in a manner that protects the Parks' reservoir of biological diversity. Natural areas must be carefully managed for long-term preservation to ensure the legacy of the land for future generations.
 - **Education** Environmental stewardship through education- Learning is a dynamic process in which individuals actively construct meaning in an attempt to make sense of the world around them. The educational experiences provided by the staff of River Legacy Foundation afford individuals the opportunity to deepen their understandings of the environment and their relationship to it. It is our hope, moreover, that these educational experiences will also serve to inspire a sense of wonder, foster a sensitivity to and an appreciation for the natural world; encourage the development of an environmentally literate and concerned citizenry; and promote environmental stewardship.
-

- **Recreation** Public access for recreational activities that maintain the environmental integrity of the Parks- Recreational activities within River Legacy Parks should support the Foundation's mission of preservation and not endanger the environmental integrity of the Parks or the safety of park users. Potential activities must be measured against a nature standard, as well as an urban standard.

RESOURCES OF INTEREST:

- River Legacy Parks
- Living Science Center
- Educational Programs
- Professional Development
- Series of Canoe Launches

WEBSITE: www.riverlegacy.org

Sierra Club- Lone Star Chapter

Conservation Priorities and Goals 2008-2009



GOVERNMENT LEVEL: Non-governmental organization

DESCRIPTION: The Lone Star Chapter of the Sierra Club is an outdoor recreation and conservation organization representing approximately 24,000 Texans in 13 regional groups located throughout the state. The State Conservation Office, located near the State Capitol in Austin, serves as a lobbying office and grassroots communications center supporting advocacy and education about the club's environmental priorities.

MISSION: Explore, enjoy, and protect our Texas natural heritage and to protect public health.

GOALS: The five conservation priorities for 2008 and 2009, along with the specific goals under each priority issue area, are as follows:

- **Clean Air & Water** - Reduction of toxic and other harmful emissions from industrial plants and electric power generating plants; prevention of air quality deterioration by new coal-fired power plants; strengthening of the state's water quality protections for surface water and groundwater, including adoption of tougher limitations on wastewater discharges; and enhanced enforcement of air and water pollution control laws.
- **Smart Energy Solutions** - More efficient use of energy by Texas consumers, agricultural producers, businesses, government entities, and institutions; increased reliance on renewable energy sources to meet power needs, including the responsible promotion of solar and wind energy; and opposition to the expansion of nuclear power, including addressing threats to the environment and public health from all aspects of the nuclear power cycle from uranium mining to radioactive waste management and disposal.
- **A Texas Land & Wildlife Legacy** - A dependable and ongoing source of funding for acquisition, maintenance, and management of Texas state & local parks; preservation and restoration of coastal wetlands, riparian corridors, wildlife habitat, and other critical ecosystems; protection of state and federal public lands, including Padre Island National Seashore, Big Bend National Park, Big Thicket National Preserve, and national forests; and sustainable populations of nongame, endangered, and threatened species.
- **Responsible Transportation Choices** Reform of the Texas Department of Transportation in the sunset review process to promote a comprehensive and environmentally sound state transportation policy; expansion of funding and other support for mass transit and other transportation alternatives to the heavy dependence on vehicles; and opposition to the development of the Trans Texas Corridor and support for alternative means of meeting transportation needs in a manner that better protects rural values, avoids habitat fragmentation, and promotes smart energy solutions.
- **Water for People and the Environment** - Preservation and provision of instream flows and freshwater inflows to bays and estuaries necessary to maintain healthy fish and wildlife populations; more efficient use of water by Texas consumers, agricultural producers, water suppliers, businesses, government entities, and institutions through conservation and drought management; and management of the state's groundwater resources on a sustainable basis.

RESOURCES OF INTEREST:

- "Greening the Texas State Budget"
- Alliance for a Clean Texas
- Sierra Club Regional Groups- Cross Timbers (Denton area), Dallas, Fort Worth

WEBSITE: <http://lonestar.sierraclub.org>

Texas Trees Foundation



GOVERNMENT LEVEL: Non-governmental organization

DESCRIPTION: The motto of the Texas Trees Foundation (TTF) is "The Greening of North Central Texas." TTF sustains a tree planting initiative for neighborhood parkways and medians, schools, and other public open spaces, a tree growing facility to assure a healthy supply of trees for the future, and education programs to teach the importance and benefits of maintaining a healthy urban forest.

TTF received its Certification of Incorporation from the State of Texas in April 1982. The organization was originally established as a resource to support the existing Dallas park system. In 1989, its mission was expanded to focus on the planting of trees in public open space. The tree planting activity of TTF has grown from providing several hundred trees per year to providing thousands of trees each year, all on public property. In 1988, TTF merged with Treescape/Dallas, Inc. In doing so, TTF gained an even greater ability to impact urban landscape projects.

MISSION: Preserve, beautify, and expand parks and other public natural green spaces in a six county area surrounding the City of Dallas, and to beautify our public streets, boulevards and rights-of-way by planting trees and encouraging others to do the same through educational programs that focus on the importance of building and protecting the "urban forest" today as a legacy for generations to come. TTR will share its vision on a national level, but will focus its efforts and develop loyalties among communities in the North Central Texas area.

GOALS: In partnership with government, individuals, businesses, and other community organizations, TTF initiates actions to achieve the following goals:

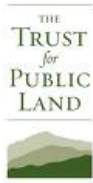
- Enhance the beauty and beneficial use of public lands and rights-of-way, primarily by planting trees to expand, maintain, and protect the permanence of the "urban forest."
- Teach people of all ages to be good stewards of one of our most important natural resources, our trees, in order to enhance the quality of life in our community, today and for generations to come.
- Revitalize our existing parks and create new, safe, well-maintained public parks and recreation areas.

RESOURCES OF INTEREST:

- Development of The Katy Trail
- Texas for Trees Program
- Highway/Neighborhood Beautification Projects

WEBSITE: www.texastreesfoundation.org

Trust for Public Land



GOVERNMENT LEVEL: Non-governmental organization

DESCRIPTION: The Trust for Public Land (TPL) is a national, nonprofit, land conservation organization that conserves land for people to enjoy as parks, community gardens, historic sites, rural lands, and other natural places, ensuring livable communities for generations to come. Since 1972, TPL has worked with willing landowners, community groups, and national, state, and local agencies to complete more than 3,900 land conservation projects in 47 states, protecting 2.8 million acres. Since 1994, TPL has helped states and communities craft and pass over 330 ballot measures, generating almost \$25 billion in new conservation-related funding.

MISSION: The Trust for Public Land conserves land for people to enjoy as parks, gardens, and other natural places, ensuring livable communities for generations to come.

GOALS:

- **Parks for People** - Ensure that everyone—in particular, every child—enjoys close-to-home access to a park, playground, or natural area.
 - **Working Lands** - Protect farms, ranches, and forests that support land-based livelihoods and rural ways of life.
-

- **Natural Lands** - Conserve places of natural beauty that preserve wilderness for our children's children to explore and that support other species with whom we share the planet.
- **Heritage Lands** - Protect places of historic and cultural importance that keep us in touch with the past and who we are as a people.
- **Land & Water** - Preserve lands that protect clean water and the natural beauty of our coasts and waterways.

RESOURCES OF INTEREST:

- Conservation Research
- North Texas Program
- Greenprinting for Growth in Texas
- Park Needs in Texas Report

WEBSITE: www.tpl.org

World Wildlife Fund



GOVERNMENT LEVEL: Non-governmental organization

DESCRIPTION: For more than 45 years, the World Wildlife Fund (WWF) has been protecting the future of nature. The world's leading conservation organization, WWF works in 100 countries and is supported by 1.2 million members in the U.S and close to 5 million globally. WWF's unique way of working combines global reach with a foundation in science, involves action at every level from local to global, and ensures the delivery of innovative solutions that meet the needs of both people and nature. Using the best available scientific knowledge and advancing that knowledge where possible, WWF works to preserve the diversity and abundance of life on Earth and the health of ecological systems by: protecting natural areas and wild populations of plants and animals, including endangered species; promoting sustainable approaches to the use of renewable natural resources; and promoting more efficient use of resources and energy and the maximum reduction of pollution.

WWF is committed to reversing the degradation of our planet's natural environment and to building a future in which human needs are met in harmony with nature. WWF recognizes the critical relevance of human numbers, poverty, and consumption patterns to meeting these goals.

MISSION: Conserve nature.

GOAL:

- By 2020 WWF will conserve 19 of the world's most important natural places and significantly change global markets to protect the future of nature.

RESOURCES OF INTEREST:

- Endangered Species Act
- World Conservation Strategy
- Natural Places Conservation Mission

WEBSITE: www.worldwildlife.org