



TEXAS WILDLIFE
ASSOCIATION FOUNDATION
2010 ANNUAL REPORT

Texas Wildlife Association Foundation, Inc.

Mission Statement

The Texas Wildlife Association Foundation, Inc. is organized exclusively for charitable, scientific, and educational purposes, including to foster an appreciation in the young and old, urban and rural, of the biological, aesthetic, recreational, and economic values of native wildlife in its habitat, especially on private property; to this end, the corporation shall promote educational, research, and informational activities in support of wildlife, habitat, and the management of the same.



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Executive Summary

Introduction:

In 1991, the Texas Wildlife Association Foundation, Inc. (TWAF) was formed as a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, dedicated to providing ethical environmental education about wildlife and habitat conservation to Texans of all ages.

TWAF promotes educational, research, and informational activities in support of wildlife, habitat, and the management of the same. The activities and programs include science curriculum for middle school students, leadership camps, youth hunting opportunities, teacher training and adult education seminars, all of which are conducted by the Texas Wildlife Association, the foundation's sister organization.

In addition, TWAF collaborates with many groups, non-profit organizations and government agencies (such as San Antonio Livestock Show & Rodeo, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, Houston Livestock Show & Rodeo and the Texas Wildlife Association) that are dedicated to wildlife education. Through these collaborations, TWAF can focus on the importance of private land in wildlife and habitat conservation. Almost 95% of Texas is privately-owned. To truly affect wildlife and habitat management, as well as to accurately educate our youth and adults about Texas conservation, we must emphasize wildlife and private land management.

TWAF is growing to meet the increasing demands for our programs. In 2010, the foundation's revenues continued to increase as donors demonstrated confidence in TWAF's ability to manage its financial resources wisely and deliver results. Of course, changing hearts, and changing minds isn't easy. It takes time and money. While we continue to make progress, we've only just begun. TWAF needs your continued support to ensure a legacy of conservation and a heritage of hunting through education.



photo by D.K. Langford

Conservation Legacy

Conservation Legacy programs empower and educate Texans with knowledge of fundamental, science-based ecological principles, foster a connection to the land, and facilitate natural resources literacy by creating tangible relationships with the outdoors. These programs serve as a catalyst for conservation partnerships and active habitat management. TWA's Conservation Legacy programs immerse both youth and adults in the marvels of natural Texas from the classroom to the back sendero, using land as the guide.



2010 TWAF Funded Ventured Success:

Conservation Legacy

Youth Education

L.A.N.D.S. (Learning Across New Dimensions in Science)

L.A.N.D.S. Outreach	Participants
Discovery Trunks & Learning Modules	6,301
Wildlife by Design	5,097
Critter Connections	70,240
Distance Learning	10,132
Teacher & Volunteer Training	703
	<hr/> 98,473

L.A.N.D.S. Intensive

Intensive Year-long Curriculum (8 Schools)..... 2,964

Texas Brigades	148
Brigade Camps	5
Direct Contacts	9,879
Indirect Contacts	94,632
Media Contacts	289,000

W.I.L.D. 14

Wildlife Intensive Leadership Development
(Advanced Leadership training for Brigade graduates)

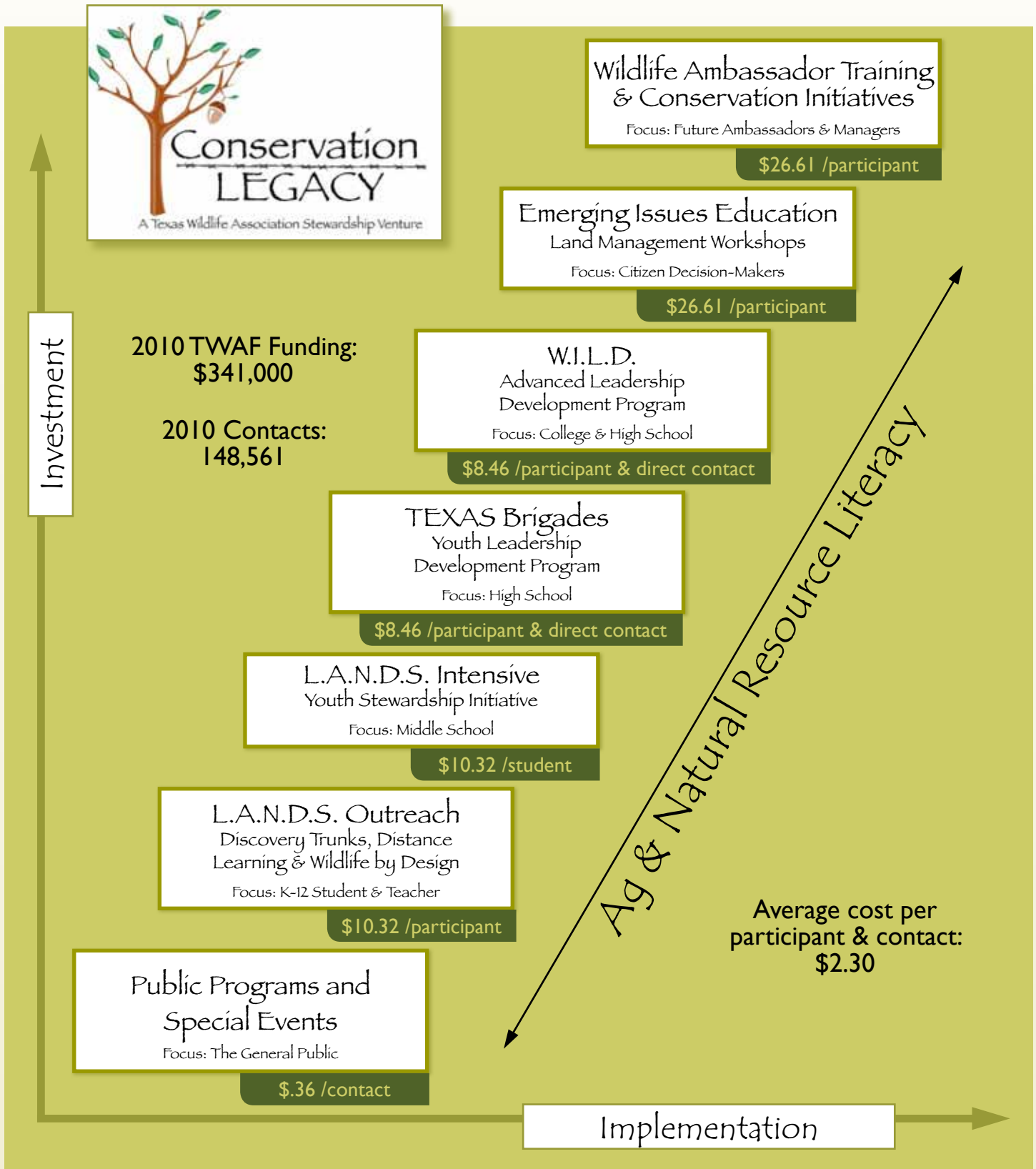
Adult Education

Emerging Issues Education/Landowner Workshops	2,326
Webisodes/Webinars	4,552
	<hr/> 6,878

Special Events/ Conferences..... 30,205

TWA's Conservation Legacy Programs:

Achieving New Heights in Ag & Natural Resource Literacy



L.A.N.D.S. Outreach

Learning Across New Dimensions in Science

Discovery Trunks Education Modules & Teacher Training

Discovery Trunks and Learning Modules are filled with TEKS aligned, hands-on materials focusing on a variety of natural resource topics relevant to Texas wildlife and conservation. Each Discovery Trunk contains materials specific to its topic, such as videos, books, puzzles, animal skulls, feathers, labs, and is mailed directly to classrooms to explore and utilize for two week periods. Conservation Legacy offers seven trunks to choose from: *Let's Talk Turkey*, *Animal Adaptations*, *Wetlands Discovery Trunk*, *The Power of Plants*, *More Than a Drop (water)*, *Critters of Texas*, and *Native Texas Plants*. All lessons in these trunks tie in with lab and field opportunities. The Education Modules were developed by the Texas AgriLife Extension Service and contain large classroom displays, multi-media presentations and lesson plans. Education Modules are geared to help fourth and fifth grade students understand urban wildlife and aquatic ecology.

TWA hosts or co-hosts two summer teacher trainings and numerous full and half day trainings during the school year. TWA believes that teachers who understand the principles of common sense conservation and the importance of voluntary land stewardship help spread TWA's message every day. TWA is accredited by the State Board of Education to provide continuing education credits for teachers and is dedicated to providing professional development opportunities for teachers.

Distance Learning and Wildlife by Design

L.A.N.D.S. educators were front and center in classrooms across Texas. Through video-conferencing technology (Distance Learning), Conservation Legacy offers students the opportunity to learn about, understand, and enjoy Texas wildlife, habitat, management, and conservation via live videoconferencing. CL facilitates this programming from an in-office studio from which CL staff broadcasts educational programs about various wildlife and natural resource topics, which are TEKS aligned, interactive, and include pre and/or post materials students. Topics include wild turkey ecology, predator-prey interactions and an introduction to reptiles.

"Wildlife by Design" is a teaching tool in which custom lesson plans are designed based on the educator's requests and needs. TWA staff and volunteers provide educational programs with interactive lessons.

In 2010, L.A.N.D.S. reached 27,530 students and 703 educators, delivering hands-on, common sense, science-based conservation education.



L.A.N.D.S. Intensive

Learning Across New Dimensions in Science

Youth Stewardship Initiatives

In 2010, 2,964 students from eight schools across the state participated in the L.A.N.D.S. Intensive Program. These schools were:

- Blooming Grove Elementary (4th grade)
- Brenham Middle School (7th & 8th grades)
- Dripping Springs Middle School (7th grade)
- Jack Jordan Middle School (San Antonio) (7th grade)
- Junction Middle School (7th grade)
- Junction High School (10th grade)
- Rocksprings High School (9th & 10th grades)
- St. John's Episcopal (Dallas) (4th grade)

For an entire school year, students participating in the L.A.N.D.S. Intensive Program were provided with an innovative combination of in-class lessons, distance learning lessons and hands-on field trips led by TWA staff and volunteers. Using bobwhite quail as the instruction species, the middle and high school science students studied key ecological principals, such as food webs and adaptations, and natural resource issues, such as habitat fragmentation.

L.A.N.D.S. Intensive informed future decision-makers about natural resource issues, while preparing them for annual state-mandated science testing. [The 4th grade students studied the watershed and learned how private landowners' actions increase water quantity and improve water quality.]



TEXAS BRIGADES

Youth Development & Wildlife Education:

Texas Brigades Mission: To empower high school youth with the necessary skills and knowledge in wildlife, fisheries, habitat conservation, land stewardship, team-building, communication, and leadership to become ambassadors for conservation in order to ensure a sustained wildlife and fisheries legacy for future generations.

Since 1993, the Texas Brigades have been developing leaders. Created for 13-17 year-old students, the intensive, wildlife-centered leadership program gives the students a hands-on experience in a variety of subject areas ranging from anatomy and population dynamics to public speaking and media relations.

In 2010, there were five camps:

- Rolling Plains Bobwhite Brigade
- South Texas Bobwhite Brigade
- North Texas Buckskin Brigade
- South Texas Buckskin Brigade
- Bass Brigade

Last summer (2010), 148 youth from 74 Texas counties and four other state cadets participated. At the conclusion, each student returned home to become a wildlife ambassador, spreading the message of responsible stewardship to members of their community through public speaking engagements, articles, and media appearances. The Texas Brigades is a cooperative effort of TWA, Texas AgriLife Extension Service, USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, several universities and private industry participants. The Texas Brigades is funded by many organizations, foundations, and individuals.

Between June 2009 and April 2010, cadets reported programs reaching 9,879 direct contacts, 94,632 indirect contacts, and over 289,000 media contacts.



W.I.L.D.

Wildlife Intensive Leadership Development

Advanced Leadership Development

W.I.L.D. Mission: To provide a youthful perspective for the further development of the Texas Brigades, while enhancing our own ability to influence natural resource conservation.

The Texas Brigades launched W.I.L.D. (Wildlife Intensive Leadership Development) in order to provide additional opportunities for the highest achieving Brigade graduates. Participants are chosen based on their performance as a Brigade conservation ambassador, school achievements and understanding of natural resource issues.

W.I.L.D. members focus on current conservation issues that affect Texas' precious natural resources. Members must thoroughly research an issue and present their findings to peers, policy makers, and professionals.



LAND MANAGEMENT WORKSHOPS/ EMERGING ISSUES EDUCATION

Wildlife Field Days & Symposia:

Women of the Land, Carrizo Springs: A land stewardship training program designed specifically for women landowners, land managers, and wildlife enthusiasts. Participants learned the importance of land stewardship and how to apply sound resource management strategies to help keep the land healthy for future generations. One basic workshop was held in 2010.

Texas Deer Study Group, Kingsville: Partnering with Caesar Kleberg Wildlife Research Institute and Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, Texas Wildlife Association hosted this event which featured a wide range of practitioners, land managers, policy makers, wildlife biologists, and wildlife researchers, providing practical management applications for deer and deer habitat in Texas.

Farm & Range Forum, Fredericksburg: A joint venture with several other NGOs and state and federal agencies, this forum is designed to bring together rural and urban Texans to discuss issues of importance to our population.

Trans-Pecos Prescribed Fire Symposium, Alpine: The use of prescribed fire is a valuable tool for land managers. This symposium provided the most current research and a review of current laws and regulations regarding the use of fire on the landscape.

Texas Wildlife Short Course, College Station: In partnership with Texas AgriLife Extension Service, the first ever Texas Wildlife Short Course provided up-to-date information on various aspects of wildlife management.

South Central Texas Water Conservation Conference, Brenham: Conference which covered many of the complex water issues facing landowners across the state.

Small Landowner Workshop, San Marcos: As Texas' population grows, there are more landowners managing smaller pieces of property. TWA partnered with Texas State University, Texas AgriLife Extension Service, USDA-NRCS, and Texas Parks & Wildlife to provide these private landowners with tools for successful habitat management.

Webinars: TWA has teamed up with Texas AgriLife Extension Service to offer the "Wildlife for Lunch" series via the Internet. In 2010, there were six sessions offered on topics ranging from habitat management techniques to income diversification. "Attendees" are able to listen to the presenter, view the Power Point presentations and ask questions. Twelve sessions (one per month) are scheduled for 2011.

Webisodes: Starting with bobwhite quail, TWA has entered the world of YouTube by filming a series of videos focusing on the management of quail. Plans are in the works to focus on other wildlife species in the future.

Emerging Issues Education

TWA is frequently asked to lead the educational effort when a "hot button" issue arises. In 2010, TWA partnered with the Texas & Southwestern Cattle Raisers Association and the Texas Farm Bureau to present multiple workshops across the state.

Five workshops focused on CREZ (competitive renewable energy zone) transmission projects and seven workshops focused on groundwater as a vested, real property right.



WILDLIFE AMBASSADOR TRAINING & CONSERVATION INITIATIVES

Wildlife Ambassador Trainings:

QuailMasters (Midland/Odessa, Van Horn, Armendaris Ranch (NM), and Alpine): A series of intensive, hands-on training sessions designed to expose participants to the best of the best quail habitat in the state of Texas and make them “masters” of the art and science of quail management.

“I started QuailMasters wanting to know how to have better quail hunts on my ranch. I left QuailMasters with the knowledge and skills of how to manage and increase quail populations as a part of an overall wildlife management plan.” – Johnny Ussery, Landowner, Nolan

Conservation Initiatives:

TWA’s Conservation Initiatives promote landscape-level conservation of habitats and species through empowerment of land stewards and managers in their quest for healthy ecosystems and strong agricultural economies. TWA believes that such grass-roots efforts are the most productive means of promoting and propagating a wise use of natural resources in Texas.

TWA partners with other organizations, agencies, and land managers to provide support, coordination, and outreach related to implementation of various conservation projects across the state.

Conservation Initiatives that TWA contributed to in 2010:

- Edwards Aquifer Recovery Implementation Program (EARIP)
- Environmental Flows Allocation Process
- Southern Edwards Plateau Habitat Conservation Plan (SEP – HCP)
- Trinity River Basin Conservation Initiative
- All Joint Ventures within Texas
- Groundwater as a Vested Property Right Recovery Credit System Task Force
- Advisory Committee to the Interagency Task Force on Economic Growth and Endangered Species - *Camp Bullis*
- Texas Native Lands Alliance (TNLA)
- Prescribed Burning Initiatives
- Texas Quail Initiative
- Coastal Prairies Conservation Initiative (CPCI)
- Pecos River Initiative (PRI)



photo by Joan Cooke

Hunting Heritage

Hunting Heritage programs educate Texans about the importance of wildlife management and the integral role that hunting plays in habitat conservation, while instilling a love of the outdoors.

Texas Big Game Awards honors the tradition of hunting, while providing participants with the knowledge that hunting equals habitat. TBGA offers statewide educational events that increase the number of informed, caring, and skilled hunter-conservationists.

Texas Youth Hunting Program Gives young Texans the opportunity to participate in youth hunting activities safely, legally and ethically, while learning about the valuable role landowners and hunters play in wildlife conservation.

Texas Big Game Awards Recognized

TBGA qualified scored entries	1,119
TBGA qualified youth division entries	174
TBGA qualified first harvest entries	273
Landowners recognized	425
“Texas Slam” awards	9
TBGA qualified total entries	1,556

All numbers reflect 2010-2011 hunting season.

Texas Youth Hunting Program

Youth Hunts conducted	147
Individuals who experience Youth Hunt	2,466
(includes youth and guardian)	
Landowners who participated in Program	141

All numbers reflect 2010-2011 hunting season.



TEXAS BIG GAME AWARDS

(A partnership with Texas Parks and Wildlife)

Texas Big Game Awards:

Vision: Promotes ethical and safe hunting and quality land management by preserving traditions and educating all citizens on the positive values of the hunting and the great Texas outdoors.

The Texas Big Game Awards (TBGA) exists to promote awareness of management and the integral role that hunting plays in habitat conservation. Sponsored by TWA and the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, the TBGA demonstrates to audiences across the state that "hunting equals habitat".

Hunting = Habitat

TBGA is an effective outreach and educational tool, as well as an awards program.

- Recruits new participants to the sport of hunting
- Attracts and retains first-time hunters to the hunting heritage of Texas
- Increases the number of hunters while encouraging ethical hunting practices
- Recognizes proper habitat management and quality big game animals
- Supports local communities and organizations across Texas while being a champion for natural resource education

During the 2010-2011 hunting season, 273 hunters received First Harvest awards year, along with 174 youth in the Youth Division. During the 2010-2011 hunting season, 9 hunters were awarded the Texas Slam, an award given to those hunters and landowners where all three TBGA qualifying animals were taken in the same season. Two mule deer made the TBGA's top five all-time, one in the typical category and the other in the

non-typical category. And one pronghorn antelope made it into the top five all time as well.

TBGA's primary message, "hunting equals habitat", directly reached 20,000 people through regional and statewide awards banquets. Each week, the TBGA website receives more than 4,000 visitors all of whom are exposed to the message and mission of TBGA. TBGA print media reached more than 500,000 readers through articles and harvest photos.

TBGA Scholarships

The Texas Big Game Awards (TBGA), in partnership with Carter's Country Outdoor Stores and the Wildlife Heritage Foundation of Texas, celebrated the 10th annual TBGA Wildlife Conservation College Scholarship Program.

Each regional scholarship recipient was awarded a \$1,500 college scholarship for the 2009-2010 school year (eight total). And the statewide top scholarship applicant received a \$3,000 college scholarship.



TEXAS YOUTH HUNTING PROGRAM

(A partnership with Texas Parks and Wildlife)

Vision: Promotes increasing the number of youths participating in wildlife and hunting activities and promotes the heritage of hunting in Texas.

During the 2010-2011 hunting season, 1,233 youth experienced the joy of the hunt and beauty of the outdoors with their parent/guardian (an additional 1,233 participants). With the help of hundreds of volunteer Huntmasters (1 per youth), TYHP conducted 147 hunts, which allowed many youth the opportunity to harvest their first animal. To date, the program has taken approximately 15,000 youths hunting and has provided more than 45,000 total participants with outdoor experiences that include hunting, conservation, wildlife management, and outdoor education. The Texas Youth Hunting Program strives to provide hunting activities for families who have limited income and/ or limited access to private and public lands.

Program Description:

The primary objectives of the Texas Youth Hunting Program are to:

- Preserve the hunting heritage in Texas for present and future generations.
- Instill in youth a basic understanding of practical conservation measures.
- Encourage wildlife habitat access, enhancement and management.
- Teach the basic skills, values, techniques and responsibilities of hunting.
- Promote the highest ethical standards in hunting.
- Give our youth an initial, positive, safe, educational, mentored hunting experience.

Texas Parks and Wildlife COOP Grant Provides for Program Expansion

The Texas Parks and Wildlife Department recognized the effectiveness of the Texas Youth Hunting Program by awarding TYHP a \$50,000 COOP Grant to reach underserved populations, including minority, low income, and special needs youth.

Through this grant in 2009 & 2010, TYHP was able to provide full or partial scholarships to over 500 young people to introduce them to the hunting tradition and to provide, for the majority of the students, their first outdoor experience. A portion of the grant was dedicated to recruiting participants, teaching hunter education, providing hunting licenses and taking these youth on hunts across the state. This generous grant has helped make Texas one of the few states to record an increase in youth hunting license sales.



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