

Request for Legislative Appropriations

Fiscal Years 2008 and 2009

Legislative Appropriations Request

for Fiscal Years 2008 and 2009

Submitted to the Governor's Office of Budget, Planning and Policy and the Legislative Budget Board

by

The Texas Parks & Wildlife Department

18-Aug-06

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Administrator's/Chairman's Statement	page 1
Organizational Charts	
Summaries of Requests	
Summary of Base Request by Strategy	2.A page 1
Summary of Base Request by MOF	2 B nage 1
Summary of Base Request by OOE	2.C. page 1
Summary of Base Request by Objective Outcomes	2.C. page 1
Summary of Exceptional Items Request	2.D. page 1
Summary of Total Request by Strategy	2.E. page 1
Summary of Total Request Objective Outcomes	2 G nage 1
Strategy Requests	3.A. page 1
Rider Revisions and Additions Request	3.B. page 1
Exceptional Items	
Exceptional Item Request Schedule Request. Exceptional Item Strategy Allocation Schedule	4.A. page 1
Exceptional Item Strategy Request	4.B. page 1
1	4.C. page 1
Capital Budget Schedules	
Capital Budget Project Information	5.A. page 1
Capital Budget Project Information Capital Budget Allocation to Strategies	5.B. page 1
Capital Budget Allocation to Strategies Capital Budget MOF by Strategy	5.C. page 1
	5.E. page 1

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Other Supporting Schedules	
HUB Supporting Schedule	6 A nage
Current Biennium One-Time Expenditure Schedule	6.R. page 1
Federal Funds Supporting Schedule.	6.C page 1
Federal Funds Tracking Schedule	6.C. page 1
Estimated Revenue Collections Supporting Schedule	6 F page 1
Homeiand Security Funding Schedule	6 G page 1
Estimated Total of All Agency Funds Outside the GAA Bill Pattern	6 H nage !
Allocation of the Biennial Ten Percent Reduction to Strategies Schedule	6.I. page 1
Administrative and Support Costs	
Indirect Administrative and Support Costs	7.A. page 1
Direct Administrative and Support Costs	7.B. page 1

80th Regular Session, Agency Submission, Version 1 Automated Budget and Evaluation System of Texas (ABEST) DATE: 9/15/2006 TIME: 1:55:36PM PAGE: 1 of

Agency code:

802

Agency name: Parks and Wildlife Department

I am pleased to present the Legislative Appropriations Request (LAR) for the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) for the upcoming biennium. TPWD's mission is "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." We think this is an important mission and take pride in what we do.

Fulfilling our mission has been challenging due to funding cuts over the past few years and the need to absorb increases in operating costs such as fuel, utilities and staff expenses. TPWD has experienced steady reductions in appropriation authority. In addition to fiscal year 2004 and 2005 reductions to General Revenue and other funding sources, a total of \$15.1 million in across-the-board five percent reductions was taken for the 2006-2007 biennium. TPWD was also required to absorb approximately \$2.1 million in fiscal year 2006 for mandatory longevity, hazardous duty and reclassification increases. Increasing staff, fuel, utility and other costs over the past several years have further compounded these funding challenges.

These reductions and cost increases have affected all aspects of agency operations, resulting in elimination of a total of 171 vacant and 12 filled positions at the start of fiscal year 2006. The areas most acutely impacted, however, have been local park grants and operational funding for state parks. State funding for local parks grants has been reduced to a total of roughly \$5.6 million in fiscal year 2006 and 2007, down from the \$20.5 million appropriated in fiscal year 2002. For state parks, a total of 73 positions were eliminated effective January 1, 2006 in an effort to balance the state parks budget for fiscal year 2006. Restricted hours of operation, additional entrance fees at selected sites, and transfer of appropriate parks to local or other entities were among other measures implemented to address state park budget shortfalls. The Department's rider 27 provided some relief in terms of staving off any further reductions, but will not restore eliminated FTEs or services.

These reductions in services are of great concern to TPWD. Coupled with an additional 10% reduction to General Revenue and General Revenue-Dedicated funds as required for the fiscal year 2008-2009 appropriations request, the impact to TPWD is critical. Our highest priority exceptional item is to restore the 10% reduction as outlined in the summary of exceptional items below.

Summary of Exceptional Items:

Restore 10 Percent Reductions - This exceptional item seeks restoration of \$15.28 million of critical reductions each year and 117.4 FTEs. The related reductions affect nearly all strategies and objects of expenditure including salaries, operating, grants and capital expenditures. Major areas that are impacted include:

- (1) \$3.9 million per year and 2 FTEs for the Local Parks Grant program. 45 local grants amounting to approximately \$3.7 million of the annual total will be eliminated.
- (2) \$2.8 million per year and 52 game wardens will be eliminated from Law Enforcement impacting our ability to provide comprehensive enforcement, emergency management and homeland security activities.
- (3) \$2.4 million per year and 44.43 FTEs at parks statewide could result in further reductions in services, days and hours of operation in dozens of parks and/or the actual closure of several parks across the state which adversely impacts the local economies that host the park sites and results in further losses of park revenue due to park closures.
- (4) \$2.6 million per year and 7 FTEs in Wildlife, Coastal and Inland Fisheries impacting wildlife research efforts and interns, commercial license buyback programs and data collection, seagrass monitoring efforts, water quality monitoring, coastal sampling programs, golden algae research, and elimination of summer and freshwater red drum stockings.
- (5) \$1.3 million per year and 6 FTEs in Capital Programs affecting capital construction and programming of the new Facilities Management Information System.
- (6) \$1.9 million per year and 6 FTEs in Licensing, Boat Registration and Indirect Administration impacting the quality and quantity of services in accounting and dealing with HUBs, reducing IT operations and the ability to address financial system issues, and reducing the services available from the Employee Assistance Program.
- (7) \$314 thousand in operating reductions for Communications.

80th Regular Session, Agency Submission, Version 1 Automated Budget and Evaluation System of Texas (ABEST) DATE: 9/15/2006 TIME: 1:55:41PM

PAGE: 2 of

Agency code:

802

Agency name: Parks and Wildlife Department

In most cases, restoration of the amounts will allow TPWD to restore services and performance to at least 2007 levels. However due to continued increases in the cost of utilities and fuel, restoration of the 10% reductions to State Parks and Law Enforcement will not be sufficient to restore service to 2007 levels.

Additional Funding for State Parks - This exceptional item seeks \$85.4 million of General Revenue each year to provide adequate funding and an additional 262.7 FTEs for state parks and support functions, as recommended by the State Parks Advisory Committee. The request includes funding above the 2007 level for the following items in priority order:

- (1) \$7.1 million per year for State Park salaries
- (2) \$5.7 million per year for operating
- (3) \$4 million per year for minor repairs
- (4) \$6.6 million per year for equipment, transportation items and computers
- (5) \$2 million per year for other divisions costs to support the State Parks Division
- (6) \$25 million per year for major repairs
- (7) \$7 million per year for acquisitions surrounding existing parks and necessary development
- (8) \$8 million per year for acquisition and development of new state parks
- (9) \$20 million per year for Local Park grants

Appropriation of Proposition 8 General Obligation Bonds - Proposition 8 General Obligation bonds were approved by voters in 2001. This exceptional item requests appropriation of the remaining balance of \$46 million in GO bonds over the 2008-2009 biennium. Approval of these amounts will allow the department to address major repair and maintenance needs, help prevent an unreasonable critical repair backlog and will fund specific projects, such as Levi Jordan, Battleship Texas and the San Jacinto Battleground approved by the Legislature. Debt service associated with this request is \$343 thousand in fiscal year 2008 and \$2.4 million in fiscal year 2009 and will be requested by the Texas Public Finance Authority.

Additional General Revenue (GR) Funding to Support Game Warden Operations - This exceptional item seeks \$2.6 million of General Revenue each year to support game warden operations. This funding will offset budgetary impacts resulting from increased operational costs such as fuel, utilities and consumable supplies and provides funding for Law Enforcement to maintain level manpower at 510 game wardens. The request also includes \$500 thousand each year to allow for the replacement of unsafe, higher mileage vehicles in a more timely manner. General Revenue is being requested since services provided by game wardens benefit all citizens of the state, not just hunters, anglers and outdoor enthusiasts. Further, increased game warden involvement in homeland security activities and emergency management responsibilities has raised concerns regarding use of the traditional source of funding (Game, Fish and Water Safety Account 009) for non-fish and wildlife related enforcement efforts.

Appropriation of Freshwater Fishing Stamp Funds - House Bill 1989 of the 78th Legislature authorized TPWD to create a freshwater fishing stamp, the proceeds of which were to be used for the repair, maintenance, renovation, or replacement of freshwater fish hatcheries in Texas or for the purchase of game fish to be stocked in the state's public waters.

TPWD estimates that the total amount of funding available from the sale of the freshwater fishing stamp (including existing balances and revenue received in fiscal years 2008 and 2009) will total \$23.6 million over the 2008-09 biennium. This exceptional item requests that after satisfying debt service (\$2.8 million per year relating to previous bond authority), the remaining \$18.1 million of dedicated funds collected from the sale of this stamp be appropriated for completion of the construction of the East Texas Fish Hatchery and for maintenance and repairs to other hatcheries statewide.

Capital Repairs to Battleship Texas - Critical repairs to the Battleship Texas and the construction of a permanent on site dry berth at the San Jacinto Battleground is

80th Regular Session, Agency Submission, Version 1 Automated Budget and Evaluation System of Texas (ABEST) DATE: 9/15/2006 TIME: 1:55:41PM

PAGE: 3 of

Agency code:

802

Agency name: Parks and Wildlife Department

estimated to cost \$51.04 million. The 79th Legislature authorized the Texas Department of Transportation (TXDOT) to issue \$16.1 million in federal Surface Transportation Enhancement Program (SAFE-TEA) funds for the Battleship Texas. If approved by the federal highway agency and the TXDOT Commission, these SAFE-TEA funds will be used for the construction of a permanent dry berth for the ship. An additional \$12.425 million of remaining GO Bond (Proposition 8) authority is being requested for fiscal years 2008 and 2009 as a part of exceptional item number three to complete the construction of the dry berth, install emergency dewatering pumps, perform necessary steel hull repairs, and electrical system and wood deck repairs.

This exceptional item requests General Revenue for the balance of \$22.5 million in fiscal year 2009 for the remaining critical repairs to the ship that include internal structural repairs, steel hull repairs to ship bottom, keels, and blister tanks, repairs to above deck superstructure, cranes and masts, installation of a heating/cooling system, ventilation and dehumidification systems, and additional electrical system upgrades.

Restore the Texas State Railroad to a Fully Operational Site - The Texas State Railroad (TSRR), a historical railroad dating back to 1881, is known as one of the nation's largest and most unique steam train operations. The TSRR currently offers service between Rusk and Palestine. Due to the high costs associated with repairs, safe operations and maintenance, the TSRR is slated to become a static museum display at TPWD's base level funding request. This exceptional item requests \$11.8 million of General Revenue over the biennium and 61.7 FTEs to continue the TSRR as a fully operational railroad. The request would cover additional salary and operating costs, annual track maintenance, repairs and rail operations, equipment purchases and repair, land acquisition, and major repairs and construction required to resume full operations. There would be continuing construction, equipment, repair and other costs associated with the proper maintenance and upkeep of the TSRR beyond the 2008-09 timeframe.

Rider Requests – Several rider revisions are requested in the appropriations request, but some of the more significant rider revisions include the continuation of appropriation of receipts out of General Revenue-Dedicated Accounts. This rider allows any additional revenue in excess of the Comptroller's Biennial Revenue Estimate to be appropriated to the department. With the absorption of inflationary costs, this rider has been particularly helpful. The department also requests appropriation from land sale proceeds that occur over the 2008-2009 biennium as well as the ability to carry forward any unexpended balances from fiscal year 2007. Within this rider request the Department is seeking appropriation of all of the land sale proceeds from the sale of the Game Warden academy for the purpose of constructing and equipping the new academy. In the event the academy is sold in fiscal year 2007, any unexpended balances from the sale are requested to be appropriated in the 2008-2009 biennium. Finally, this rider is broad enough to allow us to use proceeds from the sale of Eagle Mountain Lake State Park if that property were to sell during the 2008-2009 biennium for the acquisition and development of a new state park in the vicinity of Ft. Worth/Dallas.

TPWD is one of 27 initial agencies that will be consolidated into the State Data Center. All current data center costs associated with the future consolidation have been reported as professional services in our appropriations request for fiscal years 2008 and 2009. Should the cost of the future data center consolidation exceed the department's current costs, we request that General Revenue be appropriated to cover the increase. General Revenue is requested because any costs in excess of the department's current costs will be considered as costs needed to support the State, and we cannot use Game, Fish and Water Safety Account 009 funds to support expenses that are not fish and wildlife related or our federal partners will withdraw their funding support. It is our understanding that the Department of Information Resources will work with the 80th Legislature to ensure that agencies included in the State Data Center receive additional appropriation if the costs exceed the agency's current funding level.

We have appreciated the support from state leadership in the past and respectfully request continued support for the proposed endeavors. We look forward to working together to meet the challenges facing Texas' natural and cultural resources.

CHAIRMAN'S STATEMENT:

On behalf of the Commission, I want to add our support for this Legislative Appropriations Request and the needs set forth in the exceptional items.

80th Regular Session, Agency Submission, Version 1 Automated Budget and Evaluation System of Texas (ABEST) DATE: 9/15/2006 TIME: 1:55:41PM

PAGE: 4 of

Agency code:

802

Agency name: Parks and Wildlife Department

I want to put particular focus on State Park funding concerns. In the October 2000 Report of the Governor's Task Force on Conservation, of which I was a member, it was stated that "As the population and demand for recreation and conservation of our natural resources continue to grow, the State system of parks and outdoor recreational resources will be strained for staffing and will be inadequate in size, number, and geographic distribution to accommodate the citizens of Texas". Since that time, the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department has struggled to maintain its system of state parks in the face of escalating costs, declining budgets, and the growing demands of an urbanizing state. Even more significant than the shortage of funding to maintain our existing state parks is the inability to pursue park acquisitions necessary to meet the demands of the 21st Century. It will not be enough to simply repair or restore the park resources and historic sites that have fallen into disrepair due to budget cuts. In the long run, it is equally important to build a funding structure that allows us to meet the challenges of a growing state. In 2003, the Texas Parks and Wildlife Commission devised a comprehensive ten year plan to guide the Department to meet its mission of providing present and future generations outdoor recreation opportunities. But the reality is that our present funding structure for parks cannot even maintain our existing parks, much less the parks we will need for the future.

Our state parks are not a luxury; they provide real economic returns to our communities. Equally important is what parks return to us in the quality of our lives and in our relationship to the land and to our understanding of the history of Texas. Will the Texas school children of tomorrow only know about our open spaces by seeing pictures in a book or images on a screen? Or will they relate their history to their own experiences? If they do, they will value the experience beyond mere words or pictures and it will become part of who they are as Texans. If not, it will be no surprise that they do not value these open spaces and historic sites, or miss them when they are gone.

I appointed a State Parks Advisory Committee at the Governor's recommendation, and they explored funding needs and funding options for the State Park system. Their recommendations for state parks needs are the basis for exceptional item two. These needs come second to restoring the 10% baseline reductions as outlined in exceptional item number one.

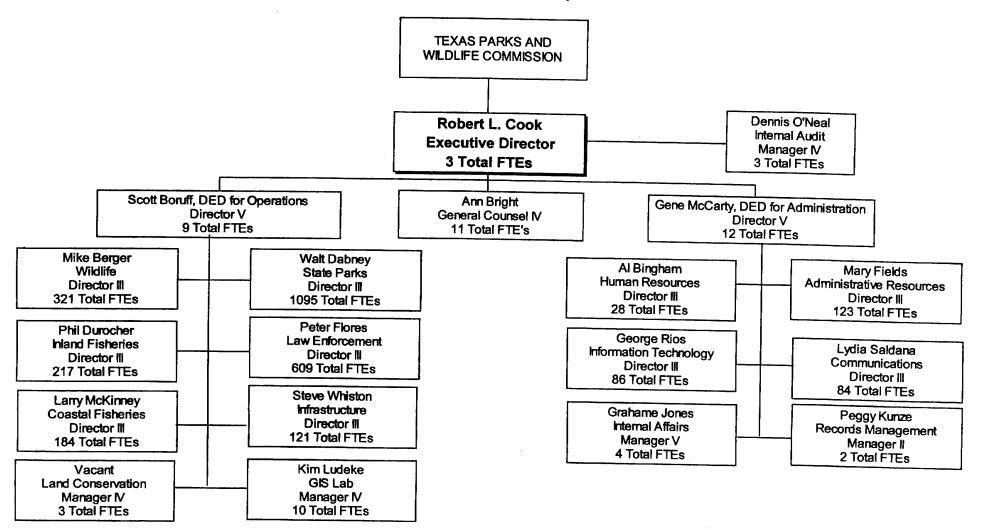
Why are parks so important to the future of Texas? Because Texas is supposed to be different, and one of the things that make us different is our relationship to the land. That relationship will be lost if we do not provide great parks for a great State and we can get there with the support of the 80th Legislature.

COMMISSION MEMBERS:

Joseph B.C. Fitzsimons, Chairman	May 8, 2001 - February 1, 2007	San Antonio
Donato D. Ramos, Vice-Chairman	August 9, 2001 - February 1, 2007	Laredo
Mark E. Bivins	September 29,2005 – February 1, 2011	Amarillo
J. Robert Brown	November 10, 2003 - February 1, 2009	El Paso
T. Dan Friedkin	May 9, 2005 – February 1, 2011	Houston
Ned S. Holmes	April 30, 2003 - February 1, 2009	Houston
Peter M. Holt	May 9, 2005 - February 1, 2011	San Antonio
Philip Montgomery, III	May 8, 2001 - February 1, 2007	Dallas
John D. Parker	November 10, 2003 - February 1, 2009	Lufkin

Lee M. Bass, Chairman Emeritus

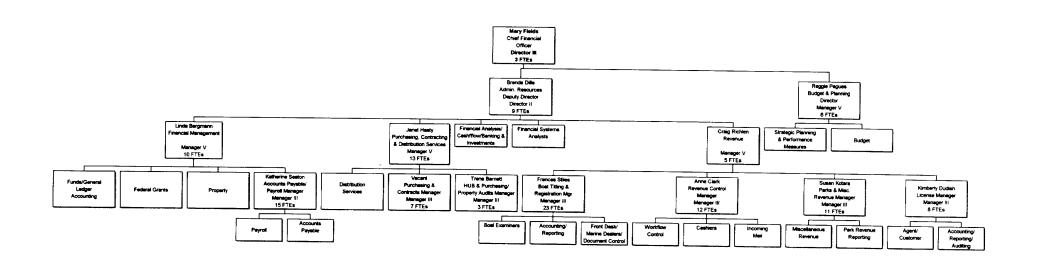
Texas Parks and Wildlife Department



Administrative Resources Division

- Financial Management: Responsible for the AFR, general ledger, accounting, accounts payable and payroll, as well as federal grants and billing accounting.
- Purchasing, Contracting and Distribution Services: Responsible for the warehouse, surplus property, fulfillment of licenses and boat registration and titles, and outgoing mail, as well as the purchasing and contracting functions of the agency.
- Financial Systems Analysts and the Financial Analysts: Responsible for administering the primary financial systems of the agency and provide required business analyses and reports.
- Revenue: Responsible for the administration of license sales; the administration of boat titling, registration and related collection of boat sales tax; cashier functions and accounting for the agency's revenue.
- Budget and Planning: Responsible for preparing the annual operating and capital budgets, Legislative Appropriations Request, Strategic Plan and performance measure reporting.

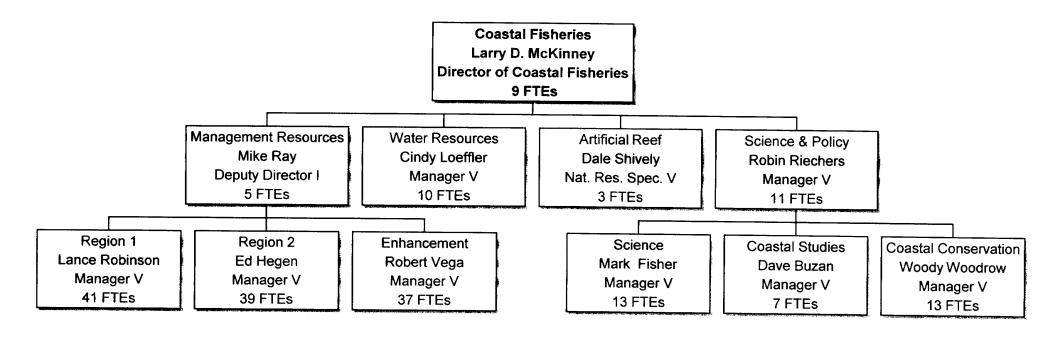
Administrative Resources Division



Coastal Fisheries Division

- Management Resources To manage and conserve the marine environment including ecosystems, resources and habitats and provide fishing and outdoor recreation opportunities for the use and enjoyment of present and future generations.
- Science and Policy Resources To facilitate the collection, computerization, summary, analysis, and reporting of routine monitoring and special study data, to conduct research; to coordinate inter-and intra- division cooperative projects; and to recommend, implement and evaluate coastal fisheries management measures.
- Water Resources To maintain freshwater inflows and instream flows of sufficient quality and quantity to sustain the ecological health of Texas rivers, springs, lakes and estuaries.
- Habitat Resources To conserve and enhance coastal habitats for present and future generations.

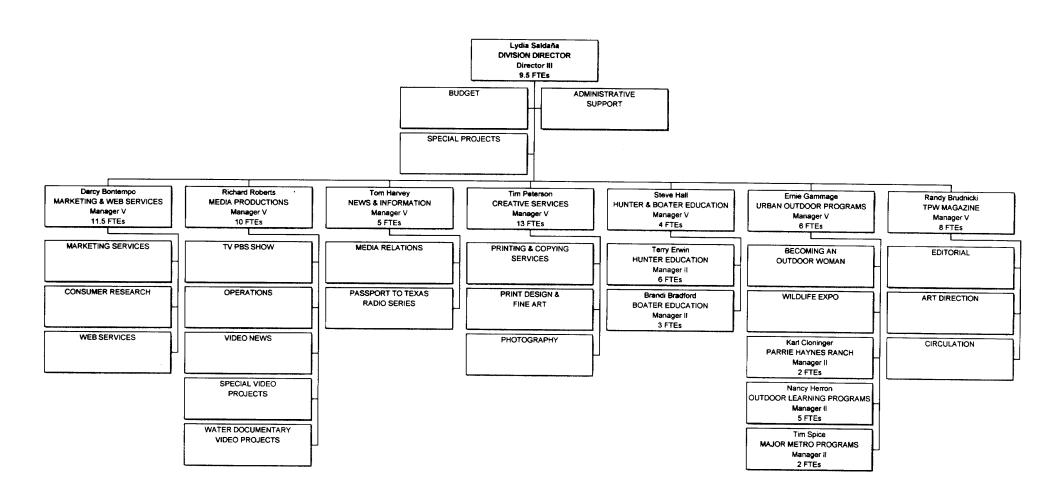
COASTAL FISHERIES DIVISION



Communications Division

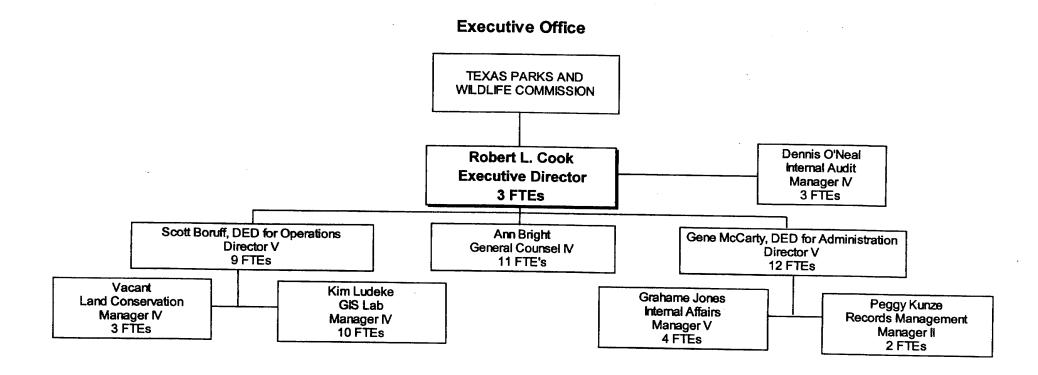
- The Director's Office provides strategic direction and counsel for division staff and TPWD leadership on communications-related issues. Staff are also responsible for the preparation and monitoring of the division's operating budget, reporting on performance measures, and preparing fiscal notes.
- Marketing Services develops, executes and manages information campaign efforts to promote and raise the public's awareness of all department programs, activities, initiatives and sites. Consumer Research designs and conducts both internal and external customer surveys, secondary research, and performs database analysis. Web Services oversees the agency's web site, produces web pages and web database programming and provides technical and design expertise to all division web developers.
- Media Productions produces a weekly PBS television series, video news reports and other video products.
- News & Information produces a variety of public information products, including news releases, a daily radio series, radio news stories and serves as point of contact for state and national media.
- Creative Services manages the Department's publications policy, print design, print and copy services, and photography services.
- Hunter and Boater Education provides mandatory hunter education programs, target range grants, a mobile sporting clays operation and mandatory boater education courses statewide.
- Urban Outdoor Programs provides efforts enlisting Texan's understanding, support, partnership and action and in reaching new customers, particularly youth, women, and minorities. The Outdoor Learning Program provides outdoor and conservation education for youth primarily through train-the-trainer workshops and resources. Major metro outdoor program specialists reach people through leadership training courses, outdoor awareness events and outdoor trips and activities.
- The magazine encourages, educates and motivates Texans to responsibly use and enjoy TPWD services, facilities and products.

COMMUNICATIONS DIVISION



Executive Office

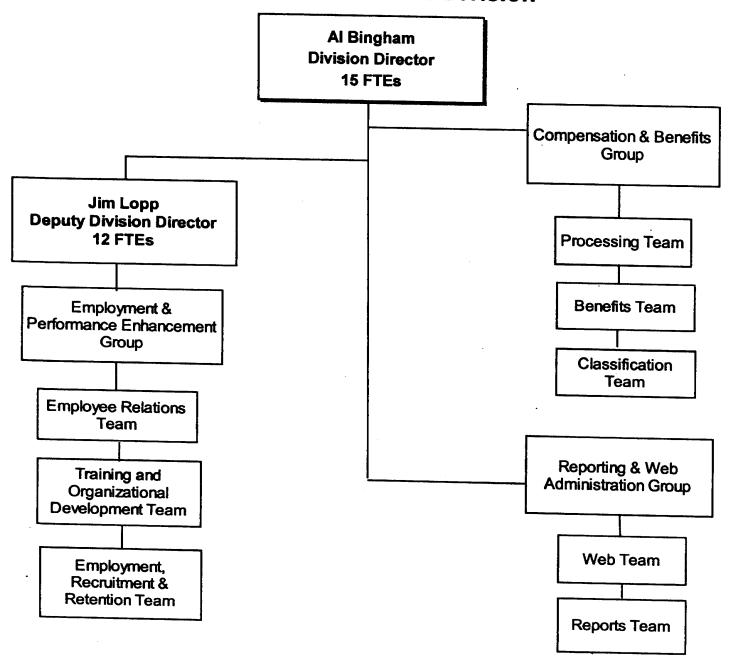
- Provide management and oversight of an agency of twelve divisions with a wide variety of programs, facilities and services
- Coordinates the development of agency strategy and policy, supervises senior agency management and serves as the senior decision authority
- Coordinates with the land holding divisions to develop acquisition priorities; coordinates within the conservation community to facilitate statewide land conservation strategies; negotiates the "terms and conditions" under which the department might acquire, dispose of, or accept real property obligations; coordinates department land issues with the Texas General Land Office
- Responsible for internal integrity audits of all department operations



Human Resources Division

- Coordinates policy planning and development, workforce planning, customer service on HR matters, job analysis and salary administration and employee benefits.
- Provides leadership development, training and organizational development, training needs assessment, employment recruitment, employee relations, change management, intern programs and educational assistance programs.

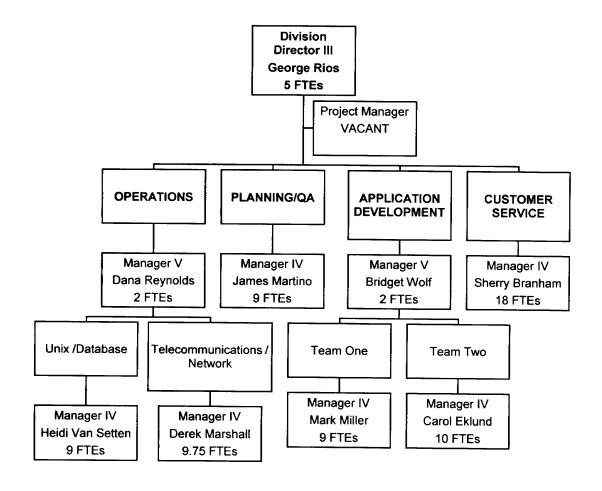
Human Resources Division



Information Technology Division

- Operations Provides overall operation, management and security of agency technology voice and data network enterprise systems including network infrastructure, e-mail, internet and telephone systems.
- Applications Development Development of new systems and maintenance and or enhancement of existing systems.
- Customer Service Provides the agency IT support via the IT Help Desk, Desktop Computing Services, Technical Training and Production Control.
- Planning and Quality Assurance Preparation of the IT Strategic Plan and the Information Technology Detail.
 Conduct technology procurement, contingency planning, and quality assurance.

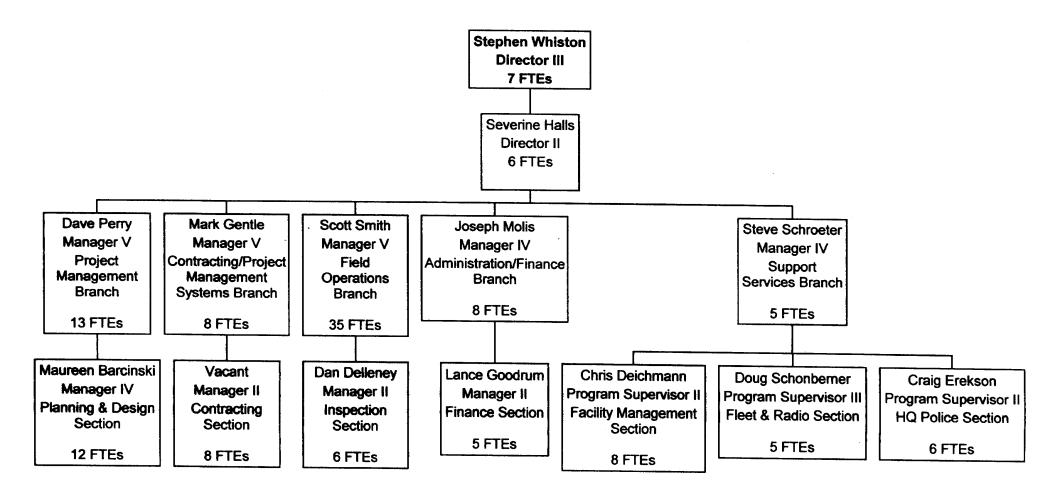
INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY DIVISION



infrastructure Division

- Administration, coordination and management of the Department's Capital Program
- Development of environmentally compatible master plans for recreational and operational facility development
- Preparation of design and construction documents for facility repair and development
- Administration of all professional design and construction contracts for the Department
- Management of in-house construction crews that perform major repairs and capital improvements that otherwise would be costly to contract
- Architectural, engineering, surveying and other technical assistance to field locations
- Management of TPWD headquarters complex including plant operations, utilities, energy management, grounds and facility maintenance, custodial services, and security
- Management of the Department Safety and Risk Management Program
- Administration and management of the Department's Fleet Management Program
- Administration of the Radio Management Program for the Department
- Coordination of interagency program for road repairs and development with Texas Department of Transportation

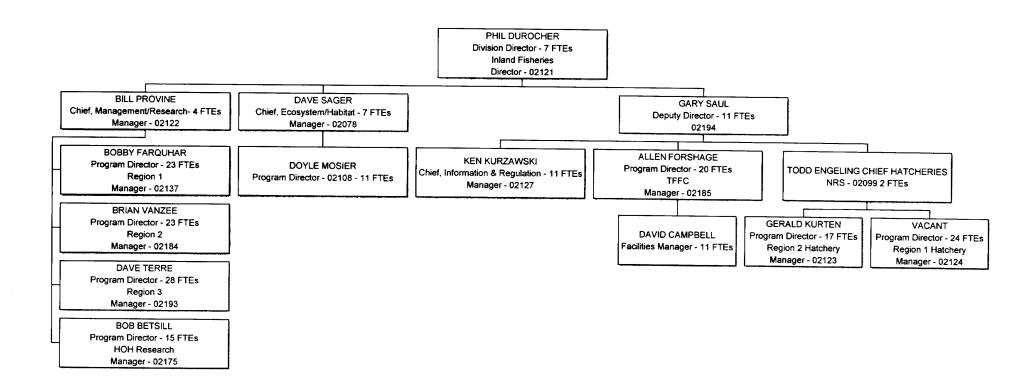
Infrastructure Division



Inland Fisheries Division

- Resource Management and Research To develop plans and conduct applied management activities for all freshwater impoundments, rivers, and streams and to provide scientifically sound information leading to the understanding and management of aquatic resources, their production, improvement and utilization.
- The Ecosystem/Habitat Assessment Branch Responsible for the conduct of instream flow and water quality assessments for river ecosystems, enhancement of river access, coordination of golden algae research efforts, conduct and coordination of the investigation of pollution events and contaminant issues impacting natural resources, and the pursuit of restoration for natural resources injured by oil and chemical releases.
- Hatcheries/Regulations/Lab/Outreach To manage and conserve the freshwater fish environment including ecosystems, resources and habitats to provide fishing for outdoor and outreach opportunities. Information and Regulations provides communication to the public as well as monitoring regulatory processes administered by the Division. Analytical Services provides fish health, genetics, water quality and contaminants support for management and research. The Texas Freshwater Fisheries Center is the primary outreach facility for the Department.

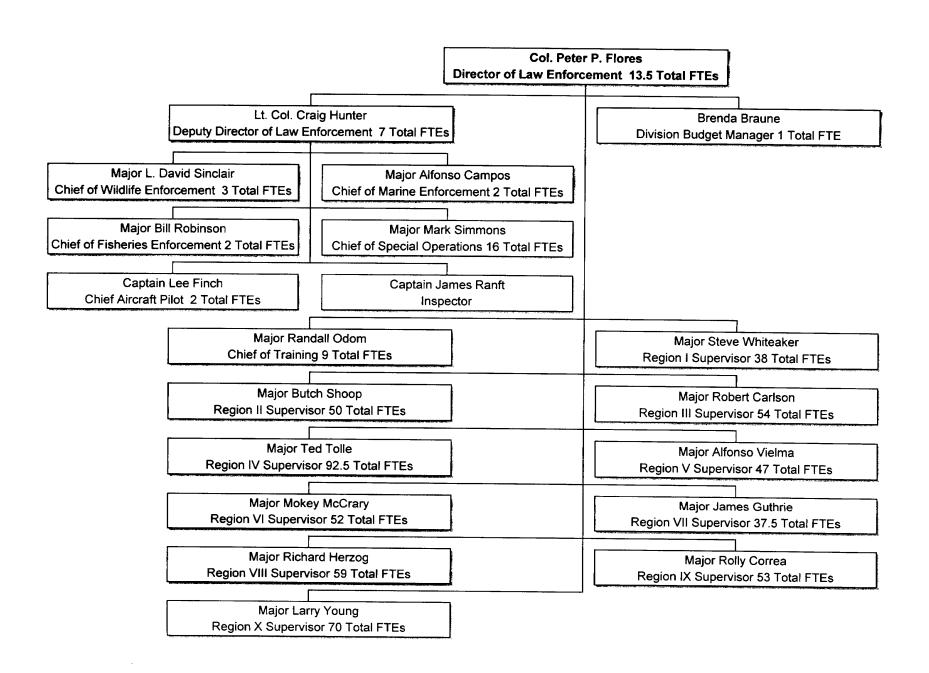
INLAND FISHERIES DIVISION



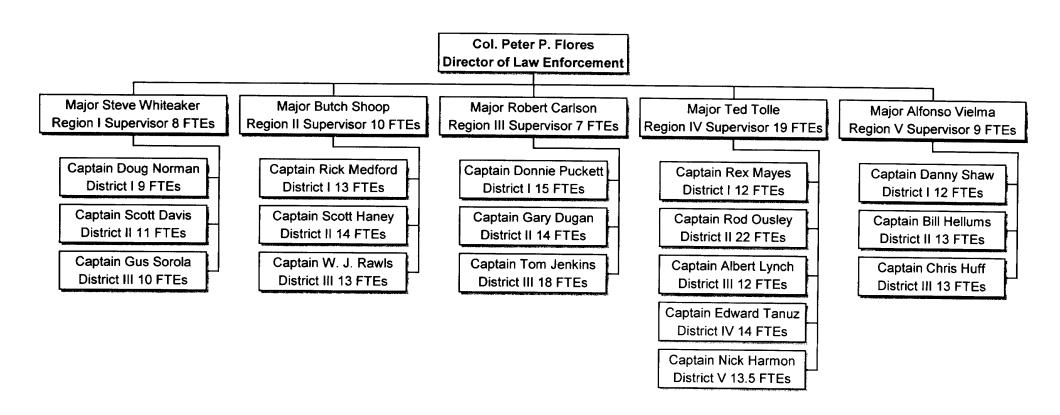
Law Enforcement Division

- The Law Enforcement Division provides a comprehensive statewide law enforcement program to protect Texas' wildlife, other natural resources, and the environment.
- Provides safe boating and recreational water safety on public waters by ensuring compliance with applicable state laws and regulations.
- Texas Game Wardens are responsible for enforcement of the Parks and Wildlife Code, all TPWD regulations, the Texas Penal Code and selected statutes and regulations applicable to clean air and water, hazardous materials and human health.

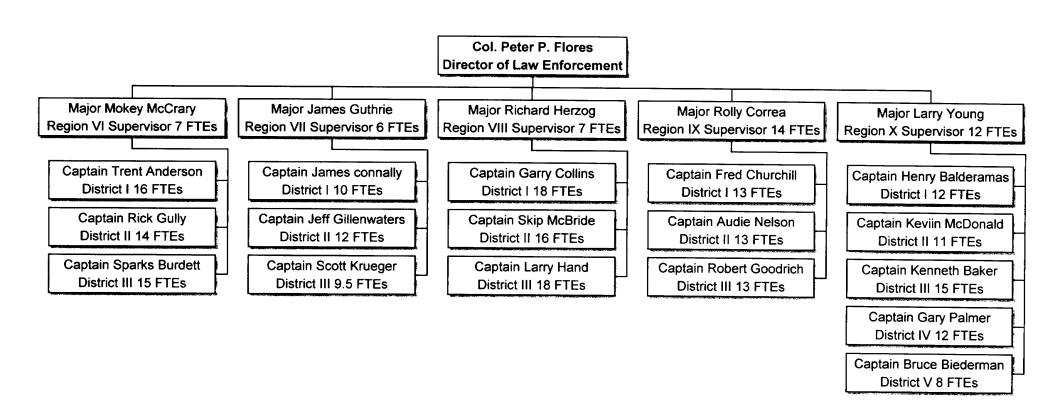
Law Enforcement Division



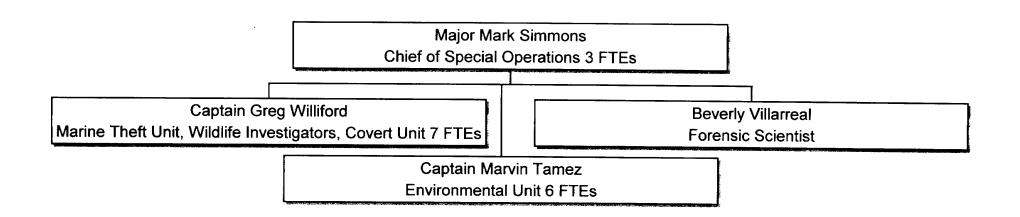
REGIONS I THRU V



REGIONS VI THRU X



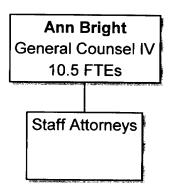
SPECIAL OPERATIONS UNIT



Legal Division

- Provide legal advice and assistance to TPWD staff and TPW Commission regarding matters within TPWD's authority, such as water quality, water rights, fish and wildlife law, criminal law, employment law, contract law, administrative law, and open government law
- Represent TPWD in administrative legal proceedings and assist the Attorney General's office in litigation involving TPWD
- Assist TPWD Divisions and Executive Office with rulemaking
- Coordinate reponses to requests for information under the Texas Public Information Act
- Review and draft agreements involving TPWD

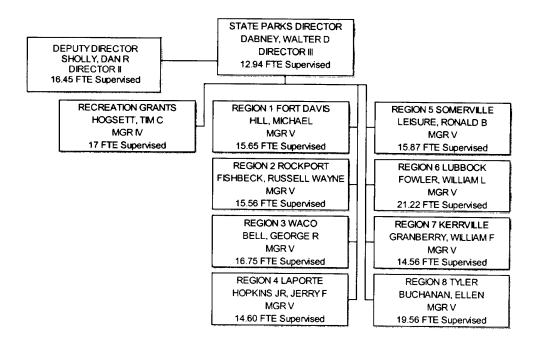
LEGAL DIVISION



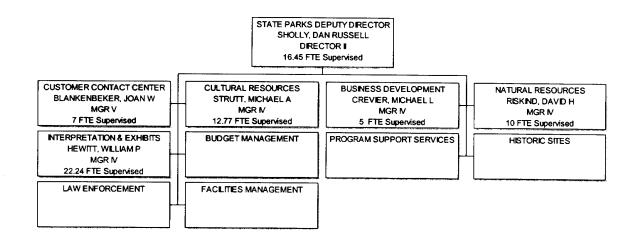
State Parks Division

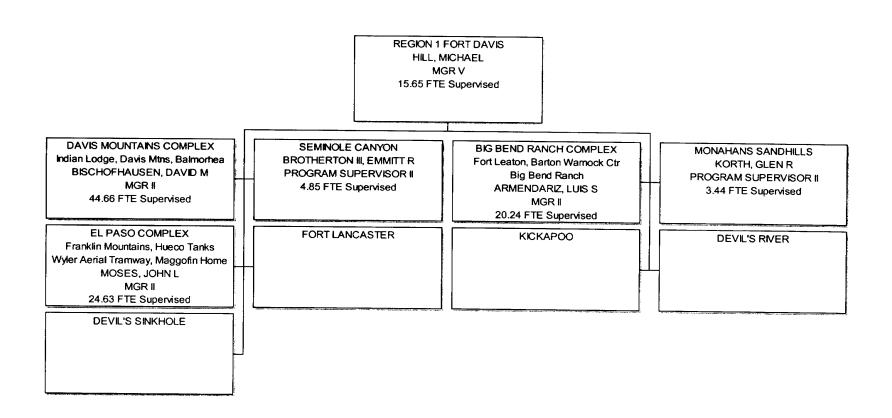
- Standard Operating Plans and cyclic maintenance program for each park
- Natural and cultural resource management
- Expanded interpretive/education and outreach programs
- Partnerships and volunteer support
- Business Management Practices to create efficiencies and increased revenue
 - o State Park Annual Pass Program
- Public Information and Web site Development
- Historic Sites and State Parks Advisory Committees
- Historic Sites coordination with the Texas Historical Commission

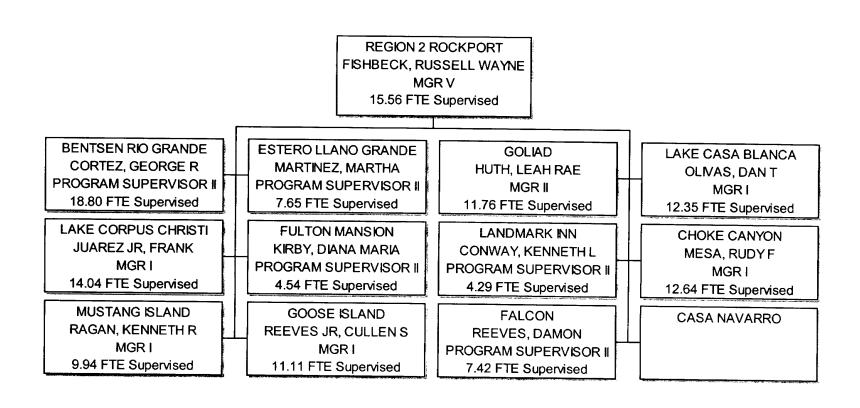
State Parks Division

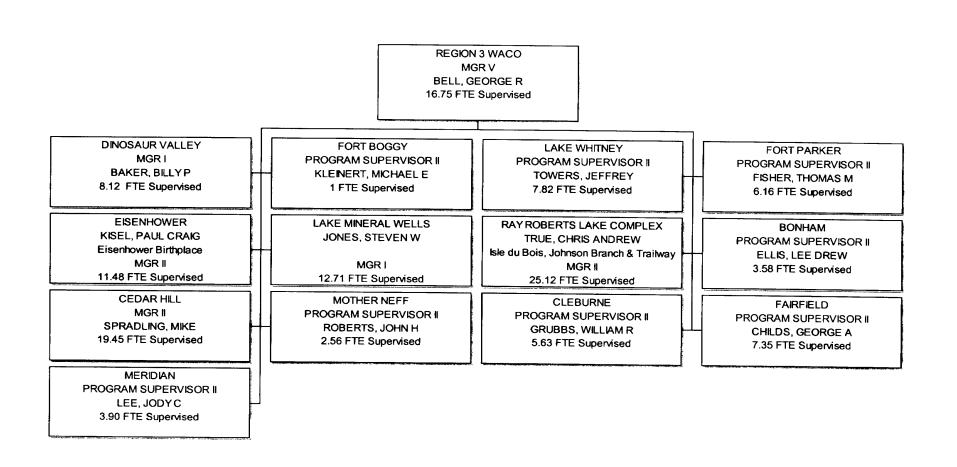


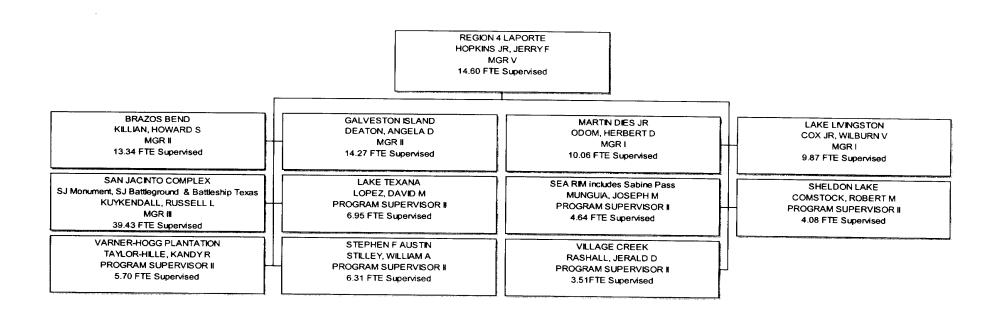
State Parks Deputy Director

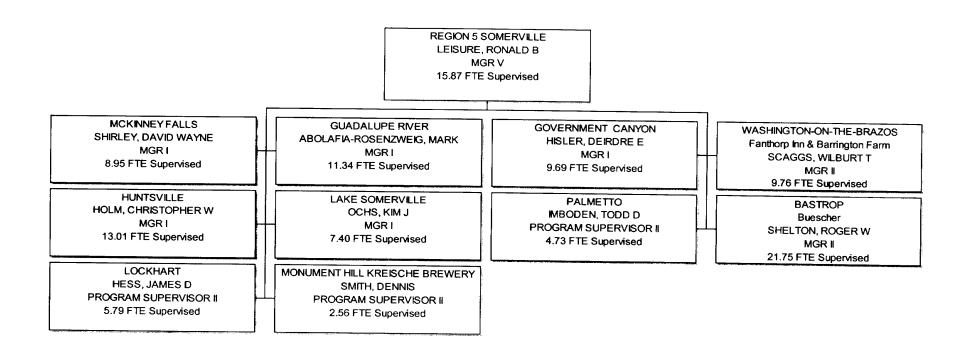


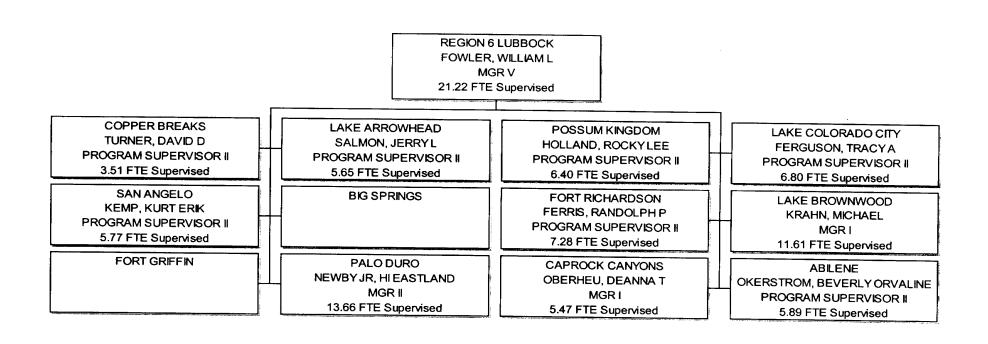


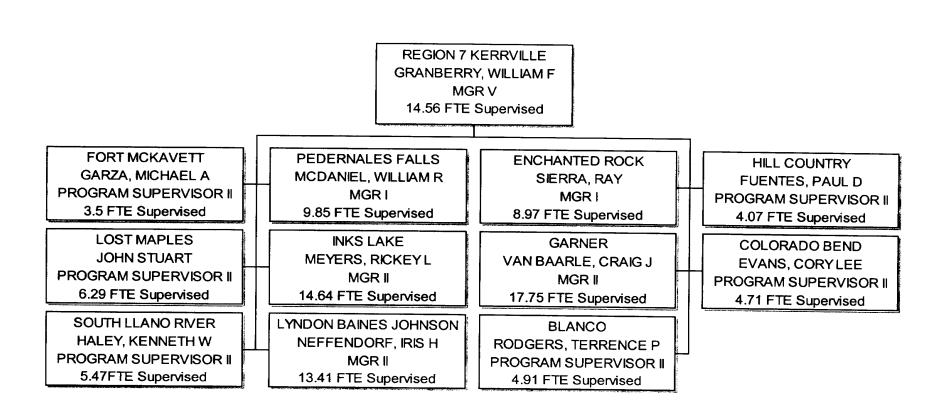


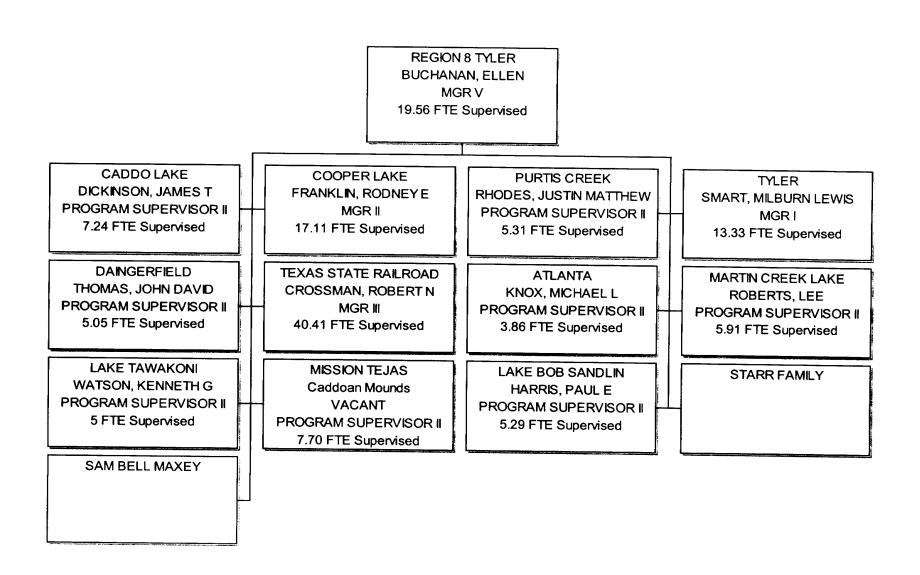












Wildlife Division

- Region 1 through 4: The regional staff is separated into four separate regions and it is the regional staff that provides the services for the Wildlife programs purposes. Regional staff manage the Wildlife Management Areas for habitat conservation and outreach, monitor and report on wildlife populations, do much of the work for wildlife research projects, manage the Wildlife public hunts, provide technical assistance to landowners, approve or deny permit requests based on site visits, and provide urban outreach services.
- Big Game Program's purpose is to promote and encourage sound habitat and wildlife management and to promote big game hunting in Texas. This program includes the Wildlife Permits Unit.
- Small Game and Habitat Assessment Program: The Small Game program is responsible for doves, waterfowl, upland game birds, and webless migratory game birds habitat management, monitoring population trends and setting hunting season dates and bag limits. The Habitat Assessment program conducts field studies and evaluates proposed development projects that affect the state's wildlife resources.
- Private Lands and Public Hunting Program provides technical assistance, recognition, and sometimes financial
 incentives, to landowners for wildlife management and conservation of wildlife habitat, and rare or declining plant
 and animal species. The public hunting program provides for the maximum public recreational use of the various
 Texas Parks and Wildlife-owned, leased, or licensed lands that are compatible with the resources and other
 activities on the property.
- Wildlife Diversity Program's purpose is to improve the conservation of nongame, rare, and urban wildlife in Texas and to develop awareness for the conservation of Texas' wildlife resources among a new constituency of Texans through outreach and "hands-on" activities.
- Wildlife Planner: This is not one of the main programs. The Wildlife Planner reviews research proposals, requests
 federal funding from the 3 million a year received in State Wildlife Grant funds. The Wildlife Planner reviews and
 submits the reports to the USFWS, and monitors the research programs to ensure the strategy goals are being
 met.

WILDLIFE DIVISION

