

**Texas Parks and Wildlife Department FY10-11 Proposed 5% Budget Reduction  
Statement from Carter Smith, TPWD Executive Director  
February 16, 2010**

Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) has submitted to the Governor’s Office and the Legislative Budget Board (LBB) a proposed plan to reduce agency spending by 5% in the fiscal year 2010-2011 biennium. The total amount of TPWD’s proposed budget reduction comes to almost \$25 million over the biennium, as detailed below.

We are responding to a Feb. 15 letter in which state leaders directed agencies to propose “prudent, efficient reductions that minimize the impact on services” to citizens and stakeholders. In this spirit we have tried to minimize cuts to core programs and services. We are not proposing to close state parks, wildlife management areas or fish hatcheries, nor do we propose to eliminate any currently filled employee positions.

Our senior staff representing all agency divisions carefully prepared this plan, which leaders on the TPW Commission approved. Ultimately, it will be up to the Legislature to make the final determination on these proposed cuts.

<b>REDUCTION</b>	<b>AMOUNT</b>
<b>GLO Shoreline Erosion Pass-Through Funds</b> Represents 5% of the total \$25.2 million TPWD passes to the GLO to fund coastal erosion projects	<b>\$1,259,680</b>
<b>Data Center Consolidation Project</b> Achieves savings by removing TPWD from the project and returning data center functions to the agency	<b>\$2,000,000</b>
<b>Canadian River Off-Road Vehicle Park</b> Cancels plans to create a new off-highway vehicle state park in the Texas Panhandle along the Canadian River.	<b>\$495,713</b>
<b>Vehicle License Plate Pass-Through Funds</b> Reduces funding for specialty plates appropriated through TPWD <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Texas Lions Camp</li> <li>• Marine Mammal Recovery (Supports the Texas Marine Mammal Stranding Network)</li> <li>• Big Bend National Park</li> <li>• Waterfowl/Wetland Conservation (Supports Ducks Unlimited conservation work)</li> <li>• Marine Conservation (Supports Coastal Conservation Association work)</li> </ul>	\$26,596 \$29,904  \$38,785 \$15,761  \$20,086

<b>Local Park Pass-Through Grants</b> Reduces TPWD's ability to fund grants for local city/county park projects	<b>\$5,750,000</b>
<b>Merit Program</b> Eliminates merit pay and retention programs that reward outstanding employee performance	<b>\$3,780,000</b>
<b>Capital Construction</b> Reduces funds for capital repair and construction needs at agency facilities	<b>\$8,399,902</b>
<b>Capital Equipment</b> Reduces funds for equipment replacement, including vehicles, boats, tractors and other equipment	<b>\$1,853,796</b>
<b>Land Acquisition</b> Reduces funding for state parks and wildlife management area land acquisition	<b>\$150,000</b>
<b>Integrated Financial System (BIS)</b> Reduces functionality of a new integrated financial system by delaying implementation of some reporting functions	<b>\$100,000</b>
<b>Operations</b> Reduce operating expenses in Fund 9 (Fish, Wildlife and Water Safety related) divisions	<b>\$896,599</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$24,816,822</b>