

# Bird Recovery on Private Lands:

A US State Perspective (**Texas**)

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TEXAS  
PARKS &  
WILDLIFE



**+35  
MILLION**

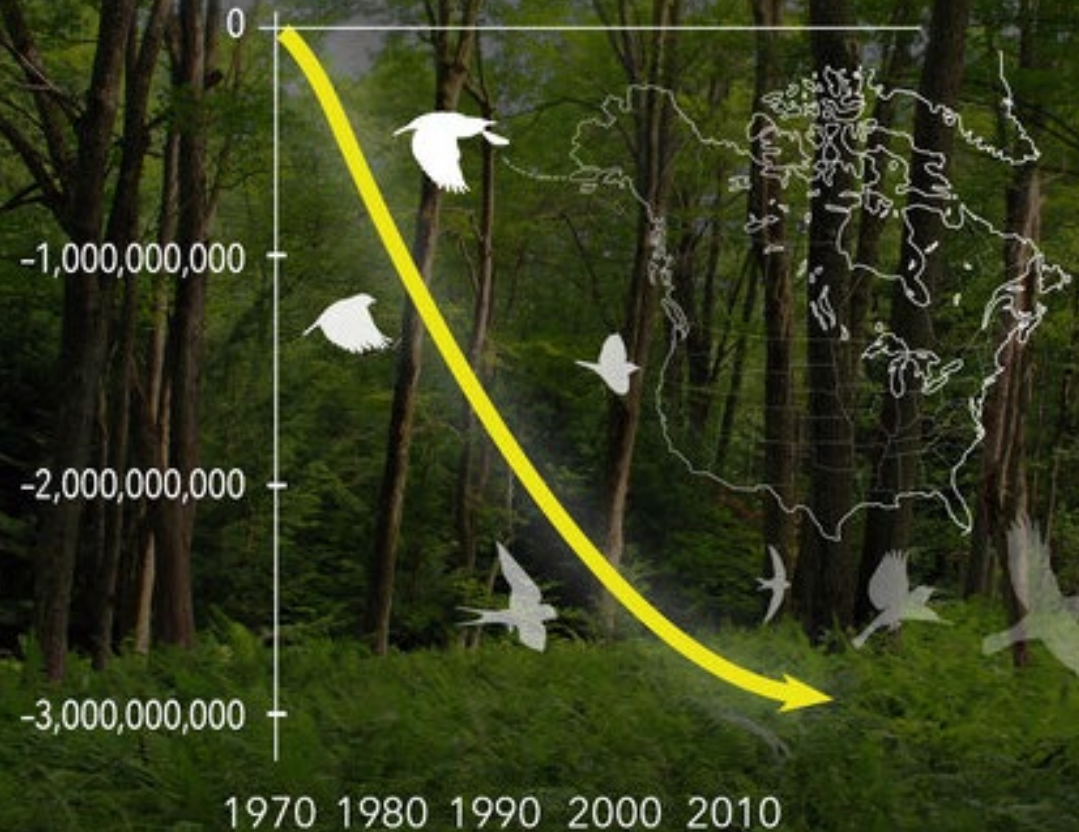
**WATERFOWL  
GAINED  
SINCE 1970  
THANKS TO  
CONSERVATION  
EFFORTS**



Wood Duck by Camille Bock/Macaulay Library, Pond by Nicholas Tonelli/Creative Commons

Courtesy of the Cornell Lab of Ornithology. Source: Science, 2019

**2.9 billion**  
birds gone since 1970



Courtesy of the Cornell Lab of Ornithology. Source: Science, 2019





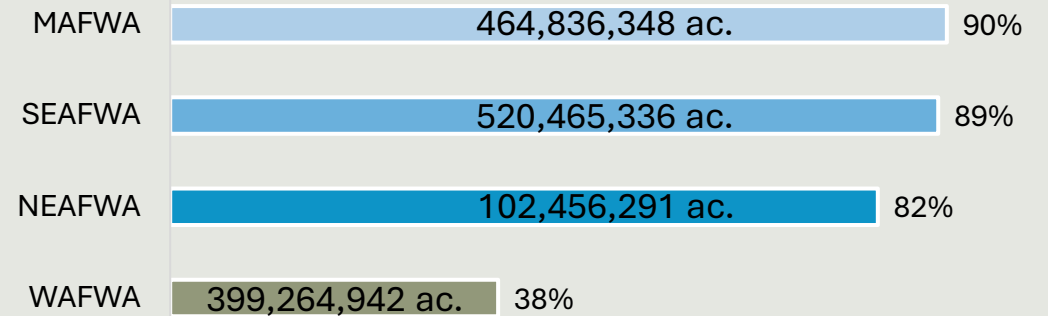


## Agricultural Conservation Committee: Private Lands Working Group

- Private lands are >61% of the U.S. landscape
- >12,000 SGCN species and 75% of T&E species rely on private lands



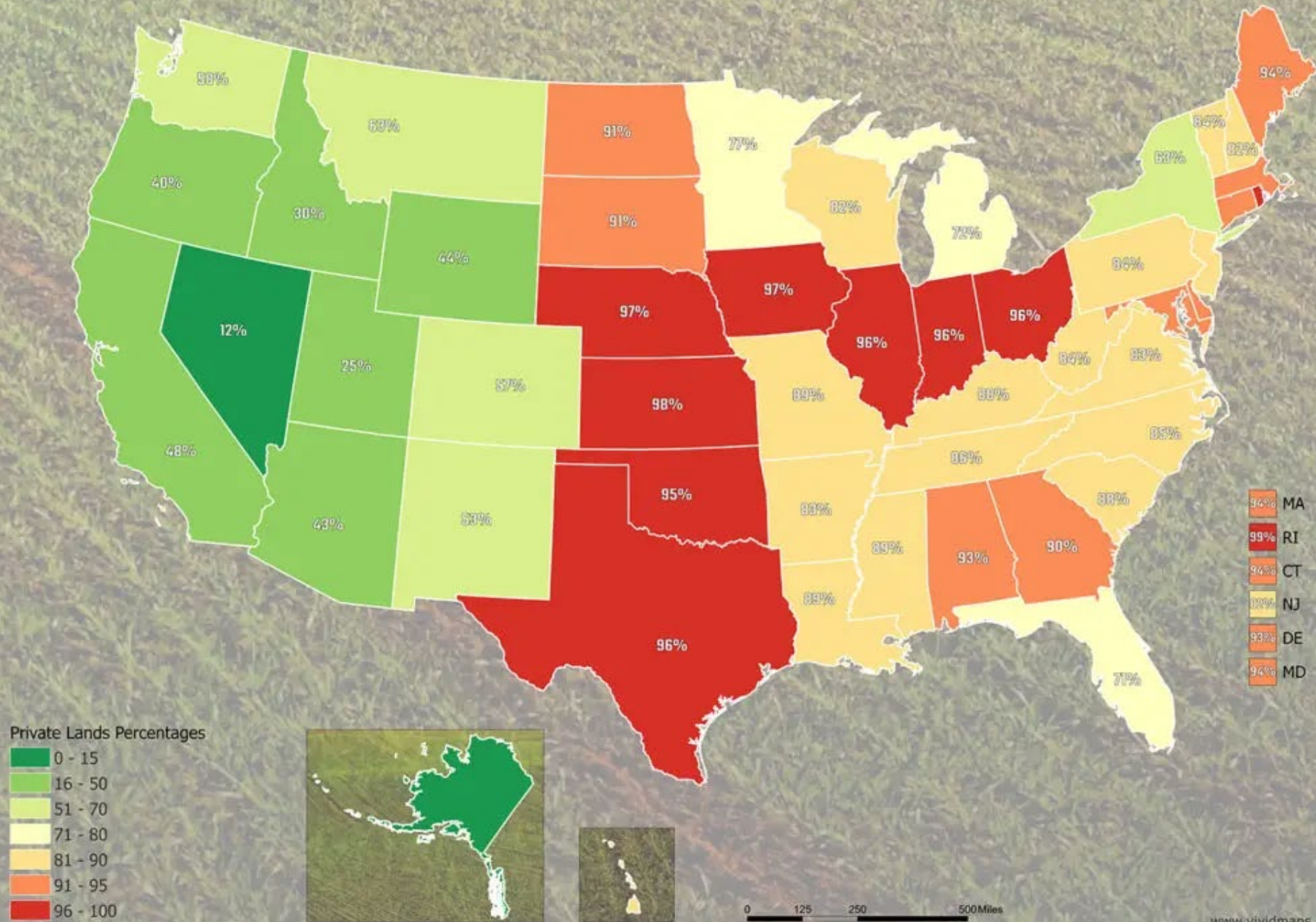
### Private Lands State?



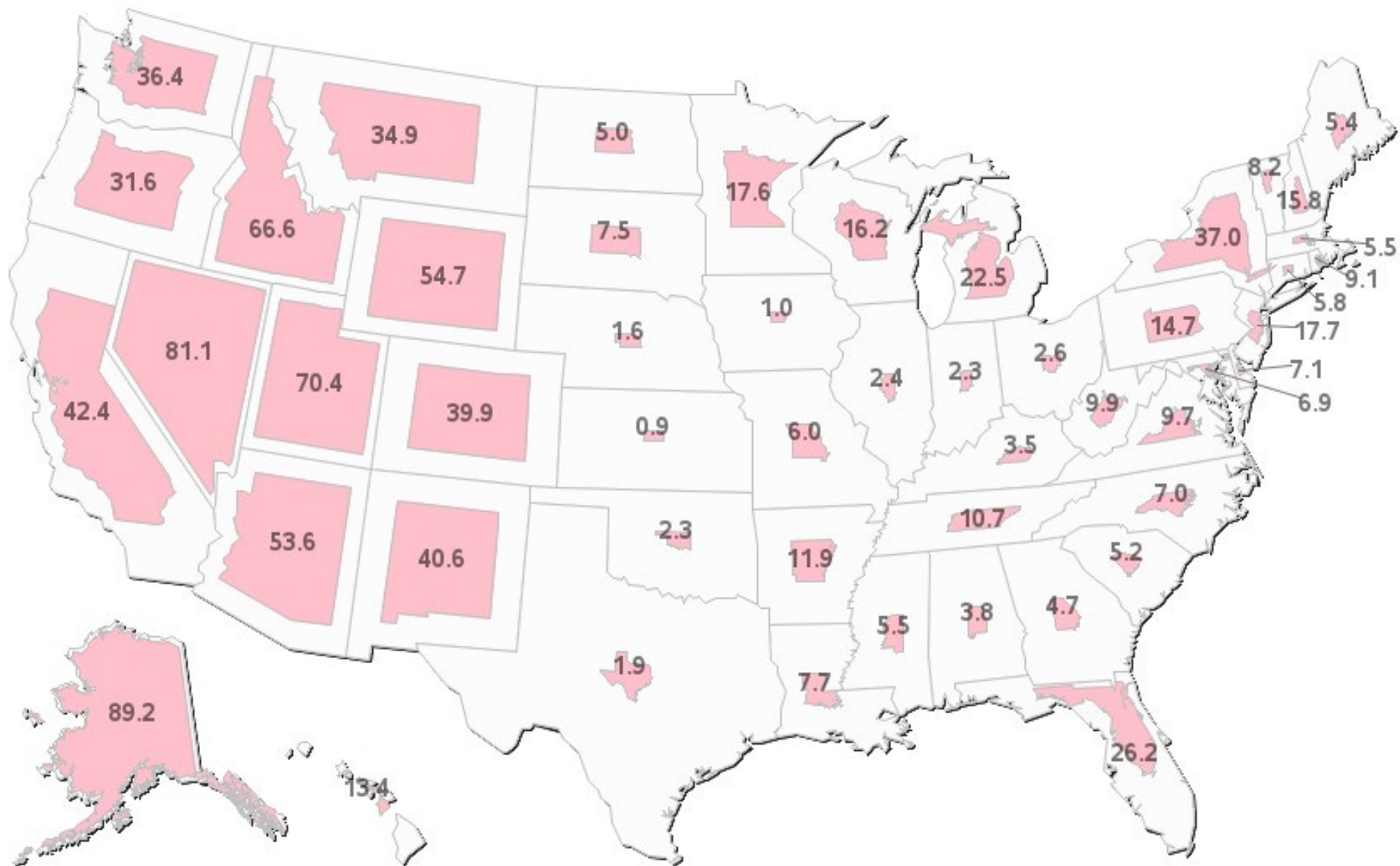
*Acres of private land and percentage of private land by AFWA Region.  
Most states are Private Lands States. Private lands are important for supporting wildlife populations in places where conservation needs are most urgent.*



# Private Lands in Each U.S. State



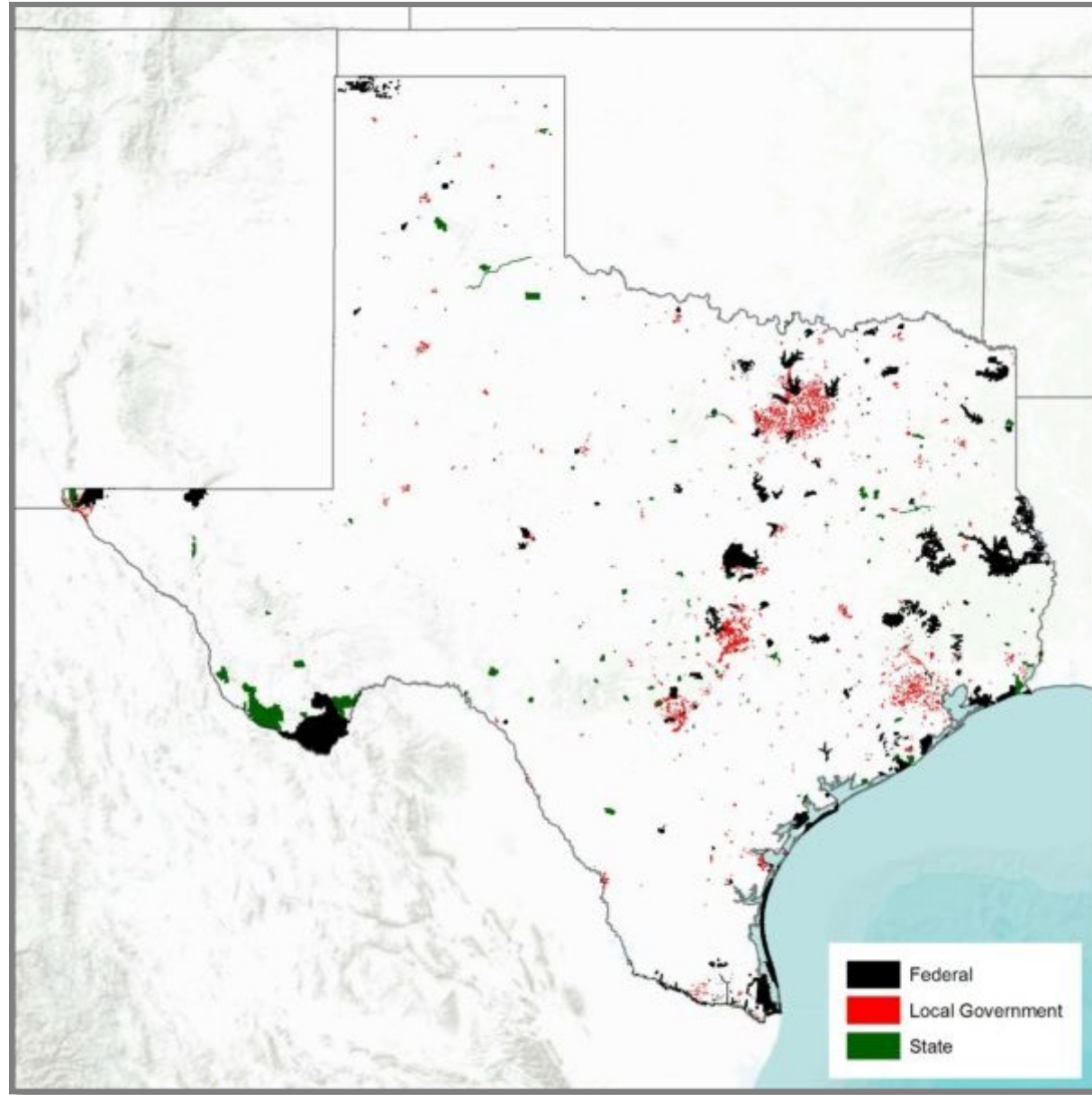
## Federal & State Land, as a percentage of total state land area



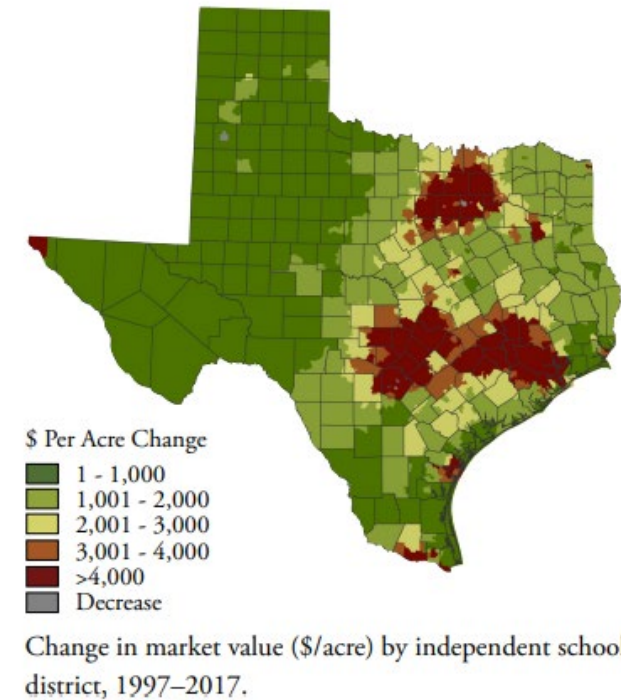
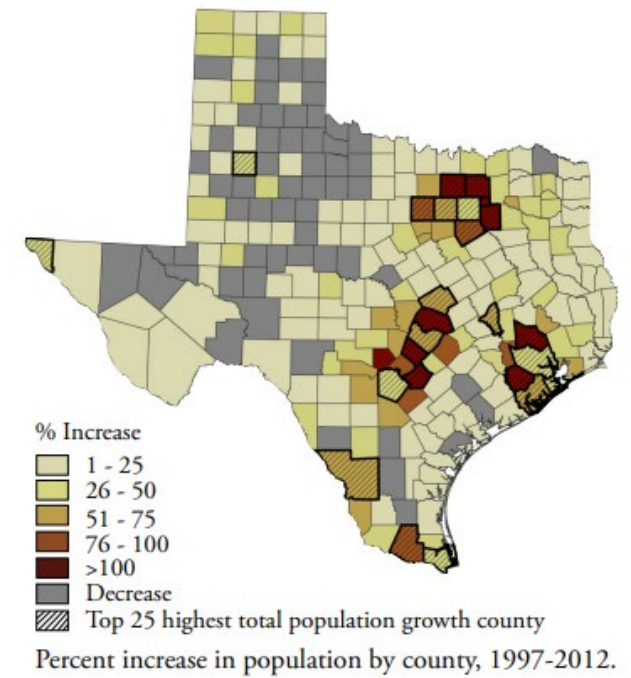
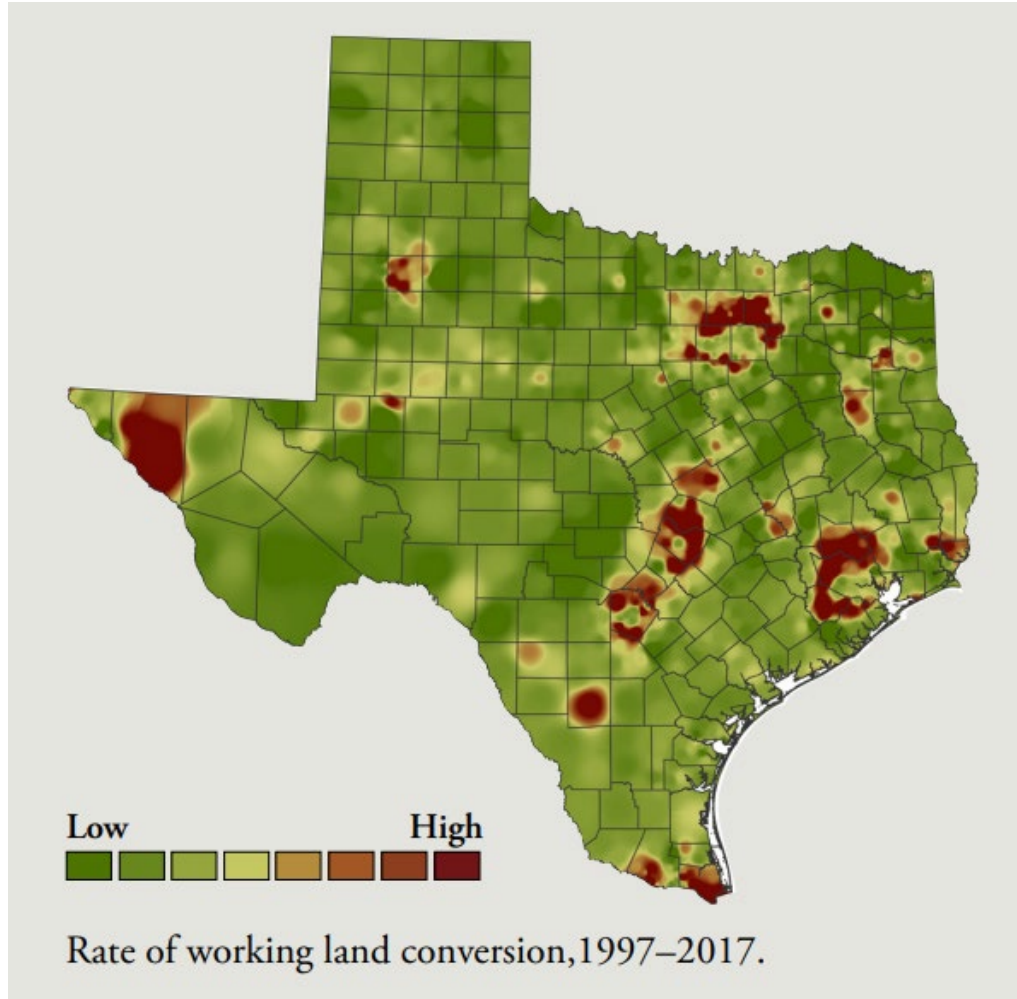
Data source: Natural Resources Council of Maine ([www.nrcm.org/documents/publiclandownership.pdf](http://www.nrcm.org/documents/publiclandownership.pdf))



# PUBLIC LAND ALONE...



# TEXAS LAND TRENDS



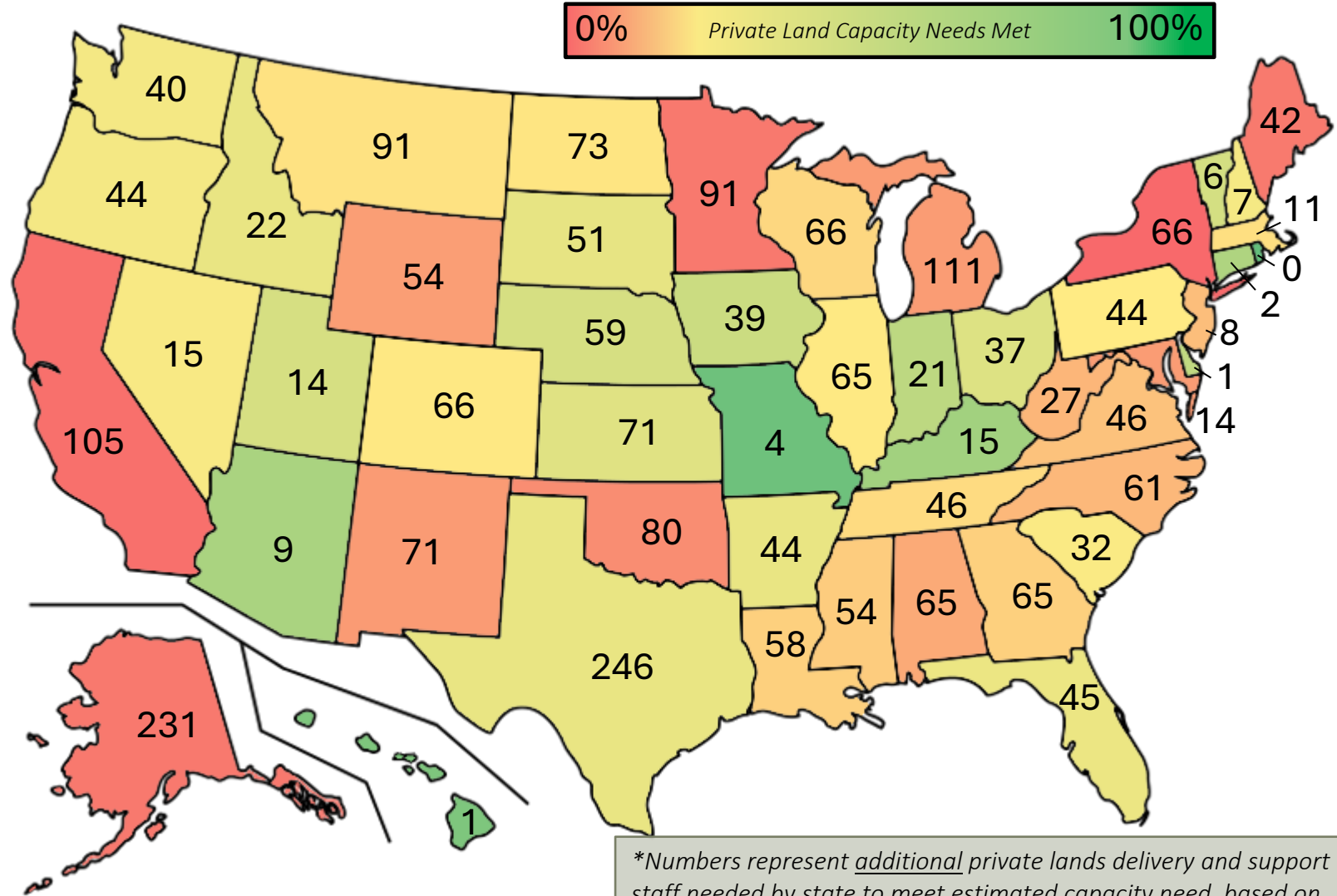




# Agricultural Conservation Committee: Private Lands Working Group

## Personnel Capacity

- Conservation Delivery on Private Land Requires Capacity and Resources
- State, Federal, NGO, University, and Joint Venture partnerships



*\*Numbers represent additional private lands delivery and support staff needed by state to meet estimated capacity need, based on acres of private land and 900 sq mi of effective coverage per biologist. (2020 analysis of the AFWA Private Lands Survey data)*



## Technical Guidance

Conservation Plans  
Wildlife Management Plans  
NRCS Conservation Technical  
Assistance (CTA)  
Partner Biologists



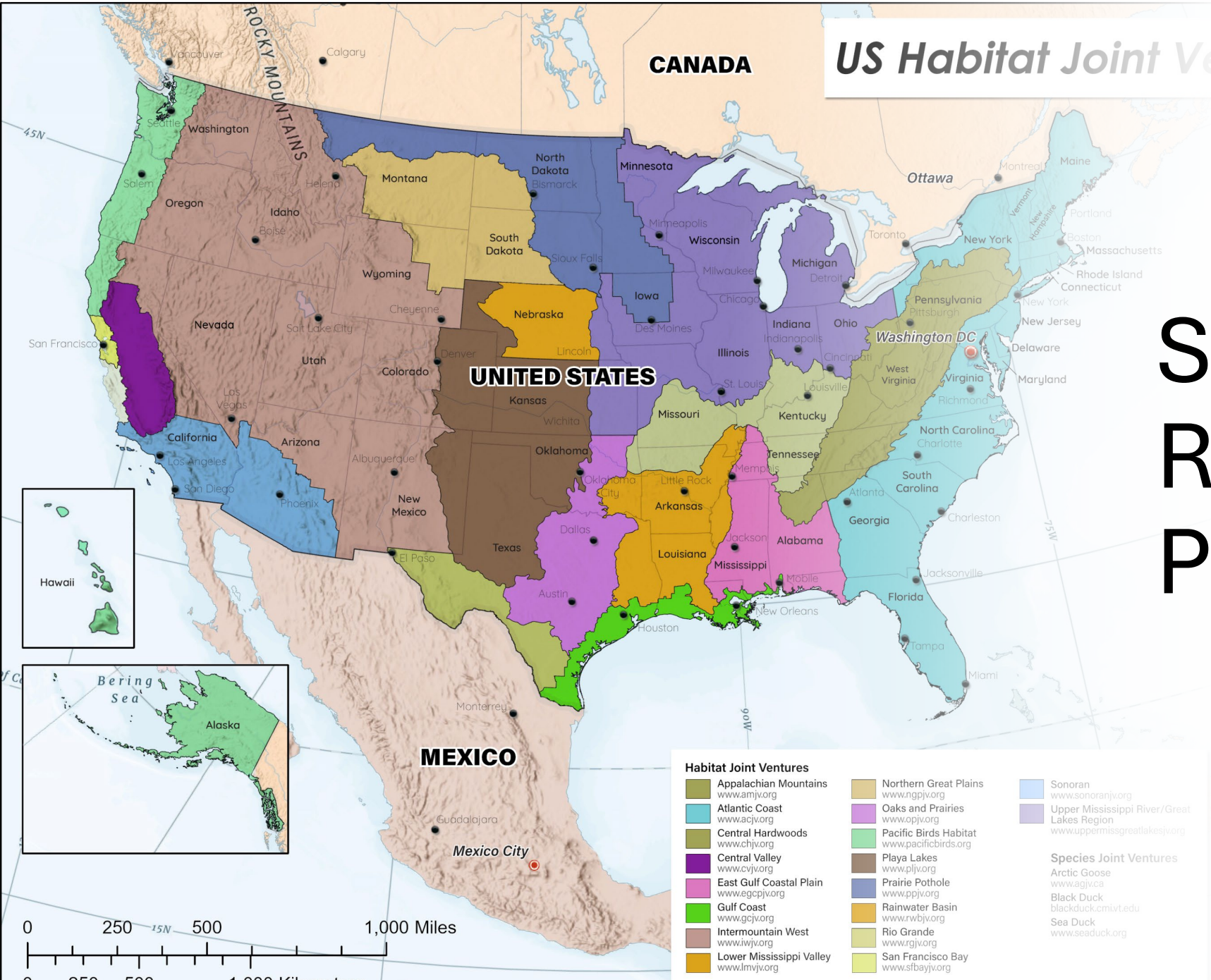
## Financial Assistance

Cost-Share  
Practice Incentive Payments  
Land Rental Payment (Set-aside)  
Easements



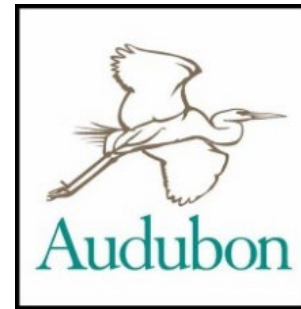
# US Habitat Joint Ve

# State and Regional Partnerships





NRCS







# CASE STUDY

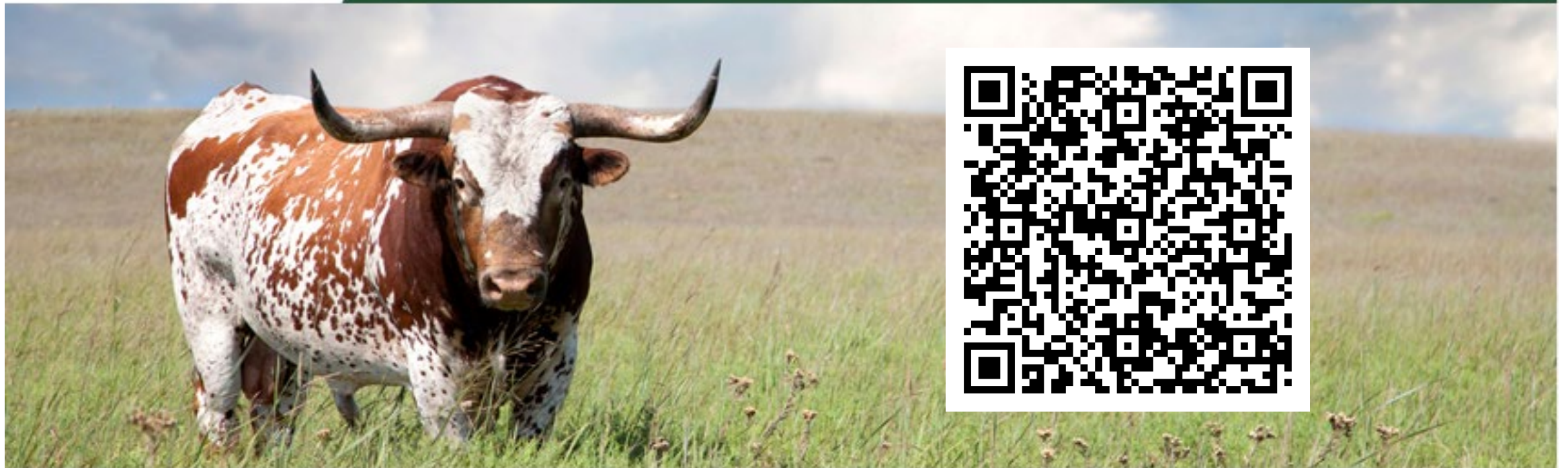
## Texas Parks and Wildlife Department



ASSOCIATION *of*  
FISH & WILDLIFE  
AGENCIES

Private Lands Working Group

Agriculture Conservation Committee

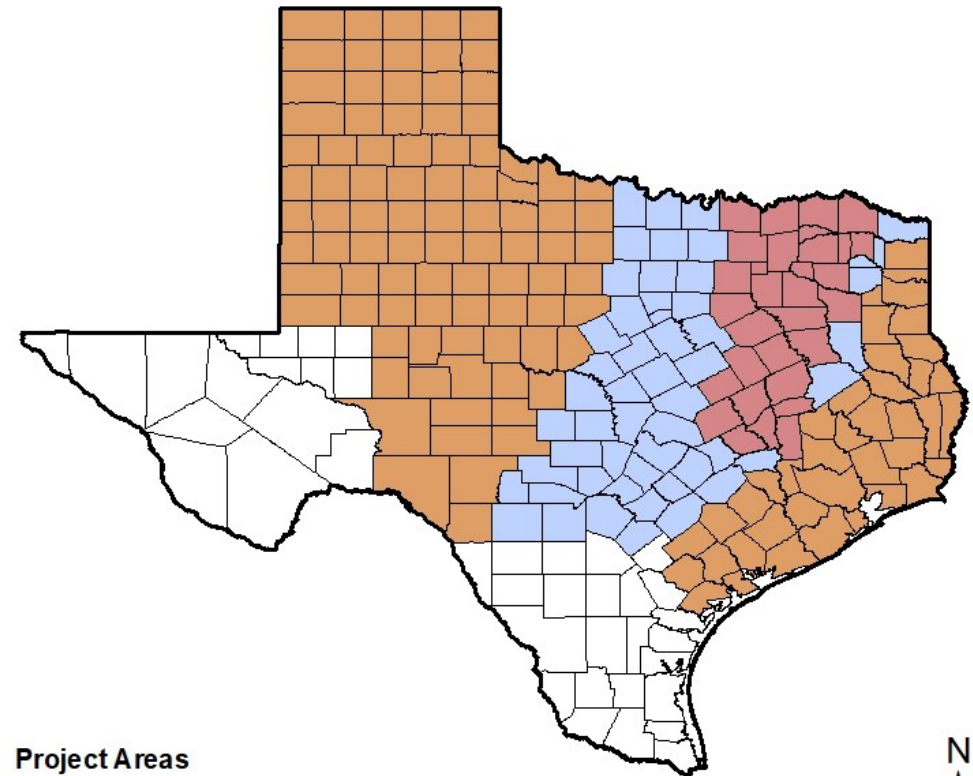


**STATE AGENCY PRIVATE LANDS PROGRAM CASE-STUDY**



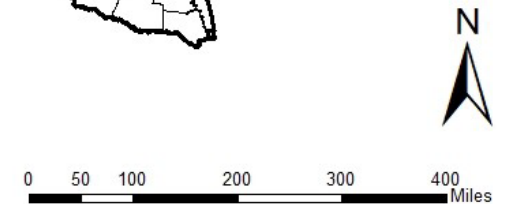
# Pastures for Upland Birds

- Restores exotic pasture or cropland back to native cover
- No exchange of \$\$\$ Herbicide/Seed/Equipment are provided
- Limited funding ~\$300k/year

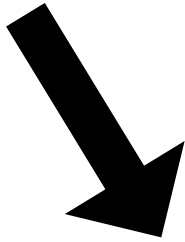


## Project Areas

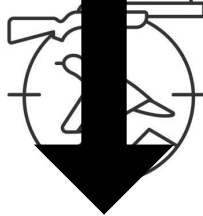
- Priority 1
- Priority 2
- Priority 3





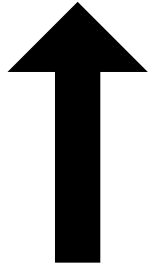


Upland  
Hunting



Stamp Funds





**Lone Star Land Steward Awards**







- Wide range of practices available
- Must follow USDA specifications
- Competitive Application Process
- Local Working Groups determine ranking priorities for most funds
- Landowner/Producer goals lead planning process
- Funding Pools - General EQIP/Wildlife 10%/WLFW/IRA-Climate Smart

## State Technical Advisory Committees (STAC)

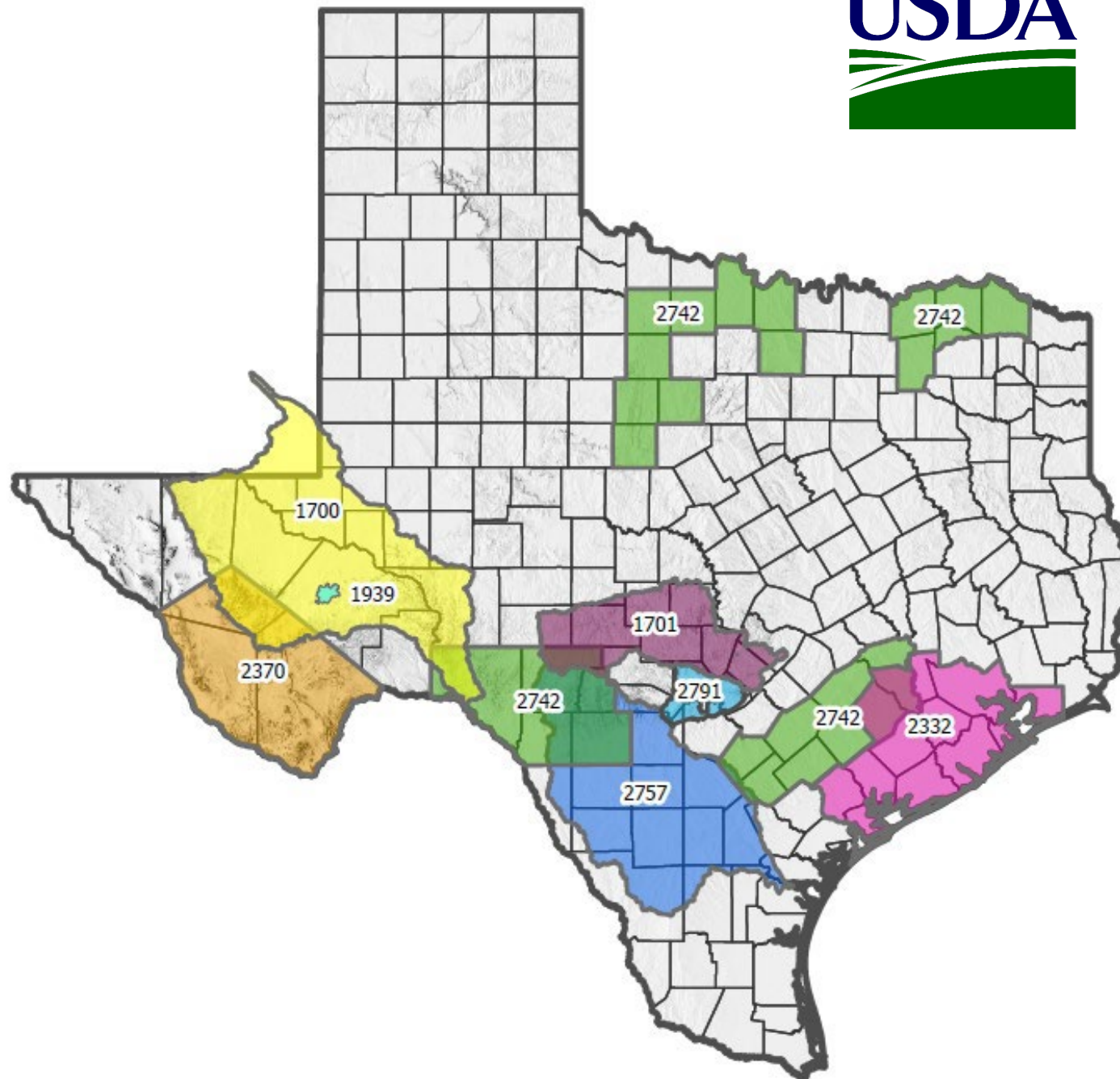
- Subcommittees chaired by a partner and supported by the state NRCS technical lead
- Provides input on program delivery, technical specs

~\$120 million spent in Texas annually



-  Texas Counties
-  1700 - NRCS-NFWF Pecos Partnership Project Area
-  1701 - Hill Country Headwaters Initiative
-  1939 - Restoring Perennial Flow in Comanche Springs
-  2370 - Greater Big Bend Conservation Partnership Project Area
-  2742 - Prairie Grasslands Conservation in Central Texas: GRIP
-  2757 - Nueces Watershed Additive Conservation Partnership
-  2791 - Camp Bullis Sentinel Landscape

## Texas RCPP Projects

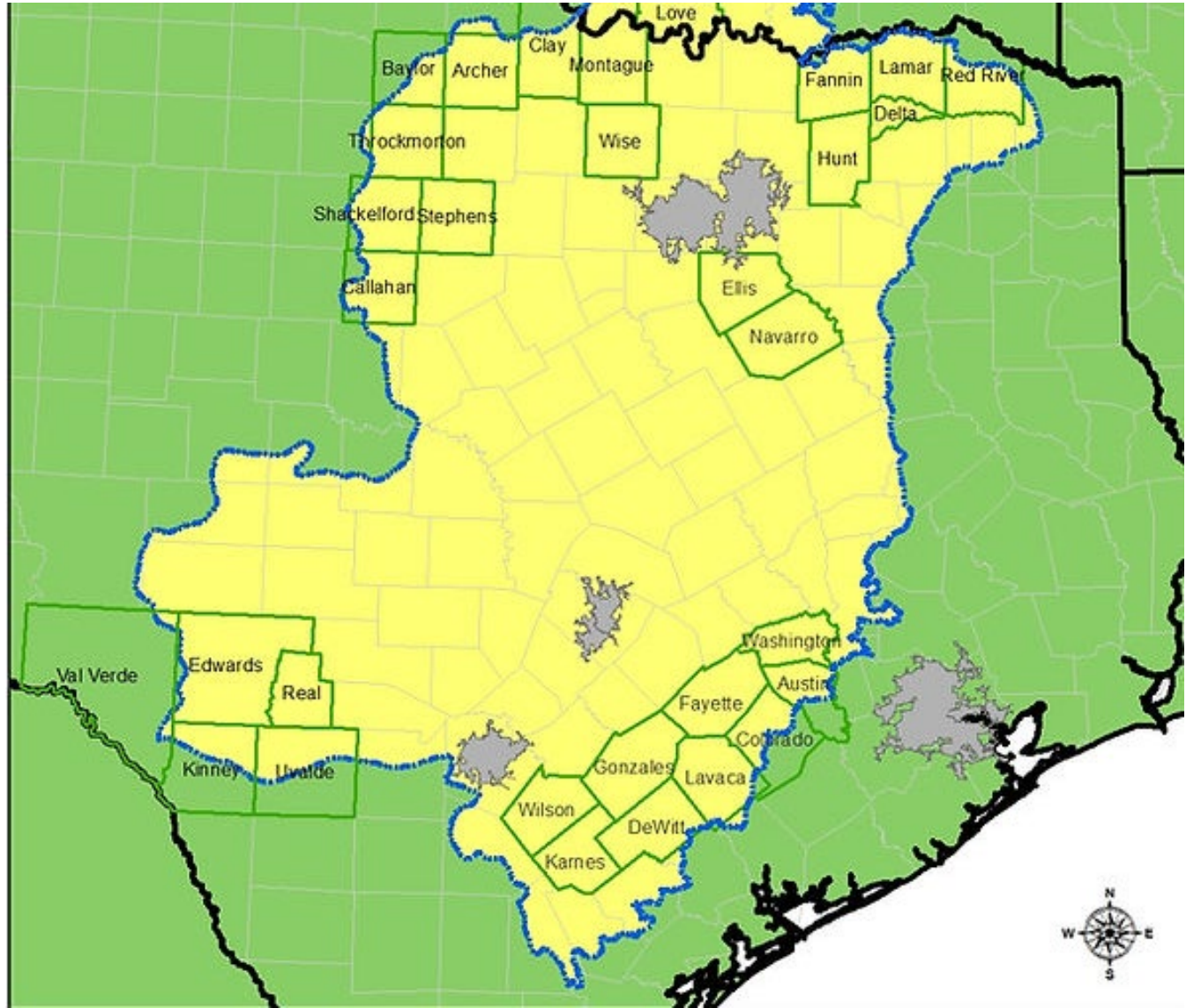


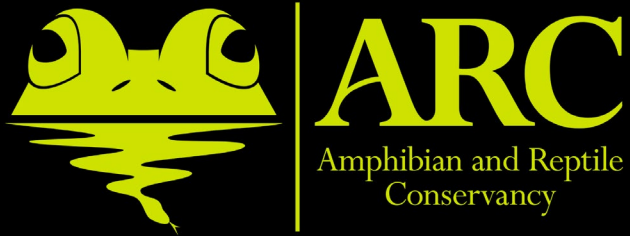




## GRIP - RCPP

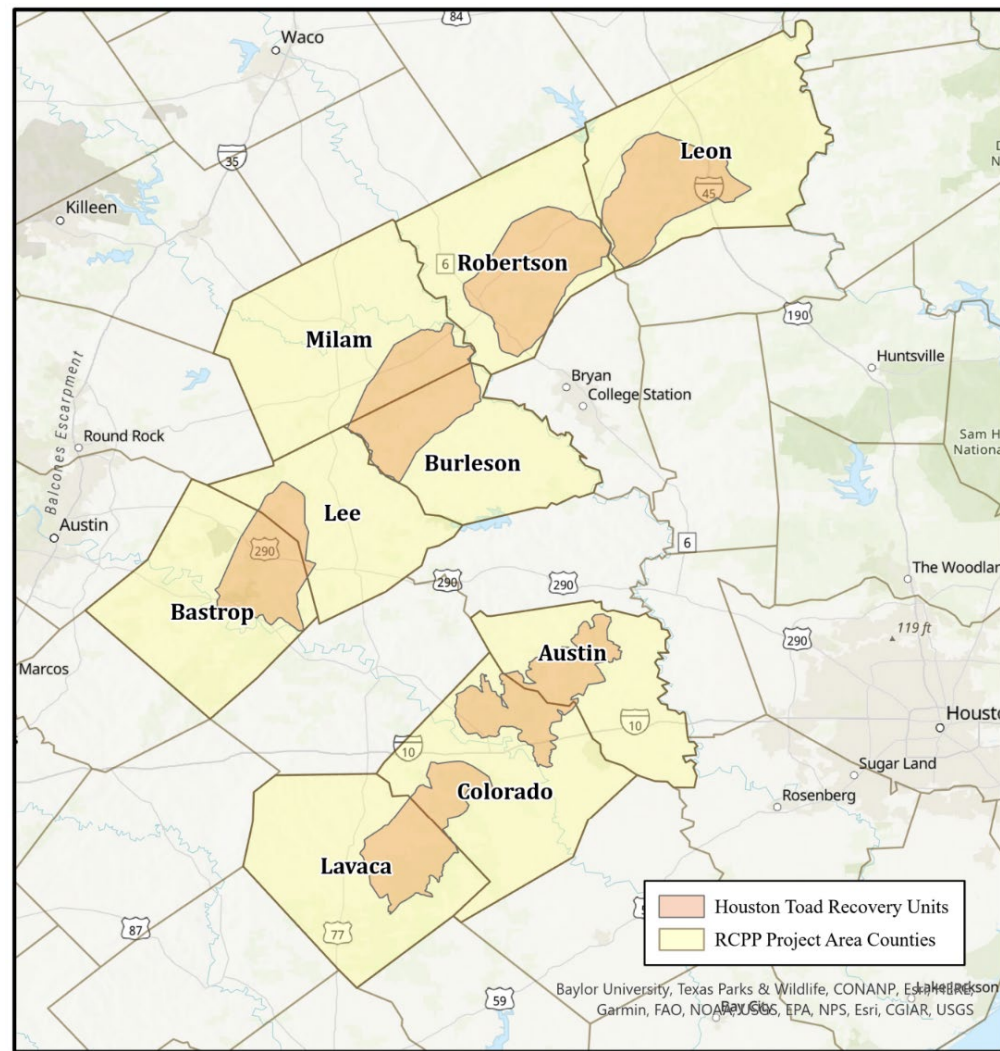
- Incentive payment for select practices
- TPWD/OPJV/Quail Forever Partners
- Native historic site-appropriate ecosystem restoration and management





## Houston Toad Partnership

- ARC/TPWD/OPJV USDA – NRCS Partners
- Incentive payments for select practices to improve habitat, reduce wildfire risk
- Native historic site-appropriate ecosystem restoration and management
- Toad Habitat = Turkey Habitat = Painted Bunting Habitat





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