

TEXAS PARKS AND WILDLIFE

Please note that most of the questions do not apply to the Texas Parks and Wildlife Dept.

(1) From your agency's point of view, what regulations can be reduced to improve communication and cooperation between federal, state, and local governments within the Texas-Mexico border region?

NA

(2) What are the main trade issues between the United States and Mexico that you have identified as having an impact (both positive and negative) on your agency or your area of work?

NA

(3) Having studied the flow of commerce at ports of entry between this state and Mexico, including the movement of commercial vehicles across the border, what actions would you establish to aid that commerce and improve the movement of those vehicles?

NA

(4) How do you work with federal officials to resolve transportation issues involving infrastructure, including roads and bridges, to allow for the efficient movement of goods and people across the border between Texas and Mexico?

NA

(5) How does your agency work with federal officials to create a unified federal agency process to streamline border crossing needs?

NA

(6) Has your agency identified problems involved with border truck inspections and related trade and transportation infrastructure? What are those? What solutions/recommendations does your agency propose?

NA

(7) How do you work to increase funding for the North American Development Bank to assist in the financing of water and wastewater facilities?

NA

(8) Has your agency explored the sale of excess electric power from Texas to Mexico? What are your findings?

NA

(9) Has your agency identified any areas of environmental protection that need to be addressed cooperatively between Texas and the Mexican states? If so, which are those areas and what type of protective measures need to be taken?

The Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) is the lead state agency on environmental protection issues, and TPWD collaborates with TCEQ on some projects including

the Kills and Spills inter-agency team, water quality issues, and water rights permitting. On air quality issues, TPWD sites were made available to TCEQ to monitor air quality, especially in the Big Bend region.

(10) Has your agency identified common challenges to health care on which all border states can collaborate? If so, what are those challenges and how can all border states collaborate to overcome them?

NA

(11) Has your agency developed any recommendations to address border challenges in general? If so, what are they?

NA

(12) What programs and services does your agency offer to border communities?

- Technical guidance to landowners on wildlife management to enable landowners to provide hunting opportunities or other income-generating activities such as birdwatching and other wildlife viewing activities.
- Technical guidance to schools, homeowners, local officials and small acreage landowners to conserve and enhance urban and suburban habitat.
- Conservation strategies for nongame and rare species, which are especially important in the border region because of the economic impact of wildlife viewing and nature photography in areas such as the Lower Rio Grande Valley.
- Control and eradication of invasive plants along the Rio Grande in collaboration with other partners such as the Rio Grande Institute.
- Wildlife and fisheries surveys to set hunting and fishing regulations.
- Fisheries enforcement in the Rio Grande, Falcon Reservoir and Amistad Reservoir to maintain a healthy sport fishing industry in border communities.
- Enforcement of wildlife regulations.
- Hunter, boater, and angler education and environmental education programs for teachers and the public.
- Operation of state parks and wildlife management areas that have economic benefits for the surrounding communities.
- Special programs at state parks and wildlife management areas such as the “Classroom in the Parks” program, the summer docent program at Fort Leaton State Historic Site for high school students, and youth hunting programs and hunting opportunities at wildlife management areas.
- Support for border Colonias to participate in Texas Parks & Wildlife Expo, a program that was initiated this year.

(13) What are some regulatory and/or legislative recommendations to eliminate duplication and combine programs and services?

At this time, we are not aware of any duplication with the programs and services that TPWD provides.

(14) Please share any considerations from your agency regarding the effect of policies instituted by the federal government impacting the border region.

NA

(15) Please give a brief summary of all your agency's activities related to the Border and/or Mexico.

In addition to the activities listed in #12 above, TPWD is involved in the following Border/Mexico activities:

- Participates in the Border Interagency Work Group.
- Co-chairs, with the State of Nuevo León, the Wildlife Work Table of the Border Governors Conference.
- Participates in the Trilateral Committee for Wildlife and Ecosystem Conservation and Management to coordinate projects among Canada, Mexico and the United States. These projects usually involve migratory species, shared ecosystems, and capacity building for the new state wildlife agencies in Mexico.
- Through a 1996 cooperative agreement between Texas and Mexico's Secretaría de Medio Ambiente y Recursos Naturales (SEMARNAT), TPWD provides surplus wildlife to Mexico.
- Works with U.S. Animal and Plant Health Service to eradicate feral, domestic and exotic animals that trespass from Mexico.
- In collaboration with the Gladys Porter Zoo, supports sea turtle camps in Tamaulipas for the conservation of Kemp's ridley sea turtle.
- Provided two slots in the current Game Warden Academy for two cadets from the Nuevo León Parks and Wildlife Department so that these individuals can set up a similar training academy for game wardens in Nuevo León. Nuevo León is covering most of the expenses incurred in the academy.