

### TEXAS PLAYA CONSERVATION INITIATIVE

Through the Texas Playa Conservation Initiative (TPCI), playa restoration in the Texas Panhandle continues to progress. Last year, TPCI restored more than 300 acres of playa wetlands. TPCI partners include the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, Playa Lakes Joint Venture, USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, US Fish and Wildlife Service, and Ducks Unlimited. This year several projects are slated for completion in concert with Texas Parks and Wildlife Department and the Playa Lakes Joint Venture.

### BAHIA GRANDE

Bahia Grande, at Laguna Atascosa NWR is a large coastal wetland ecosystem that has been greatly affected by hydrological modifications such as channelization, ditching, and road construction. The project will restore freshwater flows to 800 acres of wetlands by re-routing freshwater flow north of Highway 100 into the Bahia Grande wetland system.

This project addresses habitat impacts resulting from the Deepwater Horizon oil spill and is funded by the Damage Assessment, Remediation, and Restoration Program administered by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. This project will implement restoration activities, conduct monitoring to assess restoration outcomes, and engage in outreach and educational activity with restoration practitioners and stakeholders.

### TEXAS BY THE NUMBERS

2019

- \$10.4 million raised
- 200 events
- 7,472 acres conserved

HISTORICAL

- 265,651 acres conserved
- \$73.829.500 invested

TXFC's cumulative contributions to DU for habitat conservation in Canada: **\$4,748,364.**



- ★ Featured Projects
- Completed Projects

### EAST TEXAS WETLANDS PROPOSAL

Working with the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department and Texas Parks and Wildlife Foundation, DU has applied for a North American Wetlands Conservation Act grant that will allow for the planned habitat acquisition in Northeast Texas. The project partners propose to acquire approximately 400 ac of habitat representative of East Texas floodplains and will include bottomland hardwoods, scrub-shrub and herbaceous wetlands. Wetland loss in the East Texas region has been significant, with greatest losses being forested wetlands. Nearly two-thirds of bottomland hardwood habitat has been lost in East Texas, which has impaired the region's value for resident and migratory waterfowl. The proposed acquisition will protect critical wetlands from development and fragmentation. In addition, public use activities are a primary goal of the WMA program and this acquisition will increase the availability of public lands for outdoor recreation activities.

### DAGGER ISLAND

This restoration and protection project will protect seagrasses from wave energy caused by winds and large vessel traffic on the Corpus Christi Ship Channel. These seagrass beds are important for waterfowl and fisheries resources, including finfish, shrimp, blue crab and sea turtles. Once complete, the project will see the enhancement of 557 acres of continuous seagrass beds, intertidal wetlands and coastal islands in the Redfish Bay State Scientific Area.

This area contains the northernmost extensive stands of seagrass on the Texas coast and is one of only three bays that contain all five species of native seagrass in Texas.

Support for the project was provided by the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation-Gulf Environmental Benefit Fund, North American Wetland Conservation Act, Coastal Conservation Association Texas and the Building Conservation Trust. These commitments support efforts by the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department and DU to restore Dagger Island and protect important seagrass beds in Redfish Bay.