

# Conservation in Action

# **WHO WE ARE**



Gulf Coast Prairie Landscape Conservation Cooperative

The Gulf Coast Prairie LCC was established in 2011 to ensure that the conservation community and other partners with common goals have the science they need to support a modernized approach to conservation. The Gulf Coast Prairie LCC has three overarching priorities that are reflected in its comprehensive Science Strategy and its more than 20 science projects currently in development:

- Protect and restore Gulf of Mexico coastal habitats and wildlife.
- Conserve prairie grasslands to restore habitat connectivity.
- Improve hydrologic conditions, including water quality, quantity, and flow patterns that affect prime habitats.

LCC science and research aimed at achieving these priorities are guided by a focus on the requirements of 28 representative "focal species," an approach calculated to result in productive habitats and healthy ecosystems.

### How We're Funded

The GCP LCC receives the majority of its funding from the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service (USFWS), with additional affiliated staff support from the Wildlife Management Institute and Texas A&M University.

# IN OUR PARTNERS' WORDS

"The GCP LCC helps us provide and continue to develop recommendations for water regulators and managers based on best available science to protect fish and wildlife resources. One of the most pressing changes we face in Texas is related to climate: we are seeing temperatures increase and more extreme weather events, and we've struggled through several years of drought. Also the population of Texas is projected to increase by almost 100% in 50 years, so competition for water is an issue, as well as habitat fragmentation and invasive species." - Cindy Loeffler, Texas Parks & Wildlife Dept.

#### For More Information

# SCIENCE-DRIVEN RESULTS

GCP LCC projects are driven by a high level of collaboration, a focus on supporting healthy ecosystems, and the best available science to forecast and plan for future environmental change and achieve lasting results.



The Gulf Coast Prairie region covers about 120 million acres, including areas within five states in the southcentral United States (Kansas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Oklahoma, and Texas) and portions of three states in northeastern Mexico (Coahuila, Nuevo Leon, and Tamaulipas). Prime habitats range from tallgrass prairie and semi-desert shrublands, to oak hardwood and pine forests, to tidal wetlands and barrier islands. Several major waterways lace through the area, including the lower Rio Grande, Guadalupe, Trinity, Arkansas, Red, San Antonio, and Mississippi Rivers, as well as some of North America's most wildlife-rich coastal wetlands.

# **KEY PARTNERS**

Partners on the LCC's Steering Committee include the state resource agencies from LA, OK, and TX; the federal agencies USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration, US Army Corps of Engineers, National Park Service, US Fish & Wildlife Service, and US Geological Survey; nonprofit organizations Ducks Unlimited, The Conservation Fund and The Nature Conservancy; as well as the following bird and fish habitat partnerships: Gulf Coast Joint Venture, Oaks and Prairies Joint Venture, Reservoir Fisheries Habitat Partnership, Rio Grande Joint Venture, and Southeast Aquatic Resources Partnership.