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TPWD, Partners Celebrating 30 Years of Wetland Conservation Success

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AUSTIN – In December 1989, President George H.W. Bush signed into law the **North American Wetland Conservation Act** (NAWCA), which was a new continental conservation funding mechanism. Designed to assist the North American Waterfowl Management Plan when waterfowl populations were declining across North America, NAWCA has also benefited many wildlife species and people across the continent.

Since its inception, nearly 2,950 NAWCA projects have utilized more than \$1.7 billion in federal funds which leveraged \$3.6 billion in matching funds and another \$1.4 billion in nonmatching funds from nearly 6,200 partners across North America. The first NAWCA grant allocated to Texas was awarded to The Nature Conservancy in 1991 to assist with the development of the Clive Runnells Family Mad Island Marsh Preserve in Matagorda County.

Subsequently, various federal, state, and non-profit partners, including Ducks Unlimited, Katy Prairie Conservancy, The Conservation Fund, the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, Texas R.I.C.E., and the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service have received financial funding to conduct wetland restoration and acquisition across Texas for the benefit of wildlife populations.

Examples of recent successful partnership efforts to enhance wetlands and associated habitats with NAWCA funds include the following:

Texas Prairie Wetland Program – this long-running wetland restoration program is a partnership between Dr. Edward D. and Sally M. Futch Charitable Foundation, Ducks

