



Thank you for joining us tonight as we celebrate 50 years of conservation history at the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department.

Since 1963 when the Department was formed by the merger of the Texas State Parks Board with the Texas Game and Fish Commission, the conservation professionals at your Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, with the extraordinary leadership of the Texas Parks and Wildlife Commission, have been focused on taking care of the wild things and wild places of Texas.

There have been many accomplishments over the years, none of which could have been achieved without our partnership with hunters, anglers, park users, private landowners and all who care about Texas and our proud outdoor heritage.

Since 1991, the Texas Parks and Wildlife Foundation has been supporting Department projects through efforts like the Conservation Hall of Fame Dinner. This year's recognition of Texas Parks and Wildlife's conservation legacy is a fitting tribute to the men and women who have spent their lives devoted to our mission to conserve the natural and cultural resources of Texas and to provide hunting, fishing and outdoor recreation opportunities for present and future generations.

Special thanks to the chairs, hosts and sponsors for this extraordinary evening. And above all, a heartfelt thank you to Debra and Dan Friedkin for their incredible vision and generosity in underwriting an evening that awes and inspires us all.

Tonight, as we reflect on fifty years gone by and imagine the next fifty years, we want to thank you for helping us ensure Texans of all ages can enjoy, explore and be inspired by the wild things and wild places of Texas.

Please join us in 'Keeping it Wild'!

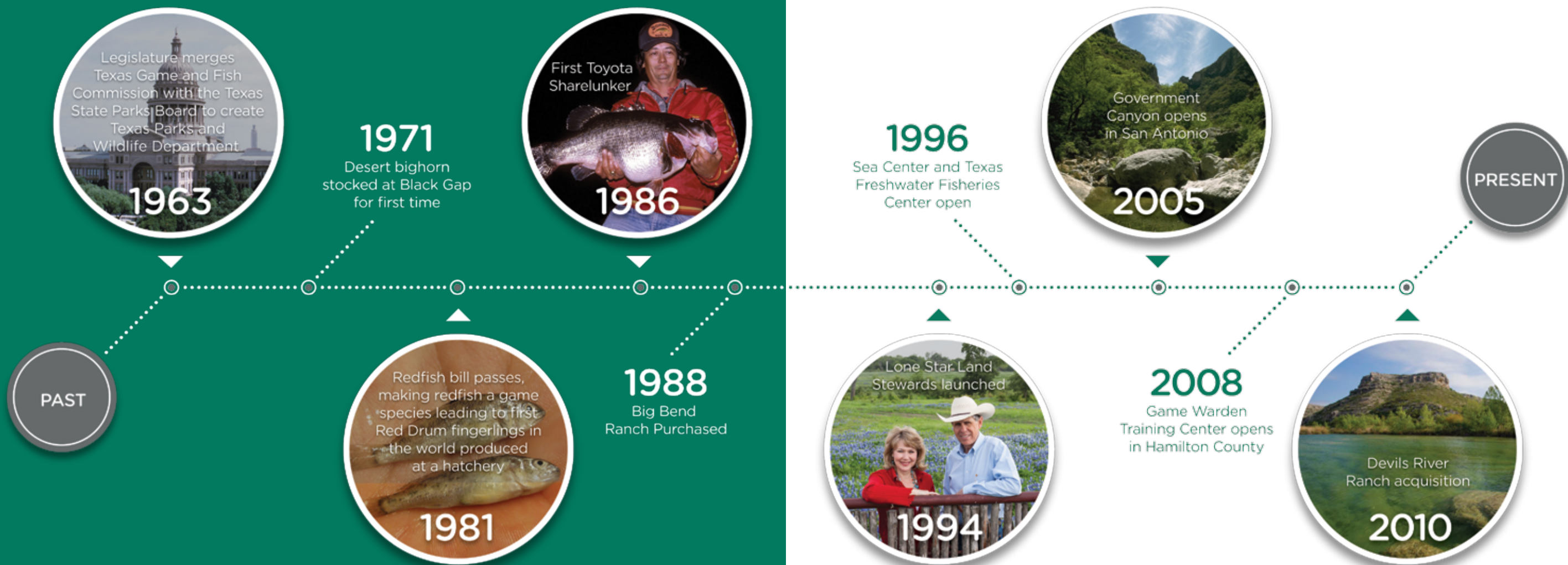
Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Carter Smith". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large, sweeping initial "C" and a long, horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Carter Smith
Executive Director
Texas Parks and Wildlife Department

50 Years of Wild Things & Wild Places

With 11 distinct ecoregions covering 268,500 square miles, Texas is blessed with an amazing biodiversity— nearly 200 mammals, 800 species of fish, 634 species of birds, and over 4,600 species of native plants.



Texas Parks & Wildlife Executive Directors

J. Weldon Watson
J.R. Singleton
James Cross

Clayton Garrison
Henry Burkett
Charles D. Travis

Andrew Sansom
Robert L. Cook
Carter Smith



1971
Desert bighorn stocked at Black Gap for first time



1988
Big Bend Ranch Purchased



1996
Sea Center and Texas Freshwater Fisheries Center open



2008
Game Warden Training Center opens in Hamilton County



Thank you to our Texas Parks & Wildlife Commissioners (1963-2014)

Ernest Angelo, Jr.	J.M. Dellinger	Ned S. Holmes	John D. Parker
Katharine Armstrong	Carol E. Dinkins	Peter M. Holt	James R. Paxton
Robert L. Armstrong	Ralph H. Duggins	Susan Howard-Chrane	Beatrice Carr Pickens
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Perry R. Bass	T. Dan Friedkin	Pearce Johnson	Nolan Ryan
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Mickey Burleson	Alvin L. Henry	Richard R. Morrison III	Max L. Thomas
Delo H. Caspary	Terese Hershey	A.W. Moursund	Walter Umphrey
Ray Clymer	George C. Hixon	Chuck Nash	Mark E. Watson, Jr.
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 Ralph H. Duggins, Vice Chairman
 T. Dan Friedkin, Chairman-Emeritus
 Roberto De Hoyos
 Bill Jones
 James H. Lee
 Margaret Martin
 S. Reed Morian
 Dick Scott

Lee M. Bass, Chairman-Emeritus

Carter Smith, Executive Director

TPWD

Oversees 1,408,443 acres of wild lands, and over 90 State Parks and Historic Sites that provide beauty, outdoor experiences, and inspiration for millions of Texans and their families.

Stewards 3,700 streams, 15 major rivers, countless lakes and ponds, and 3,300 miles of tidal shoreline. It operates 8 fisheries that stock more than 41 million fish into Texas waters yearly.

Internationally recognized for their outstanding law enforcement, more than 530 Texas Game Wardens conserve Texas' natural resources and protect its communities.

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Over 23 years

Leveraging public funds with private philanthropy to create lasting impact on TPWD's ability to conserve Texas' extraordinary lands, waters, wildlife, and cultural resources.

Making a Difference

92 cents of every dollar raised goes to conserving Texas lands, waters, and wildlife. Over \$80M has been raised to ensure wild things and wild places for future generations.

Top Rated

Recipient of Guidestar and Charity Navigator's highest marks for accountability and efficiency.

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This evening has been graciously
sponsored by Debra & Dan Friedkin

Who Needs Wild Things and Wild Places in Texas?

Texas Parks and Wildlife believes we all do.

