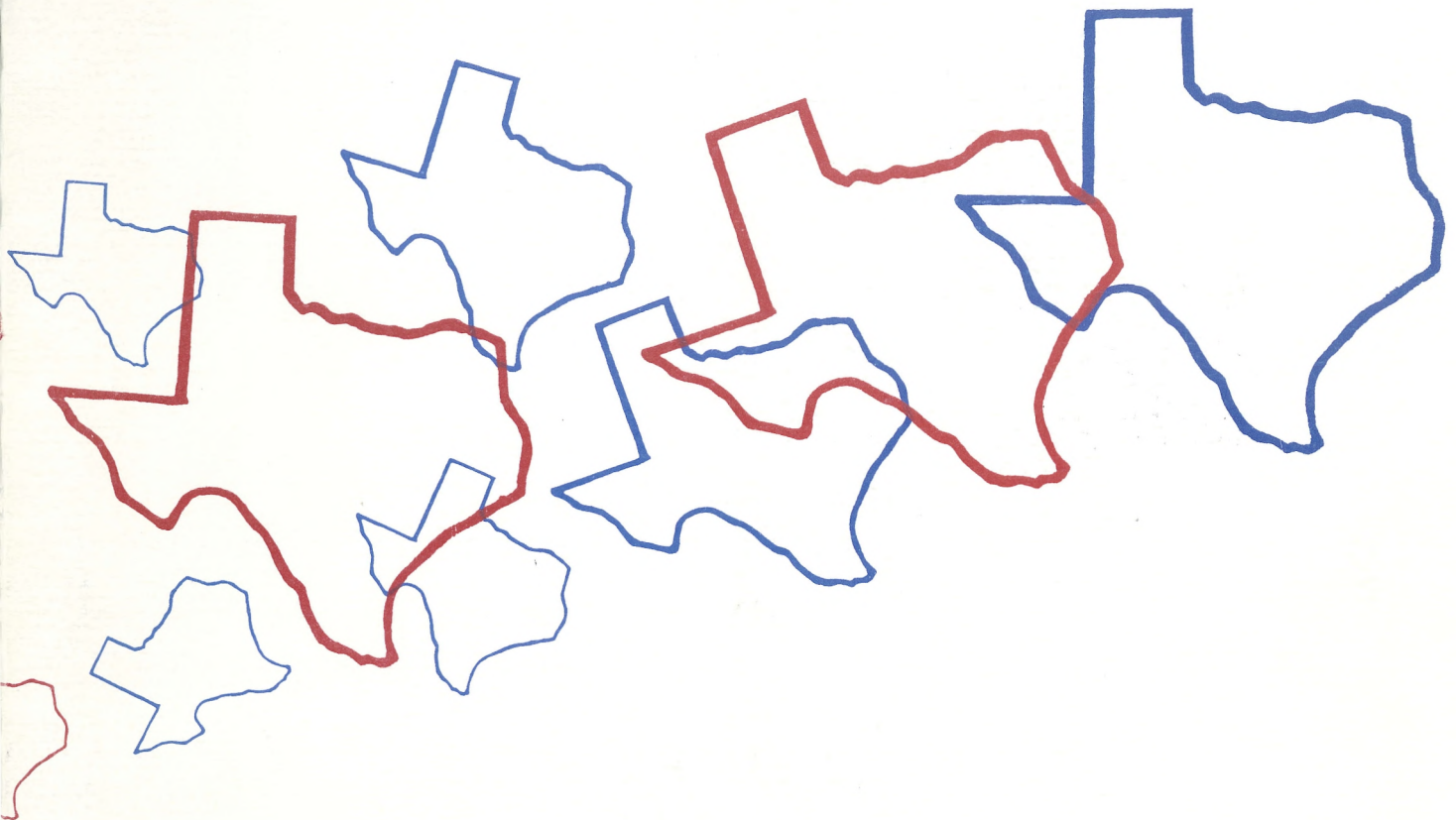


P400.8 Ou8acp 1986



1985 Texas Outdoor Recreation Plan



1986 - 1987 ACTION PROGRAM



GV  
191.42  
T4  
A1985  
86-87aep



## TEXAS PARKS AND WILDLIFE COMMISSION

**EDWIN L. COX, JR.**  
Chairman, Athens

**WILLIAM M. WHELESS, III**  
Vice-Chairman, Houston

**BOB ARMSTRONG**  
Austin

**GEORGE R. BOLIN**  
Houston

**WM. O. BRAECKLEIN**  
Dallas

**WM. L. GRAHAM**  
Amarillo

**RICHARD R. MORRISON, III**  
Clear Lake City

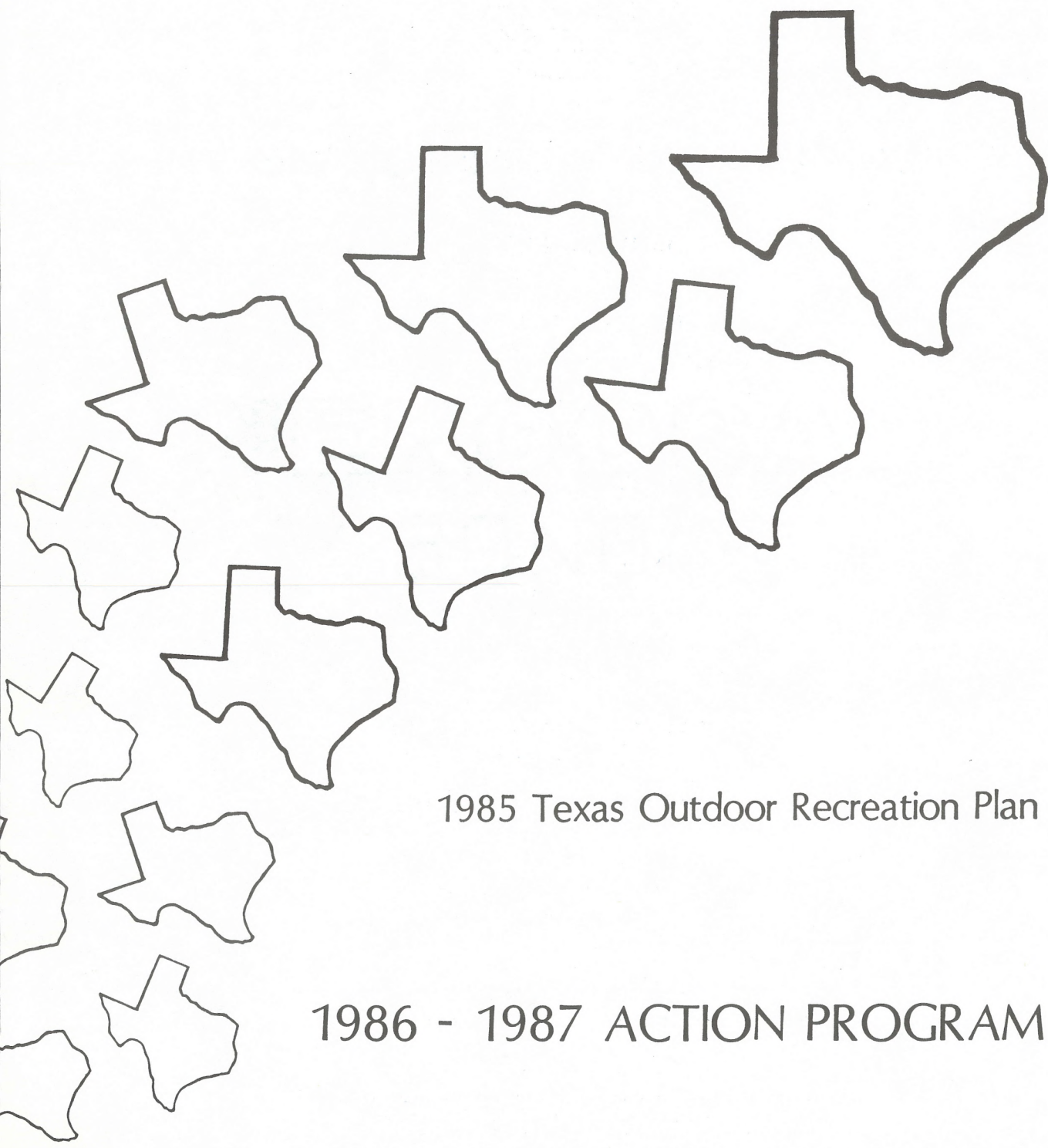
**A.R. (TONY) SANCHEZ, JR.**  
Laredo

**DR. RAY E. SANTOS**  
Lubbock

**CHARLES D. TRAVIS**  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

The policy of the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department is to fully comply with the intent of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. Title VI provides that no person in the United States shall, on grounds of race, color, or national origin, be excluded from participating in, denied the benefits of, or subjected to discrimination under any program or activity receiving Federal financial assistance.

AFW9451  
nDLC/no#



1985 Texas Outdoor Recreation Plan

# 1986 - 1987 ACTION PROGRAM

Texas Parks & Wildlife Department - 4200 Smith School Road - Austin, Texas 78744  
January, 1986



OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR  
STATE CAPITOL  
AUSTIN, TEXAS 78711

MARK WHITE  
GOVERNOR

November 25, 1985

Dear Fellow Texans:

Our State is endowed with an abundance of natural resources for us to enjoy. It is our responsibility to manage and use them wisely.

We are being challenged to meet the recreation and conservation demands placed on us by a rapid growth rate. How we deal with this demand today will affect the citizens of Texas for generations.

The Parks and Wildlife Department has prepared this 1986-87 Texas Outdoor Recreation Plan Action Program as a guide for work to help meet needs for the next 2 years. The Actions in the Program will help to provide better fish and wildlife management, guide state park activities, and provide information to all administrations so better decisions can be made in providing recreational resources.

As we begin our Sesquicentennial celebration, I hope you will join with me in supporting efforts to improve our recreation opportunities.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mark White".

Mark White  
Governor of Texas

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

	<u>Page</u>
INTRODUCTION .....	1
ISSUE I - Lack of Knowledge About Outdoor Recreation Benefits .....	2
ISSUE II - Population Impacts on Outdoor Recreation .....	3
ISSUE III - Funding Problems in Parks and Recreation .....	4
ISSUE IV - Loss of Natural Resources with Recreation Potential .....	5
ISSUE V - Recreational Overuse Causes Degradation of Resources .....	6
ISSUE VI - Limited Public Access to Rivers, Lakes, and the Coast .....	6
ISSUE VII - Illegal Activities in Recreation Areas .....	7
ISSUE VIII - Deficits of Recreation Land and Facilities .....	7
ISSUE IX - Park Maintenance Burdens Increase .....	8
ISSUE X - Visitor Impacts on Recreation Resources and Facilities .....	8

## INTRODUCTION

### The Texas Outdoor Recreation Planning Program

The Texas outdoor recreation planning program produces several aids for the public and private sector to meet the outdoor recreation needs of Texas. One of these is the Texas Outdoor Recreation Plan (TORP), which presents an estimate of needs and recommendations to meet those needs. The TORP is published every 5 years.

Another aid is the TORP Action Program, which is a document that describes activities that will be attempted to meet some of the recommendations of the TORP. The "Actions" identified under each "Issue" in the Action Program are primarily the responsibility of the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department. They are not intended to be all-inclusive, but are illustrative of the type of activities and programs which are to be carried out to work on state level issues in outdoor recreation. Target dates are indicated for each "Action".

The "Issues" in the 1986-87 Action Program are obtained from pages 7 through 25 of Chapter 1 of the State Summary portion of the 1985 TORP document. The initial "Actions" issued for public review were developed from various surveys, reviews, and public meetings conducted to develop the 1985 TORP and Action Program over the last several years. One of the most significant of these events was a public workshop held by the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department on January 4-5, 1984, in Austin. Over 500 public agencies and private organizations were invited to this workshop to comment on the contents of the first draft of the 1984-85 Action Program.

More than 150 individuals representing over 100 governmental and private groups participated in the workshop. These included federal, state, and regional government bodies, municipalities and counties, and representatives of private sector interest groups.

Other input was obtained from informal interviews with government officials obtained by TORP staff in 1985. The final event in developing the 1986-87 edition of the Action Program was the Texas Review and Comment System (TRACS), a state and regional clearinghouse review of drafts of this document. This was conducted by the Governor's Budget and Planning Office in July and August, 1985. Notices of the review were published in the Texas Register for further opportunity for public participation.

Subsequent to the review, various "Actions" were modified to reflect comments from reviewers. Upon completion of these modifications, the Program was submitted to the Governor for his approval and submittal to the National Park Service on November 25, 1985. The Park Service granted their approval on December 12, 1985. As a result, the final document provides "Issues" that follow those found in the 1985 TORP, and "Actions" based on public inputs and coordination.

The list of problems facing recreation and resource conservation in Texas is a long one. Some of them are more in need of urgent attention than others. Since the 1986-1987 Action Program is for 2 years, the work is only for the approximate first half of the 5-year span guided by the 1985 TORP. Scheduled work is presented on the following pages.

## 1986-1987 ACTION PROGRAM

Note: Page numbers in parentheses after each ISSUE are references to the 1985 TORP document.

I. **ISSUE: LACK OF KNOWLEDGE ABOUT OUTDOOR RECREATION BENEFITS**  
(Page 7, 1985 TORP)

The social and economic benefits of parks and recreation are not fully recognized by all citizens and decision makers across the state. The basic process to address this issue, which should involve all parks and recreation practitioners and researchers, is to assess and promote the relationship between recreation and other social and economic issues and to improve the information transfer to citizens and decision makers.

<u>Action</u>	<u>Schedule</u>
1. Provide <u>Texas Outdoor Recreation Plan</u> (TORP) based guidance to federal, state, and local agencies in planning, locating, and implementing all types of recreation projects or projects affecting recreation resources through meetings, correspondence, and the Texas Review and Comment System.	Jan., 1986 - Dec., 1987
2. Prepare workshop materials for one or more workshops presenting the importance and role of parks and recreation opportunities in economic development of the state.	Jan. - Jul., 1986
3. Conduct a citizen survey to determine attitudes about wildlife conservation, economic data, and related information.	Sept., 1987
4. Prepare materials for a workshop on small business opportunities for providing outdoor recreation in Texas.	Jan. - Sept., 1987
5. Publish proceedings of the Regional Conference of Rio Grande Border States on Parks and Wildlife.	Jan. - Dec., 1986
6. Update, publish and distribute the "List of State Programs and Services which Impact Recreation" technical assistance publication.	Jan. - Feb., 1986
7. Update the "State Statutes Affecting Parks and Recreation Agencies" publication.	Jan. - Apr., 1986

II. ISSUE: POPULATION IMPACTS ON OUTDOOR RECREATION  
(Page 9, 1985 TORP)

High rates of population growth often exceed efforts to meet demand. This growth has placed pressure on all public services. All recreation providers should accelerate the provision of parks, develop park system management plans, develop strategies to distribute heavy parks use to lesser used parks and to periods of light use, etc.

<u>Action</u>	<u>Schedule</u>
1. Publish articles in Texas Parks and Wildlife magazine featuring less visited State park system units.	Jan., 1986 - Dec., 1987
2. Investigate sites for potential as units of the State Park System.	30 Annually
3. Acquire recreational, natural area, and historic site units of the State Park System.	2 Annually
4. Prepare master development and resource management plans and programs for units of the State park system.	4 Annually
5. Print a State Natural Areas publication to increase public awareness of natural resources.	Dec., 1986
6. Stock fresh and saltwater fisheries as requested and possible.	Jan., 1986 - Dec., 1987



III. ISSUE: FUNDING PROBLEMS IN PARKS AND RECREATION  
(Page 10, 1985 TORP)

Revenue sources for expansion and operation of public park and recreation systems are either stable or declining. Few are increasing. Federal and state grant programs were reduced during the early 1980s. Many agencies report declining proportions of funds allocated to parks and recreation. There is a particular lack of funds to acquire significant natural areas. Parks and recreation professionals must take greater responsibility for reversing the trend of low budget priorities for parks and recreation.

<u>Action</u>	<u>Schedule</u>
1. Continue the allocation of Land and Water Conservation and Local Park Fund monies to local government projects according to the <u>Local Government Project Review Procedures Addendum of the 1985 TORP</u> , or its successor.	Jan., 1986 - Dec., 1987
2. Develop workshop presentation concerning benefits and models of joint agreements for providing outdoor recreation opportunities.	Jul. - Dec., 1986
3. Prepare and distribute a Bibliography describing funding alternatives available to assist local governments and the private sector in providing parks and recreation opportunities.	March, 1986
4. Seek continuing implementation of a habitat acquisition program.	Jan., 1986 - Dec., 1987
5. Provide artificial reefs in public water as requested and possible.	Jan., 1986 - Dec., 1987
6. Publish a report on state property tax law relating to recreation and conservation easements.	Oct., 1986
7. Seek full or increased funding levels for the Texas Local Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Fund.	Jan., 1986 - Jul., 1987
8. Seek increased funding levels for the State Boat Ramps Construction Program.	Jan, 1986 - Jul., 1987
9. Seek funding to renovate TPWD fish hatcheries.	Jan., 1986 - Jul., 1987

IV. ISSUE: LOSS OF NATURAL RESOURCES WITH RECREATION POTENTIAL  
(Page 12, 1985 TORP)

Development can damage land and water resources with substantial recreation potential. Dedicated recreation land and water areas are also impacted. To preserve natural resources for future generations, government policy makers must provide stronger guidelines to protect land and water for recreation.

<u>Action</u>	<u>Schedule</u>
1. Coordinate with and assist appropriate agencies concerning a Texas Natural Heritage Program.	Jan., 1986 - Dec., 1987
2. Monitor the status of significant natural areas for possible inclusion in the state park system.	Jan., 1986 - Dec., 1987
3. Explore ways for conserving non-game species, especially rare and endangered species.	Jan., 1986 - Dec., 1987
4. Incorporate urban wildlife management in the Wildlife Technical Guidance Program.	Sept., 1986 - Dec., 1987
5. Seek implementation of wildlife strategic plans.	Jan., 1986 - Dec., 1987
6. Promote the Texas non-game and endangered species conservation fund and program.	Jan., 1986 - Dec., 1987
7. Continue development of the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department ecosystem-based wildlife planning unit database development program and make results available to interested users.	Jan., 1986 - Dec., 1987
8. Evaluate and comment on approximately 600 water rights, 400 waste water, and 1200 "404" projects permit applications annually for their impact on fisheries, wildlife, and park resources.	Jan., 1986 - Dec., 1987
9. Determine selenium and other contaminant levels in fish, from approximately 15 water bodies and near hazardous waste sites.	Sept., 1987
10. Participate in Acid Rain Interagency Planning Group to coordinate research in Texas.	Jan., 1986 - Dec., 1987
11. Participate in State interagency working group to coordinate protection of natural resources in Texas.	Jan., 1986 - Dec., 1987

V. ISSUE: RECREATIONAL OVERUSE CAUSES DEGRADATION OF RESOURCES  
(Page 14, 1985 TORP)

The overcrowding and increased use of recreational areas has led to the destruction of ground cover, increased erosion, and deterioration of natural resources. All government agencies must improve their natural resource management practices.

<u>Action</u>	<u>Schedule</u>
1. Co-sponsor a Park Resource Management Status and Solutions Symposium.	Jan., 1986 - Nov., 1987
2. Prepare brochure/map guides for recreationists for less-used rivers.	3 annually
3. Seek start-up of the Texas Trails System authorized by Chapter 25 of the Parks and Wildlife Code.	Jan., 1986 - Jul., 1987
4. Co-sponsor Texas Trails Symposium.	Annually in late Summer or Fall
5. Increase interpretive programming in all Texas Parks and Wildlife Management areas.	Jan., 1986 - Dec., 1987

VI. ISSUE: LIMITED PUBLIC ACCESS TO RIVERS, LAKES, AND THE COAST  
(Page 16, 1985 TORP)

Many man-made and natural water bodies provide few public recreation opportunities because potential users are unable to gain physical access to these resources. Governments and private landowners should cooperate to accommodate needs to reach public waters.

<u>Action</u>	<u>Schedule</u>
1. Continue housekeeping for 120 existing state boat ramps.	Jan., 1986 - Dec., 1987
2. Prepare and distribute a publication describing existing state agency, river authority, special district, county, and municipal legal authority for managing rivers, streams, and adjacent lands, and provide suggested guidelines and/or current case study examples.	Jan. - Sept., 1986
3. Assist water development project sponsors in assessing compensation/mitigation needs.	Jan., 1986 - Dec., 1987
4. Conduct a Rivers Symposium.	Sept., 1986

VII. ISSUE: ILLEGAL ACTIVITIES IN RECREATION AREAS  
(Page 18, 1985 TORP)

Illegal activities occurring in recreation areas include defacement or destruction of recreational facilities through acts of vandalism, littering, vehicle damage, and the illegal taking of wildlife, fish, plants, and archeological materials. Other illegal activities in parks range from minor infractions to fatal assaults. Parks and recreation providers must emphasize prevention in solving crime and vandalism problems.

<u>Action</u>	<u>Schedule</u>
1. Publish a report on park community service restitution programs.	Dec., 1987

VIII. ISSUE: DEFICITS OF RECREATION LAND AND FACILITIES  
(Page 20, 1985 TORP)

Widespread deficiencies of recreation resources exist throughout Texas, in spite of expansion efforts. Expansion of parkland and recreation facilities should be a priority of all government entities and commercial enterprises.

<u>Action</u>	<u>Schedule</u>
1. Operate the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department Local Park Planning Assistance Program for small communities. Provide assistance to approximately 20 communities per year.	Jan., 1986 - Dec., 1987
2. Manage over 357,000 acres of habitat administered by the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department and provide hunting and wildlife observation opportunities on them as wildlife management allows.	Jan., 1986 - Dec., 1987
3. Publish a brochure on parkland mandatory dedication capabilities of Texas local governments.	March, 1987
4. Provide technical guidance to land managers to include wildlife management on rural lands.	Jan., 1986 - Dec., 1987
5. Stock white-tailed deer, mule deer, antelope, javelina, pheasant, and Eastern and Rio Grande Turkey where necessary and appropriate.	Jan., 1986 - Dec., 1987

IX. ISSUE: **PARK MAINTENANCE BURDENS INCREASE**  
(Page 22, 1985 TORP)

Maintenance and care of many public parks has declined. The consequences of neglect are becoming apparent. Design of low maintenance facilities and preventive maintenance are the priority.

Action

Schedule

- |   |                         |
|---|-------------------------|
| 1. Administer the State Gulf Beach Cleaning Program and seek increased funding levels to better assist coastal local governments. | Jan., 1986 - Dec., 1987 |
|---|-------------------------|

X. ISSUE: **VISITOR IMPACTS ON RECREATION RESOURCES AND FACILITIES**  
(Page 24, 1985 TORP)

Visitors sometimes impose financial burdens on local governments by using recreational resources without paying taxes that support the resources.

Action

Schedule

- |   |                         |
|---|-------------------------|
| 1. Reprint "Cost-Cutting Strategies for Park and Recreation Agencies" publication.  | June, 1986              |
| 2. Update and distribute statewide "Trails in Texas" maps.  | Aug., 1987              |
| 3. Provide weekly lake fishing advisory.  | Jan., 1986 - Dec., 1987 |
| 4. Seek implementation of Texas Parks and Wildlife Department resource protection planning and operational capabilities authorized by the 1985 Legislature. | Continuing              |
| 5. Continue distribution of Texas Parks and Wildlife and other agency fees and charges technical assistance publications.                                   | Jan., 1986 - Dec., 1987 |