

Native Plant Material Development and Restoration for the Trans Pecos and Permian Basin

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The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) recently provided substantial funding to support restoration efforts in West Texas through the Pecos Watershed Conservation Initiative (PWCI). The PWCI is a partnership between NFWF, 11 major oil and gas producers in West Texas, and the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service.

The NFWF has recognized that conservation of native grasslands is a high priority for the region. Addressing inadequate locally-adapted commercial seed supplies will be a major focus of the effort. The grant to *Texas Native Seeds* (TNS) was one of 11 new grants made by the NFWF for conservation work focusing on restoring grasslands and riparian areas in the Pecos River Watershed.

The grant will boost efforts to develop ecotypic seed sources for habitat restoration. This will support farm operations for new plant material evaluations and seed production, thereby enabling commercialization of new plant releases. NFWF funding will provide partial support for assistant director positions in West Texas and the Permian Basin. It will support a technician for project partners at Sul Ross State University and Borderlands Research Institute. The grant will also help establish 20 new restoration research plantings over the next 2 years. This will greatly help in the development of best practice recommendations for West Texas restoration projects. Our partnership with the NFWF will have a major positive effect on grassland habitat restoration in West Texas.

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