

National Fish and Wildlife Foundation *West Texas Native Seed Project* Research

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The *West Texas Native Seed Project* and the *Permian Basin-Panhandle Native Seed Project* have begun a new project funded by the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF). The project is part of NFWF's Pecos Watershed Conservation Initiative. The Initiative is a partnership between NFWF, eleven major oil and gas producers operating in West Texas, and the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service.

Funding from NFWF will support existing efforts of the *West Texas Native Seed Project* to develop new seed sources for habitat restoration across West Texas. Funding will help with farm operations for new plant evaluations and seed production for new plant releases. NFWF funding will provide partial support for two assistant director positions and a full-time technician position employed through project partners at Sul Ross State University in Alpine. Funding from the Pecos Watershed Conservation Initiative will also help in the development of best practices guidelines for restoration in West Texas. Twenty acres of new restoration research plantings will be installed in the region through the project. This exciting new partnership with the NFWF is a big step forward in making successful grassland habitat restoration a reality in West Texas.

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