

PROFILE TOMAHAWK CONSERVATION BANK

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Conservation banks safeguard threatened and endangered species and their habitat at a free market rate that delivers the greatest financial benefit to private landowners. Credits are established for the specific sensitive species that occur on the site and these credits can be purchased by entities needing to offset damages to habitat that occur in the course of activities such as road and pipeline construction and oil and gas development.

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In order to conserve the habitat in perpetuity, the Tomahawk Conservation Bank, which was created by Tomahawk CB, LLC, a joint venture between RiverBank Conservation, LLC and LPC Conservation LLC/Common Ground Capital LLC, enacted a conservation easement with the Texas Ag Land Trust on 1,535 acres of native rangeland.

According to Wayne Walker with LPC Conservation/Common Ground Capital, “When private landowners and private investors are compensated at a free market rate that is superior to the income they receive from the

traditional government program activities while meeting the highest conservation standards for rare species, all of the stakeholders win.”

“Texas Ag Land Trust, with its agricultural and conservation background, was a good fit for our private landowner partners,” Walker said.

While the land trust was selected by the conservation bank, the Williams family was comfortable with the choice.

“Texas Ag Land Trust is ag friendly, which sets it apart from many of the other land trusts operating in the state,” William said, noting another land trust functioning in the region had only allowed grazing one time in the seven to eight years it managed a nearby property.

He continued, “For us, the decision to enter into conservation banking and its attendant conservation easement made sense. For many people with rare species, one of the concerns is that ‘someone’ is going to tell you what to do with your land. We now know what we can do with our land—and it’s essentially what we’ve done for generations. If you want the land to stay the way it is and still be a productive unit, this can be a viable option.”

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