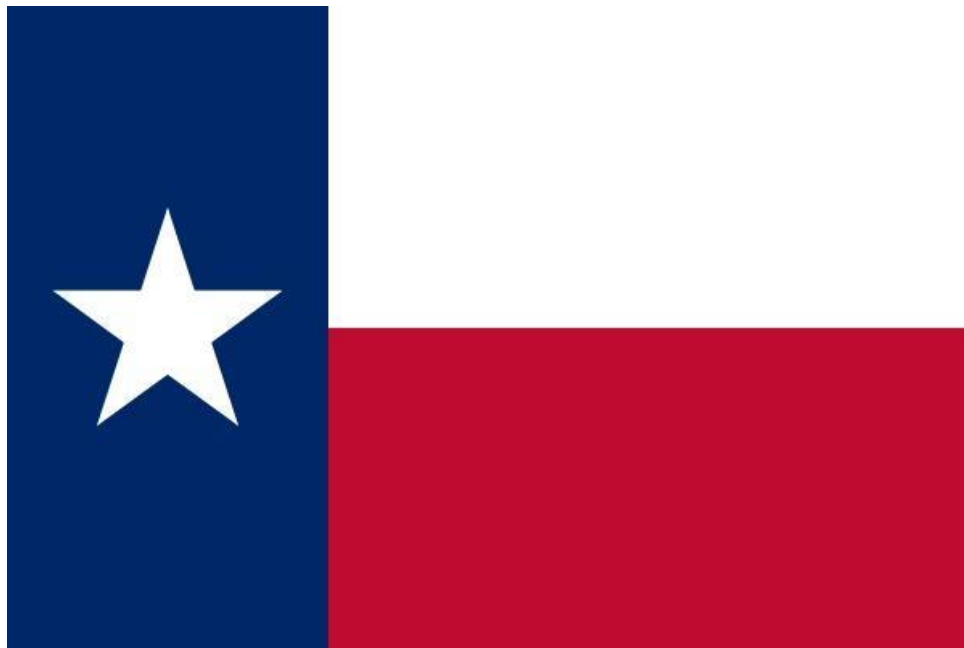




Texas Chapter Newsletter Summer 2018



Upcoming Events in Texas

Saturday, June 23rd | 6:00pm | Boerne, TX

Full Draw Film Tour

Leading Edge Archery, 117 Industrial Dr., Boerne, TX

Doors open at 5pm, film starts at 6pm

Saturday, July 21st | 5:00pm | Roanoke, TX

Full Draw Film Tour

Cinnamon Creek Ranch, 13794 Old Denton Rd., Roanoke, TX

3D shoot with cash prizes starts at 10am, film starts at 5pm

Saturday, August 11th | 6:00pm | Austin, TX

Full Draw Film Tour

Archery Country, 8121 Research Blvd, Austin, TX

Doors open at 4pm, film starts at 6pm

Stay tuned to email blasts and our social media for other events with dates yet to be determined, including Pint Nights, Hike to Hunts, 3D archery shoots, and public land clean-ups.



BHA National Chair Ryan Busse Talks Public Lands with Storm Water Creek

Storm Water Creek and The Element teamed up in February to host a live podcast event at Legal Draft Beer Company in Arlington, TX. Topics ranged from scouting techniques to tips and tricks for getting the most out of a public land hunt. Veteran public land hunters and novices alike were left even more excited about their prospects for next season.

We were also joined by a surprise guest, BHA's National Chairman Ryan Busse! Ryan's passion for America's public lands was contagious as he spoke with the chapter and others visiting the brewery about public land issues around the country and right here in Texas.

We encourage everyone interested in conservation and our public lands to grab a friend and join us for the many pint nights and BHA events happening this summer in your area of Texas!



Texas BHA Hosts After Party and Pint Night at Total Archery Challenge

Total Archery Challenge (TAC) hosted its latest 3D archery extravaganza at Natural Bridge Caverns in San Antonio, with courses featuring over 100 3D targets at varying distances, angles, and natural obstacles suiting archers of all skill levels.

The fun began with BHA's Texas Chapter welcoming participants with a Pint Night at The Flying Saucer in San Antonio, with Saturday's TAC events followed by a BHA after party. We doubled our attendance from last year, with over 150 public land owners showing up to enjoy live music, cold beer, and good company!

These events helped raise a good chunk of change for BHA work in the Lone Star State, and added 88 new members to our chapter!





Texas BHA Welcomes New Southwest Chapter Coordinator Katie DeLorenzo

Please join us in welcoming Katie DeLorenzo as BHA's new Southwest Chapter Coordinator! Katie will oversee the Texas, New Mexico, Arizona, and Utah chapters.

Katie is a native New Mexican and avid hunter. She comes from a family of biologists and from a young age was instilled with a commitment to responsible land and wildlife management.

Whether it's a backcountry hunt or archery competition, she deeply values the challenge, unpredictability and unmatched sustenance a hunting lifestyle provides. It's her aim to share this lifestyle with others and have a lasting impact on conservation throughout the Southwest.



Public Spotlight: Caddo-LBJ Grasslands

Welcome to the *Public Spotlight*, a series of articles from Texas BHA highlighting public lands and waters throughout the Lone Star state. Join us as we talk public lands with the stewards responsible for managing these resources and explore a host of topics ranging from conservation issues to sportsman's access and opportunity.

Enjoy our first article featuring the Caddo-LBJ National Grasslands near Dallas/Fort Worth [here](#).

Proposed Expansion of Public Lands on Texas Coast and in Trans Pecos Region

April was a good month for Texas public lands, with 8,200 acres set to be added to McFaddin National Wildlife Refuge (NWR). There is also talk of possibly adding another 16,000 acres to the Black Gap Wildlife Management Area (WMA).

The McFaddin NWR acquisition will add about 13 square miles of coastal prairie and wetlands habitat from the nearby Sabine Ranch, thanks to a generous

transfer by The Conservation Fund. The tract includes freshwater marsh and native grasslands, providing high quality habitat for mottled ducks and other waterfowl, as well as bobwhite quail.

Until recently, Texas Parks and Wildlife Commission (TPWC) was set to vote at its May meeting on a proposal to purchase a 16,000-acre tract (about 25 square miles) of land to join Black Gap WMA in west Texas. The proposed acquisition would reportedly include seven miles of frontage along the Rio Grande River, with habitat supporting bighorn sheep, black bear, Gambel's and scaled quail, and other Trans Pecos region wildlife. Unfortunately, this proposal was removed from the May meeting agenda, but will hopefully be slated for TPWC's next regular meeting scheduled for August 22nd. For more information on TPWC's meetings, including agendas and public comment periods, click [here](#).

The Houston Chronicle reports that "financing of both transactions comes largely from funds generated by Texas hunters through federal excise taxes on firearms and ammunition, purchases of federal Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation Stamps, and through private donations by individuals willing to help underwrite protection of such increasingly rare wild places." Way to go Texas sportsmen and women!

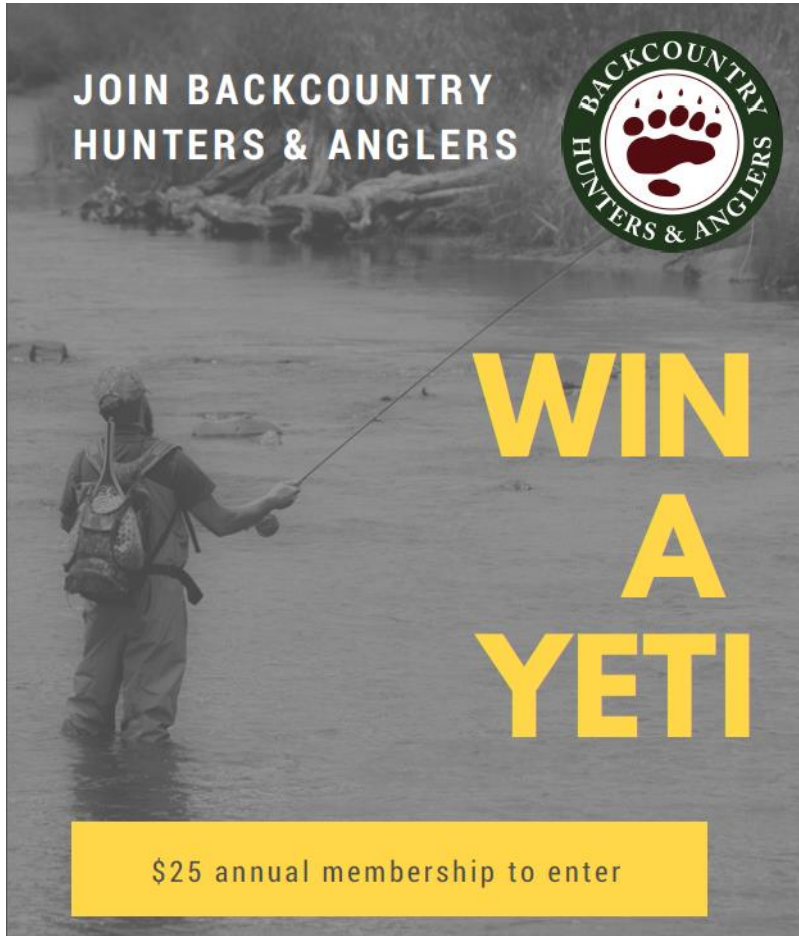
Best of all, officials say plans are for both properties to be opened to public use, including fishing and hunting! We cannot wait to explore these new additions to our Texas public lands.

Omnibus Federal Appropriations Bill Remedies "Fire Borrowing" Funding Issue

The FY 2018 omnibus appropriations bill passed in March included bipartisan overhauls to how the U.S. government spends money to fight wildfires, which have become more frequent and costly in recent years. In 2017 alone, wildland fire suppression costs exceeded \$2.5 billion, accounting for over half of the annual Forest Service budget, whereas in 1995 the Forest Service spent only about 16% of its annual budget on fire.

Starting in FY 2020, a new funding structure will be implemented in which \$2.25 billion of new budget authority will be available to the USDA (which includes Forest Service) and the Department of the Interior for fire suppression. The budget authority will increase by \$100 million per year until FY 2027, when budget authority will reach just shy of \$3 billion.

These overhauls will hopefully reduce the prevalence of "fire borrowing" and thereby increase the availability of funds for fire prevention, infrastructure maintenance, and habitat restoration efforts on our public lands.



Win a Yeti Cooler or Kimber Rifle!

Texas BHA will host a membership drive and a rifle raffle this summer. Sign up for a new membership, renew your membership, and/or gift a membership at one of our events or promotional tables to be entered to win a Yeti Tundra 75 cooler. And be sure to pick up a \$20 raffle ticket while you're at it for a chance to win a [Kimber Mountain Ascent](#) rifle in your choice of caliber! Stay tuned to Texas BHA emails and social media for more details.

Chapter Announcements

Be Featured at our Campfire Stories Event, Sponsored by Filson

Do you have a knack for telling stories? A penchant for making people laugh? Then TX BHA wants YOU to do just that!! BHA has partnered with [C.C. Filson Co.](http://C.C.Filson.Co) to hold Campfire Stories events at Filson stores across the country. These events will feature various refreshments, raffles, and of course, 4-5 speakers, each allotted 10-15 minutes to entertain the crowd. The Texas chapter will be holding our first of these at the Austin Filson store later in the year (date TBD). In addition to some "celebrity"-type speakers, we'd like to feature a few story-tellers straight from our membership. And in order to decide who is ultimately invited, we're going to sponsor *Campfire Story Try-Outs* at some of our Pint Nights this summer. If you'd like to participate in these try-outs, email us at Texas@backcountryhunters.org. Include 'Campfire Stories' in the subject line and specify the city and date of the Pint Night (we'll announce dates soon) you'd like to speak at. If necessary, we'll choose folks for these rehearsals in the order in which you contact us. Please spread the word, and help us find the best entertainers among our membership and supporters! Two to three of the best entertainers will be invited as featured speakers at the Campfire Stories event in Austin, and will receive a small gift package featuring various Filson, BHA, and partner merchandise.

Volunteers Needed for TX BHA Public Outreach

If you enjoy interacting with others and are passionate about BHA's mission, we can use your help in increasing public awareness of TX BHA and the issues that are important to us by helping staff BHA promotional tables at various events, outdoor shows, festivals, etc. We currently have public outreach committees in 6 cities: Austin, Dallas, Fort Worth, Houston, Lubbock, and San Antonio. If you are interested in helping in one of these cities, we'd love to have you join an outreach committee. If you live in a different city and are especially motivated, we'd love your help at expanding our outreach efforts by establishing a committee in a new region. If you want to help increase public awareness and grow our membership in this way, please email us at Texas@backcountryhunters.org.

