Texas Parks and Wildlife Department
Public Lands Issues

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Bentsen – Rio Grande Valley State Park

• Borderwall proposed for 9,000 feet through park
• Most of park would be south of the wall
• New concrete wall south of earthen levee topped with 18-foot steel bollard fencing
• 150-foot enforcement zone, stripped vegetation
• Lighting on top of fence
• Access gate
Effects of Borderwall on Bentsen-RGV SP

• Loss of park residences & structures in enforcement zone
• Loss of 25 – 30 of physical habitat & wildlife impacts of nocturnal lighting on add’l acres
• Physical wildlife barrier
• Ensuring safety of staff and visitors
• Public perception of safety
• Will it still be a park?
Alternatives to Borderwall

- TPWD in communication with Customs & Border Enforcement
- Lone Star Chapter made Open Records Request under Texas Public Information Act for communications between TPWD and Border Patrol
- TPWD detailed 4 alternatives to Border Patrol plan, with PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE TO BE NO WALL, BUT STILL ENSURE BORDER SECURITY
State Historical Sites Proposed to Transfer to Texas Historical Commission

- Battleship Texas
- Fanthorp Inn
- Fort Leaton
- Lipantitlan
- Monument Hill/Kreische Brewery
- Port Isabel Lighthouse
- San Jacinto Monument and Battleground
- Washington-on-the-Brazos
TPWD Funding

• For 2020-2021 biennium, request is $723.2 million + exceptional items os $200.7 million
• 2018-2019 biennium = $853 million
• Wildlife conservation = $70.8 million
• State and local park access = $225.5 base plus $20.3 million exceptional items
• Capital major repairs and acquisition = $80.5 base + $162 million exceptional items