

The Texas Hill Country Conservation Network Resolution

The undersigned recognize the critical importance of the Texas Hill Country, which supports important ecosystems, natural resources, communities, livelihoods, and the region's historic rural heritage and high quality of life.

WHEREAS, the Texas Hill Country is one of the fastest growing regions of the state and country, including three of the five fastest growing counties in America, and this rapid population growth is placing tremendous strains on the natural resources of the region.

WHEREAS, together we can inspire greater action than any one organization, agency, or brand could achieve alone; increase capacity and direct it where it can have the greatest impact by understanding and aligning talents across the full field of organizations working to advance conservation issues; and reduce redundancies to more effectively deploy limited resources.

WHEREAS, diverse stakeholders are vital to long-term conservation and stewardship in the Texas Hill Country and coordinated collaboration makes it easier to activate and work with – in both formal and informal ways – other stakeholders and networks such as those including landowners and residents, businesses, farmers and ranchers, rural and urban local and county officials, outdoor and hunting enthusiasts, tourism industry members, state and federal agencies, and many other partners.

WHEREAS, requests for critically needed funding from philanthropic and government interests to address the scale and urgency of conservation challenges in the region will be more compelling and competitive with demonstrated landscape-scale planning and coordination, and where possible, aligned organizational messages, plans, and initiatives.

WHEREAS, urban and rural government institutions and their partners need a platform in which to work together on land and water conservation and management issues and participate in information sharing, coordination, and collaboration.

THEREFORE, we resolve to improve the extent and effectiveness of coordination and collaboration among organizations working to protect and preserve natural resources – land, water, habitat, wildlife – and rural communities and economies across the Texas Hill Country. We commit to advocate for and work to protect the clear flowing springs, fragile aquifers, wide open spaces, starry night skies, vistas of forests, grasslands, hills, prairies, and rivers abundant with wildlife, working farms and ranches, vibrant, close-knit communities, strong rural and small-town economies, scenic country drives and hikes, idyllic get-aways and amenities that characterize this iconic landscape by:

- working with private landowners and Texas Hill Country communities to scale up private and public land conservation and stewardship;
- protecting rural agricultural and ranch lands, native habitat, and open spaces, enhancing land stewardship and restoration activities;
- preserving unique characteristics of the Hill Country, ensuring that this extraordinary place will be experienced for generations to come;
- helping to shape sustainable development practices;
- ensuring adequate spring and river flows for human and ecological systems;
- protecting the water quality in Hill Country creeks, waterways, and aquifers;
- growing awareness and support for Hill Country conservation among the public and multiple levels of government;
- scaling up investment in Hill Country conservation;
- building long-term partnerships for durable conservation for the Texas Hill Country.

_____ has read the Texas Hill Country Conservation Network Resolution and hereby affirms our membership in the Network and our support of its mission to maximize the protection of the Hill Country's natural resources through enhanced collaboration.

Signed: _____

Position: _____

Organization: _____