

NRI 2016

ANNUAL REPORT

Discovery • Stewardship
Innovation • Engagement



MISSION

Our mission is to solve complex natural resource challenges through discovery, engagement, innovation and land stewardship. Our vision is a future where the benefits of private lands are enhanced and the value of land stewardship is promoted and strengthened.

WHO WE ARE

Texas and the nation face many complex natural resources challenges. At the Texas A&M Natural Resources Institute (NRI), our work is about improving the conservation and management of natural resources through interdisciplinary and applied research, partner engagement and land stewardship.

Our interdisciplinary approach — partnering with universities, research and extension centers, and public and private organizations — promotes the safety, security and sustainability of land, water and wildlife.

As part of Texas A&M AgriLife Research, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service and the Texas A&M College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, the institute is well-equipped to meet the natural resource challenges of our day and those to come.

OUR PROGRAMS

LAND

Our *Land Trends and Demography Program* applies innovative solutions to private land conservation using geospatial tools and landscape planning. The program also provides geospatial and data analytic support to research and extension projects to aid in data-driven decision-making.

WILDLIFE

Our *Wildlife Conservation and Mitigation Program* conducts problem-driven research addressing today's challenging wildlife and habitat management questions. We promote stewardship of wildlife populations, including game, nongame, endangered and threatened species, and their habitats, through the application and translation of sound science and outreach efforts.

MILITARY

Our *Military Land Sustainability Program* supports the military's mission through integrated land management and collaborative regional planning. These efforts support the twin imperatives of military readiness and land conservation stewardship.

STEWARDSHIP

Our *Private Land Stewardship Program* fosters stewardship of private lands and their associated public benefits through engagement and partnerships. Our vast experience in working closely with private landowners and private landowner groups offer unique engagement opportunities based on science-based, pragmatic solutions to emerging natural resource challenges.

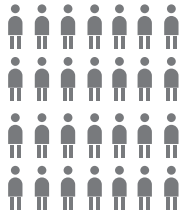
NRI BY THE NUMBERS

89



presentations to
5,387

people in
attendance



28

students
supported

\$7,015,923

in external grants



29

media
mentions



2,400

social media
followers

85

publications



1,160



tweets viewed by
Twitter users

376,251

times



2,338

Conservation Matters
email newsletter
subscribers



FEATURED IMPACTS

WILDLIFE AND DISEASE NEXUS

Wildlife disease research and management is a critical contribution supporting the institute's mission. We increased our understanding of emerging diseases impacting wildlife populations and human safety through applied research and field-based studies.

To evaluate the impact of New World screwworm flies on the endangered Florida Key deer, we assessed updated abundance estimates, determination of individual health and treatment, and long-term population monitoring and viability. We also determined host-vector relationships of Chagas disease in South Texas (in cooperation with the Department of Defense). Finally, we detected the first case of the fungus that causes white-nose syndrome in Texas bats and analyzed potential management strategies.

PRIVATE LAND STEWARDSHIP ACADEMIES

Private land stewardship begins not only with the owners and managers of the land but also with the professionals who convey approaches to good land stewardship practices and the public benefits derived from private lands.

In 2016, we offered several week-long, field-based Private Land Stewardship Academies to Texas USDA NRCS agents and AgriLife Extension county agents to raise awareness of the critical ways to work with private landowners.

BRAND ENHANCEMENT

For almost 40 years, the Texas A&M Institute of Renewable Natural Resources has been committed to solving natural resources issues through interdisciplinary, applied research that engages policymakers, land managers and citizens. As a part of a strategic planning and brand enhancement effort, in 2017 we renamed the institute to the Texas A&M Natural Resources Institute to better reflect our current core mission and vision.

SERVICES

Our team provides the following technical and professional services:

- Project Management and Environmental Planning
- Environmental Monitoring and Field Surveys
- Statistical Analyses and Ecological Modelling
- Geospatial and Remote Sensing Analyses
- Database Design and Web-based Mapping
- Communication and Engagement Strategies

LOCATIONS

To assist in our regional partnerships and projects, our scientists and staff are located at multiple offices: College Station, San Antonio, Dallas and Washington, D.C.

NRI.TAMU.EDU

FACEBOOK: @TAMUNRI

TWITTER: @TAMU_NRI

INSTAGRAM: @TAMU_NRI