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August 8, 2025

Reservoir Fisheries Habitat Partnership

Friends of Reservoirs

RE: Letter of support for Friends of Reservoirs Grant Request

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David Yoskowitz, Ph.D.
Executive Director

On behalf of the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD), I am writing to express my support for the Friends of Lake Livingston's (FoLL) application for a Reservoir Fisheries Habitat Partnership-Small Projects Grant.

TPWD is fully supportive of FoLL's habitat enhancement efforts at Lake Livingston. TPWD has served as an advisor to FoLL since their inception in 2013. The primary management issue at Lake Livingston is habitat loss resulting from siltation and reservoir aging. As documented in the most recent fisheries management plan for Lake Livingston, FoLL has been working with TPWD to help address the lack of habitat for over 10 years.

During this time, FoLL has introduced approximately 50,000 – 60,000 water willow plants in the reservoir. FoLL has also been heavily engaged with local communities, working with 6 school districts and more than 15 local partners including Trinity River Authority, Lee College, and the Texas Department of Criminal Justice through an inmate horticulture program. FoLL has adapted their strategies to include additional plant species and the deployment of artificial habitat structures, as well as implementing a monitoring program to track project success and provide data to better refine project objectives. Most recently FoLL has begun assisting Camp Hope which caters to at risk youth to teach fishing and outdoor learning activities.

As a result of FoLL's efforts, Lake Livingston was named one of the 2015 "10 Waters to Watch" by the National Fish Habitat Partnership. Texan by Nature, founded by former First Lady Laura Bush, acknowledges the very best Texan-led conservation projects occurring in Texas and has endorsed FoLL's efforts. In 2017, the organization recognized FoLL as a Conservation Wrangler. Without question, FoLL would utilize this grant effectively and efficiently to maximize enhancement efforts at Lake Livingston.

Thank you for your consideration, as well as for all you do to help support so many worthwhile initiatives across Texas. If you should have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me by email at dan.ashe@tpwd.texas.gov or by phone at (409) 698-9114.

Sincerely,

Dan Ashe
TPWD Fisheries Biologist

cc: Mr. Marcos DeJesus, TPWD
Mr. Tim Birdsong, TPWD