

Researchers at Texas State University and Texas A&M University are conducting a research study to understand Texas absentee landowners' experiences. You are being asked to complete this survey because you have been identified as an absentee landowner in one of the Texas study regions. Participation is voluntary. The survey will take approximately 15 minutes or less to complete. You must be at least 18 years old to take this survey. Participants have the opportunity to win one of four \$50 visa gift cards.

This study involves no foreseeable serious risks. We ask that you try to answer all questions; however, if there are any items that make you uncomfortable or that you would prefer to skip, please leave the answer blank.

Your responses are confidential. Possible benefits from this study are assisting in governmental and nongovernmental land management organizations better serve absentee landowners' needs. Reasonable efforts will be made to keep the personal information in your research record private and confidential.

Any identifiable information obtained in connection with this study will remain confidential and will be disclosed only with your permission or as required by law. The members of the research team, the funding agency, and the Texas State University Office of Research Integrity and Compliance (RIC) may access the data. The RIC monitors research studies to protect the rights and welfare of research participants. Data will be kept for three years (per federal regulations) after the study is completed and then destroyed.

This project [8509] was approved by the Texas State IRB on November 21, 2022. Pertinent questions or concerns about the research, research participants' rights, and/or research-related injuries to participants should be directed to the IRB chair, Dr. Denise Gobert 512-716-2652 – (dgobert@txstate.edu) or to Monica Gonzales, IRB Regulatory Manager 512-245-2334 - (meg201@txstate.edu).

1. Do you consent to participating in this survey?

- a. Yes, I consent.
- b. No, I do not consent.

2. Please write your survey ID number found in the invitation letter here:

3. In responding to the following questions, please provide answers for your land located in either Austin, Caldwell, Hays, Chambers, Liberty, Cameron, Hidalgo, Kleberg, Cameron, Jim Wells, Duval, or Washington Counties. *Please do not include land tracts outside these counties.*

In which county is your land located? (circle all that apply)

- a. Austin
- b. Caldwell
- c. Hays
- d. Chambers
- e. Liberty
- f. Cameron
- g. Hildago
- h. Jim Wells
- i. Duval
- j. Washington

Section S1. Relationship with the land

1. How did you acquire your land?

- a. Purchased
- b. Inherited
- c. Received as a gift
- d. Other. *Please specify:*

2. How many years have you owned your land? _____

3. How many acres of land do you own? _____

4. How often do you visit your land?
- Daily
 - Weekly
 - Monthly
 - Several times a year
 - Once a year
 - Less than once a year
5. How long do your visits typically last?
- Less than 1 day (e.g., a few hours)
 - 1 – 2 days
 - 3 days – 1 week
 - 2 weeks – 1 month
 - Longer than a month
6. How far away from your land do you live? *Please specify the distance in **miles** for a one-way trip between your main residence and land property*
- _____

7. People own land for various reasons: for some – land is a place to enjoy nature, for others – it’s a source of income. Why do you own your land? *Please indicate the level of agreement with the statements below.*

I own my land...	<i>Strongly disagree</i>	<i>Disagree</i>	<i>Neither agree nor disagree</i>	<i>Agree</i>	<i>Strongly agree</i>
... to operate a farm or ranch.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
... for livestock production.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
... for crop cultivation.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
... to have a place to relax.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
... to have a second home/cabin.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
... to enjoy the outdoors.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
... for recreation (not hunting or fishing).	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
... to hunt/fish for personal use.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
... for wildlife management.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
... to provide public access for recreation/education.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
... to maintain a hunting enterprise.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
... to keep the landownership tradition in the family.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
... to have a place to retire.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
... as a financial investment.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

8. How much do you financially depend on your land? *Please indicate the level of agreement with the statements below.*

	<i>Strongly disagree</i>	<i>Disagree</i>	<i>Neither agree nor disagree</i>	<i>Agree</i>	<i>Strongly agree</i>
My land is an important source of income.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Making a profit off my land is a priority.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Making money off my land is not my goal.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
I have a special use valuation for agriculture or wildlife management to reduce taxes.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

9. Who manages your land?

- a. Self
- b. Leasee
- c. Contractor
- d. Family member
- e. Some combination of self, family, or contractor/lease
- f. No one

10. If you manage your land yourself, please indicate the approximate number of acres that you manage _____

11. How do you feel about your land? *Please indicate the level of agreement with the statements below.*

	<i>Strongly disagree</i>	<i>Disagree</i>	<i>Neither agree nor disagree</i>	<i>Agree</i>	<i>Strongly agree</i>
My land represents my family's culture and tradition.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
I feel at home when I'm on my land.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
My land has become part of me.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
My land doesn't mean much to me.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
I miss my land when I'm away.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Natural features are an essential quality of my land.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

There are places on my land that are special to me.	<input type="checkbox"/>				
My land provides the opportunity to be a steward.	<input type="checkbox"/>				
My land is a place for enjoying friends and family.	<input type="checkbox"/>				
I feel happy while I am on my land.	<input type="checkbox"/>				
I am free to create my unique ideal place on my land.	<input type="checkbox"/>				
I feel spiritually connected to my land.	<input type="checkbox"/>				

Section S2. Land-management practices.

12. Are the following conservation practices implemented on your land? *Please select the most relevant answer.*

	<i>Yes</i>	<i>No</i>	<i>Not sure</i>	<i>Unfamiliar with this practice</i>
Grassed waterways	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
No-tillage	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Nutrient management	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Integrated pest management	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Cover crops	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Filter strips	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Terraces	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Contour farming	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other. <i>Please specify</i> _____				

13. Is your land currently enrolled in any of the following types of conservation plans or programs? *Please select the most relevant answer.*

	<i>Yes</i>	<i>No</i>	<i>Not sure</i>	<i>Unfamiliar with this practice</i>
Water Quality Management Plans, by local Soil and Water Conservation Districts	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Conservation Reserve Program, by the USDA Farm Service Agency	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Conservation Stewardship Program, by the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Environmental Quality Incentives Program, by the USDA NRCS	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Conservation Easement(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Wildlife Management Plan, by the Texas Parks and Wildlife Service (TPWD)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Other. *Please specify* _____

14. In the next 2 years, how likely are you to...

	<i>Very Unlikely</i>	<i>Unlikely</i>	<i>Neither likely nor unlikely</i>	<i>Likely</i>	<i>Very Likely</i>
...implement a conservation easement.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
...apply for a special use valuation for agriculture or wildlife management.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
...lease all or part of your land.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
...pay someone to manage your land.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
...sell all or part of your land.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
...gift/donate all or part of your land.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
...use all or part of your land for oil/gas production or renewable energy	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Section S3. Information sourcing and participation in educational events.

Please tell us how you learn about events and programs occurring in the community where your land is located.

15. How do you prefer to receive information about educational workshops, available technical and financial assistance, and other land conservation resources? *Please indicate your level of preference for each source of information listed below.*

	<i>Least preferred</i>	<i>No preference</i>	<i>Most preferred</i>
Direct mailings	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
One-on-one consultations	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Internet – web search	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Internet – social media	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Email newsletter from local organizations or government agencies	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Meetings with local landowners in the community where the land is located	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Newspaper or magazine	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Radio	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Virtual public meetings	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
In-person public meetings	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Webinars	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Local AgriLife Extension Office	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other. <i>Please specify</i> _____			

16. Over the last 2 years, have you interacted with the following professionals to help with land management decisions?

	<i>Yes</i>	<i>No</i>	<i>Not sure</i>
Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Soil and Water Conservation District	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Groundwater Conservation District	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Watershed Partnership	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Natural Resources Conservation Service	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Local environmental non-profit organization	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Private land management consulting business	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Texas Parks and Wildlife Department	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Texas A&M Forest Service	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
River Authority	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Texas Commission on Environmental Quality	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

17. Over the last 2 years, have you participated in the following workshops or events in the county where you own land?

	<i>Yes</i>	<i>No</i>	<i>Haven't heard of this program</i>
Watershed Partnership meeting(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Lone Star Healthy Streams	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Texas Watershed Steward	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Texas Stream Team training	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Feral Hog Management workshop	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Healthy Lawns Healthy Waters	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Low Impact Development workshop	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Texas Riparian and Stream Ecosystem training	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Texas Well Owner Network	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Annual watershed-wide cleanup events	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

18. Are you a part of any local environmental volunteer organization(s) in the area where your land is located (such as Texas Master Naturalist, Texas Master Gardener, or similar groups)?

- a. Yes
- b. No

If yes, please specify the organization(s)

Section S4. Background Information: Land management and Socio-Demographics

19. How would you describe the setting in which you grew up?

- a. Rural, farm
- b. Rural, non-farm
- c. Small town
- d. Urban
- e. Suburban
- f. Other

20. How would you describe the setting in which you **currently** live?

- a. Rural, farm
- b. Rural, non-farm
- c. Small town
- d. Urban
- e. Suburban
- f. Other

21. You are a...

- a. Male
- b. Female
- c. Non-Binary/ third gender
- d. Prefer not to say

22. What is the highest level of education you have completed?

- a. Less than a high school degree
- b. High school graduate or GED
- c. Some college/Associate degree/Technical school training (continue to next page)
- d. Four-year college degree (BS or BA)
- e. Advanced degree (Master's, Ph.D., JD, MD)

23. Which category best describes your race/ethnicity?
- a. White or Caucasian
 - b. Hispanic or Latino
 - c. Black or African American
 - d. Asian
 - e. Multiracial or Biracial
 - f. Native American or Alaskan Native
 - g. Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander
 - h. A race/ethnicity not listed here

24. Which category best describes your age?
- a. 18-24
 - b. 25-34
 - c. 35-44
 - d. 45-54
 - e. 55-64
 - f. 65-74
 - g. 75-84
 - h. 85+

25. What is your current employment status?
- a. Full-time
 - b. Part-time
 - c. Self-employed
 - d. Retired
 - e. Unemployed
 - f. Other. *Please specify*

26. What was the total income in your household (before taxes) last year?
- a. \$0 - \$50,000
 - b. \$50,000 - \$100,000
 - c. \$100,000 - \$150,000
 - d. \$150,000 or more

27. What is the zip code of your primary residence?

Section S5. Summary of Results op-in.

28. Are you interested in receiving the summary of the survey results to your email address?
- a. Yes
 - b. No

If selected yes for the question above, please provide your email address:

Email: _____

We thank you for your time spent taking this survey.

Please mail using the business reply envelope.