



**Carter Smith**  
**Executive Director**  
**Texas Parks and Wildlife Department**

Carter Smith serves as the Executive Director of the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD), a position he has held since January of 2008. A native of Central Texas, Smith developed his passion for wildlife and the out-of-doors at a young age while roaming his family's farm and ranchland interests in Gonzales, Williamson, and Edwards Counties. He has a wildlife management degree from Texas Tech and a master's degree in conservation biology from Yale University. As a wildlife biologist, he has worked on projects across the U.S., Mexico, and Canada, and has served in a range of leadership positions in the governmental and non-governmental conservation sectors.

Smith serves on a number of conservation-related boards and advisory councils, including the Texas Land Trust Council and the Katy Prairie Conservancy. He is a past Chairman of the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (AFWA), former President of the Western Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies, and past Chair of the Southeastern Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies. He currently serves on the AFWA Executive Committee.

He is a professional member of the Boone & Crockett Club and a lifetime member of the Texas Bighorn Society, the Dallas Safari Club, and the Houston Safari Club. Smith was named an outstanding alumnus at both Yale University and Texas Tech, and he was honored by the Audubon Society with their Victor Emmanuel Conservation Award, by the Texas Wildlife Association with the Sam Beasom Conservation Leader Award, by the Botanical Research Institute of Texas with the 2016 International Award of Excellence in Conservation, and with the Harvey Weil Professional Conservationist Award.

Prior to joining Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD), Smith worked in land, water, and wildlife conservation for the Katy Prairie Conservancy and The Nature Conservancy of Texas (TNC), where he served as the Texas State Director.

At TPWD, he is responsible for overseeing an agency of 3,300 professionals in 13 different divisions, including Wildlife, Law Enforcement, State Parks, Coastal Fisheries, and Inland Fisheries. During his tenure, Smith has been particularly active in the areas of private lands conservation, the acquisition of additional state parkland and wildlife management areas, securing state funding for state parks, children in nature initiatives, conservation and mitigation initiatives stemming from the Deepwater Horizon incident, and the state's management response to chronic wasting disease.

Carter, his wife, Stacy, and their son, Ryland, reside in Austin, where they are active in school and youth sports organizations. They remain very engaged in managing family farm and ranch interests in central, south and north Texas. Smith is also an avid bird and big-game hunter, angler, and all around outdoors enthusiast.