

Texas Buffalo Soldier Association

TO PRESERVE PLACES OF CONSCIENCE AND PLACES OF LEGACY

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Soldiers Trail Riders
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National Buffalo
Soldiers Museum
Houston

Kerville Buffalo
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Serna Ranch Youth
Leadership Program
El Paso

Texas Equestrian
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On February 14, 2011
“For Love of Liberty”



To Serve in Their
Memory

2011 STATE OF TEXAS

LEGISLATIVE AGENDA

Preamble: The Texas Buffalo Soldiers Association understands the serious budget situation and probable cuts for all State Agencies. Our main concern is the Texas Parks & Wildlife Department (TPWD) and the Texas Historical Commission (THC), if cut, should be in a fair and equal manner compared to other Agencies. We are asking the State Legislature take into consideration two concerns regarding budget cuts and closures:

1. Texas Parks & Wildlife Department/Texas Historical Commission – Texas Buffalo Soldiers Program;
2. The local economy of the Texas State Parks and State Historic Sites in question;

With that in mind, we request:

1. Updating the MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE TEXAS PARKS & WILDLIFE DEPARTMENT AND THE TEXAS HISTORICAL COMMISSION REGARDING THE TEXAS BUFFALO SOLDIERS PROGRAM in accordance with Article IX, 19.81(d) of House Bill 1, 80th Texas Legislature, Regular Session, regarding facilitation of the Texas Buffalo Soldiers Program and the Texas Buffalo Soldiers Heritage Trail.
2. Incorporate Texas Buffalo Soldiers Heritage Trail and related County Historic Sites into the Texas Historical Commission African-American Brochure and the Buffalo Soldiers Cemetery Database into Texas Historical Commission, Cemeteries Program.
3. Before closing a Park, all administrative and redundant staff and programs should be cut, starting at the State and Regional levels.
4. Should Parks budget cuts require the closing of sites, decision makers should consider the local economic contributions of sites.
5. We ask for reinstatement of the “Entrepreneurial Rider” (also referred to as Rider 27) in order to ensure the Parks and Wildlife may utilize all revenue generated by parks
6. We support amending the statute to allow for a new Senior Pass because of the large number of new traveling retirees. We should allow our Park system to compete with the private campgrounds in this matter.