



Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts

Western Chicken Turtle Research

Project Overview

Planned Research Tasks:

Task 1. Surveys for Western Chicken Turtles using various methods

- The researchers are working with Texas Parks and Wildlife (TPWD) and the Fish & Wildlife Service (FWS) to coordinate on research efforts across the state.
- Sampling sites will be selected throughout the historic range of the species.
- Both traditional trapping and novel environmental DNA survey techniques will be used.
- Turtles will be marked for recapture.

Task 2. Estimating current species range and distribution and determining habitat associations

- Survey results will be analyzed to estimate the presence of the species across Texas.
- Habitat associations will be characterized.
- A map of the current distribution will be developed.

Task 3. Evaluating various survey methods

- Detection success will be compared for each sampling methodology used.
- The researchers will recommend the best methods and timing for surveys.
- Habitat and species presence will be assessed for trends related to detection.

More Information:

comptroller.texas.gov/programs/natural-resources/ongoing-studies/wct/

Quick Facts:

Project Goal:

To address the status of the Western Chicken Turtle in Texas by conducting surveys, estimating range, distribution, and habitat associations; and to establish best survey methodologies for the species.

Research Timeline:

2020 to 2022

Principal Investigator:

Dr. George Guillen, Environmental Institute of Houston, University of Houston—Clear Lake

