



TEXAS GENERAL LAND OFFICE  
COMMISSIONER DAWN BUCKINGHAM, M.D.

March 31, 2025

Staff Sergeant Emmanuel Teran  
Special Liaison to the Chief of Border Patrol Mr. Mike Banks  
Texas Military Department  
U.S. Border Patrol Sector Headquarters  
4400 South Expressway 281  
Edinburg, TX 78545

RE: Roma Island and Beaver Island, Starr County, Texas

Dear Staff Sergeant Teran:

As Texas Land Commissioner, I have made a commitment to Texans to use all means available to gain complete operational control of the southern border. Recently, your office requested to access Roma Island and Beaver Island (also known as Bowers Island) located within the Rio Grande in Starr County, Texas, to safeguard Texas communities. Maps of these two islands are enclosed for reference.

Based on the records of our agency, the Texas General Land Office (GLO) has determined that Roma Island is state-owned, and I hereby grant the Texas Military Department (TMD) permission to access, patrol, and police Roma Island, including vegetation management, provided TMD complies with all applicable state and federal regulations while doing so.

With regards to Beaver/Bowers Island, in 1976 the State of Texas granted a portion of the bed and banks of the Rio Grande in Starr and Hidalgo Counties, Texas, to the United States of America (USA) per the attached Deed. This 1976 conveyance to the USA included all the bed and banks of the Rio Grande at a portion of Beaver/Bowers Island beginning at coordinate Northing 263,940 and Easting 1,836,870, at approximately River Mile 252.4 upstream and the coordinate of Northing 264,760 Easting 1,841,700, at approximately River Mile 251.5 downstream in Starr County, TX. Accordingly, as reflected in the attached map, the USA owns a portion of Beaver/Bowers Island, and I encourage you to speak with U.S. Border Patrol directly about policing activities on that portion.

Regarding the portion of Beaver/Bowers Island not granted to the USA per the 1976 deed, based on GLO records, we have determined that portion of Beaver/Bowers Island is State-owned, and I hereby grant the Texas Military Department (TMD) permission to access, patrol, and police that

portion of Beaver/Bowers Island not owned by the USA, including vegetation management, provided TMD complies with all applicable state and federal regulations while doing so.

If you have any questions, comments, and/or concerns please feel free to contact the GLO's Deputy Director of Surveying Services, Mark Neugebauer, at (512) 475-1437 or by email at [mark.neugebauer@glo.texas.gov](mailto:mark.neugebauer@glo.texas.gov).

Thank you for your service to the State of Texas.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "D. Buckingham", written in a cursive style.

DAWN BUCKINGHAM, M.D.  
Commissioner, Texas General Land Office

Enclosure

c: Greg Abbott, Governor  
Jennifer G. Jones, GLO Chief Clerk  
Jeff Gordon, GLO General Counsel  
Brian Carter, Senior Deputy, GLO Asset Enhancement  
Mark J. Neugebauer, Deputy Director. GLO Surveying Services













