

Developing Your Wildlife Management Plan

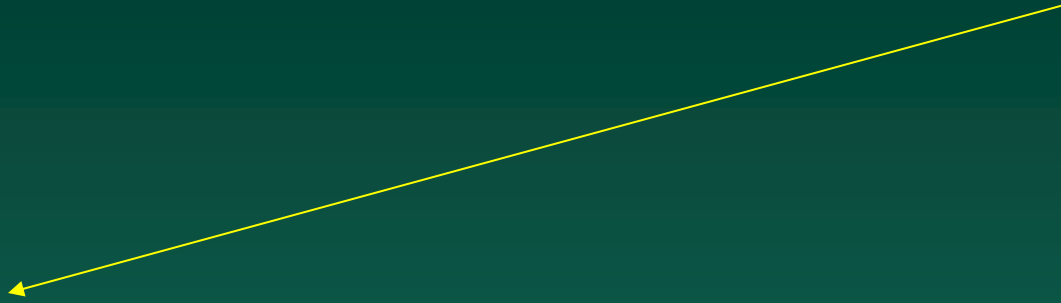
Heidi K. Bailey
Regulatory Wildlife Biologist
TPWD



STEP 1: DOCUMENT VITAL STATS

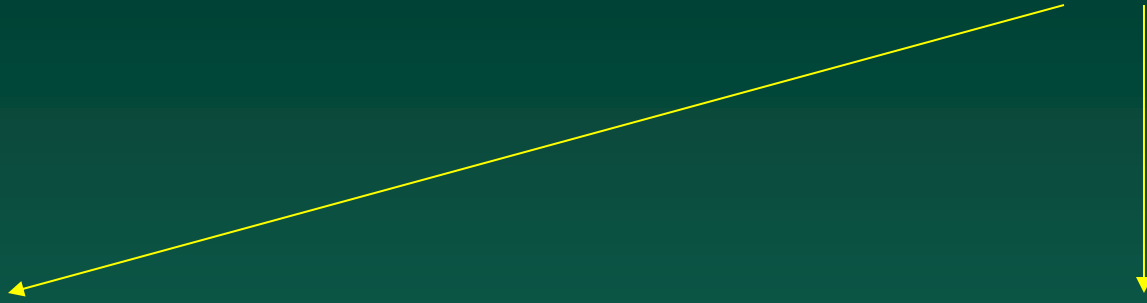
- Name of property (e.g. Dry Creek Ranch, Bailey Tract, etc.)
- County the property is located in
- Owner(s) name(s)
- Address
- Phone numbers (work, home, cell, fax)
- Land manager contact information (if applicable)

Proposition 11 Wildlife Management PLAN



Where do I want to go
with my property?

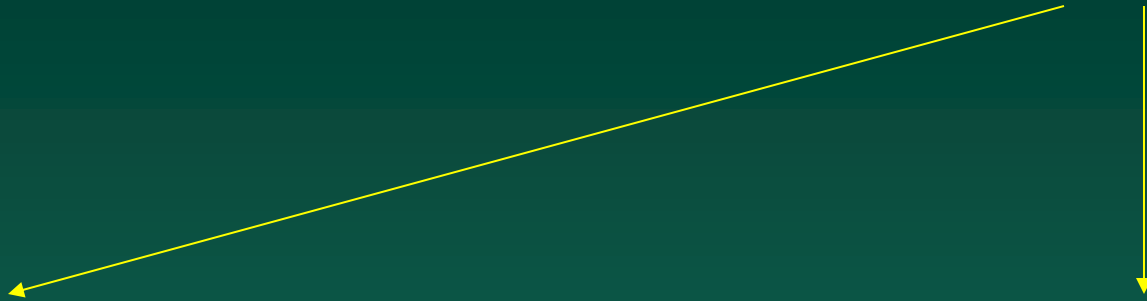
Proposition 11 Wildlife Management PLAN



Where do I want to go
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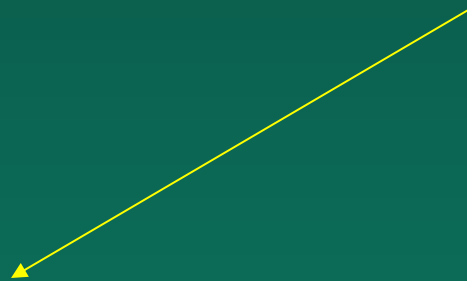
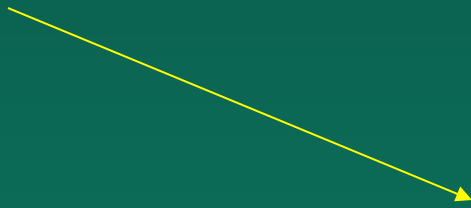
How am I going to get there?

Proposition 11 Wildlife Management PLAN



Where do I want to go
with my property?

How am I going to get there?



STEP 2: ESTABLISH GOALS & OBJECTIVES

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- Maintain agricultural property tax valuation!
- What wildlife/habitats/vegetative communities am I interested in managing for?

Deer?



Mark F. Wallner

Big Bucks?



Wild Turkey?



Dove?



Quail?



Songbirds?



Native Prairie?



Hardwood Forest?



Greatest Diversity?



Karl H. Switek



Tim Zurowski

Feral Hogs?



Feral Hogs?



NOT!!!

STEP 2: ESTABLISH GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

- Maintain agricultural property tax valuation!
- What wildlife/habitats/vegetative community am I interested in managing for?
- Do I have multiple goals or objectives?

Multi-purpose or multi-species management?



Heidi Bailey

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UGA1162067

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Leonard Lee Rue III

?

What other plans/interests do you have?



REALITY CHECK

What you have to work with to begin with (acreage, habitat types, soil types, time, \$\$\$, etc.) will largely help you to determine what goals and priorities are realistic.

For example,

15 acres of



So....establish a detailed and
REALISTIC goal/set of goals.

Example: “To manage native habitats to improve the quality and quantity of white-tailed deer for lease-hunting”

- Increase deer food and cover to increase deer utilization.
- Manage deer population to increase production of mature bucks.
 - Harvest of only mature (4.5 years+) bucks
 - Maintain buck/doe ratio of 1:3 or better
 - Maintain carrying capacity of 1 deer: 20 acres

...and a nongame example might be:

“To improve recreational bird watching opportunities by creating and maintaining nesting, feeding, and breeding habitat suitable for native bird populations, with special emphasis on grassland species.”

- Improve vegetative diversity throughout the property.
- Reintroduce native warm season grasses to pastures.

...and yet another example:

“To improve and enhance the habitat for white-tailed deer, wild turkey, bobwhite quail, and other game and nongame wildlife in conjunction with running a successful cow-calf operation.”

Plan Development

- Back to the Computer!
 - Research the “Wildlife Tax Valuation Informational CD”
 - Print off a blank WMP form PWD 885-W7000



STEP 3: PROPERTY INFORMATION

- How many total acres is the property?
- What types of vegetative communities/habitat types are on the property?
 - Divide the total acreage out into estimated amounts of each habitat type.
 - Example: 40% upland pine/hardwood forest, 35% Bermudagrass pasture, 15% native pasture, and 10% water (lake and ponds).
 - OR, if possible, give actual acreage amounts of each habitat type.

SOME EXAMPLES OF HABITAT TYPES

- Improved Grassland (Tame Pasture)
- Unimproved Grassland (Native Pasture)
- Bottomland Hardwood Forest
- Pine Plantation
- Upland Mixed Pine/Hardwood Forest
- Oak Woods
- Riparian Zone
- Wetland/Marsh
- Cultivation (Ag. Crops, Food Plots)

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- How many total acres is the property?
- What types of vegetative communities/habitat types are on the property?
- Species targeted for management?
- Is the property high fenced?
- Is the property leased for hunting?
- Property location.
 - Be as detailed as possible. (e.g. “In central Henderson County, 6 miles NW of Athens on the north side of CR 3913)
 - Provide a surveyor’s plat or a map, if available.

STEP 4: CURRENT HABITAT DESCRIPTION

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- What ecoregion is the property in? (e.g. Blackland Prairie, Post Oak Savannah, Pineywoods, etc.)



Craig McManis



STEP 4: CURRENT HABITAT DESCRIPTION

- Where in the county is the property?
- What ecoregion is the property in? (e.g. Blackland Prairie, Post Oak Savannah, Pineywoods, etc.)
- What vegetation is associated with the various habitat types on your property?
 - Do-it-yourself vegetative inventory
 - County soil map from NRCS (old SCS)

What's in a soil map?

- Soil types
- Detailed description of each soil
 - acidity
 - permeability
 - erosion hazard
 - available water capacity
 - wildlife habitat potential
 - general land management recommendations

What's in a soil map?

- Soil types
- Detailed description of each soil
- Common native vegetation for each soil type
- Farming and planting recommendations
- Information on the best places (soil types) to plant food plots, create ponds/wetlands, etc.

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- What are the predominant soil types on your property?

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- What vegetation is associated with the various habitat types on the property?
- What are the predominant soil types on the property?
- What water features (if any) are there on the property?

STEP 5: PAST HISTORY OF LAND USE

- How long has the property been under current ownership?
- What had the land been used for previously?
 - Farming
 - Grazing
 - Cows, horses, goats, exotics?
 - How many head?
 - Timber production
 - Hunting
 - How heavy was past hunting pressure?

STEP 6: PLANNED USE

“Wildlife management for recreational use; to be valued under 1-d-1(w) wildlife management use appraisal.”

STEP 7: PLANNED MANAGEMENT ACTIVITIES AND PRACTICES

- Habitat Control
- Erosion Control
- Predator Control
- Providing Supplemental Water
- Providing Supplemental Food
- Providing Supplemental Shelter
- Census Counts to Determine Populations

STEP 7: PLANNED MANAGEMENT ACTIVITIES AND PRACTICES

- HABITAT CONTROL
 - Grazing Management
 - Prescribed Burning
 - Range Enhancement
 - Brush and Timber Management
 - Riparian Management and Enhancement
 - Prescribed Control of Species
 - Wildlife Restoration



STEP 7: PLANNED MANAGEMENT ACTIVITIES AND PRACTICES

➤ EROSION CONTROL

-Pond Construction

-Gully Shaping

-Streamside, Pond,
Wetland Restoration

-Native Plant

Establishment on Erodible
Areas

-Dike/Levee

Construction/Management

-Establish Water

Diversion



STEP 7: PLANNED MANAGEMENT ACTIVITIES AND PRACTICES

➤ PREDATOR CONTROL

- Predator Management
- Feral Hog Control
- Imported Red Fire Ant Control
- Control of Brown-headed Cowbirds
- Grackle/Starling Control



STEP 7: PLANNED MANAGEMENT ACTIVITIES AND PRACTICES

- PROVIDING SUPPLEMENTAL WATER
 - Mash/Wetland Restoration or Development
 - Well/Trough/Windmill Overflow
 - Spring Development or Enhancement
 - Wildlife Water Guzzlers



STEP 7: PLANNED MANAGEMENT ACTIVITIES AND PRACTICES

- PROVIDING SUPPLEMENTAL FOOD
 - Grazing Management
 - Prescribed Burning
 - Range Enhancement
 - Food Plots
 - Feeders and Mineral Supplementation
 - Managing Improved Pastures, Fields, Croplands
 - Transition Mgmt. of Tame Grass Pastures



STEP 7: PLANNED MANAGEMENT ACTIVITIES AND PRACTICES

➤ PROVIDING SUPPLEMENTAL SHELTER

- Nest Boxes/Bat Boxes
- Brush Piles
- Fence Line Management
- Hay Meadow, Pasture, and Cropland Mgmt. for Wildlife
- Half-cutting Trees or Shrubs
- Woody Plant/Shrub Estab.
- Natural Cavity/Snag Development



STEP 7: PLANNED MANAGEMENT ACTIVITIES AND PRACTICES

- CENSUS COUNTS TO DETERMINE POPULATIONS
 - Spotlight Counts
 - Daylight Wildlife Counts
 - Harvest Data Collection and Record-Keeping
 - Browse Utilization Surveys
 - Song Bird Transects and Counts
 - Point Counts
 - Track Counts



In order for a landowner to qualify for the 1-d-1(w) wildlife management use appraisal they must implement and complete a minimum of one management practice from at least three of the seven wildlife management activities each year.

STEP 8: SPECIFIC HABITAT MANAGEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS

- Flesh out what exactly you plan on doing.
 - Which management practices under which of the seven management activities are planned.
 - Timeline?
- List target indigenous species.
- Be detailed.

STEP 9: DOCUMENT EVERYTHING

- Turn in new Wildlife Management Plan annually or whenever changes are made.
- If required, turn in Prop 11 Activity Reporting Form to tax office every year.
- Save receipts.
- Take pictures.
- Make maps of planned project areas.

STEP 10: HAVE FUN WITH IT!

