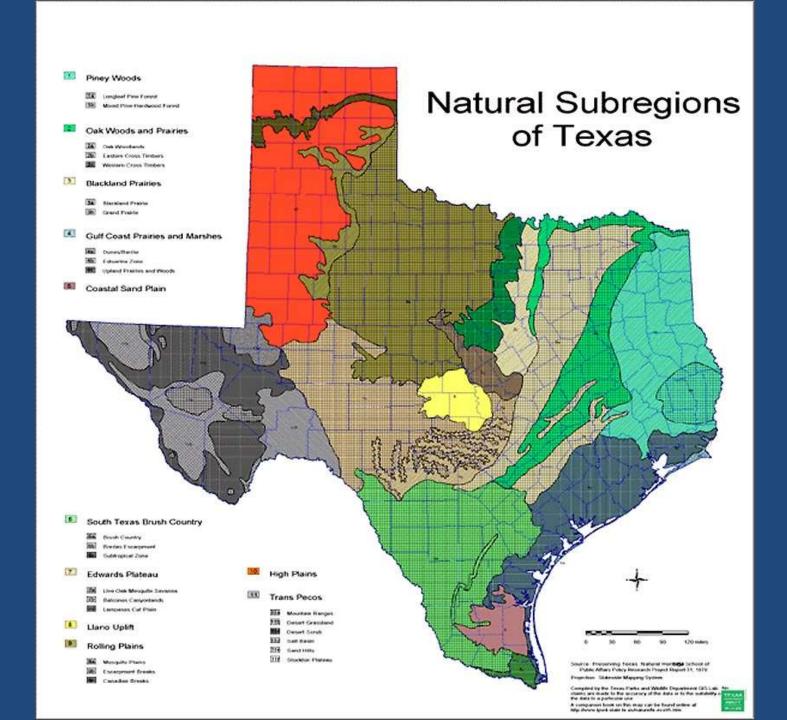
Prairies, Woodlands, Wildlife, and Managing for Diversity

Tim Siegmund PL Program Leader-TPWD





U.S. Drought Monitor

July 26, 2011 Valid 7 a.m. EST

Texas

	None	D0-D4	D1-D4	D2-D4	D3-D4	D4
Current	0.00	100.00	99.85	96.88	91.65	75.23
Last Week (07/19/2011 map)	0.00	100.00	98.96	95.78	91.19	75.15
3 Months Ago (04/26/2011 map)	0.00	100.00	100.00	94.97	70.42	17.16
Start of Calendar Year (12/28/2010 map)	7.89	92.11	69.43	37.46	9.59	0.00
Start of Water Year (09/28/2010 map)	75.57	24.43	2.43	0.99	0.00	0.00
One Year Ago (07/20/2010 map)	82.43	17.57	7.37	0.61	0.00	0.00

 Intensity:

 D0 Abnormally Dry

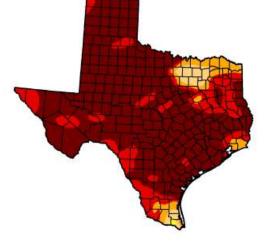
 D1 Drought - Moderate

 D2 Drought - Moderate

 D2 Drought - Severe

The Drought Monitor focuses on broad-scale conditions. Local conditions may vary. See accompanying text summary for forecast statements.

http://drought.unl.edu/dm



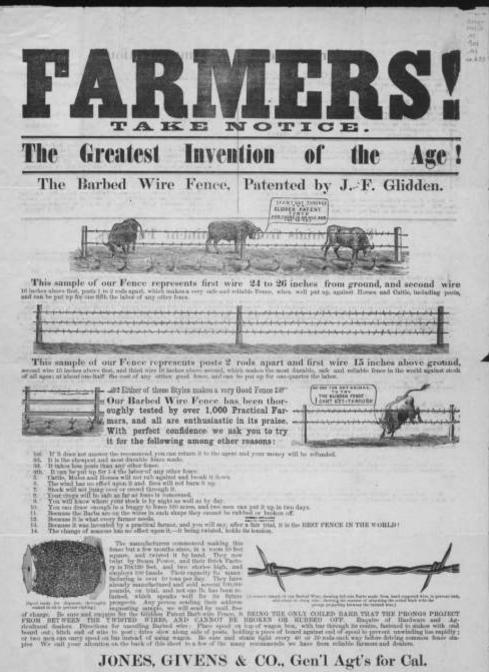


Released Thursday, July 28, 2011 Brad Rippey, U.S. Department of Agriculture





Emprest Carry the Three



10th and K Sts., SACRAMENTO.













"Coastal" Bermuda grass Released 1943





Wildlife Impacts

- Habitat Degradation + Overhunting
 - Decline in Turkey and Deer
 - Decline/ Elimination of Quail
 - Declines in Plant Diversity
 - Decline in Non-Game Species
 - Toads, Frogs, Snakes, Lizards, (Horned Lizard, Houston Toad)
 - Grassland Songbirds (Bachmann's Sparrow, Henslow Sparrow, Loggerhead Shrike)

How Can We Help?

- 94% of Texas is Privately Owned
 - Technical Guidance
 - Assistance with Wildlife Tax Valuation
 - Monitoring Wildlife Populations
 - MLD Program
 - Cost Share Programs



Managing Post Oak Woodlands

- Understory Thinning
 - Mechanical, Herbicide, Fire, Combination
- Native Grass Establishment
 - Rest, Enhancement, Establishment w/Planting
- Fencing
 - Rotational Grazing, Exclusion
- Deer and Feral Hog Management

Managing Woodlands

- Understory Thinning
 - Increase Sunlight
 - Yaupon
 - Cedar
 - Mesquite

















September 2012











- Provide Cover
- Grazing – Needs Periodic Rest
- Bare Ground
 - Important for **Granivorous Birds**
 - Plant Diversity/ Forb **Establishment**

Native Grasses



Cover Types
 Escape/Bedding
 Nesting
 Foraging





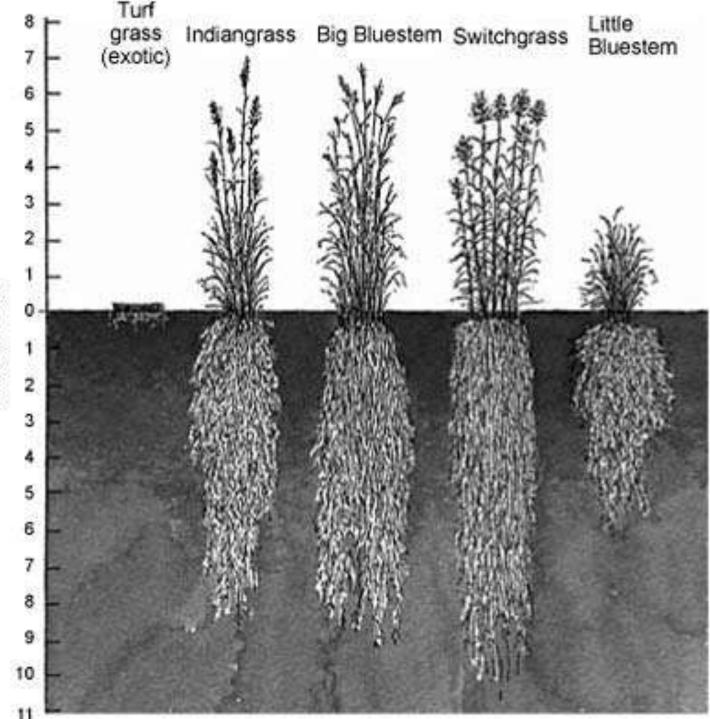


Enhancement

Missing Perennial Grasses Interplant to Provide Structure







Scale in Feet

Reconstructions/ Reclamations









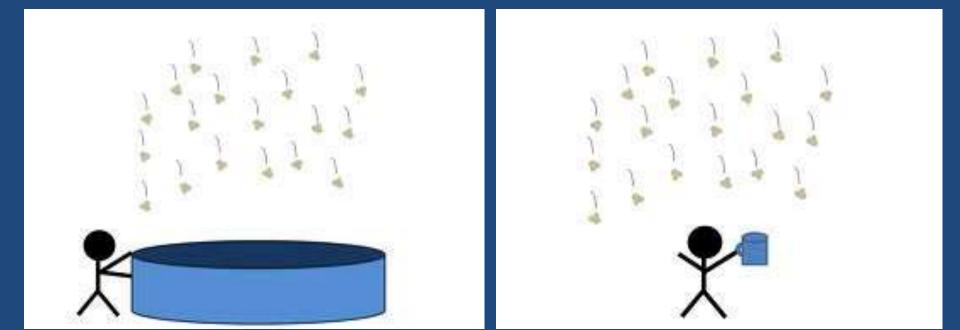




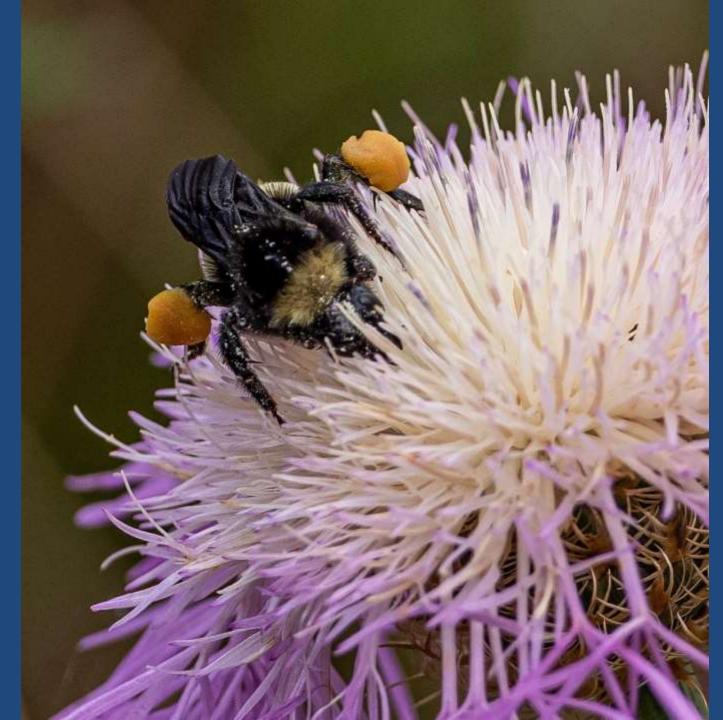


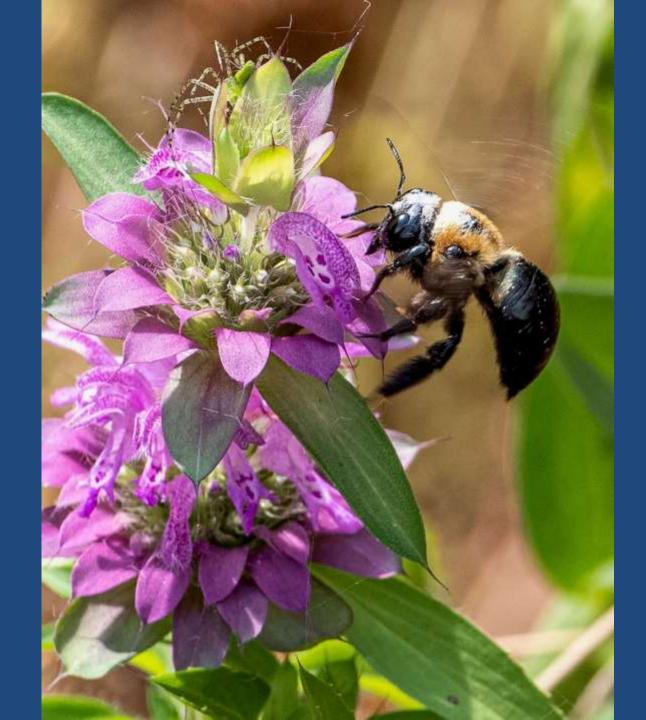


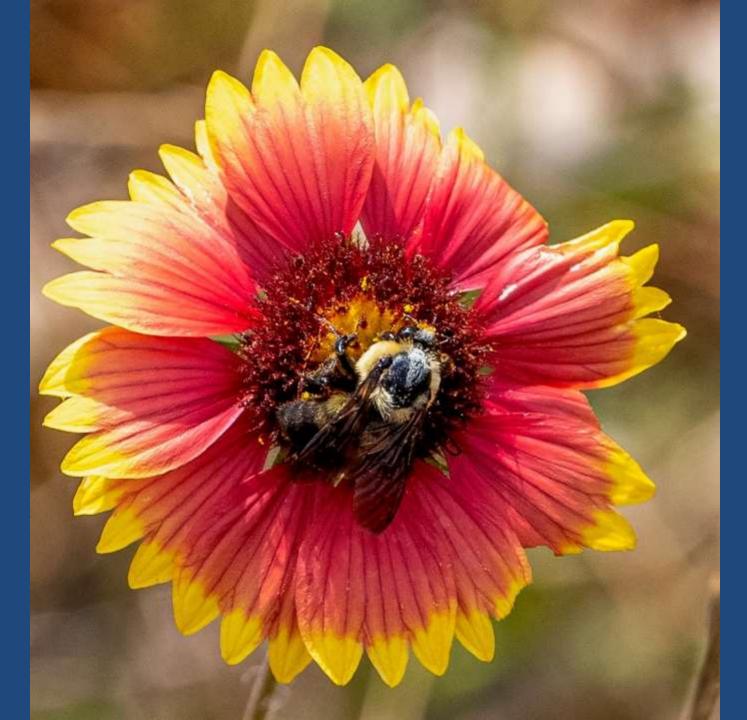
Size Matters

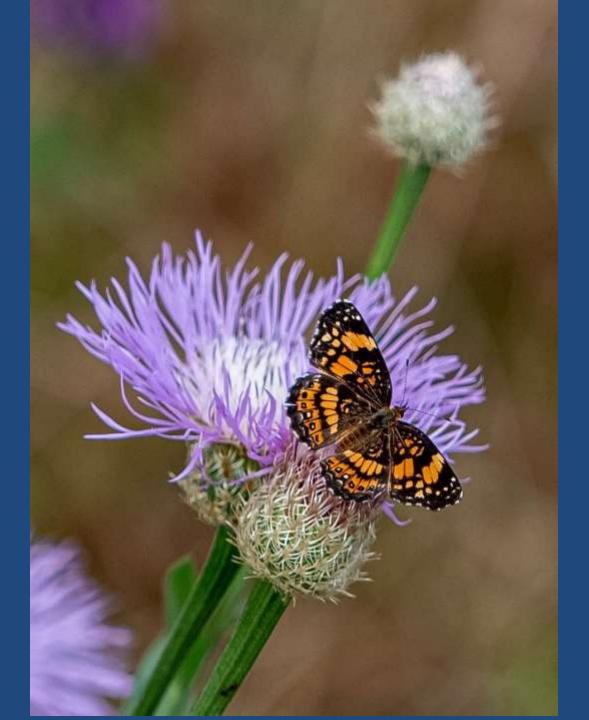










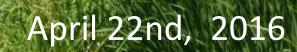






Feb 15th, 2016





Grazing Management & Fencing

- Grazing
 - Rotate
 - Exclude
 - Protect Water Quality





Patch Burn Grazing: PBG as a Tool

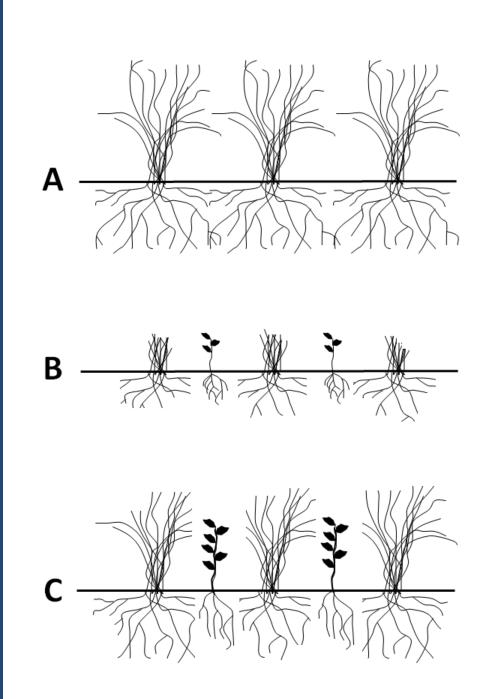
 Whereas the traditional model of range management (even distribution of moderate animal impact) might optimize sustainable livestock production objectives, it might not be sufficient for the maintenance of plants and animals that require habitat conditions different from those created by moderate grazing animal impact, i.e., species whose habitat needs are best provided by heavily- or lightly-impacted rangelands.







Additionally, some rangeland wildlife species require ulletmarkedly different habitats at different times during their life cycle. If entire landscapes are managed with similarly moderate levels of grazing animal impact, evenly distributed across all management units within the landscape, such landscapes might not provide sufficient habitat for all portions of those species' requirements. The ability of rangelands to provide habitat for wildlife and enhance biodiversity values will often depend on the ability of land managers to simultaneously optimize objectives associated with those values and objectives associated with livestock production.

















Further Example

- LPCI Better Grazing Through Burning
- <u>https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cboQmk</u>
 <u>6FCgc</u>

Grazing Systems

- Best to Talk to Range Specialist
 - County Extension Agent
 - NRCS
 - Year Round Continuous



So Now What?

• Planning

- Identify
 - Scope, Location, Desired Effects
- Funding
 - Personal, Local, State, Federal
- Timeline
 - Days, Weeks, Months, Years
- Implementation
 - Equipment, Chemicals, Manpower

That's Why We're Here!!!



Functionality of Habitat

- ECONOMICS
- Wildlife
- Water Quality
- Nutrient Cycling
- WHAT IS A GOOD INDICATOR OF HEALTH?



HABITAT SPECIALISTS



Houston Toad 9 Counties in TX Sandy Soil Obligate

Large-Fruited Sand Verbena 3 Counties in TX Sandy Soil Obligate





Navasota Ladies Tresses 11 known Counties Post Oak Woodlands

ASK FOR HELP



Take Home Message

- Promote Diversity
- Limit broadscale herbicide use
- Allow areas to rest- from mowing, grazing, use
- It's OK to graze heavily- if you give rest period
- Fire and Grazing have unique individual effects
- Fire and Grazing combined have synergistic effects
- Monitor your efforts and their results

Questions?