

Land Management Awareness Project Summary

Project#: P051110

Purpose: To help private landowners assess their property's current wildlife habitat and to make recommendations how to improve it. May also help communities.

History of Project: Began in early 2006 as a joint effort between Texas Cooperative (now Texas A&M AgriLife) Extension Service, Texas Parks & Wildlife, Denton Central Appraisal District (when applicable), and Elm Fork Chapter Texas Master Naturalist. Clients usually ask for help during the first few months of the year.

Process: Prospective clients usually are referred to the EFC by by the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service office in Denton or the Denton Central Appraisal District. Normally a team of two or three EFC members are assigned to the client, with one member designated the lead or coordinator. The lead will have gone through additional Land Awareness training in past years. Other members of the assigned team may or may not have had the training. In no case will a new team member be assigned to a client without an experienced member also.

Team members use their collective knowledge and experience in the process. While visiting the client's property with the client they look at all aspects of the land from the soil, plants, wildlife (actual, sounds, & signs), water, structures, etc. The team considers the adjoining properties' impacts on the client's situation. While walking the team discusses with the client what they want to do.

Based on the client's input plus their own observations, the team will provide the client (verbally & then in writing) the team's suggestions on how the client might improve the wildlife habitat for the future. The team does not prepare or write the landowner's management plan.

There are guidelines provided by the Texas Parks and Wildlife which we use. There are seven major categories of activities which landowners are encouraged to follow or include in their plan. The categories are Habitat Control or Management; Erosion control; Predator Control (e.g., fire ants); Supplemental Water; Supplemental Food; Supplemental Shelter; and Census Counts.

Properties evaluated are small (from an acre up to 500 acres or so.) Anything larger is handled by TPWD directly. Evaluations usually are done in one day plus time to prepare a written report. It provides the landowner with the team's observations and suggestions.

If you are interested in learning more about or getting involved with this project, please contact the project manager, Rob Roy, at [robt t roy@msn.com](mailto:robt_t_roy@msn.com).