Unit 1: Land Stewardship

Llano Estacado Texas Master Naturalists Curriculum Guide

A thing is right when it tends to preserve the integrity, stability, and beauty of the biotic community. It is wrong when it tends otherwise.

Aldo Leopold

Unit Goals: After completing this unit, volunteers should be able to:

* define land stewardship,
* discuss the role of private and public land management in conservation,
* describe the five management tools outlined by the naturalist Also Leopold,
* be encouraged to develop their own land ethics.

1. Why is being a good steward of the land important?
2. Although \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_% of the land area in the state of Texas is privately owned, nearly \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_% of all Texans live in urban centers.
3. List two reasons why larger, privately owned rural properties might be divided and sold as smaller parcels.
4. Land fragmentation affects wildlife habitat and how the land is \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ by humans.
5. List three reasons why the condition of Texas’ land is important to all Texans.


9. Fill in the following chart:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Common Problem | Result | Management Practice |
| Overgrazing/overbrowsing | Loss of native grasses and forbs | Limit grazers, grazing time and season |
| Brush encroachment |  |  |
| Erosion |  |  |
| Exotics (plant and animal) |  |  |
| Poor water catchment |  |  |

1. Humans have been changing the landscape for thousands of years, but the rate and scale of human change has accelerated over time. How do we find a model for a stable healthy ecosystem?
2. List three ways non-landowners have indirect influence on the way land is managed.

1. List three ways public lands such as state parks, state natural areas and wildlife management areas have value to the public.

Additional Materials

Lopez, R. How and Why Texas is Changing. Texas A&M Natural Resources Initiative.

<http://texaslandtrends.org/media/1016/texas-land-trends-presentation.pdf> Roel Lopez wrote the section on Changing Texas: Places, people and perspectives on page. 20 in your textbook. Check out his study, data, and conclusions here.

The Aldo Leopold Foundation. Land Ethic. <https://www.aldoleopold.org/about/the-land-ethic/> For more information about Aldo Leopold, his writings and legacy try this site.

The Nature of Americans. <https://natureofamericans.org/> To get a handle on how Americans attitudes toward nature and the outdoors is changing and what that might mean, look at the conclusions from this comprehensive study.

TX Land Trends. <http://txlandtrends.org/data> Try this site to look at land trends by counties, ecoregions, river basins or region of interest.