Region IV Wildlifer

A newsletter for landowners that fall within the 33 counties of Region IV, covering portions of Central and Coastal Texas

TEXAS PARKS & WILDLIFE

April 2024

District 8 Field Notes

BY DERRICK WOLTER

Howdy! There's been a whirlwind of hiring within the district over the past few months due to some constructive changes within the Wildlife Division. Several pre-existing staff within the district moved upward and onward. We also had the addition of a Managed Lands for Deer Program (MLDP) biologist to the district. This left some big boots to fill. Fortunately, several new staff now call District 8 home.

We were lucky enough to have a couple of TPWD staff transfer into the district. Although they are not new to TPWD, they are new to us. Rachel Hamilton came to the district from the McGillivray and Leona McKie Muse Wildlife Management Area (WMA). Rachel covers Karnes and Wilson Counties and started in the district on February 1. Olivia Kost transferred into the district from Brown County. Olivia covers Bexar, Comal, and Guadalupe Counties and started in the district on April 1.

We also brought in a few new faces. Gonzales County, once paired with Guadalupe County, now has its very own biologist, Robert Conrad. Robert served in the U.S. Army before earning his B.S. degree in Wildlife and Fisheries Science at Texas A&M. He will also be responsible for the M.O. Neasloney WMA located in Gonzales County. Robert started in the district on April 8. Tania Pena comes to the district from The Nature Conservancy. Tania covers Hays and Travis Counties, backfilling the position vacated by Blake Hendon after he moved into the Senior Wildlife Biologist role for the district. Tania earned a B.S. in Wildlife Biology and M.S. in Wildlife Ecology at Texas State University. Tania started in the district on April 15. We are thrilled to have such talented folks on staff, and they are all looking forward to meeting and working with the landowners in the counties they serve – give 'em a shout.

Spring has sprung in Texas. There is new growth ahead. Let's try to enjoy these 45 minutes of the year before it becomes another hot, summer scorcher!

Derrick Wolter began his career with TPWD in 2000 working as a wildlife biologist within the Upper Coast Wetlands Ecosystem Project, where he worked with wetlands, waterfowl, and on several Wildlife Management Areas. In 2004, Derrick moved to Central Texas to serve as a district biologist for Bell, Coryell, Lampasas, and Williamson Counties. In 2020, he became the Senior Wildlife Biologist for the Hill Country District. In November 2023, Derrick became the Wildlife District 8 Leader. He received a Bachelor of Science in Wildlife Science and a Master of Science in Wildlife Ecology from Texas A&M University.

District Field Notes, continued

District 9 Field Notes

BY BOBBY EICHLER

Here in District 9, we are still in the process of filling the vacant Colorado County biologist position that was vacated when Mark Lange accepted the Senior Biologist position which carries district wide responsibilities. Interviews have been conducted for the Colorado County position with hopes of having a biologist in place by June. After this hiring, the plan will be to then post a new biologist position for Fayette County. This new Fayette position will be a direct result of the Managed Lands Deer Permit (MLD's) fee that was imposed a few years back. With this additional funding, the current District 9 will have two positions created by this new funding source. The new positions will allow several biologists to now cover only one county in areas that have been traditionally heavy with MLD cooperators and Wildlife Management Associations (WMA's); these counties are Colorado, Fayette, Lavaca, and Lee. If all goes according to plan, the new Fayette position will allow Laura Sherrod to now focus solely on Lee County.

Staff have been busy the last several months since the last newsletter. Some of the more notable tasks that kept staff going have been MLD cooperator site visits, MLD browse surveys, prescribed fires on both private and state lands, native prairie site visits to assist in restoration, wildlife tax valuation site visits and workshops, outreach at the Houston Livestock Show Ranching and Wildlife Expo, county-wide WMA banquets, assisting with public hunting and youth hunting events, and as always CWD sampling from hunter harvest and roadkill whitetails.

Until next time, stay safe and enjoy the spring weather. So far, we have had a pleasant spring and a decent year for viewing the wildflowers. Take some time, get out, and enjoy the outdoors.

Bluebonnets. Photo©TPWD

Bobby Eichler is the District 9 leader for the Oak Savannah and Prairies District. He has Bachelor and Master of Science degrees in Forestry both with emphasis in Game Management, from Stephen F. Austin State University. A native of Giddings, Bobby started his TPWD career in East Texas before moving to La Grange in 2007.

Reading the Land

WRITTEN BY CLINTON FAAS

When you look out across a landscape, what do you see? Likely your answer would be something like “trees, grass, a creek, some birds, etc.” But what do you really see? Reading the land is an important first step in any manager’s thought process. Being able to see more than just “trees and grass” lets you begin to understand what is there, and maybe what the land was like years ago. A phrase that comes to mind is “Don’t just look, See.” To truly see what is on the land you must take a closer look. When you begin to dive deeper, you may begin to notice things that help you make informed management decisions.

Reading the land begins with an observation. To observe is to notice or perceive something and register it as being significant. Arguably, every component of that landscape is significant in some way. Be it positive or negative, all living and non-living things that make up the ecosystem can affect not only the health of the land but the organisms living in it. From these observations you can begin to draw inferences, conclusions reached based on evidence and reasoning, about what is on the land. Regardless of whether you’re looking at a prospective new property, a newly acquired tract, or you are looking to continue management on something you already have, a lot can be learned through simple observation. An analogy that seems to fit well is that of going to the doctor. You walk in the office, and all may seem well on the surface, but a thorough examination is needed to help tell the full story. The doctor will listen to your heart and breathing, check you here or there for anything abnormal, and maybe a blood test, x-ray, or MRI is needed. All these things aid in the diagnosis; the same thing is true with the land.

To begin, think big picture first. You do not have to physically be on the land to learn from it. Maps are available that can give you a rough idea of what your average annual precipitation is, as well as utilizing historical data found online. Generally speaking, Texas gets drier from east to west with slight variations from north to south. Understanding these gradients, and where a property falls, will help you to understand production potential and what to expect from year to year. Texas is also broken into 10 different ecoregions. Although there aren’t hard boundaries, these ecoregions make up unique areas composed of specific soils, vegetation, animals, and abiotic components. As with precipitation, there are variations within each of these ecoregions, but enough consistency exists to help a land manager make general assessments of what is there and what should be there. Topographical maps can also paint a picture of the lay of the land and how water may move across the landscape. Even on a relatively flat property, topographical maps may show slight elevation changes or areas that may flow water that you didn’t know existed.

A noticeable browse line may indicate that a deer population is too high. Photo©Clint Faas, TPWD

Using the internet as a resource can also help you gain information. Using many of the mapping websites can give you an aerial image of the site if you do not already have one. In addition, many now provide historical images that you can scroll through to see changes over time.

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Reading the Land, continued

The quality may not be the same as what is available now, but being able to see big-picture changes like brush encroachment will be visible. Some sites dig deep into the property location and give soil data, expected vegetation, production potential, and many other things. Web Soil Survey from the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) provides a seemingly endless amount of information based on soils and their physical location. TPWD also has the TEAM site that focuses on soils and vegetation. Though these sites can be daunting to use, your local biologist or NRCS agent can help you wade through this information.

The presence of certain plants, like Sesbania spp., indicate moist soil, low areas, or wetlands. Photo©Clint Faas, TPWD

With all the information in the world, there is still no substitute for putting boots on the ground and using your own power of observation to learn from a site. J. E. Weaver once said "Nature is an open book for those who care to read. Each grass-covered hillside is a page on which is written the history of the past, conditions of the present, and predictions for the future." Using what is available to you can help you understand all these things. Below are some considerations for on-the-ground observations:

- Know your plants or find someone that does. Plants are essential to maintaining quality habitat. The more diverse, the better off all wildlife species will be. When thinking about the four components of habitat, plants make up the bulk of both food and shelter for the species we manage. Being able to identify the plant species that are available to animals will help you to create better habitat.

- Unfortunately, we are plagued with many non-native plants. While some are more problematic than others, knowing the non-natives in your area will give you the ability to target these species in your management practices.

- Not all problem species are non-native. In addition to those plants that aren't supposed to be here, Texas has several native species that can become invasive as well: Ashe juniper, huisache, and mesquite to name a few. Oftentimes, these species will begin to encroach in areas that historically would not have had them. Changes in grazing practices, removal of fire from the land, and lack of active management are just a few things that could result in these species spreading to new areas.

- Often, patterns appear in vegetation and in vegetative growth. For instance, a stand of mesquite that is all the same height may indicate that the area was cleared at one time. Or a stand of low - growing oak trees with skeletal trunks standing may be the result of a large fire event. Being able to pick up on these patterns, and using the historical images, can tell you a lot about the past management of a property.

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Reading the Land, continued

- Many plants tend to grow in specific areas. Paying attention to where plants are growing can lead to clues about past use, the presence of water, or soil changes. A few examples:
    - Large stands of johnsongrass may mean an old crop field.
    - Dense stands of willow baccharis may indicate past soil disturbance.
    - The presence of sedges or cottonwood trees can lead to finding low spots or water.
- Pay attention to what species are present versus what should be found there. Using the websites above and ecological site descriptions will help you to understand what species would have been found there historically.
- Take notice of how much vegetation is used or available. This could be due to livestock grazing, pressure from deer, or environmental conditions. Overutilization by livestock and deer may result in a noticeable browse line or a hedged appearance on woody species. This can lead to a lack of resources available to your game species.
- Stop and smell the wildflowers. Not to be taken literally but take note of whether or not you have wildflowers each year. Flowers = Forbs = Food. A lack of forbs from overutilization or drought can prove detrimental to ground-nesting birds, like quail and turkey, and result in the loss of a critical food source for deer.
- Like the previous bullet, pay attention to pollinators. The presence of pollinators signifies the presence of flowering plants.
- Keep an eye out for woody plant encroachment. Because it is a slow process, it's easy to overlook the presence of new woody plants in a previously open area. Oftentimes people will say "well nothing has really changed here" when describing a property over time. Going back and looking at old photos or aerial imagery can help identify those areas that may have been taken over by brush.
- Levees, terraces, and other water control/diversion structures can be left abandoned on older properties. Identifying these can help understand the hydrology of the land and may explain the presence of certain plants where they otherwise wouldn't grow.

Large stands of same-age woody plants generally show areas that were once cleared and have since been left untouched. Photo©Clint Faas, TPWD

- Look for things that seem out of place: a crepe myrtle in the middle of a field could be from an old homestead; a line of trees that appears too straight may be a previous fence line; a bare area that won't grow vegetation at all could be from a brush pile that burned too hot or a saltwater spill. Any number of things can appear "odd" on the land, and often a little investigation will lead to a better understanding of past use.

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Reading the Land, continued

With all these things in mind, you can begin to piece together the past use, the current conditions, and the possible future conditions of a property, both with and without management. To use the medical analogy again, consider a clinical decision-making checklist:

- Taking the history – What do you know about the property?
- Performing the physical examination – What can you learn from maps, the web, and physical observation?
- Generating a differential diagnosis – What are the possible land changes that led to the current condition?
- Ordering investigation – Dive deeper and see if your inferences can be shown to be accurate.
- Formulation of a diagnosis – From the information you have, decide where you are and what can be done.
- Documenting your decision – From your management decisions, document what worked and what didn't. Then repeat.

Reading the land can seem challenging or overwhelming. I encourage you to take the time to slow down and really look at what your land is showing you. But don 't just look, see!

Restored native prairie compared to heavily grazed pasture . Photo©Mark Lange, TPWD

Clint Faas is the District 9 biologist for Wharton and Northern Jackson Counties. A Wharton County native, he graduated from Texas A&M University in 2005 with a B.S. in Wildlife Ecology and Management and a minor in Rangeland Ecology and Management. He went on to obtain a M.S. in Wildlife Ecology from Texas State University in 2008. Post-graduation, and prior to his hire in 2017, Faas worked as a private sector biologist and Director of Conservation Programs for a statewide non-profit.

Species Spotlight: Western Cottonmouth

WRITTEN BY TODD PILCIK

I remember the days growing up on the banks of the San Bernard River. Mom always told me, "Take the dogs and watch for snakes". At that time, I don't remember if I took that warning to heart or not. I just know watching for snakes was always in the back of my mind. Not to avoid them but to catch them. Of course, that was if I was able to identify them before doing so. Basically, I just used more caution. Hence, I spent a lot of time looking and learning about all the wild things I encountered. I developed a love for nature at a young age and snakes were among my interests. I attempted to start a business in my youth called the "snake patrol" where I offered services to our neighbors to remove any unwanted snakes on their property for a fee. Charged by size rather than potential hazard, that didn't pan out well as I never had any clients. I now work for Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, go figure.

An often misunderstood and confused snake with which I had frequent encounters throughout my days in the woods was the western cottonmouth. Also known in my area as a cottonmouth or water moccasin, along with some other terms I prefer not to mention. The western cottonmouth is an aquatic/semiaquatic snake found in the southeastern half of the US, including the eastern half of Texas. It is usually found in wet environments including drainages, rice fields, marshes, lakes, and ponds, but also can be more terrestrial, inhabiting upland habitats.

The western cottonmouth, *Agkistrodon piscivorus*, is a heavy-bodied snake, generally thicker-bodied than most other Texas snakes, and will tend to flatten their bodies making them appear even larger when threatened. The average size of adults is around 30 inches with the largest recorded length of 62 inches. Yikes! Juveniles are well patterned, but markings tend to fade over time giving way to a brown or black appearance. Scales along the back and sides are keeled and the anal scale is not divided. The triangular head is wider than the neck and the pupils of the eyes appear as a narrow split in lighted conditions but may appear almost round at night. The head is marked by a conspicuous dark eye stripe that runs from the nose past the back of the eye. Cottonmouths eat a variety of prey and, as their name implies, (*Agkistrodon*, meaning hook-shaped, hook or tooth, and *picsivorus* or piscis meaning fish) prey most often on fish, but they will not hesitate to prey upon small mammals, amphibians, and birds. They can strike and envenomate under water.

Western cottonmouth. Photo©TPWD

When threatened, the cottonmouth will first try to escape but left without that option will stand its ground, often excreting musk and opening its mouth to reveal the white coloration inside. Hence, another reason for the common name.

Breeding takes place primarily in April and May with a gestation period of about 5 months. Cottonmouths, like some other snakes are ovoviviparous, meaning eggs are laid and kept inside the body of the female throughout the gestation period, giving the appearance of live birth.

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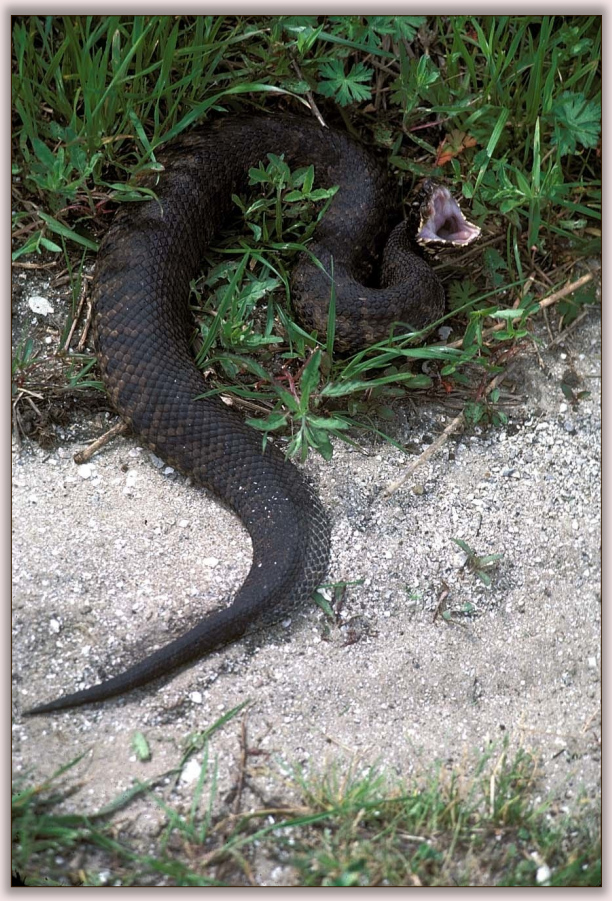
Species Spotlight: Western Cottonmouth, continued

I often hear reports of cottonmouths being aggressive and chasing folks, but chances are more likely that whoever gave those reports was in between where the snake was and where it wanted to be, or they agitated them to the point that they were in full defense mode. Not to ruin a great movie but in Lonesome Dove, the river scene where poor Shawn is savagely bitten by a swarm of "water moccasins" was not likely to have much validity in truth…although it made for a great movie. Cottonmouths are generally solitary and will not attack unless threatened. Most likely, a flood on the Nueces River would have dispersed the snakes verses concentrating them into a murderous pit.



Typical warning posturing demonstrated by the western cottonmouth. Photo©TPWD

Unfortunately, most folks misidentify any snake that they see in the water as a water moccasin. While this is true as a broad term for water snakes, more times than less the snakes they see are harmless water snakes: diamond-backed, broad-banded, and blotched to name a few. Many species of water snakes fit the profile of the cottonmouth due to coloration and the habitat in which they are found. It is important to note that many water snake species tend to lose their vibrant coloration as they mature.

As always, it is best practice not to handle snakes if you are not able to identify them or are unfamiliar with them. The best policy is to be cautious and observant and leave them alone. In the rare instance that you may be bitten, call 911 immediately and seek medical assistance. Do not perform a fasciotomy, (cutting the area to relieve pressure or remove venom). Do not apply a tourniquet or attempt to suck out the venom as doing so may cause you more harm than good. Keep the victim calm and avoid unnecessary movement that may impact the spread of venom. Using a sharpie, if available, circle the bite marks and note the time. Continue this practice periodically until medical staff can assist. Always try to take a picture or bring the snake in for proper identification so that the appropriate antivenom may be administered. Do not put yourself in harm's way in trying to catch the specimen because most likely there will be two snake bite victims to attend to.

With the weather warming, snakes will be out. Be careful, be observant and give them their space.

Todd Pilcik is the Private Lands Biologist for Matagorda, Brazoria and Southern Jackson counties. He received his Bachelor of Science degree in 1994 and pursued his Masters degree at Southwest Texas State University in San Marcos. Todd was hired in August of 1994. He worked with the migratory program until 1999 when he accepted a biologist position in the Texas hill country covering Lampasas, Coryell and Bell counties. In 2002, he transferred to the Texas coast and is currently stationed in Bay City.

From the Field — A Pilot Study

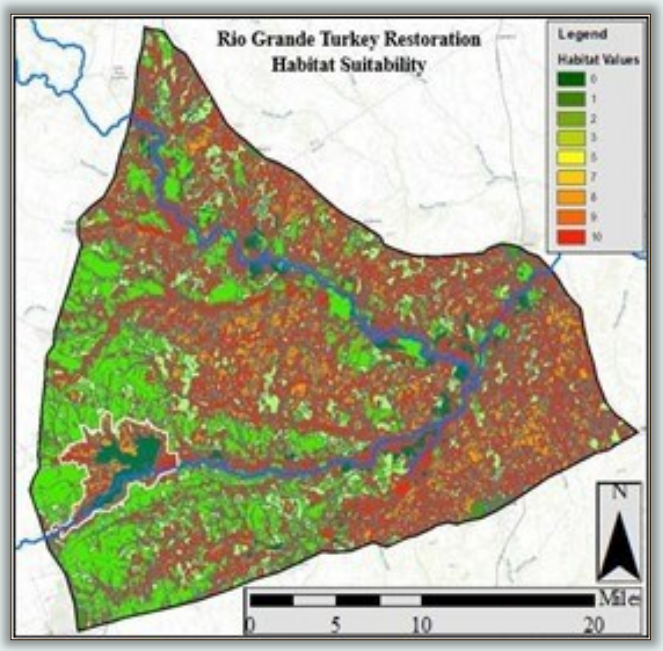
WRITTEN BY CULLOM SIMPSON

A unique combination of setting and partnerships provides TPWD District staff an opportunity to evaluate responses of wild turkeys to translocation .

Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) biologists frequently meet with landowners to help them achieve their land management goals. During these landowner visits, biologists commonly hear about what wildlife used to be seen or heard that aren't anymore. Statements like, "we used to hear 100's of turkeys in the spring and they have been slowly disappearing", are all too common.

In addition to providing technical guidance, TPWD provides public hunting through Wildlife Management Areas (WMAs) owned by TPWD, private land leases, and leases with other state and federal agencies like the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE). In the northeast corner of Williamson County along the San Gabriel River, TPWD, USACE, and the National Wild Turkey Federation (NWTF) have had a long history of partnership on Granger Lake implementing habitat management projects and public hunting. This historical partnership and perspective allow for conversations about what wildlife used to be seen or heard that isn't anymore. Drives around the lake with USACE rangers commonly result in statements like, "I remember 10 years ago, we used to see turkeys below the dam". When this is repeatedly heard from private landowners and USACE rangers within the San Gabriel - Little River watershed, it makes a biologist begin to think about what the puzzle pieces are to bring back turkeys.

Conversations with Jason Hardin, TPWD's Wild Turkey Program Leader, about this interest along the San Gabriel River-Little River watersheds in restoring turkeys, led to looking at the historical stocking history within that area. Several questions began to arise from this: are the remnant populations related to the historical releases, what caused the decline and then settling at a low persistent population level, could the renewed interest from landowners produce a different result, what is the available habitat now and what habitat will translocate birds use, to name a few questions. Ultimately, the result of this conservation was that we needed to create a habitat suitability model and continue implementing management practices that are turkey-friendly (disking, mowing, and prescribed burning). To do this, we ranked habitat values from 1-lowest value (green) to 10-highest value (10) for turkeys using TPWD's Texas Ecosystem Analytical Mapper data in ArcGIS. By creating a habitat suitability map, we were able to see what habitat is available and if the public is supportive and initiate a pilot translocation study that would show us what habitat is going to be used.



Turkey habitat suitability model. Photo©TPWD

Currently, the bag limit for turkeys in Bell, Milam, and Williamson counties is no more than 4 birds in a year, consisting of gobblers and bearded hens. While this bag limit may be appropriate for the west side of I-35 which is the Edwards Plateau, the east side of I-35 is mainly Blackland Prairies where populations are lower.

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From the Field — A Pilot Study, continued

To support the renewed interest in restoring turkey populations, a public meeting to discuss lowering the bag limit or closing the turkey season for Bell and Williamson County east of I-35 and all of Milam County was held in October 2023 in Davilla, Texas. At the public meeting, landowners, biologists, USACE rangers, and members of NWTF gathered for a fajita supper provided by NWTF. During supper, presentations were given discussing wild turkey seasons and bag limits, best management practices, habitat suitability model, and the potential pilot translocation study. The results of the public meeting were supportive of removing the turkey season for Bell and Williamson County east of I-35 and all of Milam County and initiating a pilot translocation study. A few comments from the comment box included, “Restocking, hunting season stopped”, “I support closing the season and initiating the translocation pilot study”.

In February of 2024, we trapped 20 Rio Grande hens and released 10 radio-marked birds at Granger Lake-Pecan Grove WMA and 10 radio-marked birds on a suitable site in Milam County. Both site’s habitats where birds were released ranked well on the habitat suitability map. This allowed us to feel confident that we were giving them the best chance of being successful and showing us what habitat the birds prefer. We have had several reports of landowners seeing the radio-marked birds moving back and forth from USACE property to private lands. It seems the turkeys have told us a few of the correct puzzle pieces including partnerships between private landowners, state agencies, federal agencies, and non-governmental organizations. Based on monitoring to date, the birds are alive and well, unknowingly providing us with valuable data on movements, habitat use and survival.

Turkey scoping meeting. Photo©TPWD

Cullom Simpson is a district biologist for Bell and Williamson Counties. He received his Bachelor of Science degree in 2016 from Tarleton State University and pursued his masters degree at Sul Ross State University in Alpine, Texas. Cullom was hired in 2021 and helps coordinate public hunts on Granger PHL and prairie restoration projects across the Hill Country and Southern blackland prairies.


SMALL ACREAGE
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A wildlife management program designed for landowners with smaller properties.
HOSTED BY:
WASHINGTON COUNTY
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$35 registration fee
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Photo: Jared Schlottman

TEXAS PARKS & WILDLIFE

Harmony on the Range

INTEGRATING GRAZING AND WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT

WHEN: FRIDAY, JUNE 21, 2024 @ 9:00AM - 4:30PM
WHERE: LONG ACRES RANCH, 2335 RICHMOND PKWY, RICHMOND, TX 77469
COST: $20(CHECK OR CASH UPON ARRIVAL)
PLEASE RSVP BY EMAILING JON MCLEOD AT JON.MCLEOD@TPWD.TEXAS.GOV OR FOLLOW QR CODE

LUNCH WILL BE PROVIDED

PRESENTATION TOPICS WILL INCLUDE:

- SUSTAINABLE GRAZING FOR WILDLIFE AND CATTLE
- GAME BIRD MANAGEMENT ON WORKING LANDS
- PREDATOR CONTROL
- PATCH BURNING AND GRAZING
- DEER MANAGEMENT ON WORKING LANDS
- COST-SHARE PROGRAMS FOR CATTLE AND WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT

IN COLLABORATION WITH

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Oaks and Prairies Joint Venture

SPECIAL THANKS TO AUSTIN COUNTY WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT ASSOCIATION

Upcoming Events

APRIL

27 **Meyersville WMA Spring Meeting**
13052 S. US Hwy. 183, Yorktown, TX 78164
Begins at 5:30 p.m.
Contact Margaret Harrison at 512-762-5735

27 **Prescribed Fire Workshop**
M.O. Neasloney WMA
20700 State Hwy. 80 North, Gonzales, TX 78629
Begins at 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
Contact Calan Coleman at 361-741-8066 or
calan.coleman@tnc.org

MAY

3 **Feathers, Furs, and Farming Workshop**
Topic: All About Invasive Species
Immaculate Conception Catholic Church
15994 TX-159 Industry, TX 78944
Begins at 1:00 p.m.
Contact Mark Lange at 979-732-3458

8-9 **Biodiversity Works - 2024 Ashe Juniper Symposium**
Commons Conference Center
10100 Burnet Rd., Bldg. 137Austin, TX 78758
Begins at 8:00 a.m.
Contact Patty Ramirez at
pramirez@biodiversityworks.org
Website: Biodiversity Works

10 **Lavaca County Workshop For Wildlife**
K of C Hall Annex Bld.
321 US Hwy. 77 S., Hallettsville, TX 77964
Begins at 8:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.
Contact Brent Pierce at
Brent.pierce@tpwd.texas.gov

10 **Small Acreage Big Opportunity**
Washington County Expo Event Center
1305 E. Blue Bell Rd., Brenham, TX 77833
Begins at 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
Contact Jared Schlottmann at
jschlottman@texas-wildlife.org

11 **Red Rock WMA Annual Fundraiser**
Sacred Heart Catholic Church — Holtman Hall
4045 FM 535 Rockne, TX 78602
Begins at 5:00 p.m. to 10 p.m.
Contact Martie Mitchell at
martiesbuy@gmail.com
https://rrwma.org/home/fund-raiser/

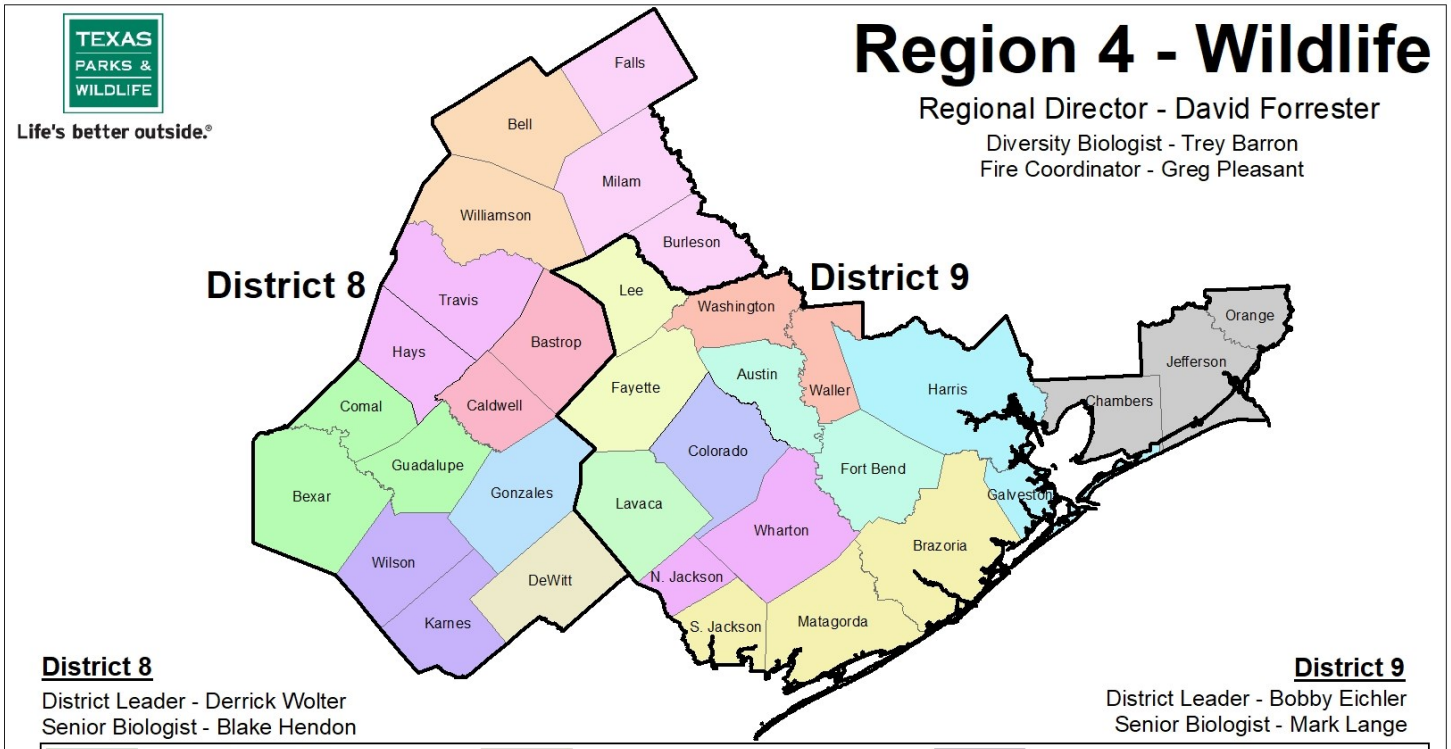
JUNE

14 **Prescribed Fire Workshop**
El Campo
Begins 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
Contact Clint Faas at 281-202-9212 or
Clinton.faas@tpwd.texas.gov

21 **Harmony on the Range: Integrating Grazing and Wildlife Management**
Long Acres Ranch
2335 Richmond Pkwy., Richmond, TX 77469
Begins 9:00 - 4:30 P.M.
Contact Jon Mcleod at
Jon.mcleod@tpwd.texas.gov

Our Wildlife Biologists

Click on the map for your biologists contact information



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TEXAS PARKS AND WILDLIFE DEPARTMENT MISSION STATEMENT
"To manage and conserve the natural and cultural resources of Texas and to provide hunting, fishing and outdoor recreation opportunities for the use and enjoyment of present and future generations."

You may view this publication, as well as other newsletters created by the department, through the TPWD website. Please visit www.tpwd.texas.gov/newsletters/ for more information.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

All inquiries: Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, 4200 Smith School Rd., Austin, TX 78744, telephone (800) 792-1112 toll free, or (512) 389-4800 or visit our website for detailed information about TPWD programs:

www.tpwd.texas.gov

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