

Making Tracts for TEXAS WILDLIFE



Winter 2006 • Wildlife Division

New Agreement to Help Texas Landowners Conserve Lesser Prairie Chicken

by Tom Harvey, TPWD News & Information, Austin

A new agreement between the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) is expected to help private landowners conserve the lesser prairie chicken, a rare bird whose fate is tied to the health of grassland ecosystems that sustain many other wildlife species.

A signing ceremony for the agreement took place at the beginning of the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department Commission meeting on the morning of Thursday, Nov. 2 at TPWD headquarters in Austin.

By undertaking voluntary conservation measures on their property under the new agreement, landowners will be assured that no further land use restrictions or conditions will be required from them if the lesser prairie chicken is ultimately listed under the federal Endangered Species Act. The bird is currently a candidate for listing.

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“The proposed Candidate Conservation Agreement with Assurances (CCAA) encourages beneficial habitat management activities among private landowners on a voluntary basis,” said the USFWS Southwest Regional Director Benjamin N. Tuggle, Ph.D. “The Service believes there is a need for a CCAA to increase economic incentives and remove legal disincentives for landowners to allow candidate and/or listed species on their property. These types of incentive-based programs go a long way to contributing to species conservation and recovery.”

Under the new agreement, TPWD can issue a one-page Certificate of Inclusion signed by a landowner who wishes to voluntarily commit to undertake certain conservation actions outlined in their TPWD-approved wildlife management plan. Such landowner actions would include measures such as brush control, grazing management, prescribed burning and allowing periodic monitoring on their property.

Approximately 15 Texas landowners already have working relationships with TPWD for grassland conservation that benefits lesser prairie chickens. In addition, the USFWS has used its Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program to restore or enhance lesser prairie chicken habitat on approximately 82,631 acres in the Texas Panhandle. These projects have involved 43 different landowners in 11 counties, all of which could qualify for inclusion under the CCAA.

“We have Texas landowners who already qualify to sign up under this new agreement, ranchers who are voluntarily



conserving and managing grasslands in ways that benefit prairie chickens and other species,” said Mike Berger, TPWD wildlife division director. “Over time, we think this will be an important additional tool for Texas private landowners, many of whom have demonstrated the desire and ability to do the right thing for wildlife and habitat.”

Since more than 95 percent of the Texas landscape is privately owned, the voluntary cooperation of ranchers and other rural landowners is considered essential for wildlife conservation in the state.

Lesser prairie chickens were once found throughout short- and mid-grass prairies in Texas, Oklahoma, Kansas, Colorado and New Mexico. Since 1963 scientists believe prairie chicken numbers have declined 80 percent nationwide due to habitat loss and fragmentation, population isolation, drought and land-use and land-cover changes. Today in Texas, lesser prairie chickens are found only in two isolated areas in the northeastern and southwestern corners of the Panhandle region.

(Continued on page 2)

In 1997, the Lesser Prairie Chicken Interstate Working Group was formed to prepare a range-wide conservation strategy to coordinate efforts among the five states with occupied prairie chicken habitat. "Prairie chicken conservation equals grassland conservation," said Heather Whitlaw, TPWD wildlife biologist in Lubbock. "Landowners who provide good habitat for this bird are helping many other grassland-dependent species, such as pronghorn antelope and many grassland birds. Further, prairie conservation equals water conservation. Restoring and managing the native grasslands of the Texas Panhandle, including regions with Playa Lakes, can provide vital recharge sources for the Ogallala Aquifer."

John Hughes, USFWS biologist in Canadian, Texas, added that "No one agency or group can accomplish lesser prairie chicken recovery alone and it will take the combined efforts of TPWD, USFWS, the U.S. Department of Agriculture and others to restore this magnificent bird to its former range." Biologists say what is needed to help the bird is to create and/or maintain large blocks of suitable habitat. To do this, land managers should provide low vegetation for breeding grounds, tall bunch grasses/shrubs for nesting cover, areas with overhead cover that are open underneath for birds to raise their chicks, a year-round food supply and protection from weather. All these elements should be within three to five miles of the spring breeding areas.

In recent years, the federal Natural Resource Conservation Service has worked with other agencies, including TPWD and USFWS, to establish a Wildlife Emphasis Area within the federal EQIP cost-share program, with \$135,000 set aside for the lesser prairie chicken habitat conservation in 2006. Texas has also increased lesser

prairie chicken research and program funding for projects such as land cover and land use mapping, aerial survey evaluations, population-level modeling and population surveys. The department also supports landowner initiatives such as the Texas Panhandle Prescribed Burn Association.

For more information about the new Candidate Conservation Agreement with Assurances for the lesser prairie chicken in Texas, interested landowners should contact Heather Whitlaw at (806) 742-4968 or John Hughes at (806) 323-6636.

Landowner Incentive Program Enhances Habitat for Rare Species

by Linda Campbell, Program Director, TPWD, Austin

The mid-1990s was a difficult time for rare species conservation in Texas. Too many landowners expressed mistrust of the government in general and lack of support for rare species conservation in particular. Clearly, a new approach was needed. Discussions throughout the nation began to center around the concept of providing incentives for private landowners to manage habitat benefiting rare species, while also removing disincentives inherent in the laws and policies of that time.

In 1997, the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department piloted the first Landowner Incentive Program under then-governor George W. Bush, with financial support from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS). The first LIP program was designed to reverse the top-down regulatory approach to rare species conservation and replace it with a voluntary program that provides financial and technical assistance to landowners to help achieve their overall conservation goals for the land, including habitat-based work benefiting rare species. For many landowners, this

voluntary, incentive-based approach was all that was needed to encourage participation in the conservation of rare species on private land throughout the state.

In 2002, LIP became a national program of the USFWS under President Bush, offering the same incentive-based approach to all states. The program in Texas has matured over the years, targeting a greater diversity of rare and declining species. We have learned a great deal about how to work effectively with landowners who want to do the right thing for the wildlife on their land. Since becoming federally funded in 2002, Texas has provided more than \$2 million in cost share assistance for habitat-based projects benefiting a wide variety of rare species, including endangered songbirds, rare reptiles, declining grassland birds and cave invertebrates.

During the last round of funding, LIP provided cost-share funding and technical assistance for eight projects. Two will restore grassland ecosystems on the coastal prairie, and six will enhance habitat for declining species in shortleaf and longleaf pine ecosystems of East Texas.

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“What a Quail Really Wants”

A general guideline for desired habitat in the High Plains and Rolling Plains of Texas

by Gene T. Miller, Technical Guidance Biologist, TPWD, Canyon

Desired habitat picture for Bobwhite Quail

Suggested interspersion of habitat components (adapted from *Habitat Appraisal Guide for Bobwhite Quail*, Circular E-904 by Oklahoma Cooperative Extension Service) is as follows:

For any property or management unit, 30–40 percent native prairie or early seral stage dominated by grasses and forbs in 5–20 acre patches; 40–60 percent in early-to-mid seral stage prairie (high annual and perennial forb component), 5–20 percent in clumpy brush cover in 1/4- to 1-acre patches, and 5–40 percent in woodland in 5–20 acre patches. Clumpy shrub cover (“mottes”) substitute adequately for woodland cover. This will meet the requirements for nesting cover, brood habitat, escape and loafing cover, food production. Surface water such as ponds, creeks, and overflow from windmills produce microhabitats which can provide insects and green, succulent vegetation during dry weather conditions. Warm-season bunchgrasses present at 200–300 clumps per acre, punctuated by native thickets of plum, aromatic sumac, sand shinnery oak, sandsage, and areas of bare ground often characterize good Bobwhite Quail range in the **Rolling Plains**. Employment of moderate stocking rates and grazing of pastures for only a portion of

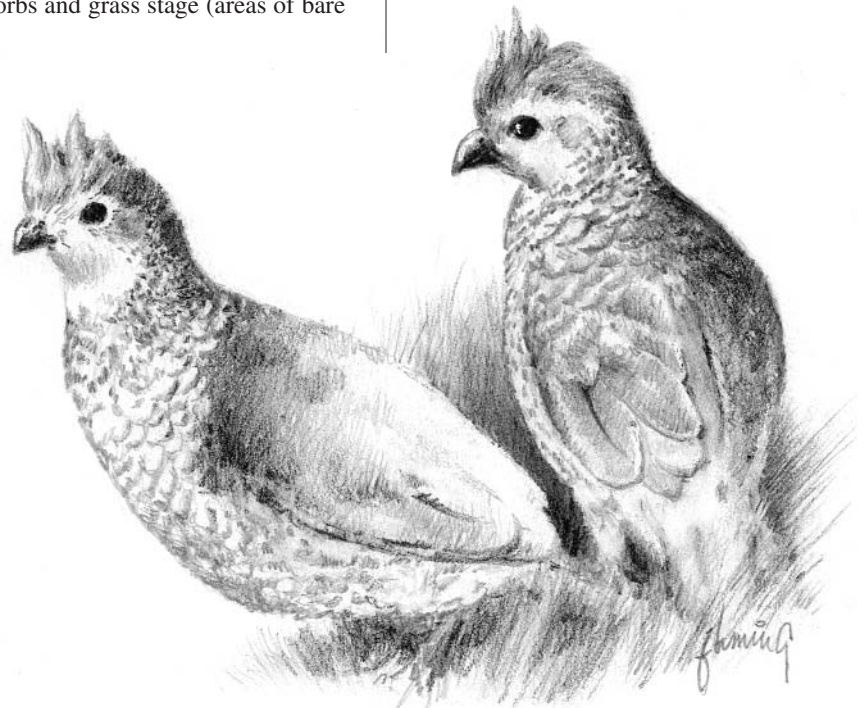
the year, mechanical pasture aeration, use of cool-season fire at approximately 3–4 year intervals (in rotation with grazing and fine fuel loads), and retention of key brush species in patterns (see hand-out entitled *Integrating Wildlife Habitat Needs into Brush Management Plans in the Texas Panhandle* by Gene T. Miller) are often key elements in improving habitability for Bobwhite Quail.

Desired habitat picture for Scaled Quail

Suggested interspersion of habitat components (adapted from *A Scaled Quail Habitat Model – Management Guides* by Fred Stormer) is as follows:

For any property or management unit, 10–15 percent of the range is in scattered individual and/or small, low-density mottes of food producing shrubs (i.e., saltbush, aromatic sumac, and/or mesquite; annual and perennial forbs should be abundant, and general plant succession stage should be between annual forb-grass and subclimax perennial forbs and grass stage (areas of bare

ground dispersed throughout). Tree cholla provides loafing cover for scaled quail and male singing perches; aromatic sumac provides nutritious food, and is used for loafing and nesting (described by one author as “the best all around shrub” for Scaled Quail). Narrowleaf yucca is used for nesting cover and night roosts; mesquite is a highly-preferred nutritious seed, and is used for loafing coverts and male singing perches. Sandsage is used for loafing and nesting cover. Grazing management to encourage nesting cover (i.e., moderate stocking rates and rotation of cattle) and areas of taller forbs (i.e., sunflowers, snow-on-the-prairie), complemented by retention of low-growing brush mottes, will provide for the food and cover needs of Scaled Quail. For example, provision of habitat as described above to have one nest per 10–12 acres, with loafing coverts located on every approximately 10 acres, with approximately one percent of an area in roosting cover (low shrubs of 1½ feet in height) is sufficient for this species. These are key elements and practices that *usually* typify productive ranges for Scaled Quail in the **High Plains**.



Wildlife Management Areas Provide Learning Opportunities for Landowners

by Dennis Gissell, WMA Facilities Coordinator, TPWD, Austin

The rural landscape of Texas offers a natural beauty and character unsurpassed. Texas boasts some of the most beautiful and abundant populations of plants and wildlife to be found anywhere. The conservation of this wildlife habitat in Texas relies on the good work being done by private landowners. Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) provides assistance to private landowners through demonstrations on wildlife management areas. TPWD conducts research and provides educational demonstrations of solid habitat management techniques and principles that can be used by private landowners to manage habitat on their lands.

The Wildlife Management Areas (WMAs) of Texas offer a unique opportunity for landowners to learn about habitat management in various ecological regions throughout the state. Today, the Wildlife Division of TPWD operates 51 WMAs, encompassing some 756,464 acres of land. WMAs are established to represent habitats and wildlife populations typical of each ecological region of Texas. Today, nearly every ecological region in the state is represented, with the exception of the Cross Timbers and Prairies in north-central Texas.

WMAs demonstrate habitat management practices such as:

- Livestock grazing systems
- Surface water development and water distribution
- Prescribed burning
- Erosion control
- Various mechanical forms of brush management
- Mechanical techniques and timing for management of herbaceous vegetation
- Holistic or ecosystem management of range and wildlife habitat
- Population management of game animals and game birds
- Mechanical and chemical control of invasive species of vegetation
- Wetland and moist soil management
- Riparian management

Visit or contact these WMAs to learn more about wildlife and habitat management:

Central Texas – Edwards Plateau

- **Kerr WMA**, Kerr County – Contact: (830) 238-4483
 - Landowner seminars/tours conducted monthly from July through October
 - Special demonstrations or workshops scheduled periodically through the year
 - Interpretive driving tour
 - White-tailed Deer research demonstrations
- **Old Tunnel WMA**, Kendall County – Contact: (866) 978-BATS (2278).
 - More than two million Mexican free-tailed bats emerge during demonstration events from May through October, on Thursday through Sunday evenings – presentations on habitat and importance of bats to the environment
 - Interpretive walking trail

East Texas – Post Oak Savannah

- **Cooper WMA**, Delta and Hopkins counties – Contact: (903) 945-3132
 - Workshops offered to help landowners and others learn about the function and management of wetlands
- **Gus Engeling WMA**, Anderson County – Contact: (903) 928-2251
 - New Gus Engeling Learning Center will host education/demonstration events
 - Periodic landowner field days on habitat management
 - Seven-mile interpretive driving tour and printed materials
 - Two interpretive walking trails and printed materials
- **Richland Creek WMA**, Freestone County – Contact: (903) 389-7080
 - Numerous field days to demonstrate the importance and ecology of wetlands, moist soil management and bottomland hardwood forests
 - Constructed wetlands demonstrate the value and benefit of natural water treatment systems
 - Unique birding opportunities

Panhandle – Rolling Plains

- **Matador WMA**, Cottle County – Contact: (806) 492-3405
 - Field day in September for general range and wildlife management
 - Field day in February for prescribed fire
 - Other periodic field days and demonstrations
 - Numerous educational tours and presentations
- **Gene Howe WMA**, Hemphill County – Contact: (806) 323-8642
 - Field days, other educational events/tours

South Texas Plains

- **Chaparral WMA**, Dimmit and LaSalle counties – Contact: (830) 676-3413
 - Annual field day in September
 - Prescribed burn symposium in February
 - Various other demonstrations and events throughout the year
 - Two self-guided, interpretive nature trails
 - Self-guided, interpretive driving tour – 7½ miles

Trans-Pecos

- **Black Gap and Elephant Mountain WMAs**, Brewster County – Contact: (432) 837-3251
 - Learning opportunities include water guzzler demonstrations and interpretive driving tours

For more information on the WMA program in Texas, please contact us at (800) 792-1112, menu #5 and then #1 or visit us on the web at: www.tpwd.state.tx.us/huntwild/hunt/wma/

Riparian Notes: *The Right Question*

by Steve Nelle, Natural Resources Conservation Service, San Angelo

On several occasions, the similarities of fixing up an old truck and fixing a creek have been noted.

It has now been about one year since I bought the dilapidated 1950 pickup truck.

Well-meaning people often ask the question: “*Are you going to restore it?*” This question is somewhat irritating. After all, countless hot sweaty hours, numerous busted knuckles and daily trips to the auto parts stores have been invested getting it to this point. From my own perspective, the truck is at least somewhat restored. It is registered, insured and inspected and driven nearly every day. It is definitely not restored to showroom quality. Everyone seems to have their own idea about what constitutes a restored truck (mostly based on outward appearance).

Recently, someone finally asked the right question. Steve Jester, with The Nature Conservancy of Texas, and Director of The Blanco River Project, is an ecologist, wildlife biologist and riparian mechanic. He asked about the truck during our last visit: “*Is it functional?*” To that question, I could answer, yes. The engine runs and all of the associated components operate properly (starter, generator, water pump, radiator, etc.). All of the required safety features are up to standard (tires, brakes, lights and exhaust

system). The truck is functional, at least for now. It is not restored to 100 percent of its potential, but it functions properly.

We need to be asking the same question when looking at a creek or riparian area. *Is it functional?* Fortunately, there is a good set of criteria against which to assess the functionality of creeks and rivers. Lest we go off in our own direction when defining stream restoration, the Proper Functioning Condition (PFC) method keeps us honest and consistent with a time-tested and technically based set of questions. PFC refers to the methodology used to determine functionality, as well as to define that point on the scale when a creek or river is working the way it is supposed to work. The PFC method has proven to work well on streams from Alaska to Alabama and Mexico to Maine.

For those who have not yet been exposed to PFC, following is the standard set of criteria that are considered by an interdisciplinary team with local expertise in hydrology, vegetation and erosion-deposition processes:

1. Floodplain above bankfull is inundated in relatively frequent events
2. Where beaver dams are present, they are active and stable

3. Sinuosity, width/depth ratio, and gradient are in balance with the landscape setting
4. Riparian-wetland area is widening or has achieved potential extent
5. Upland watershed is not contributing to riparian-wetland degradation
6. There is diverse age-class distribution of riparian wetland-vegetation
7. There is diverse composition of riparian-wetland vegetation
8. Species present indicate maintenance of riparian-wetland soil moisture characteristics
9. Streambank vegetation is composed of those plants or plant communities that have root masses capable of withstanding high streamflow events
10. Riparian-wetland plants exhibit high vigor
11. Adequate riparian vegetative cover is present to protect banks and dissipate energy during high flows
12. Plant communities are an adequate source of coarse and/or large woody material
13. Floodplain and channel characteristics are adequate to dissipate energy
14. Point bars are revegetating with riparian-wetland vegetation
15. Lateral stream movement is associated with natural sinuosity
16. System is vertically stable
17. Stream is in balance with the water and sediment being supplied by the watershed

These are the things to be looking for when examining creeks for functionality. Asking the right question(s) is important. For a fuller explanation and details about PFC, you may order the following 126 page publication: TR 1737-15; it is available free upon request by contacting Don_Prichard@blm.gov



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Landowner Workshops and Field Days

<p>Jan. 18–20, 2007 Sonora, Texas</p>	<p><i>Prescribed Rangeland Burning</i></p>	<p>Landowners participating in this workshop will learn to plan a prescribed burn so it will be safe and effective and meet their goals. The workshop will be held at the Texas Agricultural Experiment Station at the Sonora Research Station. The fee is \$395 per person. For more information, contact the Academy for Ranch Management by e-mail at ranchmanagement@yahoo.com, by fax at (979) 845-6430, or by calling (979) 845-5580.</p>
<p>Jan. 20, 2007 M.O. Neasloney WMA</p>	<p><i>Prescribed Burning Workshop</i></p>	<p>In this workshop, we will discuss the benefits of the application of prescribed fire and demonstrate to landowners and managers how to apply it safely to their property. Weather permitting, participants will conduct a prescribed burn on the wildlife management area. 8:30 a.m.–4 p.m.; reservations required; deadline Jan. 17. Call (830) 424-3407.</p>
<p>Feb. 1, 2007 Chaparral WMA</p>	<p><i>Prescribed Burning Seminar</i></p>	<p>A primer for landowners and managers on procedures and effects of burning in the western Rio Grande Plains. There will be an opportunity for hands-on experience, weather permitting. Call (830) 676-3413 for times and fees; reservations required.</p>
<p>Feb. 7, 2007 Matador WMA</p>	<p><i>Prescribed Burning Workshop</i></p>	<p>Learn the benefits of application of prescribed fire to enhance wildlife habitat in the Rolling Plains. Call (806) 492-3405 for information and reservations.</p>
<p>Feb. 20–21, 2007 Abilene, Texas</p>	<p><i>2007 Abilene Farm, Ranch & Wildlife Expo</i></p>	<p>We will have a variety of wildlife topics for Abilene and the surrounding area. Experts from Texas Parks and Wildlife Department and Texas Agriculture Extension Service will present programs on a variety of topics of interest to landowners and managers. Held at the Taylor County Expo Center; 8 a.m.–5 p.m. Call (325) 795-2238.</p>
<p>Feb. 22–24, 2007 Sonora, Texas</p>	<p><i>Advanced Prescribed Rangeland Burning</i></p>	<p>Landowners participating in this workshop will learn to plan a prescribed burn so it will be safe and effective and meet their goals. The workshop will be held at the Texas Agricultural Experiment Station at the Sonora Research Station. The fee is \$395 per person. For more information, contact the Academy for Ranch Management by e-mail at ranchmanagement@yahoo.com, by fax at (979) 845-6430, or by calling (979) 845-5580.</p>
<p>Feb. 27–Mar. 1, 2007 Houston, Texas</p>	<p><i>Ranching and Wildlife Expo</i></p>	<p>As a complement to the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo and Texas Southwestern Cattle Raiser's Association commercial bull and heifer events and sales, this Expo features wildlife-related exhibits from the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department. It features white-tailed deer research from Kerr WMA; alligator information and live alligators from J.D. Murphree WMA; Laser Shot interactive systems from Hunter Education; Operation Game Thief trailer; Texas Big Game Awards and Becoming an Outdoors Family, as well as a variety of other groups presented. The event also showcases presentations from experts in the field with a wide range of topics of interest to landowners, land managers and anyone interested in wildlife management. Topics include Feral Hog Management, Managing Land for Wildlife and Cattle, Ageing Deer on the Hoof, Successful Wildflower Planting, Habitat Management for Nongame Birds, Successful Wildscapes, Assessing Land for Its Wildlife Potential, High Fence/Low Fence Management and Providing Supplemental Food for Wildlife. Held at the Reliant Arena; 9 a.m.–5 p.m.; entry fees apply; for more information, see flyer or call (979) 968-6591.</p>

Where Has the Fire-Culture Gone?

by Charles "Butch" Taylor, Editor,
Edwards Plateau Prescribed Burning Assn., Inc. Newsletter, Vol. 8, No. 1, July 2006
www.ranchmanagement.org/eppba/

This past winter and spring when the range was covered with excess fuels, parched by drought, and swept with high winds, wildfires roared across the landscape. Various news organizations expended much effort and money reporting the conflagration to the public. During the entire maelstrom, I never heard a single ounce of reasoning why the state was experiencing the inevitable wild-fire season. However, I seriously doubt that many Texans would have taken the time to read an in-depth article describing the fire history of the state and why fire was so important to the early inhabitants (American Indians) as well as to a healthy ecosystem.

In Texas, as well as the rest of the United States, very few places know fire as they once did over 100 years ago. Prescribed fires have fled the state like Turkey Vultures in the winter; and, what are the consequences of this reduction in anthropogenic (human-caused) fires? This past winter and spring, the wildfires in the High-Plains were one example of what happens when the ability to use prescribed fire is suppressed (one can only wonder how much damage to man-made structures and livestock would have been

prevented if there had been an active prescribed fire program in the area). The Texas landscape has known regular fire for thousands of years, but with the advent of European settlement, the frequency of both anthropogenic and lightning caused fires have been greatly reduced. It is obvious that fire has been greatly diminished; one only has to look at the evidence of woody plants and prickly pear graffiti scrawled across a landscape that had once been productive grasslands.

We should reinstate prescribed fire to sustain and manage the grasslands and grassland savannas we value as a society; we should reinstate prescribed fire to manage the fuel loads that build to unmanageable levels when we suppress prescribed fire; and, we should reinstate prescribed fire because it is what we do as human beings; in other words, we should reinstate a fire-culture. We're the only creature on the planet that will light a torch and carry it with the purpose of sculpting the landscape. We need to recreate a fire culture within the state so the populace will understand and appreciate its value. One question that currently begs to be

(Continued on back page)



Winter Habtips

December

- Prepare fireguards for prescribed burn program.
- Disk in proximity to woody cover to provide good habitat interspersion for game birds.
- Get prescribed burn equipment ready for use.
- Manipulate inadequate woody cover to enhance new growth.
- Strip disk to encourage native food resources.
- Focus on providing travel lanes, secure cover and over-winter cover for birds.
- Control of feral hogs through hunting or trapping should continue.
- Make sure all doe harvest is completed.

January

- Develop fireguards for prescribed burn program.
- Monitor turkey flocks.
- Clean out and repair martin houses, bluebird boxes and wood duck nesting boxes.
- Black-oil sunflower seeds attract the greatest number of birds to a feeder.
- Gather and compile deer harvest records; record sex, age, weight, body condition and antler size—this helps to monitor the health of the deer herd.
- Control feral hogs through hunting or trapping.
- The best cover for white-tailed deer is a pattern or mosaic of woody brush and trees interspersed within open areas at an approximate 1:1 ratio of open area to woody cover.
- Clumps or strips of brush should be wide enough so that an observer cannot see through them from one side to the other during the winter months when deciduous species are bare of leaves.
- Cover strips should be as continuous as possible to provide travel lanes.
- Conduct post-season deer census if appropriate.

February

- Conduct prescribed burns as needed.
- Plant trees and shrubs as needed for wildlife cover.
- Monitor turkey flocks.
- Control of feral hogs through hunting or trapping should continue.
- Conduct mechanical brush control if appropriate.
- Disk wetland areas to encourage moist soil plants as needed.

Where Has the Fire-Culture Gone...

(Continued from page 7)

answered: "Is the critical divide that currently exists within the state, regarding prescribed fire, between those who have experience carrying a torch and those who haven't (i.e., those who have only known fire in barbecue pits, internal combustion engines, or what they hear through the press or state and federal agencies)?" Has Smokey Bear, in just the last 60 years, replaced a fire culture that had previously existed for thousands of years?

Making Tracts editor's note:

If you want to become one who has carried a torch and sculpted the landscape, attend a prescribed fire school or workshop in your area. Opportunities are listed on page 6 of this newsletter.

To know more about Prescribed Burn Associations in Texas, visit the TPWD Web site at: <http://www.tpwd.state.tx.us/landwater/land/private/pubsforms/>

Operation Game Thief

Texas' Wildlife Crime-Stoppers Program

You can make a difference

by reporting poaching, pollution and dumping, arson in state parks, and intoxicated boaters! Up to \$1,000 may be paid for information leading to arrest and conviction of a person for a violation of our state's wildlife and fisheries laws, as well as for certain laws related to environmental crime, arson and intoxicated boaters.



Reward Hotline (800) 792-GAME

Support anti-poaching efforts by becoming a member of the Operation Game Thief Program (call 512-389-4381 for membership information) or by sending your tax deductible donation to Operation Game Thief, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, 4200 Smith School Road, Austin, Texas 78744.



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