



**BANDERA CENTRAL APPRAISAL DISTRICT  
WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT INFORMATION**

**Bandera Central Appraisal District**

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This document is to help property owners work through the Wildlife Management Plan writing and Annual Report process. It is a supplement to any and all information provided by the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department.

Links to TPWD are available on the Bandera Central Appraisal District's (BANCAD) website at [www.bancad.org](http://www.bancad.org) and on page 9 of this document.

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## WHAT IS WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT?

Wildlife Management is the same tax break as agricultural valuation. However, instead of producing food or fiber as a prudent farmer or rancher, the focus is on wildlife management.

It sounds very simple, but it is not. First, you must look at your property and develop a wildlife management plan that would show what you are currently doing. Also, included within the plan, you will identify the elements you will add to your plan for the next five years.

Based on your property, you identify target animals (deer, turkey, quail, dove, songbirds, ducks, etc.). Once you have your target animals, you then need to identify at least three of the seven qualifying items. These seven items are as follows:

Supplemental Food	Habitat Control
Supplemental Water	Erosion Control
Supplemental Shelter	Predator Control
Census Count	

An Annual Report is required every year to maintain the special valuation.

**\*\*\*Wildlife Management will require time, money, expertise, knowledge and energy.\*\*\***

### Wildlife Management Qualifications

To begin utilizing “wildlife management” as a special valuation with the Appraisal District, the land must be qualified for agricultural appraisal under Tax Code Chapter 23, Subchapter D, (also called 1-d-1 or open space agricultural appraisal), at the time the owner changes use to wildlife management use.

**The land must be actively managed** through the implementation of a wildlife management plan to sustain a breeding, migrating, or wintering population of indigenous wildlife for human use, including food, medicine, or recreation.

\*It is highly advised that prior to developing your plan, you contact the Kerrville Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, and schedule for a biologist to come visit your property. This is a free but invaluable service. They are extremely knowledgeable and will be able to help you decide on what types of management practices will suit your property the best. The local biologist will also

be able to assist you on the process of receiving your Wildlife Management Special Valuation and give advice on filling out required updates.

If a property has been reduced in size since January 1 of the preceding tax year, the minimum acreage requirement is 20 acres, or for a wildlife property association (12.5 acres), or the target animal is threatened, endangered, or a candidate for threatened or endangered (11.11 acres). - Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts rule 9.2005(c)(d)(e). Residential land segments will not count towards the acreage being applied for.

Texas Parks and Wildlife have developed guidelines and a fill-in-the-blank type of plan. If using that plan, be sure to include the extra required information as found further in this guide.

The land size, topography, location, and surroundings, as well as the target animal(s) selected will determine the suitability.

The Bandera Central Appraisal District requires the following on all wildlife management properties:

1. An application to convert from agriculture to wildlife
2. A five-year management plan
3. An annual update
4. A field review when requested

If your initial application and five year plan are approved, you will begin receiving the 1d1 special valuation for wildlife management. After the first year, there will be a mandatory inspection to verify that the practices are in place and the plan is being utilized correctly.

**A Property Owners Association may submit one 5 year plan for all owners as long as all owners sign and date the plan.**

### **A Wildlife Management Plan will include:**

#### **Property Description:**

- Map with size & location of property, [identifying key locations of feeders, food plots, water, trails, brush piles, prescribed burn areas (with years identified), etc.] – If the property owner needs a map, it can be accessed by using the interactive map on our website at [www.bancad.org](http://www.bancad.org).
- Soil Map or types of soil – If needed, this information is available through the Bandera County AgriLife Extension Service, Bandera Soil and Water Conservation Office, and the Appraisal District.

#### **Target Animals:**

- Wildlife currently there, and what you want to accomplish
- Land usage (grazing, fishing, hunting, etc.)

**Detailed Description** of the following (if they apply to your planned goals or current use). A complete plan should include elements of all 7 activities.

#### **Supplemental Food**

- What feed? Feed for what animal? Map with feeder locations.
- How many feeders? How Much? What times of year?
- Food Plots? Where? When? Every year? How do you plant? (no till)?
- Mineral supplements? Grazing management?

#### **Supplemental Shelter**

- Nest boxes, bird houses?
- Brush piles, half-cutting trees?

#### **Supplemental Water**

- New pond being built?
- Marsh development or enhancement?
- Other types of watering methods?

#### **Habitat Control**

- Grazing management, prescribed burning
- Range enhancement (re-seeding)
- Brush management
- Fence modification, etc.

#### **Erosion Control**

- Pond construction, gully shaping, dike, water diversion
- Plant establishment on erodible areas

#### **Predator Control**

- Identify what the predator or predators are
- Describe how you are controlling this predator(s)
- Keep records on the kills and include in annual updates

#### **Census Counts**

- Describe how you will conduct your census each year (spotlight counts, game cameras, aerial counts, harvest data collection & record keeping, browse surveys, roost counts, time/area counts, call and convey counts)

We need to understand what you plan to do next year, and the 5-year (long term) goals you plan to accomplish.

## **Wildlife Management Annual Update**

1. An annual update is required to be filed every year by the wildlife manager.
2. The annual update is to be sent in to the BANCAD on or **before, April 30<sup>th</sup>** each year.

3. If the annual update is sent in **on or after May 1<sup>st</sup>** but before the roll is certified, there will be a **10% penalty (additional tax)**, which can be very substantial.
4. If the annual update is received after the roll is certified (typically mid-July) the ag valuation will not be applied to the property for that year.
5. It is highly recommended that some type of census data be included in the update. Census counts are an important factor in determining if your wildlife management plan is successful or needs to be adjusted.
6. A sample of an annual update is provided in this packet. It is a generalized description of wildlife management performed the previous year.
7. **A Property Owners Association may submit one Annual Update for all owners as long as the Annual Update details what wildlife practices were done on each tract of land and the Annual Update is signed and dated by all owners.**

### **Helpful Ideas on Data Gathering**

Management requires work, time, and resources. Any information you have pertaining to these should be maintained.

1. Receipts and any documentation on your work should be added to your folder
2. Notebook to journal daily / weekly observations
3. Records on any schooling or courses you have attended pertaining to your wildlife management

#### **Information to include in your update:**

1. Property owners name
2. All Property Identification Numbers
3. What items have you completed?
4. Did you accomplish your goals?
5. Have you started a new project?
6. What new projects are in the planning stage?
7. What results are you seeing?
8. Do you need to adjust your plan?
9. Photos of work done, animals harvested, etc. (Minimum of 1 photo per practice and no more than 10 photos total)
10. Summary list of expenses

Please include an email address as this will make lines of communication convenient. Also, include a primary day-time phone number and all appraisal district property identification numbers.

**“Like the resource it seeks to protect, wildlife conservation must be dynamic, changing as conditions change, seeking always to become more effective.” - Rachel Carson**

## EXAMPLE OF ANNUAL WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT UPDATE

Robert's Roost Ranch  
Doug & Dee Dee Roberts  
7 Paradise Place  
This side of Heaven, TX 97824  
(830) 792 -9999

Total AC: 800

PID'S: 123456, 123457, 123478, & 123459

Our main target animals are deer, turkey, quail, & songbirds. The 2015 years was still in drought recovery through most of the year. We modified our plan due to the little rainfall we received and focused on supplemental feed instead of food plots.

For 2015 we followed our plan of staggered landscaping. We have opened up areas for the strip crops (which failed last year). We have half-cut about 1/6th of the cedars on a 100-acre tract and dug out about a 1/6th of the cedars on the same 100 acres. Our three ponds were enhancement and reshaped during the drought – they are filling up nicely and currently hold twice the water as before.

### **DEER:**

We continue to supplement their food with 10 – 100 lb. feeders set up in various locations. We feed year-round. The feeders are typically filled about 2 times a month (3 times a month in winter). Additionally, we have 4 mineral supplement areas for the deer. There was only one deer harvested in 2014. You can see from the rack (on the one buck our grandson harvested this year) the mineral supplements are working. (Photo included) Because of the size of our tract and the feed and relative safety for the deer, our census remains about the same (20).

### **TURKEY:**

It looks like we have 3 flocks of turkey on our land. In the spring, our game cameras indicate each flock has about 24 hens. None were harvested. The predator control of the coyote really paid off. We killed 18 that were located in the south area. We will pay attention to the predators for the 2016 year.

### **QUAIL:**

The quail we set out for the last three years have all but vanished. We have called for them but have not located them. We want to continue to set out and help the quail population but may wait another year until the drought is behind us. We want to concentrate our time and money on the animals that are already here for this stressful time.



**SONGBIRDS:**

We have a 20-acre sanctuary for songbirds beside our home. We added 10 more blue bird houses to the 30 we already had. We have 6 martin – condo houses. We have about 30 assorted bird houses in the area. We added another 2 acres this year that we planted specifically for the birds and butterflies. The butterfly plants, sunflowers and other plants are all thriving. The area was irrigated when we added 50 water features to attract the birds last year. This was a school project for our granddaughter, who also researched the birds with cameras and a daily observation diary. This area was home to about 30 painted buntings, 100 finches, 80 blue birds, and thousands of ribbons that went through the area. We have over 100 different feeders and the plants for our supplemental feed. A fun thing our granddaughter did this year was to identify bird songs.

**PREDATOR CONTROL:**

The west side of the property joins the Medina River and has shown some feral hog activity. We contracted with a hunting group and put out 3 different hog traps. The hunting group killed 15 hogs and our traps netted 10 hogs throughout the year that we killed. The 20-acre bird sanctuary was treated for fire ants two times last year. We used the topical Diazasanine at 80 percent. We had 18 coyotes snared last year (all on the south end of the property). In addition, we killed 2 raccoons, 5 skunks and 13 rattlesnakes.

**FUTURE PLANS:**

For the 2016 year, we plan to remove one-sixth of the cedars from approximately 80 acres. We will half-cut about half of those and remove the other half. We plan to continue our roadway for our hiking and riding trail and continue with our staggered landscaping. We are adding a 10-acre lake as our main project.

**ATTACHED:**

Summary List of Expenses

Supporting Photos

## **WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT INFORMATION**

- Guidelines for Qualification - <http://bisfiles.co/sites/shared/forms/96-354.pdf>
- Agricultural Tax Appraisal Based on Wildlife Management -  
[https://tpwd.texas.gov/landwater/land/private/agricultural\\_land/](https://tpwd.texas.gov/landwater/land/private/agricultural_land/)
- Wildlife Management Activities and Practices Edwards Plateau “Comprehensive Wildlife Management Planning and Guidelines” -  
[https://tpwd.texas.gov/publications/pwdpubs/media/pwd\\_bk\\_w7000\\_0788.pdf](https://tpwd.texas.gov/publications/pwdpubs/media/pwd_bk_w7000_0788.pdf)
- Texas Parks and Wildlife FAQ'S -  
[https://tpwd.texas.gov/faq/huntwild/tax\\_valuation.phtml](https://tpwd.texas.gov/faq/huntwild/tax_valuation.phtml)
- Legal Summary of Wildlife Management Use Appraisal -  
[https://tpwd.texas.gov/landwater/land/private/agricultural\\_land/legal-summary.phtml](https://tpwd.texas.gov/landwater/land/private/agricultural_land/legal-summary.phtml)
- Wildlife Management Planning Guidelines and Forms -  
[https://tpwd.texas.gov/landwater/land/private/agricultural\\_land/epxt2010/](https://tpwd.texas.gov/landwater/land/private/agricultural_land/epxt2010/)
- Wildlife Management Plan Application -  
[https://tpwd.texas.gov/publications/pwdforms/media/pwd\\_885\\_w7000\\_open\\_space\\_agric\\_valuation\\_wildlife\\_mgmt\\_plan.doc](https://tpwd.texas.gov/publications/pwdforms/media/pwd_885_w7000_open_space_agric_valuation_wildlife_mgmt_plan.doc)
- Wildlife Management Annual Report –  
[https://tpwd.texas.gov/publications/pwdforms/media/pwd\\_888\\_w7000\\_wildlife\\_management\\_appraisal\\_report.doc](https://tpwd.texas.gov/publications/pwdforms/media/pwd_888_w7000_wildlife_management_appraisal_report.doc)
- Hill Country Wildlife District –  
<https://tpwd.texas.gov/landwater/land/habitats/hillcountry/regulatory/>
- Texas Administrative Code: Rules for Wildlife Management Use –  
[https://texreg.sos.state.tx.us/public/readtac\\$ext.ViewTAC?tac\\_view=5&ti=34&pt=1&ch=9&sch=G&rl=Y](https://texreg.sos.state.tx.us/public/readtac$ext.ViewTAC?tac_view=5&ti=34&pt=1&ch=9&sch=G&rl=Y)


Appendix C  
Wildlife Management Plan Overview

TREATMENTS	Practice	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5
<b>Habitat Control:</b>						
HC: Wildlife & Habitat Management Plan						
HC: Grazing Management						
HC: Prescribed Burning						
HC: Range Enhancement (re-seeding)						
HC: Brush Management						
HC: Vegetation Surveys						
HC: Fence Modification						
HC: Riparian Management and Enhancement						
HC: Wetland Enhancement						
HC: Habitat Protection/Species of Concern						
HC: Prescribed Control of Species						
HC: Wildlife Restoration						
<b>Erosion Control:</b>						
EC: Pond Construction						
EC: Gully Shaping						
EC: Streamside, Pond, Wetland Revegetation						
EC: Native Plant Establishment on Erodible Areas						
EC: Dike/Levee Construction/Management						
EC: Establish Water Diversion						
<b>Predator Control:</b>						
PC: Predator Management						
PC: Control of Brown-headed Cowbirds						
PC: Grackle/Starling Control						
<b>Supplemental Water:</b>						
SW: Marsh/Wetland Restoration or Development						
SW: Well/Trough/Windmill Overflow						
SW: Spring Development and/or Enhancement						
<b>Supplemental Food:</b>						
SF: Grazing Management						
SF: Prescribed Burning						
SF: Range Enhancement (Re-seeding)						
SF: Fence Modification						
SF: Food Plots						
SF: Feeders and Mineral Supplementation						
SF: Managing Tame Pasture, Old Fields, Croplands						
<b>Providing Shelters:</b>						
PS: Nest Boxes, Bat Boxes						
PS: Brush Piles and Slash Retention						
PS: Fence Line Management						
PS: Cropland Management						
PS: Half-Cutting Trees or Shrubs						
PS: Woody Plant/Shrub Establishment						
PS: Natural Cavity/Snag Development						
<b>Census:</b>						
C: Spotlight Counts						
C: Aerial Counts						
C: Daylight Wildlife Counts						
C: Harvest Data Collection & Record Keeping						
C: Browse Utilization Surveys						
C: Endangered, Threatened or Protected Species						
C: Nongame Wildlife Species						
C: Time/area Counts						
C: Roost Counts						
C: Song Bird Transects and Counts						
C: Quail Call and Covey Counts						
C: Point Counts						

This manual has been reviewed and accepted by the Agricultural Advisory Board. This manual has also been reviewed and approved by the Bandera Central Appraisal District.

 11/14/23  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Robert Mazurek Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Rob Sandidge Date

 11/14/23  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Kevin Meier Date

 11-14-23  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Patrick Boyle Date

 11-14-23  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Maria A. Garcia (Chief Appraiser) Date