



End of the Year Wildlife Management Activities & Record Keeping

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Wildlife Management

- **There is still time!**
- Activity based
- Need to be able to show you have been active
- Not meant to be more difficult or costly than Ag
- Appraisers job is a little more difficult – no animals to look at
- **You can make it easier by doing what's expected and keeping good records**



General requirements & expectations

- 3 of 7 practices at the very minimum – **more is always better**
- Proof of meeting required intensity – acreage, number, frequency
- Activity was done in the year for which it is being requested
 - Annual report
- Show that you have been active in your management – you or someone (Plateau, tenant, other)
- This proves that you deserve the 1-D-1 valuation – **it is important**

Do it or get help to ensure it gets done.

Why it's important to keep good records

- You're going to be asked for them at some point
- Your property tax valuation can depend on it
- It can be hard to catch up, in both compliance and management goals – my memory is not what it once was
- Reassurance of knowing if you're on the right track
- It can be all the Appraisal District (CAD) ever sees – paint a picture
- More and more CADs are requesting annual reports of activities

What the CAD expects & how they inspect

- Annual reports
- Site inspection
- Plan updates

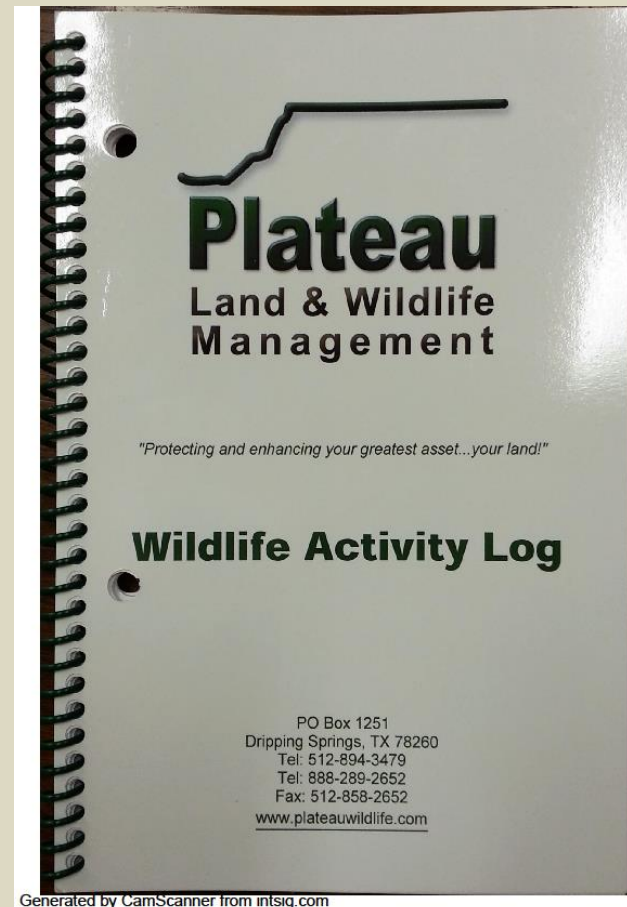


Tools of the trade

- **Wildlife Management Plan** – tells me how to do all of this and lets the CAD know what I'm doing
- **Camera** – most important
- GPS – good, but not a must
- Maps – always helpful
- **Log book** – for notes
- **Calendar** – more notes
- Folder – receipts, reports, etc.

Record keeping materials: checklist / matrix / log book

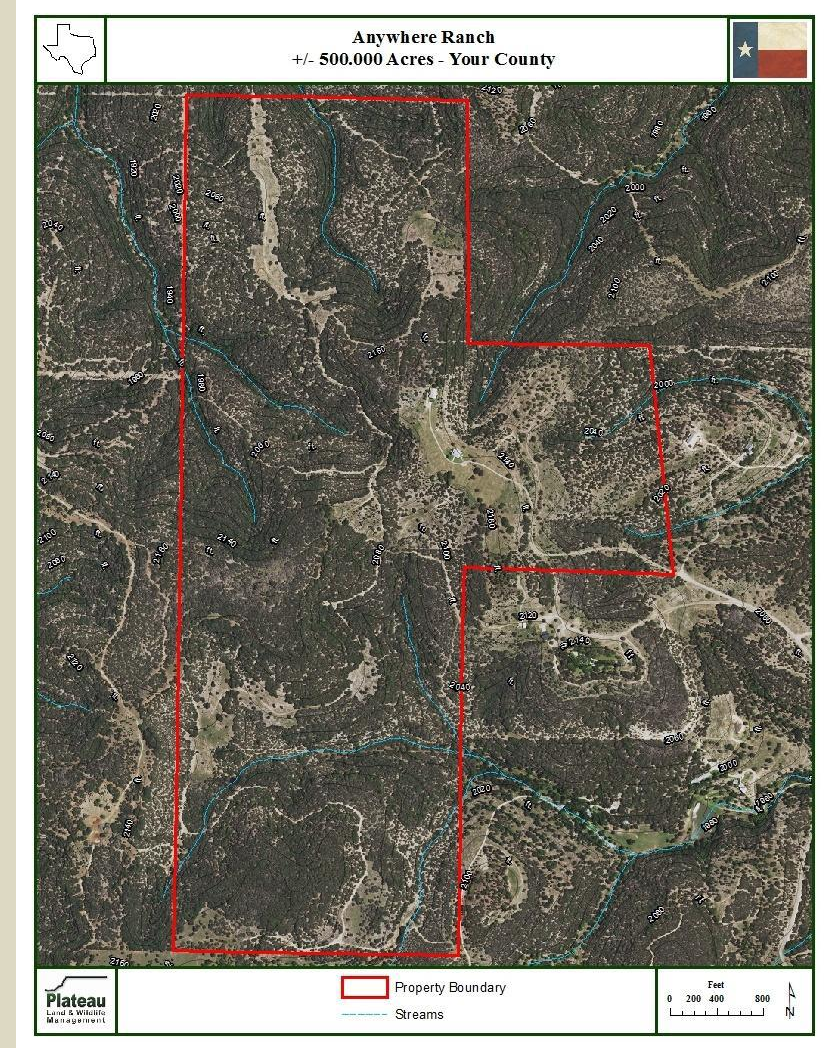
Wildlife Management Planning Matrix				Property:				
Target species:				Date:	County(ies)			
TREATMENTS	Cod e	Acre s	Notes (Rate, Species, Timing, Intensity, etc)	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
1. Habitat Control:								
a. Grazing Management								
b. Prescribed Burning								
c. Range Enhancement (Re-seeding)								
d. Brush Management								
e. Riparian Management and Enhancement								
f. Wetland Enhancement								
g. Habitat Protection for Species of Concern								
h. Prescribed Control of Species								
i. Wildlife Restoration								
TREATMENTS	Cod e	Acre s	Notes	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
2. Erosion Control:								
a. Pond Construction and Major Repair								
b. Gully Shaping								
c. Streamside, Pond and Wetland Revegetation								
d. Native Plant Establishment on Erosible Areas								
e. Dike / Levee Construction / Management								
f. Establish Water Diversion								
TREATMENTS	Cod e	Acre s	Notes	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
3. Predator Control:								
a. Predator Management								
b. Imported Red Fire Ant Control								
c. Control of Cowbirds								
d. Grackle / Starling / House Sparrow Control								
TREATMENTS	Cod e	Acre s	Notes	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
4. Supplemental Water:								
a. Marsh / Wetland Restoration or Development								
b. Well Troughs/Windmill Overflow /Other Wildlife Waterers								
c. Spring Development and / or Enhancement								
TREATMENTS	Cod e	Acre s	Notes	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
5. Supplemental Food:								
a. Grazing Management								
b. Prescribed Burning								
c. Range Enhancement (Re-seeding)								
d. Fowl Pelts								
e. Feeders and Mineral Supplementation								
f. Managing Tame Pasture, Old Fields, Croplands								
g. Transition Management of Tame Grass Monocultures								
TREATMENTS	Cod e	Acre s	Notes	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
6. Providing Shelter:								
a. Nest Boxes, Bat Boxes								
b. Brush Piles and Slash Retention								
c. Fence Line Management								
d. Hay Meadow, Pasture and Cropland Mgmt. for Wildlife								
e. Half-Cutting Trees or Shrubs								
f. Woody Plant / Shrub Establishment								
g. Natural Cavity / Snag Development								
TREATMENTS	Cod e	Acre s	Notes	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
7. Census:								
a. Spotlight Counts								
b. Aerial Counts								
c. Incidental Observations & Stands Counts								
d. Daylight Deer Herd, Wildlife Composition, Photo Stations								
e. Harvest Data Collection and Record Keeping								
f. Browse Utilization Surveys								
g. Endangered, Threatened or Protected Species								
h. Census and Monitoring of Game & Nongame Wildlife								



Maps

Maps are great tools to help identify what has been done and where

Create a new map at the end of each year when there have been changes or a major project completed



Good records

- Before and after photos
- Calendar record showing when any work was done
- Receipts if someone else performed work
- Map showing acreage treated
- Description of what was done and how it benefited your wildlife and fit your plan
- Product installation GPS / mapping
- Photos of wildlife using products (supplemental water, food or shelter)

Anything that will help prove what you have done this year.

Minimum requirements: must completely 3 of 7 activities

1. Habitat control
2. Erosion control
3. Predator control
4. Supplemental food
5. Supplemental water
6. Supplemental shelter
7. Census



Habitat control

Game population management – deer harvest, photo records

Brush management – now is a good time to get this done

Riparian management – always a good time to protect sensitive areas



Erosion control

Pond/tank construction

Streamside, pond, wetland re-vegetation

Dam construction/repair

Check on previously completed projects or start new ones

Take photos and document the work and how it is progressing

****10 Wildlife Management year activity****



Predator control

Feral animals (hogs, cats, etc.) – any time, but more pleasant now

Imported Red Fire Ant control – before it's too cool, after rains

Native predators (skunks, raccoons)



Supplemental food

Grazing management – don't let them eat it all

Strip discing – something new will grow where you let it

Feeders & mineral supplementation – check feeders & record activity



Supplemental Water

Wildlife rain collectors

Wells, troughs, windmill overflow

Spring development/enhancement



Supplemental shelter

Nest boxes, bat boxes – clean now, again early next year

Brush piles & slash retention – winter birds love brush piles

Pasture management (strip mowing)



Census

Spotlight counts, incidental observations, wildlife camera surveys

Songbird count – Winter Bird Surveys

Harvest data collection – while hunting, record what you harvest



Winter & resident bird survey

Now through February – unique species & unique uses of your property

Inexpensive & very appropriate end of the year compliance activity we perform all across our services regions



Summary

- **Record keeping is important** – do it right to prevent further scrutiny
- It does not have to be burdensome, but it does have to get done
- If DIY – treat as if someone is paying you to do it
- **You will get asked at some point, be prepared**
- Good annual reports and plan updates when changes are made or every five years can prevent misunderstandings
- Plateau can help and does for hundreds of landowners across Texas – if you don't want to have anything to worry about this is a sure bet

What if I'm not ready

- Work on log sheets and calendar entries to help create a story of what was done throughout the year
- **Check nest boxes**
- **Complete a winter bird survey**
- **Complete a camera survey**
- **Check and fill feeders and water sources + gather photos**
- **Contact Plateau**, ask questions and get help where needed
- **Annual reports, site visits to gather documentation**
- **Consider a service agreement with Plateau**



- Private company, est. 1997
- Founders helped establish WMV law
- Central Texas Based
- Serving Texas Landowners
- Staff Wildlife Biologists
- Trained, dedicated field technicians
- Registered Property Tax Consultants

BRAUN & GRESHAM

ATTORNEYS AT LAW

Advocates for you and your land.

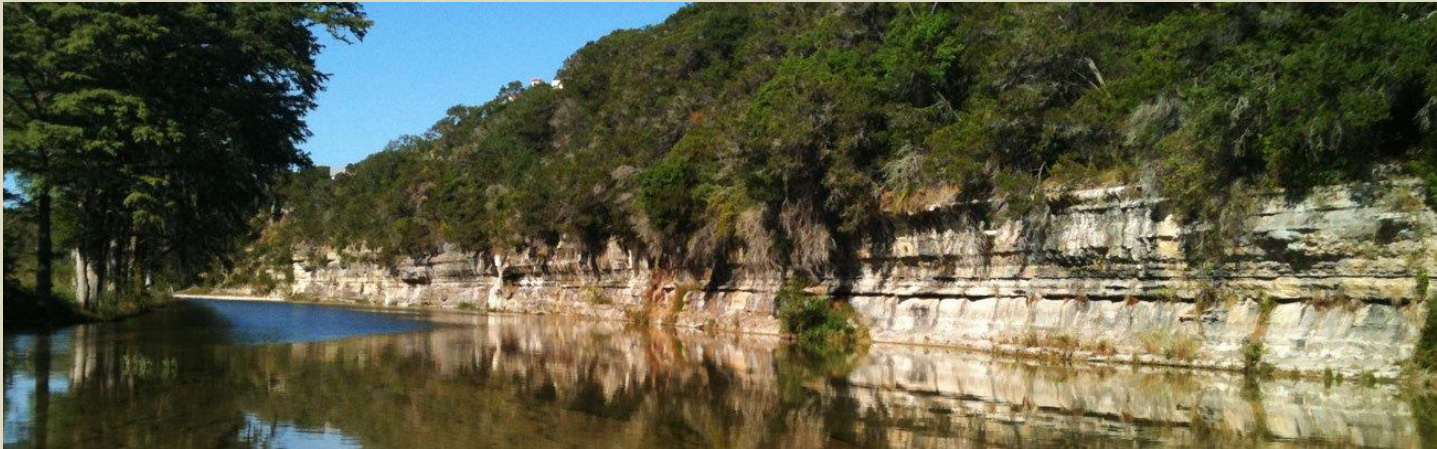


- Property Tax
- Powerline Routing
- Conservation Real Estate
- Risk Management
- Estate Planning
- Conservation Easement
- Water Rights
- Condemnation



*Rural Land.
Real Knowledge.
Real Value.*

- Rural Real Estate Specialists
- Knowledge of land, income and sales tax advantages
- Work with buyers and sellers



Thank you!

Plateau Land & Wildlife Management

Working with you to protect and enhance your land!



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