Edwards Central Appraisal District

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Wildlife Management Guidelines

Intent and Primary Use Factors

The law requires agriculture to be the *PRIMARY USE* of the land. Wildlife management is an agricultural use under the law. Wildlife Management is a conversion from property that has 1-D-1 Valuation. The *primary use* requirement is particularly important for land used to manage wildlife. For example, land devoted to wildlife management can be used as a residence for the owner, but the land will not qualify if residential use is the land's primary use. Land that qualifies for an agricultural valuation is appraised at a special productivity valuation on the lands ability to produce something (commercial product and to protect/enhance natural resources) rather than on its market value. While many people refer to such land as having an "ag exemption," in fact there is no such exemption, instead it is called a ***special valuation***.

*The Edwards Central Appraisal District requires a **minimum 50-acre land parcel** for agricultural and wildlife management special valuation in Edwards County.*

The degree of intensity standard for wildlife management land is determined in the same way as other agricultural uses. Wildlife management usually requires management of the land that encourages long-term maintenance of the population, and all activities and practices should be designed to overcome deficiencies that harm wildlife habitats such as:

Habitat Control (Habitat Management)
A wild animal's habitat is its surroundings as a whole, including plants, ground cover, shelter and other animals on the land. Habitat control—or habitat management—means actively using the land to create or promote an environment that is beneficial to wildlife on the land.

Erosion Control
Any active practice that attempts to reduce or keep soil erosion to a minimum for the benefit of wildlife is erosion control.

Predator Control (Predator Management)
This term means practices intended to manage the population of predators to benefit the owner's target wildlife population. Predator control is usually not necessary unless the number of predators is harmful to the desired wildlife population.

Providing Supplemental Supplies of Water
Natural water exists in all wildlife environments. Supplemental water is provided when the owner actively provides water in addition to the natural sources.

Providing Supplemental Supplies of Food
Most wildlife environments have some natural food. An owner supplies supplemental food by providing food or nutrition in addition to the level naturally produced on the land.

Providing Shelter
This term means actively creating or maintaining vegetation or artificial structures that provide shelter from the weather, nesting and breeding sites or "escape cover" from enemies.

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Conducting Census Counts to Determine Population
Census counts are periodic surveys and inventories to determine the number, composition or other relevant information about a wildlife population to measure if the current wildlife management practices are serving the targeted species.
Initial Conversion from Agriculture to Wildlife Management

5-Year Plan (New Owner's)

All properties under agricultural/wildlife valuation must submit a **1-d-1 Ag Application** and a **Wildlife Management Plan**. A 1-D-1 Ag Application must be completed on the comptroller approved form Form 50-129 or printed from the appraisal districts system. A wildlife management plan must be completed on the form prescribed by Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) or prepared by the landowner. A copy of this wildlife management plan form may be obtained by contacting Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, 4200 Smith School Road, Austin, Texas 78744-3291 or online through www.tpwd.state.tx.us or at the Edwards Central Appraisal District website, www.edwardscad.org .

A chief appraiser may accept, but may not require, a wildlife management plan that is not on the form prescribed by TPWD if the wildlife management plan *contains all of the following required information:*

- Ownership information, property description and current use
- Landowner's goals and objectives for the tract of land
- No less than two specific NATIVE species targeted for management. Exotics are not native to Texas.
- No less than **THREE** specific management practices and activities implemented in support of the specific indigenous wildlife species targeted for management.
- Map depicting where activities will be practiced

Both applications are 5-year plan is due the first year a property owner owns the property as of January 1 or if a current owner is converting from agriculture productivity. Edwards CAD will automatically send new owners a system generator 1d1 Agriculture Application that year but you will need to find the TPWD Form 885 on our website. These forms are due back by April 30th that same year. It is not necessary to attach any activity documentation with the plan.

Annual Reporting

All annual reports are due every year on April 30th. Edwards CAD does not send annual reminder letters to WLM landowners as it is their responsibility to remember annual reports are due for as long as the property is qualified under the WLM Valaution.

When submitting annual reports, property owners are reporting on activities done in the prior year and should provide supporting documentation as such.

***Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) Managed Lands Deer Program (MLDP) *CONSERVATION OPTION ONLY* participants need only to provide their Land Management Assistance (LMA) online system submission of required habitat management practices to the ECAD prior to April 1 of each year to satisfy the ECAD required activities and practices for the Open Space Wildlife Management Special Evaluation.**

A Wildlife Management Property Association may file a single annual report, **IF** the report shows how the wildlife management plan was **implemented on each tract** of land in the wildlife management property association. The report will be completed on the form prescribed by TPWD and shall be signed by each landowner or an agent of the landowner designated. However, a landowner may file an individual annual report using the association data if they so desire.

Examples of Required Documentation to be included:

Habitat Control:

- **Range Enhancement receipts & pictures.**

- **Harvest Data Log for invasive species removed**
- **Before & After pictures of prescribed burning or brush management**

Erosion Control:
- **Before/After of identified areas of erosion and solutions**
- **Pictures of constructed gulley, dams, etc.**

Predator Control:
- **Harvest Data Log for predator species removed**
- **If no successful harvest, must show intent i.e. pictures of traps, etc**

Providing Supplemental Water
- **Pictures of any water features**
- **Pictures/Receipts of constant use and maintenance**

Providing Supplement Feed
- **1st annual report submits pictures of feeders (any type)**
- **2nd report and forward send pictures of new feeders installed (when applicable)**
- **6-7 Feed Receipts every year (corn, protein, etc.) FEED STORE STATEMENTS ARE ONLY ACCEPTABLE IF THEY SHOW DETAILED FEED PURCHASED! BANK ACCOUNT STATEMENTS ARE NOT ACCEPTABLE!**

Providing Shelter
- **Nest Boxes- evidence of use (observation, cleaning, etc.)**
- **Brush Piles (last 5-10 yrs)**
- **Receipts for shelter construction and maintenance supplies**

Census Counts
- **Incidental observations (100) – can be any time see target species**
- **5- 1 hour stand counts for each stand**
- **Camera count data**
- **Harvest Data**

Wildlife Management Activities

#1 Habitat Control (Habitat Management)

Habitat is defined as the physical and biological surroundings of an organism and provides everything that a living organism needs to survive and reproduce. The three basic requirements of any wildlife species to survive and reproduce are food, water, and shelter. Quite frequently, we as land managers tend to focus on a specific wildlife species and its needs as opposed to the habitat or community in which they live. The key to managing wildlife and our natural resources is to use a holistic approach and promote healthy ecosystems. Single species deserve less attention, while the system in which they thrive requires more. Knowing how a system functions and applying the techniques with which that system developed is imperative for its continued health and existence.

- **Prescribed Control of Native Species**
  The changing land management practices, combined with grazing pressure of too many deer, exotics, and livestock have degraded the quality of wildlife habitat across the state. There may be little or no groundcover to capture runoff, rainwater is lost, and groundwater is not recharged. The whole system is suffering. Using the gun, as a tool, to manage populations of white-tailed deer and other ungulates at or below the carrying capacity of the range is essential in providing quality wildlife habitat for a multitude of wildlife species. **White-tailed deer have a high reproduction potential, and in the absence of natural predators (mountain lions, etc.), can quickly overpopulate a range.** If white-tailed deer are allowed to overpopulate, they can have negative effects on the habitat for themselves and other wildlife species. Utilize any appropriate census method to establish the harvest recommendation. This can facilitate control of native species to the effect and stabilize habitat carrying capacity. The removal or control of exotic vegetation or the conversion of tame grass pastures must affect a minimum of 10% of the area designated in the plan, or 10 acres annually whichever is smaller.
- **Prescribed Control (Removal) of Invasive, Exotic & Feral Species-**

Exotic and Feral species compete with native species for cover, food, and habitat. The control via removal, either harvest or trapping is highly recommended. To help show the removal, a modified harvest log is recommended to be used to document the practice. The log should show date harvested, species, and number removed.

- **Grazing Management:**
  Typically considers rotational grazing if fencing allows. Alternative would be high intensity short duration. Another method would be a 1 to 2-year lease with a rancher. Deferment from grazing only is allowed for two years. A report that states total deferment without a grazing management plan will be denied for habitat under this activity. High intensity - short duration grazing systems allow livestock to act as a tool to manipulate and enhance wildlife habitat and plant diversity.

- **Prescribed Burning:**
  Burning can improve accessibility, increase both quantity and quality of forage and browse production, suppress brush and cactus, improve grazing distribution of livestock and wildlife, and remove excessive thatch and debris. Prescribed burning is a tool used to maintain desired vegetation composition and structure. A produced Burn Plan is advised to be written for prescribed burning operations to establish parameters for a successful burn. A minimum of 15% of acreage burned over a 7-year period in the Edwards Plateau Region.

- **Range Enhancement (Range Reseeding):**
  Managing, restoring, and/or protecting native grasslands is also considered range enhancement. This may or may not include actual reseeding but could include utilizing some of the “tools” to manage for the earlier successional stages of a native grasses, proper grazing management may assist in this effect. Enhancement should annually affect a minimum of 10% of the total area designated in the plan, or a minimum of 10 acres annually; whichever is smaller, until the project is complete.

- **Brush Management:**
  Brush management is only part of a good habitat management program and should be planned carefully to address overall management goals**. The primary principles that drive any good brush management program are: 1) extent 2) pattern 3) selection and 4) method**.
  The extent to which brush is going to be cleared is the first step in developing a program. Overall goals of the property should be examined and can help to dictate the amount of clearing needed to meet wildlife, livestock and/or aesthetic expectations. Clearing 100% of the brush may be best from a livestock production standpoint, but if your overall goal includes white-tailed deer management, you may only want to clear 50% or less. Developing a brush management plan will help in identification of available areas to clear and not increase erosion. A plan of griding the property in 10% pattern will facilitate in the planning process, allowing for block or section 1 to start ending on year 10 for the last block. After initial brush management maintenance is encouraged to keep invasive and undesirable brush removed. This post brush management is still considered a practice. Removal of only individual plants may be all you need to do depending on the amount of brush you have. The pattern in which brush is cleared should consider wildlife cover and accessibility. This may include cover from predators, nesting cover, loafing cover or roosting cover. Maintaining travel corridors that link sections of brush is also very important. Selection includes both the site and the species of brush to be cleared. The site of brush clearing is important to make sure potential soil erosion is kept to a minimum. Soil type and slope should be considered. Certain soils may also be selected for clearing because of better forage production. Removal of desirable plant species used by wildlife for food and cover should be kept to a minimum. A total cost analysis, soil erosion issues, and the type or species of brush, which is being targeted, will determine the method(s) used. This practice should affect a minimum of 10% of the total area designated in the plan or a minimum of 10 acres annually, whichever is smaller.

- **Riparian Management and Enhancement:**
  NOT APPLICABLE WHERE LIVESTOCK IS NOT PRESENT
  If you have an area where this activity might be applicable, consult with the Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) for planning assistance.

- **Habitat Protection for Species of Concern:**
  Habitat protection as it is defined here can include setting aside critical areas of habitat, managing vegetation for a particular species, maintaining overstory vegetation from degradation, and annually monitoring the species of concern. A

minimum of one project must be implemented every 10 years to qualify. Management for migrating, wintering, or breeding Neotropical birds and should follow specific guidelines provided by the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department specific to your ecological region. A minimum of one project must be implemented very 10 years to qualify. Contact the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department for approved management guidelines before implementing activities designed to protect or enhance habitat for endangered species.

- **Wildlife Restoration:**
  Wildlife restoration means restoring or improving habitat for targeted species as part of an overall reintroduction program in a Texas Parks and Wildlife Department approved restoration area.

#2 Erosion Control

Any active practice that attempts to reduce or keep soil erosion to a minimum. Erosion is a natural process that cannot be stopped; however, human activity such as earthmoving and tillage can accelerate the process. According to the U.S. Department of Agriculture the United States loses more than 2 billion tons of topsoil each year to erosion. Erosion removes fertile soil rich in nutrients and organic matter, which reduces the ability of plants to establish, grow and remain healthy in the soil. A reduction in plant growth and subsequent plant residue causes less soil cover and allows the erosion process to perpetuate and become worse. This in turn affects wildlife species dependent upon the affected plant communities. According to the U.S. Department of Agriculture the United States loses more than 2 billion tons of topsoil each year to erosion. Erosion removes fertile soil rich in nutrients and organic matter which reduces the ability of plants to establish, grow and remain healthy in the soil. A reduction in plant growth and subsequent plant residue causes less soil cover and allows the erosion process to perpetuate and become worse. This in turn affects wildlife species dependent upon the affected plant communities. **The project MUST provide habitat diversity and wildlife benefits**. It is very important to recognize the exact type of erosion problems you have. Two types of applicable erosion control practices that are complementary to the Edwards plateau in Edwards County are gully shaping and brush dams. These should be consistent to erosional areas. Gully shaping should consist of shallow depressions in succession down a drainage to slow water down. Brush dams should have the same effect of stacked brush in drainage areas to slow water and thus collect soil in highly erodible areas.

- **Pond Construction and Major Repair:**
  This practice involves building a permanent water pond to prevent, stop or control erosion as an ***approved Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) watershed project*** while providing habitat diversity and benefiting wildlife. Whenever possible, owners should use ponds to help create or restore shallow water areas as wetlands and for water management. A minimum of one project must be implemented and maintained every 10 years to qualify.

- **Brush Management:**
  This practice involves not removing brush that is holding sediment together in what is called a buffer zone where erosion has been identified to happen.

- **Gully Shaping:**
  This practice involves reducing erosion rates on severely eroded areas by smoothing to acceptable grades and re-establishing vegetation. An area should be seeded with native plant species of the Edwards Plateau Region that provide food and/or cover for wildlife. A minimum of one project must be implemented and maintained every 10 years to qualify.

- **Streamside, Pond, Wetland Revegetation:**
  This is not a typical practice in Edwards County. If you have an area where this activity would be applicable, please consult with our Natural Resource Conservation Service for plan and documentation assistance.

- **Plant Establishment on Critical Areas (for crop land areas):**
  This is not a typical practice in Edwards County. If you have an area where this activity would be applicable, please consult with our Natural Resource Conservation Service for plan and documentation assistance.

- **Dike/Levee Construction or Management:**
  This is not a typical practice in Edwards County. If you have an area where this activity would be applicable, please consult with our Natural Resource Conservation Service for plan and documentation assistance.

- **Establish Water Diversion:**
  This is not a typical practice in Edwards County. If you have an area where this activity would be applicable, please consult with our Natural Resource Conservation Service for plan and documentation assistance. *Edwards Central Appraisal District www.edwardscad.org Tel: 830-683-4189 ecad@swtexas.net*

#3 Predator Control

A common-sense approach should be taken when considering control of these species. The landowner or manager must evaluate the predicted outcome of control measures prior to starting any control. For example, in many parts of the Edwards Plateau, as well as the State and nationwide, there are too many white-tailed deer and controlling the predators that feed on them would cause increased populations and further loss of habitat for other wildlife species.

A landowner or manager should **first manage the wildlife habitat** on his or her property, increasing the plant diversity and abundance of species that provide food, shelter, and nesting cover for all wildlife species **prior** to implementing a full-scale predator control program for all predator species.

On properties throughout the Edwards Plateau, Cross Timbers & Prairies and across the State, landowners and managers have implemented every known control method for predators and yet they thrive. Landowners need to have a long-range wildlife management plan in place defining the goals of any of the activities occurring on the property including predator control. Once in place, activities can be monitored, and results can be recorded to aid in future management decision making. A harvest log should be used to show intensity and duration of the predator control process. Those logs contain species, date harvested and, number of animals taken. Examples of local predators are coyotes, foxes, cats, hogs. These animals must be harvested by legal means. If animals are to be taken for sale, then appropriate license must be possessed otherwise, they must be discarded.

Feral hogs are a known problem. There are other methods other than trapping that can be used to control their populations. Feral hogs require cover, food, and water. Although feral hogs are considered a predator, they by far destroy more habitat than directly consume wildlife. It is advisable to put feral pigs into habitat control of invasive species and utilize the harvest log to document that practice.

Considerations should be concentrated on minimizing their habitat by spot cutting cedar (where hogs prefer to live) and protect watering and feeding areas from them as well. The Edwards Central Appraisal District will consider these activities a form of predator control.

When implementing predator management, you must know if there is a predation problem on your targeted species. Consideration should include asking yourself is there a predation problem, are the predators outnumbering the population of your target species, are the target species declining due to this predator, and is there a balance between the two populations?

- **Predator Management:**
  Predator Control alone will not be an applicable practice unless it is part of an overall plan to manage the habitats and populations of the target species. **Texas Parks and Wildlife Department advocates elimination of feral/exotic predator, with the thoughtful management of native predators as an integral part of functioning natural systems.**

#4 Providing Supplemental Water

Existing livestock water supplies are sufficient for wildlife use, with modification they can be adapted and sufficiently supply the water needs for wildlife on a continual basis. In the case, particularly for young wildlife and many bird species must be changed to prevent drowning or entrapment. "Wildlife water developments are in addition to those sources already available to livestock and may require protection from livestock. **CURRENT LIVESTOCK TROUGHS SHOULD BE MODIFIED FOR WILDLIFE USE. EXISTING WATER FEATURES SHOULD BE CLEANED AND MAINTAINED. Watering sources must be specific for species being managed. WATER MUST BE CONSTANTLY AND CONSISTENTLY SUPPLIED AT ALL TIMES.

- **Wildlife Watering Facilities:**
  This practice can provide supplemental water for wildlife and provide habitat. Owners also may drill wells if necessary and/or build pipelines to distribute water. Building devices—known as wildlife water guzzlers—to collect rainfall and/or runoff for wildlife in areas where water is limited also helps protect wildlife, but these devices must be a part of an overall habitat management program. Wildlife watering facilities are meant to be minimalistic and small in stature due to wildlife minimal need for water. It also satisfies the reduction in evaporation caused by the intense heat of summer.
  **Should you choose to not modify current livestock troughs, it is a caution that water loss through evaporation in these troughs is high and if water is supplied via tanks, not permanent water source, then it will become tedious to maintain.
- **Spring Development and/or Improvements (must be approved through NRCS):**
  Improvements can be designed to protect the immediate area surrounding a spring. Excluding and/or controlling livestock around springs may help to maintain native plants and animal diversity. Other ways to protect areas include moving water through a pipe to a low trough or a shallow wildlife water overflow to make water available to livestock and wildlife while preventing degradation of the spring area from trampling. Fencing of spring areas, is advisable to protect the area from damage and degradation from exotic animals and feral livestock. Feral pigs and Aoudad or especially destructive to natural spring development and natural supplemental water. Improvements also could include restoring a degraded spring by selectively removing appropriate brush and revegetating the area with plants and maintaining the restored spring as a source of wildlife water. Maintaining critical habitat, nesting and roosting areas for wildlife and preventing soil erosion must be considered when planning and implementing brush removal. This practice should be planned and implemented gradually and selectively over a period of time.

#5 Providing Supplemental Supplies of Food

Most wildlife environments have some natural food. An owner supplies supplemental food by providing food or nutrition in addition to the level naturally produced on the land. Spin cast feeders, food plots and corn are specific to species of removal. Free choice protein are for target species. CORN IS NOT SUPPLEMENTAL FEEDING; however, it can be used as a supplemental feeding attractant, to be a benefit in removing excessive native, feral and exotic species. To claim this benefit it must be used in conjunction with a well thought out census with recommendations to remove those species. Supplemental feeding should be conducted during stressful times of the year. During times of drought or limited rainfall, and extreme temperatures. Supplemental feeding should be suspended during rainfall events and "greener" periods as the target species will usually prefer natural vegetation. Feeding During this 'greener" time will increase non-target consumption leading to further wildlife competition and habitat degradation of non-native and invasive species.

- **Food Plots**
  This activity is typically NOT recommended for this area due to rainfall types and amounts. This practice may cause soil erosion in the majority of this region.

- **Feeders and Mineral Supplementation**
  Once a feeding program has been initiated, it is important to keep it implemented. It is also important to clean all feeders regularly to avoid contamination from aflatoxin. Harmful aflatoxin in feed should not exceed 20 parts per billion.

  A minimum of one free-choice feeder per 320 acres in use during the *recommended time period*, with a minimum of 16% crude protein feed (See Appendix F for deer), recommended to qualify. Spin cast feeders do not qualify as a supplemental feeder but may be used as an attractant to harvest animals for the Wildlife Management Plan. Corn may be used to harvest, collect census data, and feed during extreme cold spells. *Edwards Central Appraisal District www.edwardscad.org Tel: 830-683-4189 ecad@swtexas.net*

#6 Providing Shelter

Although supplemental shelter can be provided in many ways, it will never take the place of good conservation and management of native habitats. When land is properly managed for wildlife habitat, quality cover and shelter will usually be available. Unfortunately, in much of Texas, many areas have been so altered, neglected, and abused that one of more of the key requirements of wildlife (including shelter) is absent or in short supply. This is where the opportunity exists for developing additional shelter for wildlife. The best shelter and cover for wildlife is provided by a well-managed habitat. Some practices can be implemented to provide types of shelter that may be limited in the habitat.

When managing deer, brush piles serve no purpose. Cover can be broken down into three categories: nesting, escape, and feeding, with some overlapping of the three. Nesting boxes for birds are some of the most visible and enjoyable COVER projects. Cavity nesters such as bluebirds, and wrens are delightful to watch and easy to attract. Leaving snags, dead or dying trees may seem unattractive, but many birds depend upon them for their “natural” shelters. Most wildlife species are edge dwellers, and escape cover is necessary to provide protection from predators. Wildlife is not comfortable out in the wide open, and foods that they search out are not always readily available in dense wooded situations. *The line where these two areas meet compose the edge.*

Although supplemental shelter can be provided in many ways, it will never take the place of good conservation and management of native habitats. ***When land is properly managed for wildlife habitat, quality cover and shelter will usually be available.*** Unfortunately, in much of Texas many areas have been so altered, neglected, and abused that one of more of the key requirements of wildlife (including shelter) is absent or in short supply. This is where the opportunity exists for developing additional shelter for wildlife.

Before beginning on any wildlife management practice, you must determine what wildlife species you are managing for and what its *specific* cover needs are.

Mowing can be deferred in certain areas to allow grasses and weeds (forbs) to mature and provide food, cover and nesting sites for some species of wildlife. Trees, shrubs, and vines along fence lines can be allowed or encouraged to grow up in areas where cover is limited. Mesquite or other brush can be half-cut early in the growing season on provide low growing, ground cover in areas where this is lacking.

- **Nest Boxes, Bat Boxes:**
  Number and location of nest boxes should be consistent with **habitat needs and territorial requirements of the target species**, and sufficient over the area to provide a real supplement to the target population and address an identified severe limiting factor as part of a comprehensive wildlife management plan. Nest boxes other than bat boxes must show evidence of use and maintenance (cleaning). Boxes need to be inspected in the spring to see if they are occupied or if they have young. Recommend using dental mirror to see in the nest box as not to disturb the nest birds. In the fall/winter the boxes should be inspected, and the front face checked if the whole is too large for the bird species the boxes intended. For most nesting birds it is 1 1/4 inch in diameter. If the box face is larger, it must be replaced. This yearly maintenance should be documented via a nest box maintenance log.

- **Brush Piles and Slash Retentions:**
  This practice also INCLUDES SLASH RETENTIONS, meaning to leave the dead brush on the ground (not stacking) where it was cut to provide protection for seedlings of desirable plant species. This practice means stacking post or limbs in tepees in a planned area with lack of cover. A minimum of 1% of the designated area must be treated annually to qualify. A brush pile must be 2-3 feet high, 6 feet in diameter and loosely stacked. When this is done, they will last 5 – 10 years and slowly start to show signs of decay. This design is to incorporate a loose structure to serve two purposes 1. to provide cover and 2. aid in shelter from predators, it will also allow regeneration of desirable brush species as protectional cage from browsing animals.

- **Half-Cutting Trees or Shrubs:**
  Cut trees and shrubs near the vertical midpoint and leave the cut foliage where it falls.

#7 Conducting Census Counts to Determine Population

Census counts are periodic surveys and inventories used to determine the number, composition or other relevant information about a wildlife population. They may be used to determine if the current wildlife management practices are producing or sustaining the targeted species. Such surveys also help evaluate the management plan's goals and practices. Specifically, this activity estimates species numbers, annual population trends, density or age structure using accepted survey techniques. Annual results should be recorded as evidence of completing this practice.

- **Camera Counting:**
  At the end of this paragraph is a link to a pdf on the Edwards CAD website for camera counts that has been established by Parks and Wildlife utilizing remote sensing cameras to determine census populations of white-tailed deer. Cameras could be used to detect and also determine populations by abundance of other species. The use of cameras is new technology, further research will be needed to determine the applicable survey technique for your managed species.
  https://www.edwardscad.org/_files/ugd/7da7c5_9b0c865a135142659e0aca598d1d1dc8.pdf

- **Spotlight Counting:**
  Spotlight counting animals at night along a predetermined route using a spotlight should follow accepted methodology with a minimum of three counts conducted annually. (*Spotlight surveys are not a reliable method for determining white-tailed deer densities on small acreages.)*
- **Aerial Counting:**
  Aerial counts using a fixed-wing aircraft or helicopter to count animals also should follow accepted methodology for the region and be performed by a trained individual.

- **Daylight wildlife Composition Counts:**
  Daylight wildlife composition counts are driving counts used to census wildlife in daylight hours. Annual population trends on dove, quail, turkey and deer, as well as sex/age structure on deer; should be determined by sightings along a standardized transect of a minimum of five miles at least three times during a season. Daylight incidental observations counts.

- **Harvest Data Collection/Record Keeping:**
  Harvest data and record keeping means tracking annual production of wildlife. Age, weight and antler development from harvested deer, and the age and sex information.

- **Browse Utilization Surveys:**
  Browse utilization surveys annually examine deer browse plant species for evidence of deer use on each major vegetative site on the property. The surveys should be conducted in a way that can be repeated. Landowners should seek assistance by a professional.

- **Census and Monitoring of Endangered, Threatened or Protected Wildlife:**
  Census monitoring through periodic counts can improve management and increase knowledge of the local, regional or state status of the species. Commonly referred as presence and absence surveys.

- **Census and Monitoring of Nongame Wildlife Species:**
  Census and monitoring of nongame wildlife also can improve management or increase knowledge of the local, regional or state status of the species. These practices can include developing checklists of wildlife diversity on the property and should be a part of a comprehensive wildlife management plan. One of the most important things for a landowner to remember when designing a census protocol for nongame species on their property is the ability to be consistent. In other words, be able to do the same thing in the same way at the same time each and every time the census is conducted.

- **Miscellaneous Counts:**
  Miscellaneous counts include: designing special survey techniques unique to a specific species. These may include the following and should be addressed in the management plan: Time/area counts; Roost counts; Songbird transects and counts; Quail call and covey counts; Point counts; Drift fences and pitfall traps; Small mammal traps; Bat census (ex. Departures), Camera counts, Nest box occupancy, Deer stand counts, .

Local Resource List

The following agencies may be of assistance during your wildlife management transition:

- TPWD - Edwards County Biologist - General Wildlife Questions
  Robert Booker
  (325) 304-6217
  Robert.booker@tpwd.texas.gov

- Landowner Workshop & Field Days:
  - Information Link: https://tpwd.texas.gov/calendar/landowner-workshops-field-days
  - Registration Link: https://tpwd.texas.gov/forms/wildlife/wildlife-tax-valuation-workshop-registration

- Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS)…830-683-2187
  - Pond Erosion
  - Brush Management

- Texas Cooperative Extension Service…830-683-4310
  - Predator Control
  - Brush Management
  - Prescribed Burning

- Texas A&M of Sonora Experimental Station…325-387-3186
  - Range Management