Wildlife Management Guidelines – Borden County Appraisal District

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

The land size must meet the qualifications outlined below and must have a five-year history use in agricultural to convert to wildlife management. You cannot use wildlife management to qualify for agricultural appraisal, but wildlife management is an agricultural practice, so if you decide to go back to agricultural valuation, contact the appraisal district office for the necessary forms to change the use.

First things first, you must look at your property and develop a wildlife management plan that would show what you are doing now, and you will identify the elements you will add to your plan for the next six years. **The appraisal staff in this office cannot help you fill out the applications or write your managements plans. We encourage you to seek assistance from someone at the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD).**

Texas Parks and Wildlife Department
4200 Smith Road
Austin, TX 78744
512-389-4800 or 1-800-792-1112

Note: it may be advisable to contact TPWD at least one year before starting the process of converting your land from Ag-Use 1-d-1 to Wildlife Management.

You may still hunt on your property and graze livestock. The property's agricultural value remains the same as that of traditional ag value and your tax liability will not change due to wildlife management.

Landowners who purchase property that is currently appraised for agricultural use and the current size of the tract January 1 of the preceding tax year hasn't changed may switch to wildlife management without minimum acreage or wildlife use requirement applied to property.

Landowners who have purchased property that has reduced in size since January 1 of preceding tax are subject to the wildlife use requirement to qualify for wildlife.

The law requires agricultural use to be the primary use of the land. Wildlife management is an agricultural use under the law. 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 resident for the owner, but the land will not qualify if residential use is the land's primary use.

Land qualifies for an agricultural valuation is appraised at a special productivity valuation on the land's ability to produce something (commercial product and to protect/enhance natural resources) rather than on its market value. Under Texas law, wildlife management is legally nothing more than an additional qualifying agricultural practice people may choose to maintain the agricultural valuation on their land. There is no change in the ad valorem tax valuation with wildlife management, only a change in the qualifying agricultural practice.

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

Wildlife Management Plan

To apply for wildlife management, use special valuation, a property owner must file a Wildlife Management Plan on a form provided by the TPWD on or before April 30 of the year the application is for. The deadlines, denials and protest requirements are also the same as they are for the 1-d-1 open-space land. The deadline for applications is "before May 1" meaning the application form must be postmarked or filed no later than midnight April 30. For good cause and only on the property owner's request, the Chief appraiser may extend the filing deadline for not more than sixty days.

The plan must include landowner goals for the property and provide a set of activities designed to integrate wildlife and habitat improvement. A common plan is likely to include elements of all seven listed wildlife management activities. Activities and practices should be appropriate for Borden County.
The wildlife management plan must contain:

- Ownership information, property description, historic and current use.
- Landowner's goals and objectives for the tract of land.
- Specific indigenous wildlife species targeted for management.
- No less than three of the seven specific management practices and activities to be implemented in support of the specific indigenous wildlife species targeted for management.
- Map depicting where the activities will be practiced.

A tract of land qualifies for agricultural appraisal based on wildlife management use if the tract is currently appraised as qualified open space, primarily used for wildlife management, actively managed to sustain a breeding, migrating or wintering population of indigenous wildlife through implementation of a wildlife management plan, the landowner manages indigenous wildlife for human use, and the tract meets the specified use requirements if applicable. The minimum acreage for Borden County is twenty acres unless the property is part of a Wildlife Management Property Association or designated by the TPWD as a habitat for endangered species.

Wildlife Use Requirement

A tract of land's wildlife use requirements is a number expressed as a percentage and calculated by subtracting one from the total number of acres in the tract of land and dividing the result by the total number of acres in the tract of land. The following formula expressed the calculation, with "x" representing the tract of land's total acreage: (x-1)/x=wildlife use requirement. If the number of acres in the tract of land is equal to or greater than the number of acres in the tract of land on January 1 of the preceding year, the tract of land is not subject to the wildlife use requirement. All member owners must sign the form or must file individually.

Borden County is located in the Rolling Plains Wildlife Appraisal Region. Based on this location, minimum acreage requirements are suggested by the Comptroller of Public Accounts. The wildlife use requirement states that the percentage range for qualification in our area is 96-98%. If the land is part of a wildlife management property association, then the range is 94-95%. And if the land is located in an area designated by the TPWD as habitat for endangered species, a threatened species or candidate species for listing as threatened or endangered, the wildlife use requirement will be in a range of 94-95%. Texas Administrative Code, Subchapter G, Special Appraisal, Rule 9.2005.

The percentage set for the wildlife use requirement is set by the chief appraiser with the advice and consent of the Appraisal Board of Directors. The percentage set of Borden County is 97% for normal tracts and 95% for tracts that are a part of a wildlife management property association or habitat for an endangered species. This calculates to a minimum acreage for Borden County of 30 acres for normal tracts and 20 acres for tracts that are part of a wildlife management property association or a habitat for an endangered species.

Example: 30-1=29/30=.97 or 97%. 20-1=19/20=.95 or 95%

To calculate if a property meets this requirement, take the acreage of the property applied for and subtract one, then divide it by the total acreage of the property. If the value is 97% or more, then the property qualifies for wildlife management. For example, if the property is 50 acres, then 50-1=49, 49 divided by 50 is .98 or 98%. The property would then meet the minimum acreage requirements.

Late Application

The property owner may file a late application up until the appraisal review board approves the appraisal records for that year. This usually occurs around July 20. However, there is a penalty for a late application. An application filed after April 30 is subject to a penalty equal to ten percent of the difference between the tax imposed at market value and the tax imposed at the agricultural productivity value. The chief appraiser must note the penalty in the appraisal records and send the property owner a written notice explaining the reasons for the penalty.

Action on Application

The chief appraiser or their designee must review each application and decide to approve it and grant agricultural appraisal, disapprove it and ask for more information or deny the application. The chief appraiser must determine the validity of all timely filed applications before they turn the appraisal records over to the ARB. The chief appraiser usually gives the records to the ARB by May 15. The chief appraiser must also review all late applications before the ARB approves the appraisal records. If the application is denied the applicant, then has thirty days to file a protest with the ARB.

Additional Information

If the initial application does not contain all the information needed to determine whether a property qualifies, the chief appraiser may request additional information. The applicant must provide additional information within thirty days after the date of the request, or your application is denied.

On Site Inspection

All tracts of land associated with an application are inspected via a field visit to the property to determine if the information provided on the application is accurate. Upon inspection of the property, the appraiser will look for signs of ag use and make notes of what is seen or not seen. Pictures of the property and evidence of agricultural appraisal may also be taken at tis time. A determination is then made either to grant or deny the agricultural special valuation and the application. If the application is denied, the applicant is notified certified amil with a reason for the denial. Id the application is approved, it will be dated and initialed by the appraiser. After the agricultural use is entered into the property, the agricultural use application is scanned into the account.

Denial of Application

If the application is denied, the chief appraiser shall deliver written notice to the applicant by certified mail. The notice shall include a brief explanation of the procedures for protesting the chief appraiser's action and a full explanation of the reasons for the denial of the application.

Annual Report

The chief appraiser requires a property owner receiving wildlife management special valuation to file a signed "annual" report detailing the activities and results of the wildlife management plan for that appropriate year. Failure to return the annual report could result in loss of wildlife management special valuation.

You can go to the TPWD website and fill out the Wildlife Management Annual Report form to report the activities and practices listed in your initial plan that were implemented (and any additional activities and practices). Do this annually and submit it between January 1 and March 1 of each year. You should also submit the following with your annual report:

- Copies of all receipts that document expenses incurred for implementation of practices outlined in your plan.
- Before and after photos of practices.
- Updated map that reflects areas where practices were/are being implemented.
- Copies of activity log (written account of all activities implemented and dates of implementation). Observation log, and any census data.

Wildlife Management

All questions and issues not covered will be referred to the Texas Property Tax Code, Manual for the Appraisal of Agricultural Land, Qualification of Agricultural Land in Wildlife, Management Use published by the Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts and Comprehensive Wildlife Management Planning Guidelines published by the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department.

It is important to note that the land must be currently used and receive special agricultural valuation at the time the land is changed into wildlife management. The history of agricultural use, primary use and degree of intensity standards are the same for wildlife management as they are for 1-d-1 open-space land.

Wildlife management is defined as actively using land that at the time the wildlife management use began was appraised as qualified open-space land under Section 23.51 of the Texas Property Tax Code in at least three of the following ways to propagate a sustaining breeding, migrating or wintering population of indigenous wild animals for human use, including food, medicine or recreations. There must be at least three out of seven activities done each year.

The seven activities are:

- Habitat Control: A wild animal's habitat is its surroundings, 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.
- Predator Control: 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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.

HABITAT CONTROL

Grazing Management: Including deferments, extended rest from grazing, seasonal stocker operations. A range that has not been grazed for a long period of time and is otherwise not periodically disturbed can become stagnant.it will be dominated by relatively few species of plants and exhibit limited variety and diversity. Therefore, total long-term deferment from livestock grazing is not normally recommended of optimal range and wildlife habitat management. Continuous grazing should not be used as a grazing method if the land manager's desire is to improve habitat for wildlife. *See TPWD Appendix D – Livestock Recommendations for information to help prepare a specific grazing proposal.*

Prescribed Burning: Burning can improve accessibility, increase both quantity and quality of foliage and browse production, suppress brush and cactus, improve grazing distribution of livestock, puts nutrients back in the soil and wildlife and remove excessive thatch and debris. Prescribed burning is a tool to maintain desired vegetation composition and structure. *A minimum of fifteen percent of acreage burned over seven years.*

A successful burn includes three basic steps:

- Development of a burn plan which includes management goals and objectives, burn prescription, safety plan, description and map of the burn unit, smoke management, legal requirements, contacts and notifications, control and fire planning and evaluation.
- Safe and effective execution of the burn.
- Good post-burn range, livestock and wildlife management practices to maximize the effects of the burn.

Range Enhancement (Range Reseeding): Range enhancement is the re-establishment or enhancement of plant communities with native grasses and forbs. These plants provide both food and cover for wildlife and help to meet the basic requirements. 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 states of a native grasses. *Enhancement should annually affect a minimum of ten percent of the total area designated in the plan, or a minimum of ten acres annually, whichever is smaller, until the project is complete.*

Brush Management: May be removal or establishment of woody plants. Can be the selective removal or suppression of target woody species, including exotics, to allow for increased population of desirable trees, shrubs, grasses and forbs for forage nesting, or protective cover for selected species. Brush management is only part of a good habitat management program and should be planned carefully to address overall management goals. *This practice should affect a minimum of ten percent of the total area designated in the plan or a minimum of ten acres annually, whichever is smaller.*

There are four primary principles that drive any good brush management plan:

- Extent: 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 one hundred of the brush may be best from a livestock production standpoint, but if the overall goal includes white-tailed deer management, only clearing 50% or less may be a better option. Removal of only individual plants may be all that's needed to be done depending on the amount of brush.
- Pattern: The pattern in which brush is cleared should considered 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 important.
- Selection: 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 also 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.
- Method: A total cost analysis, soil erosion issues and the type or species of brush, which is being targeted will determine the method(s) used.

Riparian Management and Enhancement: Riparian areas are lands adjacent to and on either side of a stream course where vegetation is strongly influenced by the presence of water. Can include providing livestock with alternative watering sites, deferring livestock grazing in pastures with riparian areas, fencing riparian areas to exclude or provide short duration grazing livestock. If there is an area where this activity might be applicable, consult the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) for planning assistance. *A minimum of one Riparian Management and Enhancement project must be implemented and maintained every ten years to qualify*.

Habitat Protection for Species of Concern: Planned protection and management of land or a portion of land to provide habitat for an endangered, threatened, or rare species, such as fencing of critical areas, managing vegetation structure and diversity within species parameters, establishing and maintaining firebreaks to protect critical overstory vegetation and annually monitor the species of concern. Management for migrating, wintering or breeding Neotropical birds should follow specific guidelines provided by the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department specific to your ecological region. Contact TPWD for approved management guidelines before implementing activities designed to protect or enhance habitat for endangered species. *A minimum of one project must be implemented every ten years to qualify.*

Prescribed Control of Native, Exotic and Feral Species: Populations of exotics, feral animals and wildlife should be strictly controlled to minimize negative impact on native wildlife and habitat. *The removal or control of exotic vegetation or the conversion of tame grass pastures must affect a minimum of ten percent of the area designated in the plan, or ten acres annually, whichever is smaller.*

Wildlife Restoration: Restoration or enhancement of habitat to good condition for target species, the reintroduction and population management of TPWD approved native species within the carrying capacity of the habitat as part of an approved restoration area at a scale capable of supporting sustainable population.

Erosion Control

A minimum of one project must be implemented and maintained every ten years to qualify.

Erosion is the detachment and movement of soil by moving water, wind or ice. It is a natural process that cannot be stopped; however, human activity such as earthmoving and tillage can accelerate the process. 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 the wildlife species dependent upon the affected plant communities. The project must provide habitat diversity and wildlife benefits. It is important to recognize the exact type of erosion problems you have.
The erosion process advances through several stages:

- Sheet Erosion: The removal of a fairly uniform layer of soil from the soil surface by shallow overland flow.
- Rill Erosion: Occurs as shallow sheet flow concentrates into small channels. Flow in these channels causes further erosion and carries soil particles away.
- Gully Erosion: An accelerated form of rill erosion where the channels are much deeper and carry away larger quantities of soil.

Water Quality and Conservation: Erosion not only causes loss of soil productivity but also creates water quality problems once the sediment leaves the site and enters the surface waters. When eroded sediment is transported from its site of origin to nearby bodies of water it can also carry fertilizers, pesticides and other contaminants attached to the soil particles. Water that is loaded with sediments can lead to reduce drainage capacity, increased flooding, decreased aquatic organism populations, decreased commercial and recreational fishing catches, clogged and damaged commercial and industrial irrigation systems, increases expenditures at water treatment plants to clean the water, and decreased recreational and aesthetic value of water resources.

Pond Construction: Involves building a permanent water pond to prevent, stop or control erosion as an approved Natural Resources 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.

Gully Shaping: Involves reducing erosion on severely eroded areas by smoothing to acceptable grades and re-establish vegetation. An area should be seeded with native plant species for your area that provide food and/or cover for wildlife.

Streamside, Pond and Wetland Revegetation: Revegetating along creeks, streams, ponds and wetlands to reduce erosion and sedimentation, stabilize streambanks, improve plant diversity and improve wildlife value of sensitive areas.

Establishing Native Plants on Critical Areas: These plants also can provide food and/or cover for wildlife and restore native habitats. *A minimum of one seedling per acre must be planted and maintained annually on ten acres or a minimum of ten percent, whichever is smaller of the total designated area treated annually.*

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. A landowner or manager should first manage the wildlife habitat on their property, increasing the plant diversity and abundance of species that provide food, shelter and nesting cover for all predator species. 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. 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. Considerations should be concentrated on minimizing their habitat by spotting cutting cedar (where hogs prefer to live) and protect watering and feeding areas from them as well. When implementing predator management, you must know if there is a predation problem on the targeted species.

Consideration should include:

- Is there a predation problem?
- Are the predators outnumbering the population of your target species?
- Are the target species declining due to this predator?
- Is there a balance between the 2 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. TPWD advocated elimination of feral/exotic predators, with the thoughtful management of native predators as an integral part of functioning natural systems. *The predator control plan should be prepared and approved by a competent professional and include the list, duration and intensity of methods to remove the target species annually.*

Supplemental Water

Many people mistakenly believe that water sources suitable for livestock are also suitable for wildlife. Unfortunately, that is not always the case, particularly for young wildlife and many bird species. Wildlife water developments are in addition to those sources already available to livestock and may require protection from livestock. Existing troughs should be modified. Watering sources must be specific for species being managed.

Wildlife Watering Facilities: This practice can provide supplemental water and habitat for wildlife. 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.

Spring Development and/or Enhancement: Implementing methods designed to protect the immediate area surrounding a spring. 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 flow to make water available to livestock and wildlife while preventing degradation of the spring area from trampling. 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 planting and implementing brush removal. This practice should be planned and implemented gradually and selectively over a period of time. *A minimum of one project per ten years must be completed to qualify. Existing or restored springs consistently managed to prevent degradation qualifies.*

Supplemental 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.

Food Plots: The establishment of locally adapted annual (spring and fall) or perennial forages on suitable soils to provide supplemental food and cover during critical periods of the year. Livestock should be generally excluded from small food plots. Two to five percent of total land area is required for white tailed deer. *A minimum of one percent of the acreage should be planted in seasonal food plots.*

Feeders and Minerals 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 twenty parts per billion. Spin cast feeders do not qualify as a supplemental feeder. Corn may be used to harvest, collect census data and feed during extreme cold spells. *A minimum of one free-choice feeder per three hundred twenty-three acres in use during the recommended time period, with a minimum of sixteen percent crude protein feed, required to qualify.*

Managing Tame Pasture, Old Fields and Croplands: This can increase plant diversity, provide supplemental food and forage and gradually help convert the land to native vegetation. It may include, planting cool season and/or warm season legumes and/or small grain pastures, easements and periodic ground disturbance through shallow discing. *A minimum of three percent of the designated area must be treated annually to qualify.*

Transition Management of Tame Grass Monocultures: Transition from tame grass to native grass should include annually overseeding improved grass pastures with locally adapted legumes to increase plant diversity, provide wildlife foods and gradually convert the tame pastures to native vegetation. *A minimum of twenty-five percent of the designated area must be treated annually to qualify*.

Supplemental Shelter

The best shelter and cover for wildlife is provided by a well-maintained habitat. Some practices can be implemented to provide types of shelter that may be limited in the habitat. 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 or more of the key requirements of wildlife (including shelter) is absent or in short supply. Before beginning any wildlife management practice, you must determine what wildlife species you are managing for and what its specific cover needs are.

Nest Boxes, Bat Boxes: Number and location of nest boxes should be consistent with habitat needs and territorial requirements of the targeted species, and sufficient over the area to provide a real supplement to the target population and address an identified sever limiting factor as part of a comprehensive wildlife management plan.

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. It also means stacking posts or limbs in tepees in a planned area with lack of cover. *A minimum of one percent of the designated area must be treated annually to qualify.*

Half-Cutting Trees or Shrubs: This practice is best done in the early or middle part of the growing season. *A minimum of one clump of trees/shrubs per one hundred yards on at least ten percent of the acreage or ten acres, whichever is smaller, annually to qualify.*

Hay Meadow, Pasture and Cropland Management: Mowing of hay fields should be postponed until after the peak of nesting/rearing period of birds and mammals (after July 15). A wide bar should be placed on the front of the tractor at a height of one foot when mowing to help flush wildlife using this cover. Weeds are an important source of food for most wildlife species. *Annually mow/shred twenty-five percent of open areas per year, preferably in strips or mosaic types of patterns, to create edge and structural diversity.*

Fence Line Management: Maintain, establish, or allow establishment of trees, shrubs, forbs and grasses on fence lines to provide wildlife food and cover a minimum of thirty yards wide. This practice is only applicable where cover is limited in the habitat (cropland or tame pasture). A minimum length of one hundred yards of Fence Line Management per one-fourth mile of fence is required annually to qualify.

Woody Plant/Shrub Establishment: Plantings should consist of native trees and shrubs that produce hard or soft mass or provide nesting or escape cover. Planting should be done in groups to provide both cover and additional food rather than scattered trees.

Natural Cavity/Snag Development: Retain and create snags for cavity dwelling species. Undesirable trees can be girded or individually treated with herbicide and left standing. *A minimum of five snags per acre, on five percent of the acreage, must be retained/created annually.*

Census

This activity provides an estimate of species numbers, population trends, population density, age structure, or sex ratio using accepted survey techniques. Results of annual surveys should be recorded on appropriate forms as evidence of completion of this practice. Selection of specific survey techniques should be appropriate to the species of interest at a level of intensity to achieve proper management of the resource in connection with a comprehensive wildlife management plan.

Spotlight Counts: Counting animals at night along a predetermined route using a spotlight should follow accepted methodology. *A minimum of three counts or a minimum of fifteen surveyed miles must be completed annually.*

Aerial Counts: Use of a fixed-wing aircraft or helicopter to count animals should follow acceptable methodology for the region and be performed by a trained individual.

Daylight Wildlife Composition Counts: Driving counts are 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 transects along a five-mile minimum lies and run at least three times to obtain at least one hundred observations. On smaller tracts, at least five separate, two hour counts during early morning or late afternoon. Deer blinds may be used.

Harvest Data Collection/Record Keeping: Collect all age, weight and antler development data from harvested deer. Age and sex information should be obtained from game birds and waterfowl to determine sex ratios and annual production.

Miscellaneous Counts: Specific species may require special survey techniques. These may include 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 fence and pitfall traps
- Small mammal traps
- Bat census

Attached to this Manual:

- Map of Wildlife Appraisal Regions by County
- 1-D-1 OpenSpace Agricultural Valuation Wildlife Management Plan
- 1-D-1 OpenSpace Agricultural Valuation Wildlife Management Annual Report

Additional Information

www.bordencad.org
https://tpwd.texas.gov
https://comptroller.texas.gov/taxes/property-tax/

1-D-1 Open Space Agricultural Valuation Wildlife Management Plan can be found on the TPWD website, Texas Comptroller's Website (search Form 96-354) or at the back of this Guideline.

Wildlife Management Activities and Practices for the Rolling Plains Ecological Regions can be downloaded from the TPWD website.

Wildlife Management Plan and Annual Report
https://tpwd.texas.gov/landwater/land/private/agricultural_land/

High Plans and Rolling Plains Wildlife Mgmt. Guide
https://tpwd.texas.gov/landwater/land/private/agricultural_land/hprp2010/