

WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT PLAN

Example Creek Ranch — SAMPLE — Jack County, Texas

Prepared for filing with the Jack County Appraisal District under Texas Tax Code §23.51(7)

DRAFT — GENERATED 2026-09-12 — NOT YET FOR FILING

1. Property and Ownership Information

Owner: Example Landowner — SAMPLE

Property: Example Creek Ranch — SAMPLE

Total acreage under 1-d-1 open-space valuation: 150 acres

Ecoregion: Cross Timbers & Prairies. This plan is prepared consistent with the Wildlife Management Activities and Practices: Comprehensive Wildlife Management Planning Guidelines for the Edwards Plateau and Cross Timbers & Prairies Ecological Regions (Texas Parks and Wildlife Department).

Current qualification: The property is currently appraised under 1-d-1 open-space agricultural valuation. This plan supports conversion of the qualifying use to wildlife management, effective tax year 2027, with the application to be filed with the Jack County Appraisal District between January 1 and April 30 of the effective year.

Plan period: Five years from the effective tax year, reviewed and updated annually.

2. Property Description and Habitat

Sample scenario: a mix of native grassland and oak woodland, with seasonal drainage and two stock tanks. Deer and wild turkey are the target species.

Approximate habitat composition (to be verified against aerial imagery): ___% oak woodland / ___% mesquite-mixed brush / ___% open native grassland / ___% food plots and improved areas / ___% water and other

Exhibits to be attached at filing: (A) recent aerial imagery map with property boundary and practice locations (feeders, water points, plots, traps); (B) NRCS soils map; (C) USGS topographic map. Map exhibits are to be attached at filing.

3. Goals and Target Species

The primary goal of this plan is to manage native habitat to sustain and improve populations of white-tailed deer and Rio Grande wild turkey, with population goals stated below and reviewed against annual census results.

- Deer — Maintain a white-tailed deer population at or below habitat carrying capacity with a balanced sex ratio, guided by annual census data.
- Turkey — Protect and expand roost habitat, nesting cover, and brood-rearing habitat; reduce nest predation pressure during the nesting season.
- Habitat — Increase native grass and forb diversity in treated brush areas to improve fawning cover, nesting cover, and insect availability for poults.

4. Selected Wildlife Management Practices

Texas law requires that at least three of the seven statutory wildlife management practices be actively implemented each year (Tax Code §23.51(7)). This plan commits to five, providing a compliance buffer:

Qualifying Practice	Activities on Example Creek Ranch — SAMPLE	TPWD Intensity Standard
1. Habitat Control	Selective brush management: mechanical treatment (shredding/mowing) of encroaching mesquite and juniper on upland pastures; retention of post oak and blackjack oak mottes and mature roost trees along drainages for turkey. Native grass release in treated areas.	Brush Management practices 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.
2. Predator Control	Year-round feral hog control via corral trapping and opportunistic removal; Nest-predator management (raccoon, skunk) during turkey nesting season as indicated by census data; imported red fire ant treatment around feeder and nesting areas.	The predator control plan should be prepared or approved by a competent professional and include the list, duration and intensity of methods to remove the target species annually.
3. Providing Supplemental Supplies of Water	Maintain existing stock tanks for wildlife availability; Add at least one dedicated wildlife water point (trough or small guzzler with escape ramp) positioned away from primary cattle water. Capital water projects may qualify for up to 10 years with annual maintenance.	A minimum of one project per 10 years must be completed to qualify. Consistent water management for wildlife at sites qualifies.
4. Providing Supplemental Supplies of Food	Free-choice protein feeders (spring/summer) and timed corn feeders; Cool-season food plots (wheat/oats) and warm-season plots (cowpeas/sunflower) on suitable soils; plots protected from livestock grazing.	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), required to qualify. A minimum of 1% of the acreage should be planted in seasonal food plots.
5. Making Census Counts to Determine Population	Fall game-camera survey on standardized grid (1 camera per 100 acres minimum); Late-summer spotlight or daylight incidental counts on fixed route; Spring gobbler/hen counts. Data recorded annually to guide harvest and habitat decisions.	Counts should be conducted on standardized transects along 5 mile minimum lines and run at least 3 times (if shorter lines or used, a total of at least 15 miles must be surveyed), or through other standardized methodology to obtain at least 100 observations. On smaller tracts, as least five separate, two hour counts during early morning or late afternoon from deer stands (blinds) may be used. A minimum of three counts, or a minimum of 15 surveyed miles, must be completed annually. Specific species may require special survey techniques. These may include the following and

Qualifying Practice	Activities on Example Creek Ranch — SAMPLE	TPWD Intensity Standard
		should be addressed in the management plan:

Note: The intensity standards above are quoted verbatim from the TPWD guidelines for the Cross Timbers & Prairies region; the plan formalizes intensity levels and record-keeping to appraisal-district standards.

5. Annual Activity Calendar

Season	Scheduled Activities
Winter (Dec–Feb)	Selective brush management: mechanical treatment (shredding/mowing) of encroaching mesquite and juniper on upland pastures; retention of post oak and blackjack oak mottes and mature roost trees along drainages for turkey. Native grass release in treated areas; Year-round feral hog control via corral trapping and opportunistic removal; Free-choice protein feeders (spring/summer) and timed corn feeders; Cool-season food plots (wheat/oats) and warm-season plots (cowpeas/sunflower) on suitable soils; plots protected from livestock grazing; File the Wildlife Management Annual Report (PWD-888) if required by the Jack County Appraisal District.
Spring (Mar–May)	Nest-predator management (raccoon, skunk) during turkey nesting season as indicated by census data; imported red fire ant treatment around feeder and nesting areas; Add at least one dedicated wildlife water point (trough or small guzzler with escape ramp) positioned away from primary cattle water. Capital water projects may qualify for up to 10 years with annual maintenance; Free-choice protein feeders (spring/summer) and timed corn feeders; Cool-season food plots (wheat/oats) and warm-season plots (cowpeas/sunflower) on suitable soils; plots protected from livestock grazing; Spring gobbler/hen counts. Data recorded annually to guide harvest and habitat decisions.
Summer (Jun–Aug)	Selective brush management: mechanical treatment (shredding/mowing) of encroaching mesquite and juniper on upland pastures; retention of post oak and blackjack oak mottes and mature roost trees along drainages for turkey. Native grass release in treated areas; Maintain existing stock tanks for wildlife availability; Add at least one dedicated wildlife water point (trough or small guzzler with escape ramp) positioned away from primary cattle water. Capital water projects may qualify for up to 10 years with annual maintenance; Free-choice protein feeders (spring/summer) and timed corn feeders; Late-summer spotlight or daylight incidental counts on fixed route.
Fall (Sep–Nov)	Year-round feral hog control via corral trapping and opportunistic removal; Free-choice protein feeders (spring/summer) and timed corn feeders; Cool-season food plots (wheat/oats) and warm-season plots (cowpeas/sunflower) on suitable soils; plots protected from livestock grazing; Fall game-camera survey on standardized grid (1 camera per 100 acres minimum).

6. Records and Compliance

- Maintain a dated activity log for every practice event (habitat work, trap checks and take, feeder fills, plot planting, census runs) with photographs where practical.

- Retain receipts for feed, seed, equipment, and contract work in the annual compliance file; retain all records for a minimum of five years.
- Complete the Wildlife Management Annual Report (PWD-888) at year end and file with the Jack County chief appraiser if requested or required.
- Review census results annually and adjust harvest recommendations and practice intensity accordingly; document the review.

7. Open Items Before Filing

- Habitat composition — Verify the approximate habitat composition percentages against aerial imagery and fill in the placeholders in Section 2.
- Competing uses — Decide whether cattle grazing — continuation as secondary use undecided continues as a secondary use; if so, document it at a level consistent with wildlife management as the primary use of the land.
- Jack CAD — Confirm the Jack County Appraisal District's current position on annual report filing (PWD-888) and any local plan-format preferences.

This draft was prepared for the landowner's own review and self-filing. It is not legal, tax, or biological consulting advice.