

WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT

Helpful Facts for Wildlife Management Updates

To begin utilizing “wildlife management” as a special valuation the land has to have been in agricultural use for five of the preceding seven years. In other words you have to start with agricultural use before you can change to wildlife management.

Using the Texas Parks and Wildlife developed standards and guidelines as specified for different eco-regions to determine the land size. (Cooke County lies in the Cross Timbers & Prairies eco-region.) The land size has to be larger than 14.29 acres unless it is in a property association (12.50 acres) or the target animal is candidate, threatened or endangered (11.11 acres). The chief appraiser with the advice and consent of the Appraisal District’s Board of Directors designates the minimum acreage. You can refer to the Texas Administrative Code, Title 34, Part 1, Chapter 9, Subchapter G, Rule 9.2005(a) on the calculation of the land size.

The Texas Parks and Wildlife has developed guidelines. For each target animal selected for management at least 3 of 7 items must be performed. They are:

- Supplemental food
- Supplemental water
- Supplemental shelter
- Census count
- Predator control
- Habitat control
- Erosion control

Cooke County Appraisal District requires the following on all wildlife management properties:

- An application to convert from agriculture to wildlife
- A five-year management plan
- Some type of census count
- An annual update on your wildlife plan
- A field review by the appraisal district as determined

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

- Receipts and any documentation on your work
- Records on any and all schooling and courses you have attended pertaining to your wildlife management

CCAD requires there be a "census counts".

- Decide how often and which method to use on your census counts
- How can you manage something unless you know what you have and if your management is succeeding?

Information to include in your update:

- Have you started a new project?
- What items have you completed?
- What new projects are in the planning stage?
- What year do you intend to have that project completed?
- Did you accomplish your goals?
- What results are you seeing?
- Do you need to adjust your plan?

Please include an email address as this will make lines of communication more convenient. If there is not an email address, please include a primary day time phone number.

Just as with agricultural use if the wildlife use ceases to exist the property could be subject to a rollback of taxes. Refer to the information in this document on rollbacks.