

EXAMPLE OF ANNUAL WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT UPDATE

JOHN AND JANE'S ROOST RANCH

800 Acres

Property ID'S: 123, 124, 126, 77750, & 45789

Our main target animals are deer, turkey, quail, & song birds. The 2017 year was brutal due to the drought. Our strip crops all failed this year, and we will modify our plan due to the drought for the (INSERT CURRENT YEAR) year.

We are developing the land for the wildlife at the current time. For 2014 we are following our plan of staggered landscaping. We have opened up areas for the strip crops (which failed this year). We have half-cut about 1/6th of the cedars on a 100 acre tract and dug out about a 1/6th of the cedars on the same 100 acres. With the drought – we were able to re-shape and enhance 3 of our ponds.

DEER:

We continue to supplement their food with 10 – 100 lb. feeders set up in various locations. We feed year round. The feeders are typically filled about 2 times a month (3 times a month in winter). Additionally we have 4 mineral supplement areas for the deer. There was only one deer harvested in 2016. You can see from the rack (on the one buck our grandson harvested this year) the mineral supplements are working. (photo included) Because of the size of our tract and the feed and relative safety for the deer, our census remains about the same (20).

TURKEY:

It looks like we have 2 flocks of turkey on our land. In the spring, our game cameras indicate one flock has about 30 and another flock of about 12. None were harvested. The south area that had the smaller flock of turkey has had more sightings of coyote. We are setting out more snares and will concentrate our predator control on this area for the (INSERT CURRENT YEAR) year.

QUAIL:

The quail we set out for the last three years have all but vanished. We have called for them, but have not located them. We want to continue to set out and help the quail population, but may wait for 2 years until the drought is behind us. We want to concentrate our time and money on the animals that are already here for this stressful time.

SONG BIRDS:

We have a 20 acre sanctuary for song birds beside our home. We added 10 more blue bird houses to the 30 we already had. We have 6 martin – condo houses. We have about 30 assorted bird houses in the area. We added 5 acres this year that we planted specifically for the birds and butterflies. The butterfly plants, sunflowers and other plants all made it through the drought, because we irrigated this area. The area was irrigated when we added 50 water features to attract the birds last year. This was a school project for our grand-daughter, who also researched the birds with cameras and a daily observation diary. This area was home to about 30 painted buntings, 100 finches, 80 bluebirds, and thousands of robins that went through the area. We have over 100 different feeders and the plants for our supplemental feed. A fun thing our grand-daughter did this year was to identify bird songs.

PREDATOR CONTROL:

The west side of the property joins Red River and has shown some feral hog activity. We contracted with a hunting group and put out 3 different hog traps. The hunting group killed 15 hogs and our traps netted 10 hogs throughout the year that we killed. The 20 acre bird sanctuary was treated for fire ants two times last year. We used the topical Diazasanine at 80 percent. We had 14 coyotes snared last year (most were on the north end of the property). In

addition we killed 2 raccoons, 5 skunks and 13 rattle-snakes. For 2016 we trapped and killed about 150 brown-headed cow birds. This is difficult, time consuming, and not to my liking, so I plan to remove this from my plan.

FUTURE PLANS:

For the 2018 year, we plan to remove one-third of the cedars from approximately 80 acres. We will half-cut about half of those and remove the other half. We plan to continue our road-way for our hiking and riding trail and continue with our staggered landscaping. We are adding a 10 acre lake as our main project. As we stated earlier, we will suspend our strip crops this year.