

Wildlife Management Plan

**Beverley Kay Saunders Reed
498 Hwy 95 South
PO Box 775
Smithville, TX 78957**

**Tracts 2 & 3
A33 Thomas J Gazley
R57640 & R22043
Bastrop County**

March 30, 2016

Wildlife Management Plan

Beverley Kay Saunders Reed

Introduction

Beverley Kay Saunders Reed's property (Tracts 2 & 3, A 33 Thomas A Gazley) is comprised of a total of 14.607 acres located at 498 Hwy 95 South, Smithville, Bastrop County, Texas.

Description of the Property

These 14.607 acres consist of mixed woodlands and improved pastureland comprised mainly of post oak, live oak, blackjack oak, and eastern red cedar. Other woody (or brush) species include yaupon, cedar elm, manzanita, purple sage, american beauty berry, and mountain laurel. There are diverse habitats on the property with topography including hills, ravines and wet weather creeks. Soils consist of mixes of clay and sandy to sandy loam soils. A residence is located on a one acre footprint on Tract 2.

Wildlife Management Plan Goals and Objectives

The goal of the wildlife management plan is to develop and maintain healthy and diverse wildlife habitats that will provide for productive, healthy, and abundant local and migratory wildlife populations including deer, native songbirds, neotropical birds, game birds, and other wildlife species. This goal is to provide quality habitats for the entire ecosystem and all taxa associated with it. This goal is directly aligned with the goals of Beverley Kay Saunders Reed. Targeted wildlife management objectives for this plan include (but are not limited to) the following activities:

- Improve habitat for white-tailed deer, native songbirds, neotropical birds, quail, dove, hawks, turkey, lizards, butterflies, small mammals (e.g., squirrels, rabbits, etc.), and other wildlife (see later information for more species discussion);
- Manage for native habitat and wildlife diversity;
- Restore, maintain, and/or improve native habitat for wildlife diversity;
- Improve habitat for target wildlife species (see later information on species); and
- Protect sensitive habitat areas.

The objectives listed above can be accomplished through numerous activities that qualify for the wildlife appraisal exemption. Each year at least three qualifying activities will be undertaken of the seven qualifying categories (as listed in the next section of the document). The activities will be undertaken and documented in the annual report for the management plan submitted to the Bastrop County Appraisal District as required.

Wildlife Management Plan Activities

The activities being used for this management plan are listed under the qualifying category headings. The activities to be undertaken are mainly for habitat management and enhancing food, water, and shelter for target wildlife populations on the property. These activities are to help maintain a healthy, diverse, and productive ecosystem, which is the goal of this wildlife management plan.

Habitat Control

Various native plants may be reintroduced onto the property via planting or seeding to promote habitat diversity and increase food options for species on the property. This habitat restoration activity may include enhancing shrub, grass, and forb populations on the property that are beneficial to wildlife such as wildflowers, berry and flower producing shrubs, and seed bearing grasses. This will benefit hummingbirds, butterflies, and various bird and mammal species that feed on fruits and seeds.

Predator Control

Control of the non-native fire ant is undertaken on the property. This invasive fire ant has been associated with the decline and adverse impacts on beneficial native ants, ground nesting birds, lizards, and other wildlife. The fire ant control will be targeted to direct treatment of the fire ant mounds (colonies) to limit potential impacts to other native ants and wildlife. The applications may consist of either approved pesticides or other non-pesticide treatments available. Feral hog invasion control is implemented as needed through trapping and hunting, with shooting of feral hogs on an opportunistic basis.

Supplemental Water and Erosion control

A critical component required for diverse habitats and wildlife populations are suitable sources of water for wildlife consumption and to maintain habitats. This activity will be accomplished by constructing wildlife watering stations, and maintaining two wildlife/fish ponds. These activities will include both establishing and maintaining these water sources for wildlife. Willow Creek runs uninterrupted through this property providing seasonal water flow.

Supplemental Food

Of course another critical component for diverse wildlife is a good source of a variety of food. The food sources need to be varied to support a diverse wildlife community. Also, targeted supplemental feeding (especially in winter migration periods) can improve successful wildlife populations during migration stress (a critical period for many bird species including neotropical migrants) and nesting seasons. This activity will be undertaken through planting/restoring various fruit and seed bearing plants on the property as food sources (e.g., wildflowers, grasses, etc.). Supplemental food may also be provided via bird feeders (e.g., various style seed feeders). Largemouth bass, channel catfish and bluegill are stocked in one pond. One deer feeder is located between the stock pond and Willow Creek. Squirrel boxes are installed and stocked.

Providing Shelter

Shelter is another critical component for maintaining diverse wildlife populations, especially for birds. The shelter provides nesting and hiding locations as well as feeding sites for insectivorous wildlife (e.g., woodpeckers, wrens, black and white warblers, etc.). Shelter will be provided by enhancing and maintaining brush piles, rock piles, and tree snags on this property. Nest boxes are maintained. Wooded and grassy areas provide shelter for deer and other mammals.

Organisms of Special Interest for this Wildlife Management Plan

Taxa Targeted for Management Efforts

This management plan has targeted the taxonomic groups listed earlier under the plan objectives for special consideration under this management plan. These targeted animals include:

Mammals: Eastern fox squirrel, rabbits and others.

Insects: Butterflies, dragonflies, damselflies, and others.

Reptiles and Amphibians: Frogs, toads, lizards, and others.

Birds: Including game birds, native songbirds, neotropical migrants, and other nesting and migrant species for this area. Among these species are turkeys, doves, quails, and other species of game birds; the painted bunting, indigo bunting, black and white warbler, summer tanager, and other neotropical migratory species; the American robin, cedar waxwing, red-breasted nuthatch, ruby-throated hummingbird, hairy woodpecker, American goldfinch, purple finch, junco, Eastern bluebird, and other migratory birds; and resident species such as the red-shouldered hawk, American kestrel, crested caracara, greater roadrunner, red-bellied woodpecker, pileated woodpecker, Carolina chickadee, Carolina wren, ruby-crowned kinglet, pine warbler, Northern cardinal, and others.

Plants for Targeted Habitat/Food/Shelter Efforts

Numerous plants will be used to address management objectives for habitat control, supplemental food, and providing shelter under this plan. Examples include the use of plants for enhancing food sources on the lot (e.g., flower, berry and seed producing plants such as American beauty berry, yaupon, dogwood, mountain laurel, wildflowers, grasses, etc.). Native wildflowers will be introduced to increase diversity, food sources, and help condition soils such as bluebonnets, Indian paintbrush, Indian blankets, coneflowers, and others.

Time Schedule

Adding additional bird houses

We added one additional bird house this year and plan to continue these efforts to provide additional opportunities for nesting on the property.

Adding bat boxes

We've noticed numerous bats in the late evenings feeding around our property. A bat box has been installed.

Additional Stock Pond

A stock pond was constructed on Tract 3 in 2015. Currently the pond is suffering drainage and erosion issues which we plan to address this year. Natural fauna and trees remain in place.

Bird Counts

Our first bird count was done in conjunction with the Great Backyard Bird Count on 2/14/2016 and plans are to continue bird counts throughout the year.

4-2 Suck
8-5 Bird Boxes

0-3 Squirrel Feeders

1-1 Continuous Water Fountain

4-1 Bush Pile
I-8 Bird Bath

