

**COLEMAN COUNTY TAX APPRAISAL DISTRICT
105 S COMMERCIAL AVE
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COLEMAN, TX 76834
325-625-4155**

WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT INFORMATION

The appraisal staff in this office cannot help you fill out the applications or help write your wildlife management plans or fill out your annual reports. We can only advise you if your plan does not meet the criteria to qualify for the agricultural appraisal under wildlife management. Detailed information on how to qualify for Wildlife Management can be obtained from the following:

Texas Parks and Wildlife website:

https://tpwd.texas.gov/landwater/land/private/agricultural_land/

This is not a comprehensive list of all the rules, policies, and procedures on qualifying land under 1-d-1 Agricultural Use Appraisal for Wildlife Management, but rather a list of common mistakes and misunderstandings gathered from property owners trying to qualify for this special use appraisal. We hope that you find the following information useful when thinking of converting your property from traditional agricultural to wildlife management.

1. Property must have had a traditional 1-d-1 agricultural appraisal in place the year prior to converting to a wildlife habitat.
2. If the property was subdivided from a larger tract after January 1, 2001, and had an existing agricultural appraisal, it must be a minimum of 50 acres to be considered.
3. Recreational hunting is not wildlife management. Hunting can play an important role in managing the population of your targeted management species. Conducting recreational hunts will not disqualify a property from meeting the criteria for wildlife management as long as it is a secondary use to the land and not the primary use of the land and does not conflict with your wildlife management plan.
4. Even though we do not have a minimum acreage for each species beyond the 50-acre limit, a whitetail deer management plan will not usually be considered on tracts smaller than 100 acres. Your tract *might* be considered if your plan involves a coop or association with adjoining property owners.
5. **Exotics are not** considered for wildlife management. Under the right circumstances they can be considered under the traditional 1-d-1 agricultural appraisal. Having exotic species on your land may disqualify your land from being considered as a wildlife management habitat. Examples of exotics commonly found in this area and are not native to this area are: Aoudad sheep, mouflon sheep, mule deer, axis deer, fallow deer, sika deer, red deer, pronghorn antelope, blackbuck antelope, addax, scimitar-horned oryx, and gemsbok oryx. These types of animals are not native to this area and are counterproductive to a good wildlife management plan in this part of Texas.
6. We do not require you to hire a professional to help you with your plan. If you need technical advice, we do encourage you to seek assistance from the biologist at the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department. We also encourage you to attend wildlife

management seminars that can be found at various times throughout the state. Please be aware that some of these companies conducting these seminars are trying to sell you their services and/or products. The appraisal district does not require you to purchase these companies' services or products to meet the requirements for qualifying for wildlife management.

7. If the species you wish to manage is an endangered or threatened species such as the Black-capped Vireo or Golden-cheeked Warbler, then you must work with the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department in developing your plan. Technical assistance for these plans is available through the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, Texas Cooperative Extension, or U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service. For a list of Endangered and Threatened Animals, please consult the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department's website.
8. You must list a primary native indigenous species found on the list developed by the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department for the High Plains and Rolling Plains Ecological Region. Coleman County is in the Rolling Plains Region. On Page 37, Mule Deer, Pronghorn Antelope, Scaled Quail, and Prairie Dogs are not typically located in the Rolling Plains Region for Coleman County.
9. When developing a plan, you must clearly state your primary native species (only one). All other species are secondary. Checking all species on the application is not encouraged. If you have never seen the species on your property, then you cannot list that species in your wildlife management plan. For instance, if you desire to have a bobwhite quail habitat and have never seen a covey on your property, then you cannot claim bobwhite quail as a management species. You can, however, implement good management practices with another native species that would complement a bobwhite quail habitat so that your property may become desirable for a future bobwhite quail habitat. The Texas Administrative Code, Title 34, Part 1, Chapter 9, Subchapter G, Rule 9.2004 (4) states: in each tax year for which the owner seeks to qualify the tract of land for agricultural appraisal based on wildlife management use, the landowner has selected a least three wildlife management practices and, using wildlife management activities, has implemented each of the selected practices to the degree of intensity that is consistent with the *Guidelines for Qualification of Agricultural Land in Wildlife Management Use* and the *Comprehensive Wildlife Management Planning Guidelines* for the ecoregion in which the tract of land is located and for the specific indigenous wildlife species targeted for management.
10. Your plan must be very detailed in a minimum of 3 out of 7 categories for managing wildlife and must be compatible with your targeted species. An example of a poor plan is only listing food plots for deer under supplemental food; bird houses under supplemental shelter; and census counts for turkey to qualify. Even though your plan may include more than one species, we must be able to determine you are meeting the requirements in 3 out of 7 categories for your targeted species. A good plan will show at least 3 practices are met with the targeted species and include other practices for the secondary species.
11. Supplemental Food: If your plan includes food plots, you must list a warm and a cool season crop. Feeders must contain nutritious supplements, especially during the stressful times of the year. To meet the annual reporting requirements, only providing copies of receipts showing the purchase of deer corn is not proof of supplemental feeding and does not distinguish your wildlife management program from a hunting lease. Providing only copies of feed receipts dated during the

- hunting season does not prove a year-round management program under this category either. Deer corn is not a supplemental food for wildlife management.
12. Habitat Control: Coleman County has consistently been under burn barns causing some property managers not to be able to meet their goal of prescribed burns to fulfill the requirements for habitat control. When submitting the annual report, simply stating that you have not met this requirement because of a law does not exempt you in this category. You must make the effort to find another method of habitat control. Other methods are mechanical and chemical. A cattle-grazing rotation plan may be a good substitute.
 13. Predator Control: This category must be compatible with your targeted species and must be a real concern. Simply seeing a single predator does not necessarily mean you have a predation problem. For instance, if you have only seen one fox on your property, then chances are that fox is not a real predation problem for your habitat. Checking all predators on the application and/or stating you will monitor these predators is not encouraged. We highly encourage working with a professional in determining if predation is a problem for your native species. You must keep predator control logs and provide copies when submitting your annual report. Please do not submit pictures of predator kills as proof!
 14. Supplemental Water: An existing stock pond, river, or natural waterway on your property is not providing supplemental water. Providing a different source of water is required for qualification. Building a stock pond does qualify if it is important to your plan. Repairing a stock pond is handled under erosion control.
 15. Census: Depending on the method used, a census usually contains a minimum of three dates. Listing only 3 dates just before deer season is a sign of a very weak plan. A better plan not only includes census counts of the targeted species, but those of other species including predators. **A harvest log is not the same as a census log.** A harvest log is used to prove a management goal, not a census goal. Game cameras: If you use game cameras for conducting your census, then you need to compile a report of your findings. **Do not send in pictures from your cameras to prove this category.** We do not have the staff or time to go through hundreds of pictures. It is up to you to determine your census counts for this category.
 16. Don't forget to sign and date your applications!

When getting ready to submit your plan or annual report, be sure to note the following:

1. Your plan and annual report must be submitted on the form that is found on the Texas Parks and Wildlife website. For a new plan, you must also include a new 1-d-1 agricultural application which can be found on our website or obtained through this office. No need to file a new 1-d-1 agricultural application with your annual report. The wildlife management plan form does not contain enough room to give the details we need to approve your plan, so attaching additional information is highly encouraged. A map of the property showing the locations of certain parts of your management areas, such as food plots, feeders, shelters, brush control areas, etc. is highly recommended. If you wish to send pictures, you may print them on plain paper and print more than one to a page. Please date and label them so that we know what it is you want us to see and to know about your habitat.
2. Please do not put your plans and future reports in a binder or book. It will save you money and will make it easier for us to scan your documents if the pages are not

bound. It will also not take up valuable filing space. If your documents are bound, they will still be accepted, just not processed as quickly.

3. You may submit the completed applications, plans or reports electronically. We only accept them if they are in a single pdf file. You will need to attach the file and email Eva Bush at ebush@colemancad.net. It is your responsibility to follow-up to see that she has received your file, especially if she has not responded to your email request within 3 business days. If the email has not been received by this office before the deadline, the property will be subjected to a late ag filing penalty.
4. Please be aware that the appraisal district is required to see all property at least once every 3 years. If you have a wildlife management plan, we have been advised to inspect the property yearly. We do not have the staff to always make appointments and inspect your property every year, so we rely heavily on the annual reports to justify the properties receiving this special appraisal. For those who have locked gates, we ask for your cooperation when one of the appraisers from this office contacts you for a property inspection.
5. Your plan and future annual reports are due in this office on or before April 30. A few of you have voiced concerns about receiving certified mail from this office regarding the removal of the agricultural use and receiving appraisal notices showing no agricultural use, even though you have been meeting the April 30th deadline. Appraisal districts are on a tight schedule to mail appraisal notices as close to May 1 as possible. In order to meet this deadline, we must remove the agricultural value from all accounts in which there has been no receipt of documentation and send letters notifying the property owners of this fact beginning about April 1. All agricultural applications and wildlife management plans and reports are still due by April 30, but we can't meet the notification requirements if we wait until this date. This process is frustrating to this office too but is a necessary process. To avoid getting caught up in this cycle, it is highly recommended that you set a **personal deadline of March 1**. This way we have time to go over your plan/report in a timely manner, avoid certified removal letters, and you can get us out of the way before your federal income tax deadline.
6. All appraisal districts operate under the Texas Property Tax Code and have the same laws regarding wildlife management. Each county in the state of Texas is assigned to one of seven ecoregions. Each ecoregion has a separate set of guidelines for qualifying for wildlife management. Each county has adopted their own agricultural policies, especially with regard to tract sizes. If your property is in a different county, you will need to contact that appraisal district and request their guidelines before developing your plan.

If you have any other questions, please feel free to contact this office at 325-625-4155 or you may email Eva Bush at ebush@colemancad.net. During the months of January through April, the best time to contact her is between 8:00-9:00 a.m. Monday through Friday.