



Rekindling Ecosystem Interactions

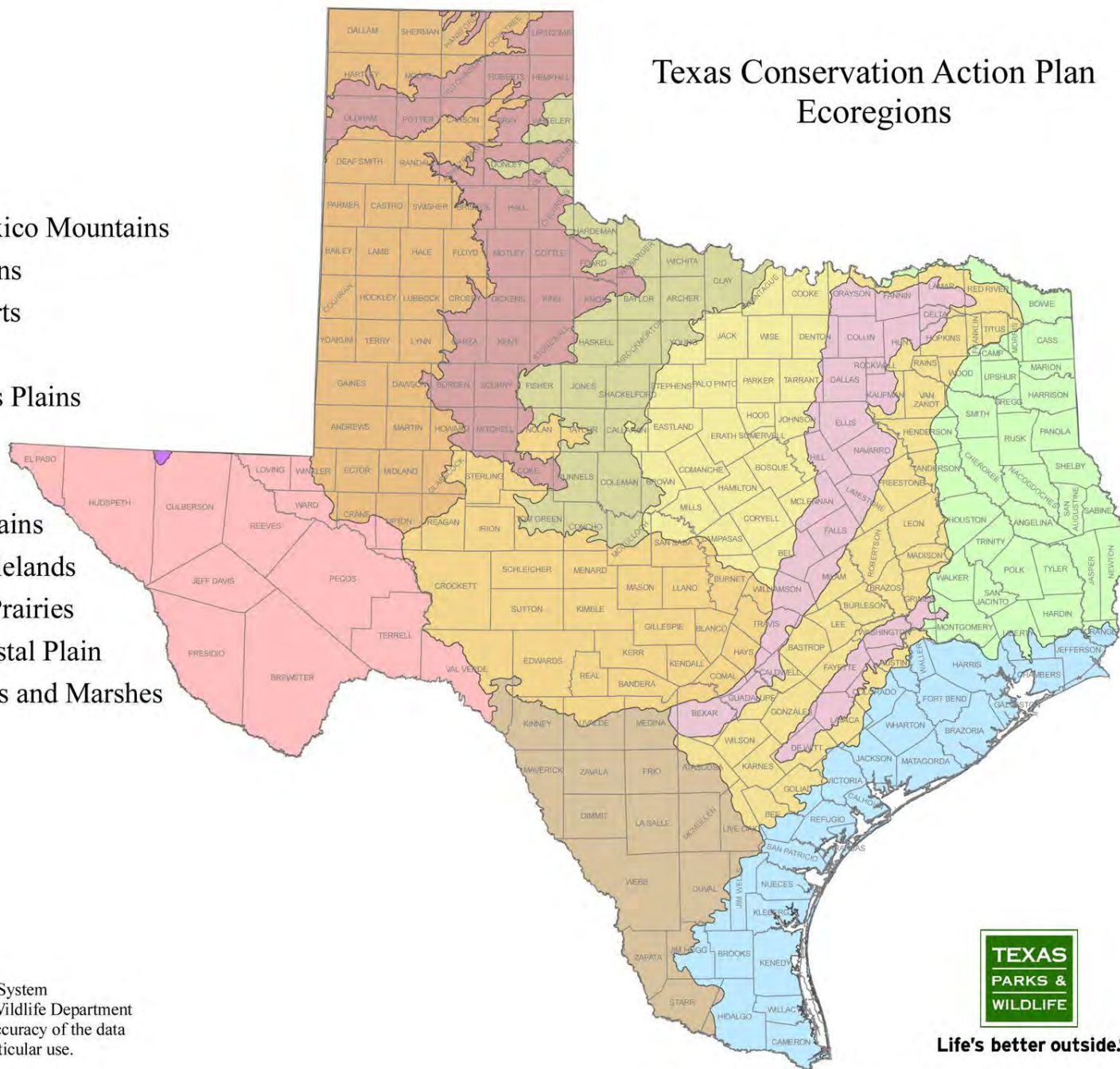
Patch Burn Grazing in the Texas Blackland Prairie

Tim Siegmund, TPWD Private Lands Program Leader



Texas Conservation Action Plan Ecoregions

-  Arizona/New Mexico Mountains
-  Central Great Plains
-  Chihuahuan Deserts
-  Cross Timbers
-  East Central Texas Plains
-  Edwards Plateau
-  High Plains
-  Southern Texas Plains
-  Southwestern Tablelands
-  Texas Blackland Prairies
-  Western Gulf Coastal Plain
-  Gulf Coast Prairies and Marshes



20 May 2011

Projection: Texas Statewide Mapping System

Map compiled by the Texas Parks & Wildlife Department

GIS Lab. No claims are made to the accuracy of the data

or to the suitability of the data to a particular use.



Life's better outside.®

John Brooke, English Immigrant

- 1848: Grayson County near the northern edge of the Blackland Prairie, he wrote: "I can sit on my porch before my door and see miles of the most beautiful Prairie interwoven with groves of timber, surpassing, in my idea, the beauties of the sea. Think of seeing a tract of land on a slight incline covered with flowers and rich meadow grass for 12 to 20 miles."

Fredrick Law Olmsted

Later the Father of Landscape Architecture and Designer of Central Park, NY

- Jan 3rd, 1856: East of Centreville, Leon County
- “During the first part of the day we went over small, level, wet prairies, irregularly skirted by heavy timber, with occasional isolated clumps and scattered bushes. Most of the prairies have been burned over. Both yesterday and today we have been surrounded by the glare of fires at night. The grass is coarse and reedy, and exceedingly dry.....We shot a few quails, which are very common, and saw, several times, turkeys and wild geese.”
- Mid-January 1856, Across the Brazos, near modern-day Brazos/Robertson County Line
- “Near the Navasoto (Navasota) we rejoined the regular San Antonio road, and came out upon large open prairies with long and heavy skirts of timber, and this description applies to the whole region as far as the Coloardo, the prairies, as you proceed westward, growing more and more extensive, and the proportion of wooded land smaller.”

Early February 1856 traveling from Seguin to Gonzales:

Today, the genial sun warmed the fresh moistened soil, and three or four more species opened into bloom. After this hardly a day passed without some addition, and very soon it was impossible to welcome each new-comer; the whole prairies became radiant and delicious. The beauty of the spring-prairies has never been and never will be expressed. It is inexpressible.

A quick flush spread over all; the bosom of old Mother Earth seemed to swell with life. In another day the elm buds were green and bursting, and the wild plum in fragrant blossom; the dreary, burnt prairies, from repulsive black, changed at once to a vivid green, like that of a young wheat. The cheering effect I leave to be imagined. The herds all left the dry sedge, and flocked to the new pastures. The unburnt districts, covered with the thick mat of last year's growth, were a month behind.























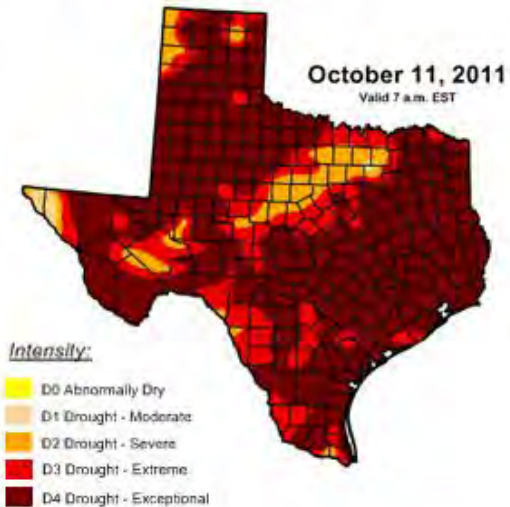


Historic Drivers

- Drought
- Grazing
- Fire

U.S. Drought Monitor

Texas



The Drought Monitor focuses on broad-scale conditions. Local conditions may vary. See accompanying text summary for forecast statements.

<http://droughtmonitor.unl.edu>



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02/19/2015 16:08

Jay Whiteside



Patch Burn Grazing



What is the Goal?



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