

Midland College Wagon Wheel Ranch Range & Brush Management Education Area

One problem facing landowners today is how to manage brush cost effectively on their property. To answer some of these questions and demonstrate to landowners the management options available, a demonstration area is being proposed. This project will allow landowners and professionals to view several practices in one location over an extended period of time. This level of opportunity currently does not exist in West Texas. Additionally, Many ranchers today are concerned not only with the effects practices have on livestock production but also effects on wildlife habitat, as this has become an important part of their annual income.

Midland College has offered a portion of their property (Holiman Wagon Wheel Ranch) for this important demonstration project. The ranch has an excellent educational facility that will increase the opportunity to hold workshops, field days and seminars. It is our hope that this project will be a center for rangeland management education for many years. By putting several management practices in one location, landowners will be able to evaluate the cost, effectiveness, and longevity of each treatment.

All included treatments will be mutually agreed upon by the steering committee designated below. Current management practices being considered for the first year of this project include:

- Aerial application of Spike 20P[®] on tarbush
- Individual plant treatments with herbicides on mesquite and pricklypear
- Land Ripping
- Prescribed Burning
- Mechanical grubbing of mesquite
- Land reclamation with the Lawson Aerator[®]
- Native plant re-seeding may be used on portions of these treatments
- Control area with no treatment

Approximately 50 acres will be fenced off as a grazing enclosure for the treatment area. This area is along the north fenceline of the property and within walking distance of the educational building. Within the enclosure, each practice will be implemented on a small tract. Signs will be placed at each treatment providing information on when and how it was done and cost per/acre for landowners to evaluate. Most practices will extend outside the fenced area to compare livestock usage. Treatment areas will vary in size depending on the practice but generally be 5-20 acres including area both inside and outside the enclosure.

A steering committee of private and professional resource managers will oversee the implementation and development of this project in addition to the educational activities that follow. All educational events will be coordinated with the ranch manager. This group will be made up of the following individuals.

Midland College Wagon Wheel Ranch
Cleo Savage

Manager of the Holiman Ranch
Members of the Ranch Advisory Board
Local ranchers

Texas Parks and Wildlife

Philip Dickerson
Private Lands Wildlife Biologist - Midland
Calvin Richardson
Technical Guidance Biologist - Midland

Texas Agricultural Extension Service

Dr. Charles Hart
Range Specialist - Fort Stockton
Sam Field
Midland County Extension Agent-Ag
Raymond Quigg
Upton County Extension Agent-Ag

USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service

Charles Anderson
Range Management Specialist -San Angelo
Ray Schimcek
District Conservationist - Midland
Gary Askins
District Conservationist - Big Lake