



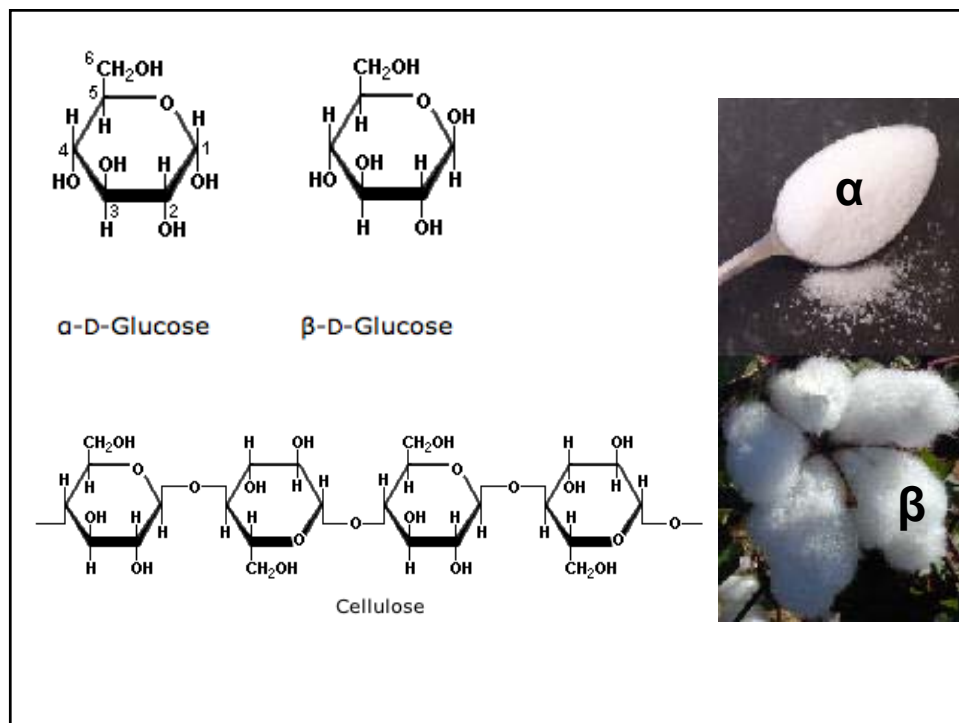
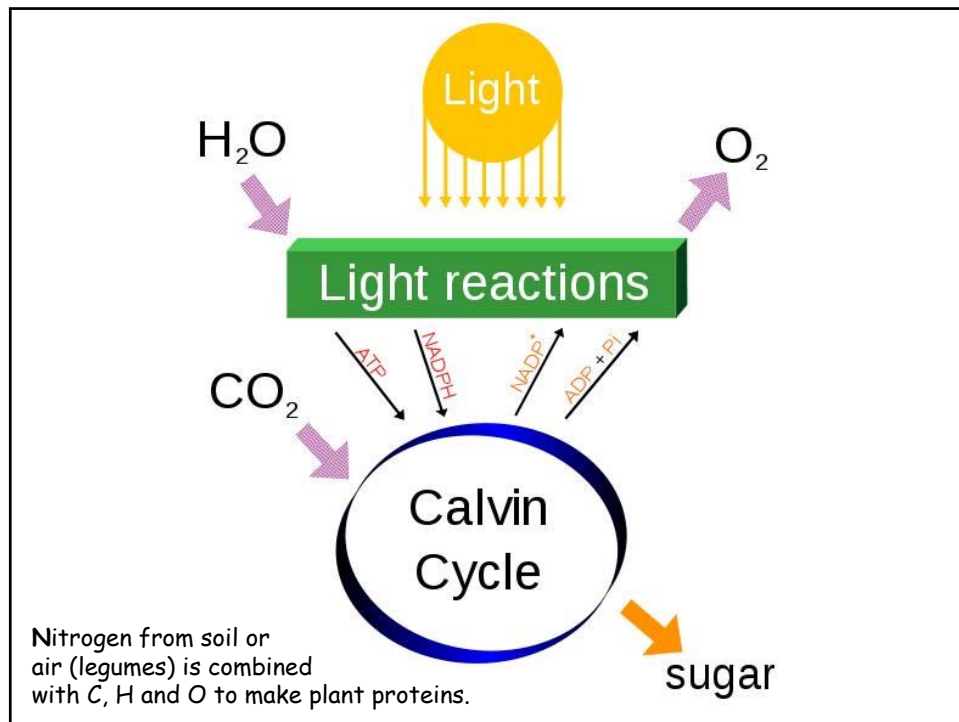
Bennett Trust Resource Stewardship April 14-15, 2016



“Man – despite his artistic pretensions, his sophistication, and his many accomplishments – owes his existence to a six inch layer of topsoil and the fact that it rains.”

Unknown





A step back in time...

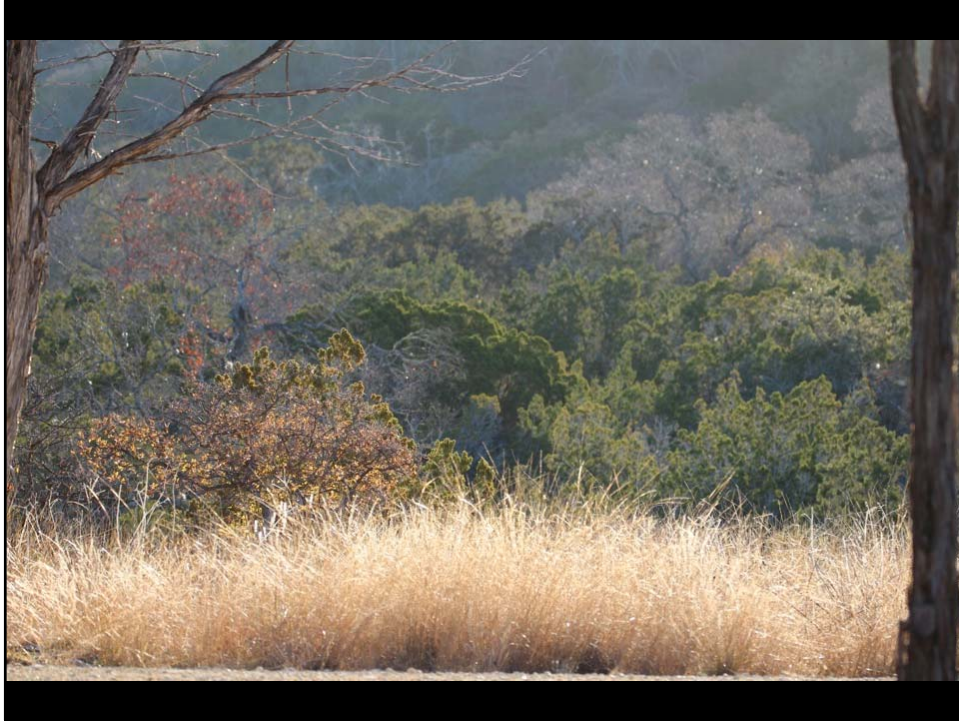


Pristine landscapes

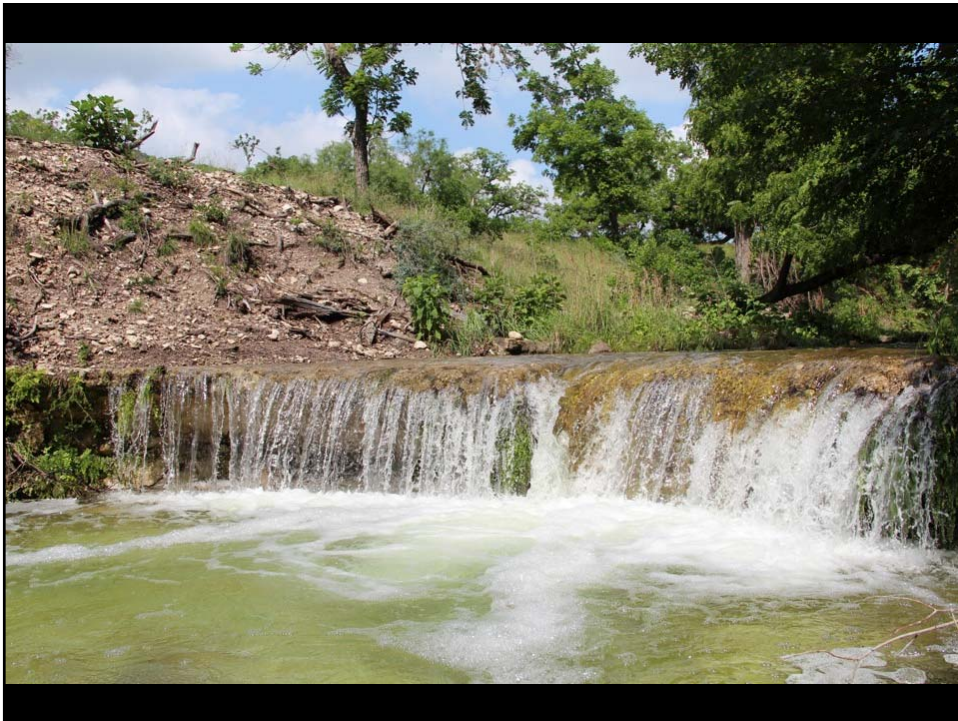


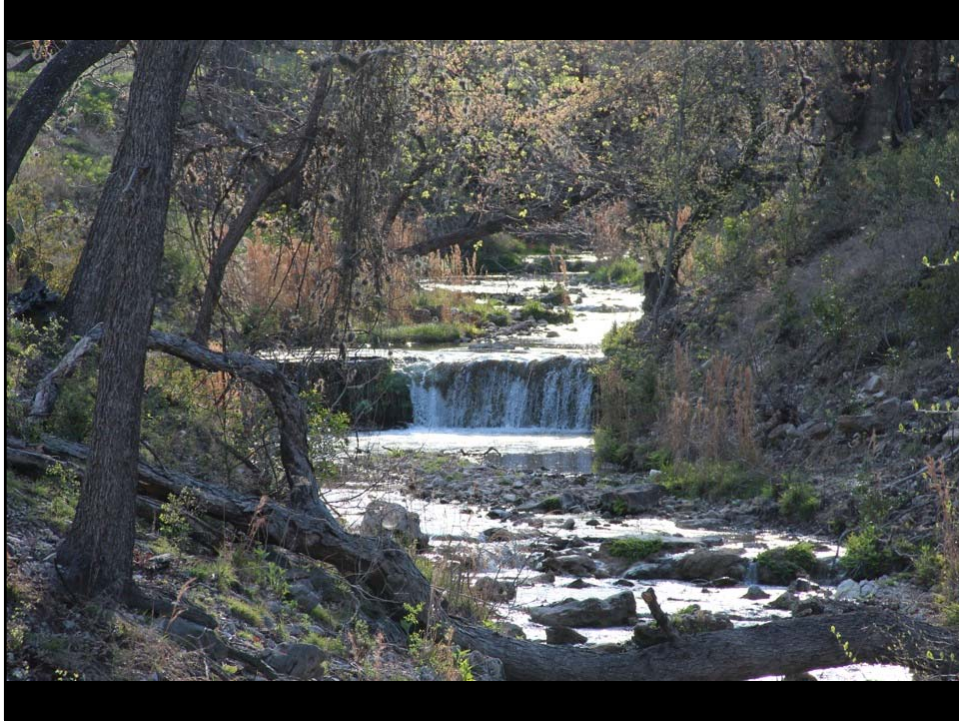






Stewardship of the Edwards Plateau...









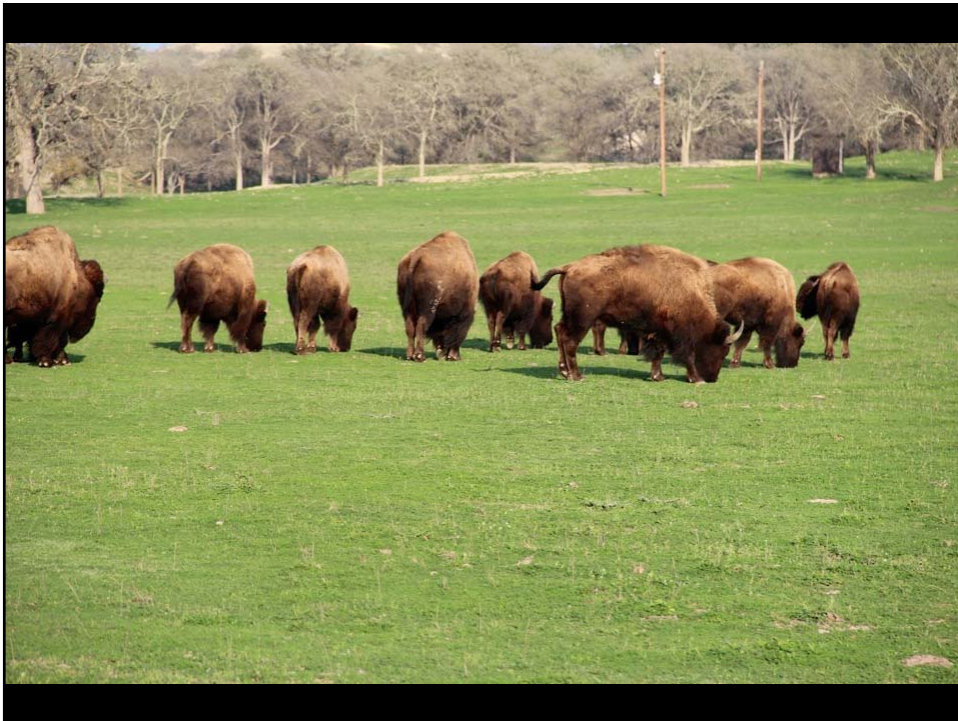
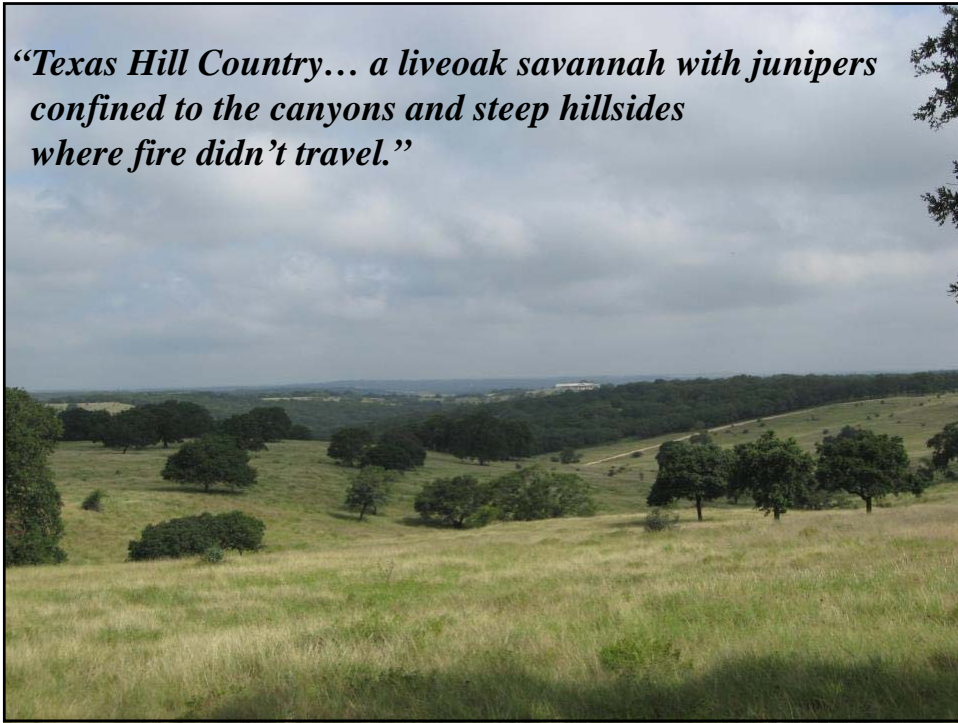
1-d-1 Open Space Valuation

‘Complimentary’ soil aeration





*“Texas Hill Country... a liveoak savannah with junipers
confined to the canyons and steep hillsides
where fire didn’t travel.”*

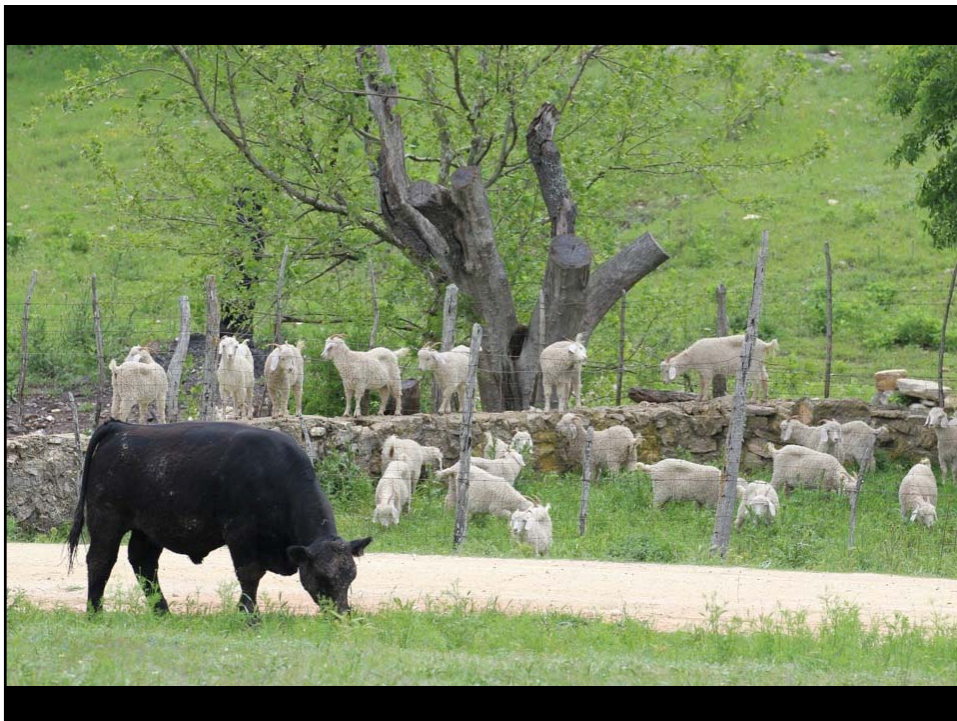




Bastrop, Sept. 2011

Grazing is an original (natural) fuel management tool.

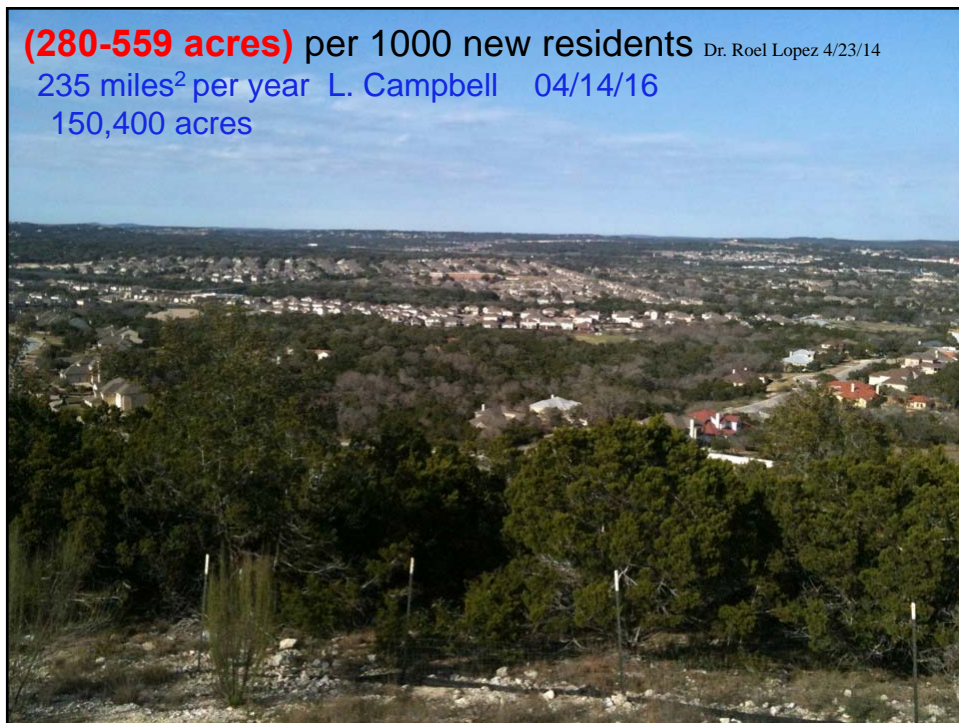
...then man controlled fire, built fences, brought livestock, eradicated the screwworm, pressured predators and imported numerous 'exotic' grazers and browsers...











Game changers...

- Inhabitation by humans
- Fencing
- Public policy
- Control of wildfire
- Eradication of the screwworm
- Wildlife sprawl
- Urban sprawl



If “pristine” involves a landscape image more than 30 years old, you *likely* (time and/or money) can’t return there.



Our challenge as stewards
is to manage the pressure
being applied to
natural resources.





Animal

Plant



Forage Demand

Animal Management

Wildlife-Livestock Coexist?



**Can we agree
that livestock and wildlife share resources?**



When we consider “blending” domestic herbivores *with* wild herbivores, what is most likely the **limiting resource**?



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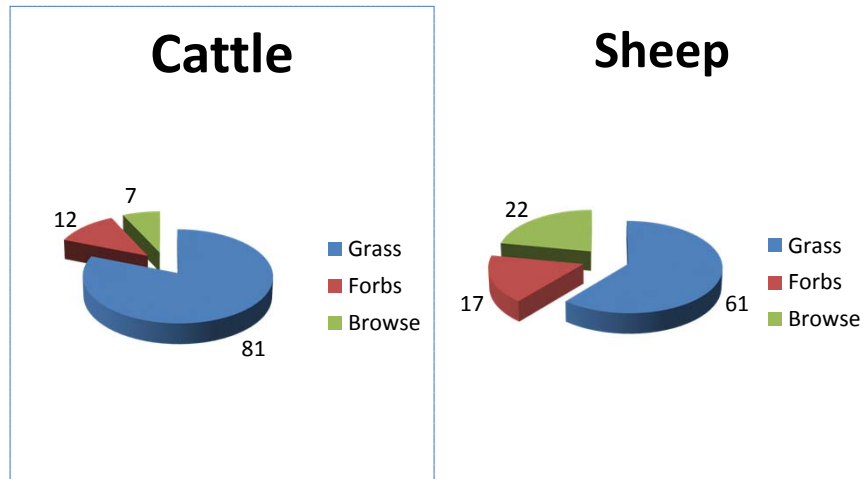




What story is being told?

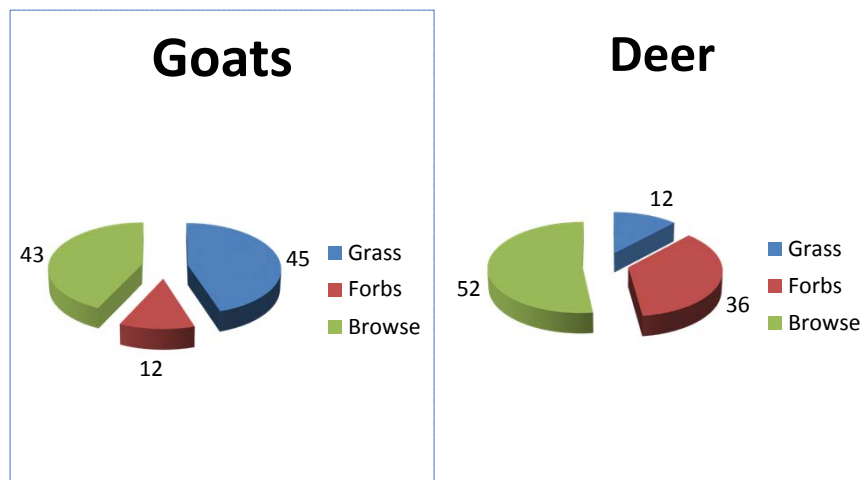


Annual Diet Composition, %

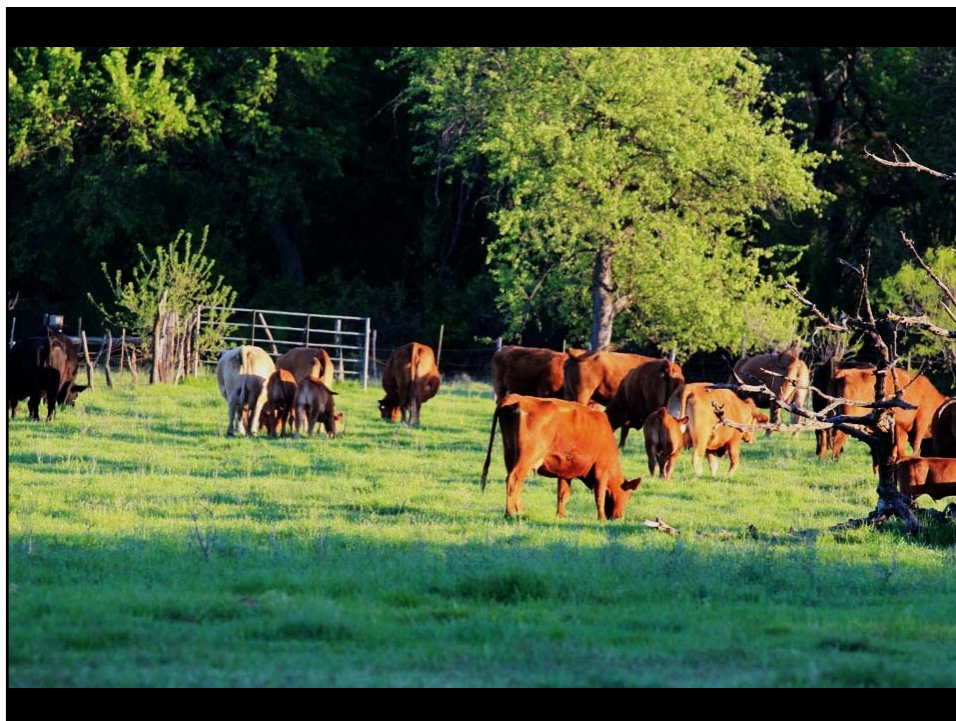
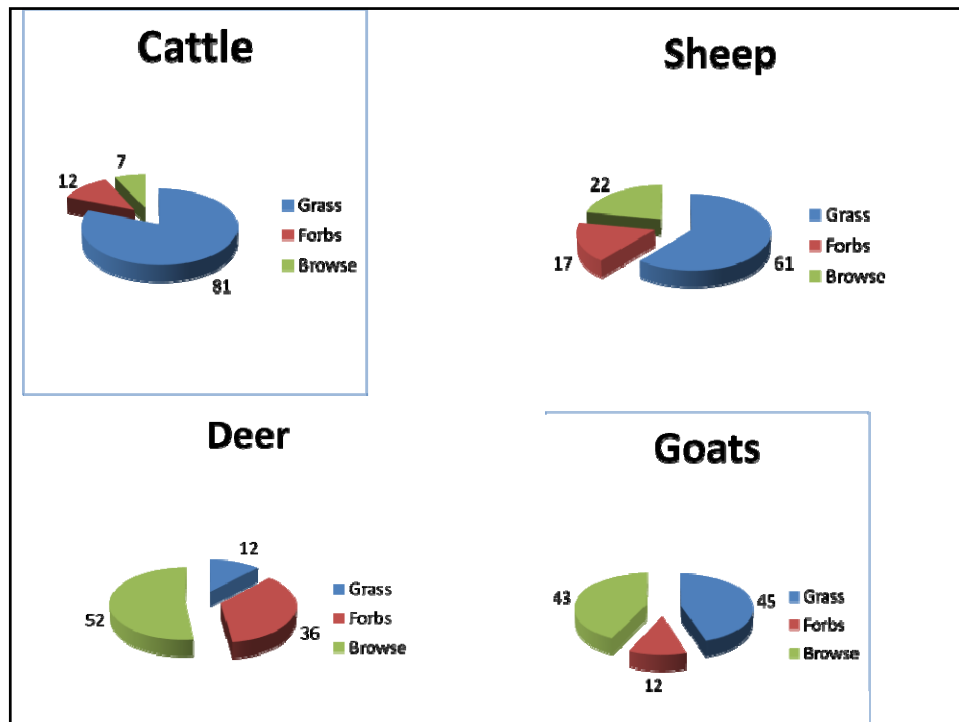


from *What Range Herbivores Eat and Why*, Lyons et al., B-6037

Annual Diet Composition, %



from *What Range Herbivores Eat and Why*, Lyons et al., B-6037

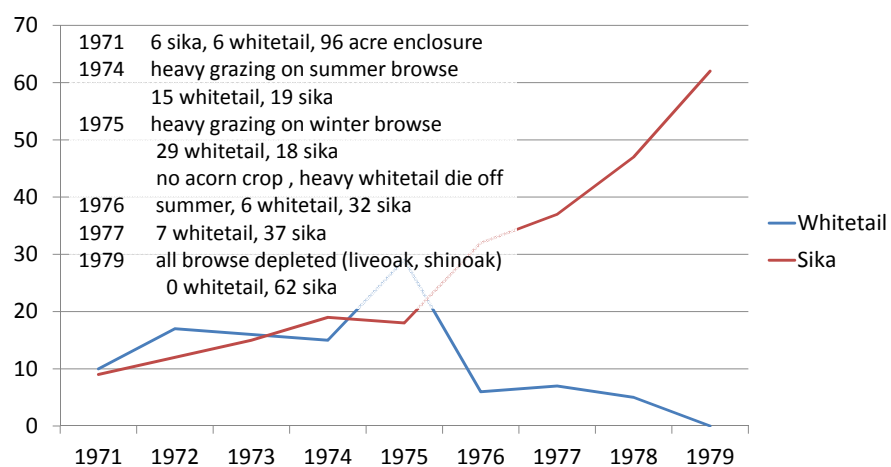






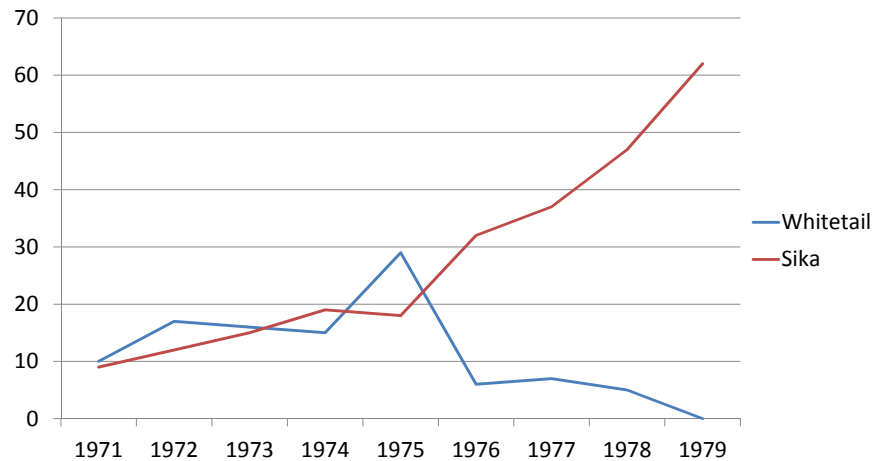
W. Armstrong, TPWD, 1984

Population Dynamics – Whitetail & Sika



W. Armstrong, TPWD, 1984

Population Dynamics – Whitetail & Sika

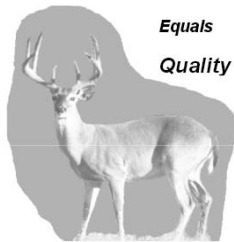


White-tailed Deer Management in the Texas Hill Country

W. E. Armstrong and E. L. Young
Texas Parks and Wildlife

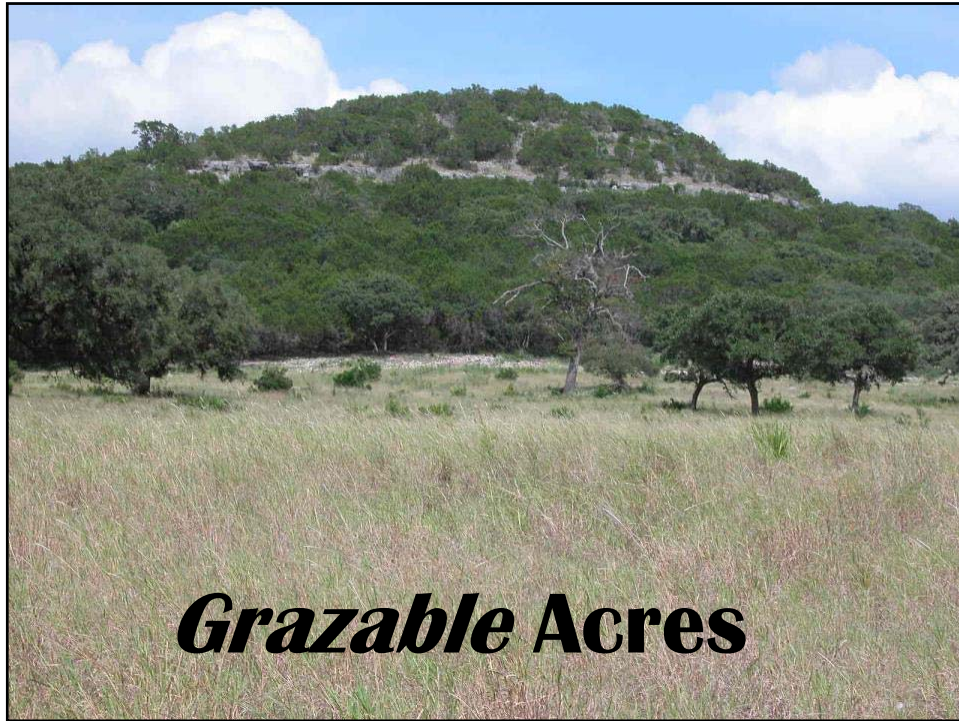
Improved Habitat + Selective Harvest

*Equals
Quality Deer*



Bill Armstrong
Donnie Harmel
Kerr WMA

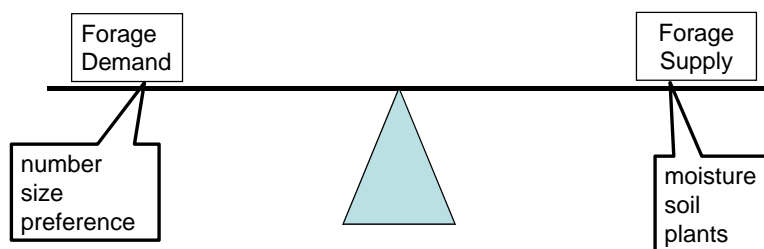
http://www.tpwd.state.tx.us/publications/pwdpubs/media/pwd_rp_w7000_0828.pdf







A balancing challenge

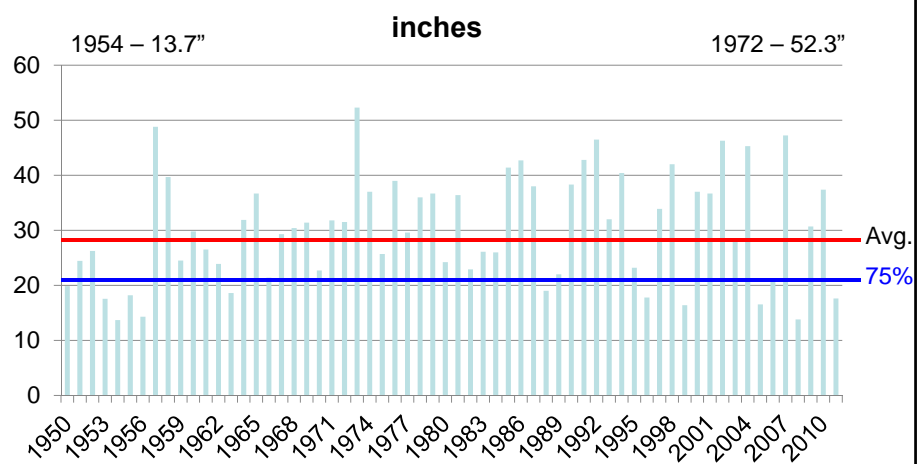


**So where do we focus
our management efforts?**



Primary determinant of forage growth?

Annual Rainfall, 1950-2011



San Antonio

**Suggestion:
Stock at 75% of carrying capacity**



What are the resources telling us?

Indicators of Excess Pressure

Use all the indicators
that are available.

- soil & water
- plant
- animal

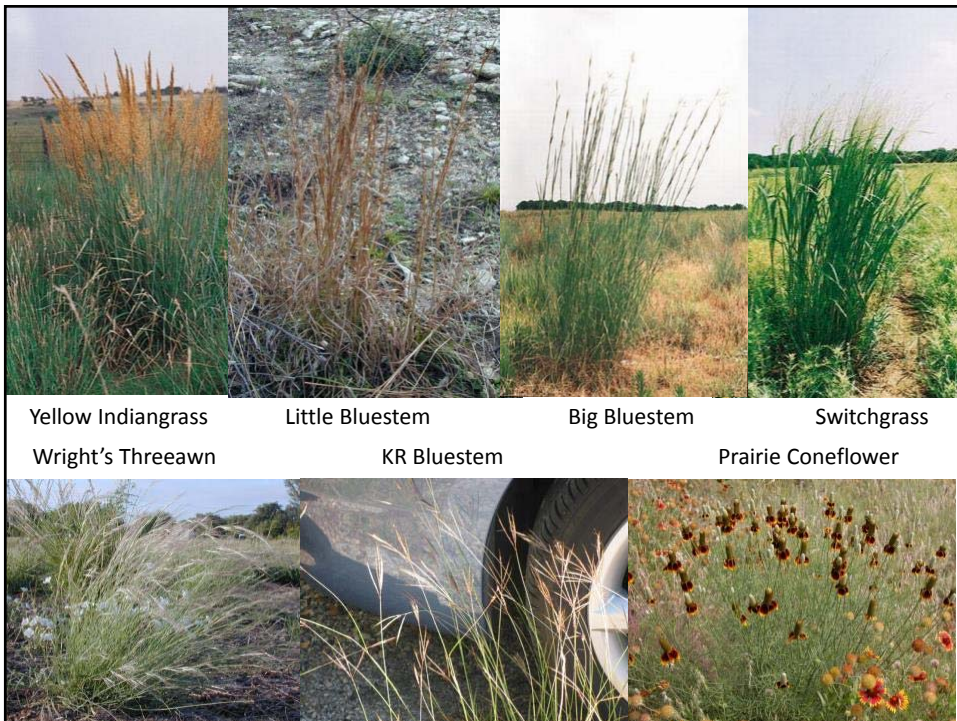




Litter dams – NOT a good sign



Where rocks have a purpose





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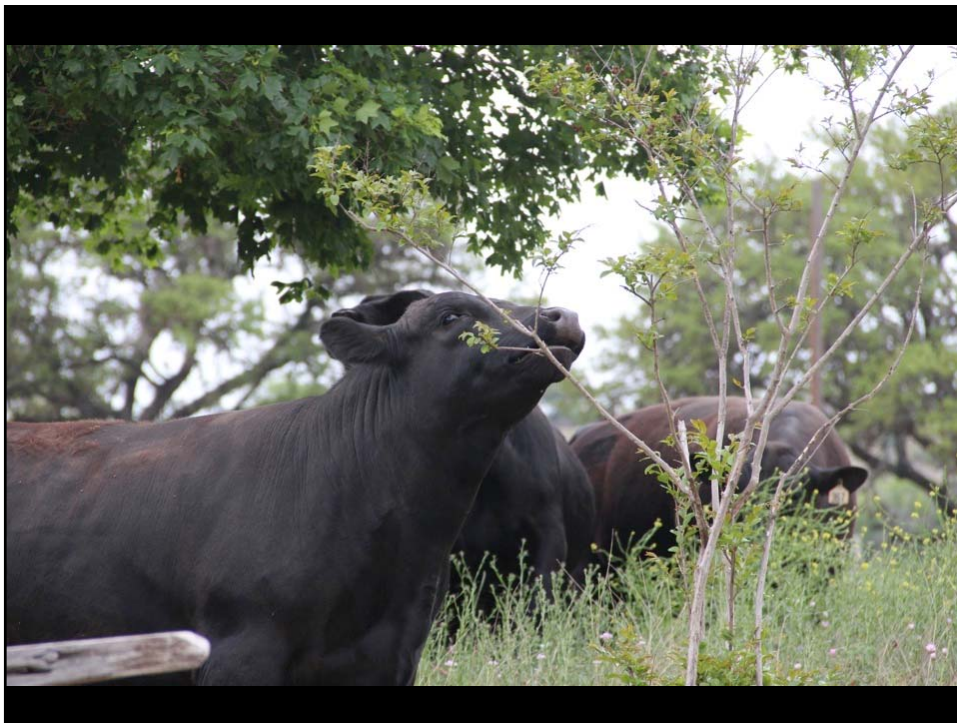




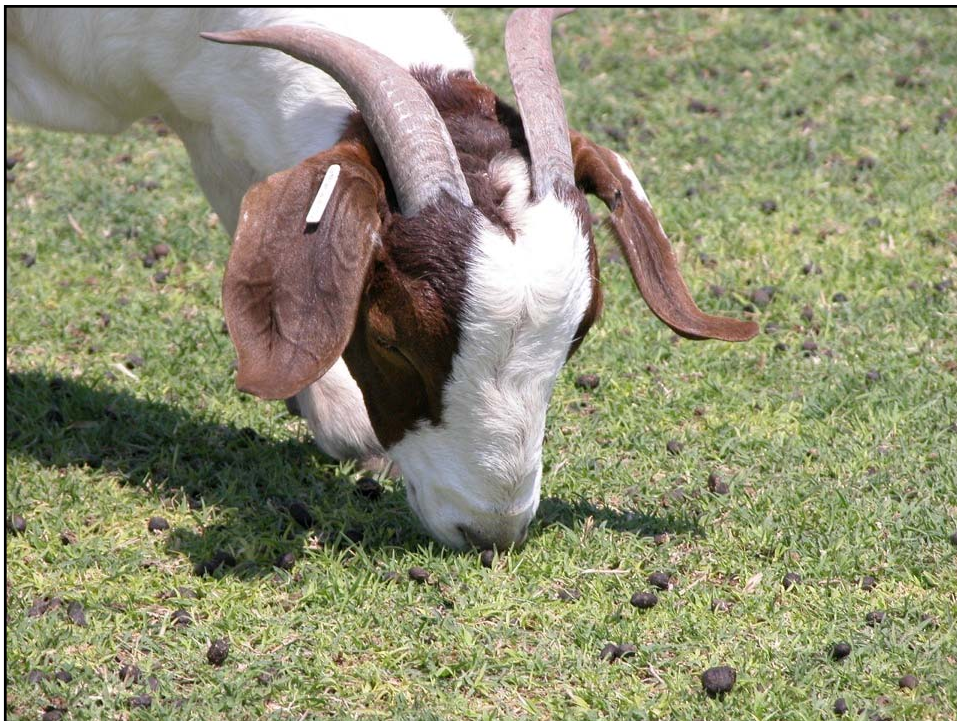
well established browse line, lesser quality plants











Domestic & Wild... Coexist?

- Livestock can be compatible with wildlife
- *Sustainability* determined by
 - Composition of the plant community
 - Grasses, browse and forbs
 - Species mix
 - ✓ Deer and cattle
 - ✓ Quail and cattle
 - X Deer and goats
 - X Deer and deer



Own livestock?

Sell forage?



Why consider leasing?

- **Lessor/landowner**

Opportunity to utilize land assets
Opportunity to retain ownership of land assets
.....without investing in livestock

- **Lessee**

Opportunity to access land assets without purchase
Opportunity to enter cattle business or expand current business
.....without additional land investment

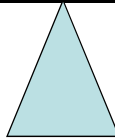
Primary consideration

Lease arrangement must be fair to lessor and to lessee

Pressure Management A Balancing Challenge

Resource
Availability

Resource
Demand



Ultimate Goals

Be Good Stewards of the land, water and stock
Conserve/Enhance the Natural Resources
Enjoy a ***Texas*** lifestyle
Grow/teach the next generation of resource managers



Millennial's Questions *about food*

- Who raised it?
- How was it treated?
- Where did it come from?
- Environmental impact?
- Is it sustainable?
- *Does it contain GMOs?*
- *What about gluten?*
- *Transparency?*







**Transparency
Honesty**



**Bamberger Ranch
East Foundation
Behind the Gates
Witte Museum
Bush Library
Texas Wildlife Association
Brigades Camps
Texas Farm Bureau
Ag in the Classroom
Texas Beef Council
HEB and others...**

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Jason Peeler
Floresville, Texas



Generation Z



**Millennial's
children
are forming
their opinions
on food...
right now.**





We can *never* invest too much time in those who are coming behind



“Man – despite his artistic pretensions, his sophistication, and his many accomplishments – owes his existence to a six inch layer of topsoil and the fact that it rains.”

Unknown



Show and tell your story of
stewardship and stockmanship
as often as you have opportunity.



