



A publication of the Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation.



## Landowner Assistance for Conserving Prairie Wildlife

By Larry Weimers, ODWC grassland species at risk coordinator

Declining short and mixed grass habitats have resulted in declines in several of Oklahoma's prairie-oriented wildlife species. Black-tailed prairie dog, mountain plover, burrowing owl, swift fox, ferruginous hawk and lesser prairie chicken are classified as species of concern with some even mentioned for listing under the Endangered Species Act. Western and northwestern Oklahoma landowners with short and mixed grass habitats that wish to assist these species can get financial assistance for various conservation projects through a new Department of Wildlife program.

The Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation (ODWC) has initiated the Landowner Incentive Program (LIP) for landowners who manage for at-risk prairie species.

The purpose of LIP is to further the maintenance, protection, enhancement, and restoration of fish and wildlife habitats and associated species on private lands. If approved, the ODWC will provide landowners with materials, technical support, and financial assistance for completing fish and/or wildlife habitat conservation and improvement projects. Efforts will be targeted to management practices outlined within the Oklahoma Short and Mixed Grass Prairie Management Plan.

LIP is made possible through a \$1.495 million dollar grant from the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The framework for the cost-share grant involves a 75 percent federal / 25 percent non-federal matching grant and should be finalized soon.

Once finalized, LIP will have an application acceptance period, and each eligible applicant will have an on-site habitat evaluation completed by a Department biologist. This habitat evaluation will take into consideration many different aspects. Evaluation criteria will include the percentage and size of short grass prairie vegetation present, the presence of



**Burrowing Owl**

prairie dogs and other species of special concern and the per-acre dollar amount needed by the landowner to enhance, restore, expand, and maintain these habitats. From this site evaluation, a relative ranking of all the applications will be used to competitively select landowners to be offered a Landowner Conservation Agreement.

Landowner Rights	3
Protecting Your Pond	4
Pond Dam Maintenance	5
Playa Lakes Initiative	7

*LIP continued on pg 2*

## Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation Mission

**Statement:** Managing Oklahoma's wildlife resources and habitat to provide scientific, educational, aesthetic, economic and recreational benefits for present and future generations of hunters, anglers and others who appreciate wildlife.

### ODWC Landowner Assistance Programs:

#### Wildlife Habitat Improvement Program(WHIP); Technical Assistance Program

Russ Horton: 405/202-5901

John Hendrix: 405/880-0994

Mike Sams: 405/590-2584

Dick Hoar: 918/744-1039

#### Deer Management Assistance Program (DMAP)

Wildlife Division: 405/521-2739

#### Oklahoma Wildscapes Certification Program

Melynda Hickman: 405/424-0099

#### Farm Pond Technical Assistance; Farm Pond Fish Stocking Program

NW Region-John Stahl: 580/474-2668

SW Region-Larry Cofer: 580/529-2795

NE Region-Jim Burroughs: 918/683-1031

SE Region-Paul Balkenbush: 580/924  
4087

Central-Garland Wright: 405/379-5408

Southcentral-Paul Mauck: 580/924-4087

#### ODWC Contacts

Wildlife Division: 405/521-2739

Natural Resources: 405/521-4616

Fisheries Division: 405/521-3721

Law Enforcement: 405/521-3719

Operation Game Thief: 1-800-522-8039

Information & Education: 405/521-3855

License Section: 405/521-3852

Instant Licenses: 1-800-223-3333

Web site: [www.wildlifedepartment.com](http://www.wildlifedepartment.com)

*Your Side of the Fence* is published three times a year for those enrolled in the ODWC's landowner assistance programs. Articles may be reprinted with permission from the editors:

Blake Podhajsky

PO Box 53465

OKC, OK 73152

[bpodhajsky@odwc.state.ok.us](mailto:bpodhajsky@odwc.state.ok.us)

405/521-4633

or

John Hendrix

100 USDA, Suite 203

Stillwater, OK 74074

[jhendrix@onenet.net](mailto:jhendrix@onenet.net)

405/880-0994.

# Landowner Assistance Program

*continued from front page*

The conservation agreement is an agreement between the Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation and the individual landowner covering a period of 10 years. Termination of an agreement would be accomplished by giving the other party 30 days written notice. As in any agreement, there are requirements and responsibilities that each party must meet. ODWC's responsibilities include providing technical assistance, administering financial reimbursement and, if possible, helping the landowner gain further assistance through similar conservation programs from other resource agencies and organizations.

Within the conservation agreement, the landowner agrees to forego the control of black-tailed prairie dogs on their property, and cannot plow, disk, or otherwise alter the habitat covered in the agreement. However, the agreement does not restrict the landowner from grazing livestock, nor does it interfere with the landowner's right to control access to the property. A landowner's in-kind contributions (i.e. fencing materials and labor) may serve as part of the 25-percent non-federal match to the federal LIP grant. Other sources of non-federal matching monies may come from direct financial contributions as well as in-kind contributions from the Department, other state and county agencies, foundations, and non-government organizations.

Landowners who wish to apply for the Landowner Incentive Program, or to gain additional information may contact Larry Wiemers-Oklahoma Department of

The ODWC is coordinating landowner workshops to offer technical assistance for managing short grass rangelands for declining wildlife species. In addition, the ODWC hopes to coordinate future workshops in the following communities: Beaver, Sayre, Lawton, Woodward, Arnett, Cheyenne, Waurika, Buffalo, Frederick, and Lindsay.

Wildlife Conservation at P.O. Box 53465, Oklahoma City, OK 73152, or call (405) 424-0096.

A series of landowner workshops across western Oklahoma will be scheduled to introduce the Landowner Incentive Program. In addition to explaining the provisions of LIP, the workshops will offer technical assistance for managing short grass rangelands for declining wildlife species.

In addition, the ODWC hopes to coordinate future workshop dates, times and locations in several communities.



Landowners who wish to assist species such as the black-tailed prairie dog (pictured) can get assistance for various conservation projects through the Landowner Incentive Program.

# Landowner Rights

## Addressing Hunting and Fishing Issues On Your Land

By District 1 Law Enforcement Chief Larry Manering

Throughout Oklahoma's hunting and fishing history, sportsmen have enjoyed a great relationship with landowners. As a landowner, you provide 95 percent of the hunting and fishing opportunities for sportsmen. To protect that relationship and to promote continuing opportunities for hunting and fishing, our state legislators passed laws that protect landowner's rights. According to state law, persons who want to hunt and fish on private property are required to obtain permission from the landowner, lessee or occupant of that land. This law is designed to give you, the landowner, the right to say who can or cannot hunt and fish on your property. The following information deals with all the aspects of this law, its requirements of you, and the exemptions that are in place.

In Title 29 of the Oklahoma Statutes, it states that no person may hunt or fish upon the land of another without consent of the landowner, lessee or occupant of such land. Title 29 also states that trespassing on lands which are fenced and posted at all entrances is hereby prohibited. "Having consent" means that you give permission to do a specific act on your property, such as hunt or fish. By giving your consent, you do not remove the responsibility of the person to follow the wildlife laws or any specific stipulations you might require. There are however, some exemptions to these laws. According to Title 29, a person does not have to obtain permission to hunt or fish on lands not occupied by a resident, unless the owner or his agent conspicuously posts notice of objection upon the premises. This also exempts the person from needing permission to hunt or fish on lands of the State, which are not leased and occupied by a resident.

To make this simple to understand, Title 29 requires that hunters and anglers ask for permission before engaging in that activity if the land is resided upon or conspicuously posted. To hunt or fish without proper consent is to violate the state laws of Title 29. But if the land is not resided upon or conspicuously posted then no permission is required. Now the question comes, "If my land is posted or resided upon and there is somebody hunting and fishing on my land without permission, who enforces these laws?"

Title 29 states that game wardens have the power to make a complaint and cause



Landowners provide 95 percent of hunting and fishing opportunities for outdoor enthusiasts.

proceedings to be commenced against any person for violating any of the laws for the protection and propagation of wildlife. Furthermore, the law clearly states that wardens investigating hunters and fishermen in the field have the duty to inform persons hunting and fishing that it is necessary to obtain the landowner's or occupier's consent to hunt or fish on that piece of property. Clearly our state law gives game wardens the responsibility for advising and dealing with hunters and fishermen on private property. What they cannot do is make those people leave private property when the hunters or fishermen do not have permission.

If you or someone lives on the property, then permission to hunt or fish is required and you do not have to have your property posted. If your land is not resided upon, then for a complaint of hunting or fishing without permission to be filed, certain requirements must be met. First, the land must be conspicuously posted on the premises. This means that you have some kind of sign up along your property line that would let people know that you prohibit hunting or fishing. Language on that sign can vary from "posted," to "no trespassing," to "hunting and fishing with permission only." I would recommend that signs be of sufficient size so they can be read from the road and that they be posted on corners, at intervals along the property line and at all entrances. Now your next question might be, "If my property is not lived on and it is not "posted," can people hunt and fish without hav-

ing permission?" Yes they can. The law leaves it up to you to decide whether you want to post the property.

If you find yourself in a situation where you have hunters or fishermen on your property without permission, what should you do? You have several options. First you can always ask them to leave which usually will resolve the problem. Or if circumstances dictate that you want to file charges against these people, you have two options.

You can make a complaint in writing to your District Attorney's office. The District Attorney or one of his assistants can file the charges against the trespassers. Or you can make a complaint in writing to a game warden, who can file charges against the person or persons violating the law. Game wardens that are called about this violation usually will ask you if someone observed the people hunting or fishing. If the persons are still there, the warden will ask if you want to sign a complaint and prosecute the people for hunting or fishing without permission. Usually, the warden will also ask questions about the details of what happened and what you saw. This lets the warden know if there are other violations he will need to

deal with when he arrives. Normally you will be required to sign the citation and will have to testify in court should it go to trial. If you just want the people run off, our state law doesn't give game wardens the authority to ask people to leave. That's your job.

When making contact with people who are hunting and fishing without permission, try to maintain a civil demeanor. The law gives you the authority to ask to see their hunting and fishing license and some form of identification that confirms who they are. They may be willing to show you or they may not. Your contact with these hunters or fishermen may be non-confrontational, but if the situation deteriorates, get away and call immediately for help. Telling them you have called the game warden could cause them to settle down, or they might leave. Either way, trying to keep people detained while you wait for a warden is risky

---

**According to state law, no person may hunt or fish upon the land of another without consent of the landowner, lessee or occupant of such land. Trespassing on lands which are fenced and posted at all entrances is hereby prohibited.**

---

-Title 29

continued on page 7

# Protecting Your Farm Pond

By Cliff Sager, northeast region fisheries biologist

A farm pond can be an asset to any property. They provide recreational activities such as swimming, fishing, and hunting opportunities. However, if not protected properly, farm ponds can provide little or no recreational benefit and be an "eye sore" for landowners. One of the leading causes of farm pond disturbance in Oklahoma is livestock. Livestock can quickly degrade a pond and the surrounding area. So how can the needs of fish and wildlife be balanced with the needs of landowners and livestock? The answer: fencing your farm pond. The following information outlines some of the problems, solutions, and benefits of protecting your farm pond.

## The Problems

Due to a constant need for livestock watering holes, many landowners allow livestock unrestricted access to ponds. The primary problem associated with livestock is the trails and paths that erode over time into deep channels in the pond bank. If these ditches are formed in the pond dam, they can greatly reduce the storage capacity of the pond and even compromise the dam during heavy rain events. The runoff from these paths greatly increases the turbidity of the pond, which negatively affects the aquatic life. Microscopic plankton rely on sunlight for photosynthesis to grow. The plankton in turn supply oxygen to the water and are the base of the aquatic food chain. High levels of turbidity prevent light penetration and therefore reduce the oxygen concentration of the water and the overall productivity of the pond.

Livestock can have a huge impact on the shallow water areas of a pond. Wading livestock physically disrupt fish nests and spawning behaviors. Wading livestock also destroy valuable shallow water habi-

tats such as aquatic vegetation and woody debris. These two factors result in greatly reduced reproductive success and survival of young fish.

## The Solutions

The best solution is to fence around the pond to limit or prevent livestock access to the pond. For a pond that has been heavily impacted by livestock, the best course of action may be to drain and reconstruct the pond prior to fencing. This allows a landowner to strengthen the dam and deepen the pond by removing deposited sediments. Additionally, shorelines can be reshaped with a proper slope to prevent future bank erosion and reduce large areas of shallow water (less than 3 ft.) that can become choked with aquatic vegetation. Points and islands are also great additions to ponds and provide excellent access to anglers and hunters.

Other structures can be added at this time to allow control of water levels and provide water for livestock. A drainpipe can be a huge advantage in the management of fish and waterfowl. The pond can be drained and cleaned out if fish populations get out of balance or unwanted fish make their way into the pond. Seasonal drawdowns can be beneficial to fish populations and provide opportunities to plant millet for wintering waterfowl. A freeze proof stock watering trough can also be installed to provide water for livestock. These structures, which are built in the back of the dam, have a float valve that keeps a constant water level in the tank. The benefits of these troughs are that they supply cool water in the summer, they are freeze proof in the winter, and they reduce hoof disease by eliminating the

need for livestock to wade in the pond.

Once a pond has been reshaped, it needs to be fenced off to limit or prevent livestock access. Fences should be constructed at least 60 to 100 feet from the shoreline and enclose the entire pond and dam. This will create a buffer zone that can be planted with vegetation that has specific wildlife benefits and may allow natural revegetation. This buffer will trap sediments before reaching the pond and slow runoff water, reducing shoreline erosion. Additionally, this buffer zone will provide food and habitat for local wildlife and migratory waterfowl.

## Programs That Help

There are a number of programs designed to cost share and provide technical assistance to landowners. The Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation provides the Wildlife Habitat Improvement Program (WHIP). The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service sponsors the Partners for Wildlife program. The Natural Resources Conservation Service has the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) and the Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program (WHIP).

Contact any of the agencies listed above for more information and applications for these programs. All of these programs are available to landowners in Oklahoma and are instrumental in protecting fish and wildlife resources on private lands.

Livestock trails will erode over time (bottom left) and form deep channels in the pond bank. This will compromise the dam during heavy rain and reduce the storage capacity of the pond. The best solution is to erect fencing around the pond (middle) to prevent livestock access to the pond. A freeze-proof stock watering trough can be installed (bottom right) to provide water for the livestock.

*continued on pg 6*





# Pond Dam Stability: An Ounce of Prevention is Worth a Pound of Cure

By Danny Bowen, central region fisheries technician

Most Oklahoma landowners enjoy having a pond on their property. A pond increases the wildlife diversity and recreational potential of their land. It is pleasing to the eye and many people enjoy the challenge of creating a fishery in their own backyard. A pond is a man-made structure however, and requires periodic maintenance to function properly. One maintenance item that should be done annually is the removal of woody plants on or near the pond's dam. This prevents problems caused by water infiltration into the dam through water channels left by the decomposition of the plants' roots.

One of the best ways to head off any problems with a pond is to have a well thought out design. A pond should have a 3:1 slope out to a depth of three or four feet around the shoreline to control rooted aquatic vegetation. The pond dam should be at least 10 feet wide at the crest and have a 3:1 slope on the backside. These slopes should be adjusted according to soil type. In Oklahoma, the pond should also be at least 10 feet deep in at least a quarter of its area to ensure adequate water in dry years. It should also have a wide shallow spillway to cut down on erosion during periods when the pond is overflowing. This will also help prevent undesirable fish species from coming upstream into the pond at these times. Check with your local Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) office for more information and assistance with new pond construction.

As soon as the dirt work is finished, all exposed soil should be seeded to establish ground cover to control erosion. This will reduce turbidity problems in the pond as it fills, and will help prevent woody plants from becoming established on the pond dam. For the first year or two, some minor erosion may occur but this will usually come under control by the grass as it becomes established.

Willows and cottonwoods are two types of woody plants that will establish themselves very quickly on a pond dam and

Never let woody plants become established on the pond dam. Each year, remove or kill any woody plants that are trying to grow and re-establish some type of grass as a ground cover.



The decaying roots of various woody tree species can create deep channels in a pond dam. These channels allow water to penetrate deep into the soil, which can cause the backside of the dam to slide. The root channels become exposed and the dam begins to leak.

around the shoreline. Their seeds are airborne and land on the pond's surface, then drift to the shoreline where conditions are favorable for them to grow (moist, exposed soil). Willows grow quickly and can tolerate flooding for up to one year. They also seem to die easily and their decaying roots are a major cause of dam problems. Cottonwoods also grow quickly. Both types are killed quite often due to damage from



beavers that feed on them. Buttonbrush, a woody shrub, also is easily established and its roots cause the same kind of problems when they die. Trees can be allowed to grow around other parts of the pond for shade and aesthetics, just keep them from growing on the dam.

The decaying roots of these and other woody species can create channels deep into a pond dam. These channels allow water to penetrate deeper into the dam than decaying grass roots do. Water in the pond dam can be good or bad, depending on the amount. A small amount of moisture in the soil is good as it acts as glue, holding the soil particles together because of the high surface tension of water. A higher amount of water in the dam can be bad because it increases the space between the soil particles, reducing friction between them. In this situation the water acts as a lubricant, allowing the pond dam to creep or slip downhill (a process called mass movement) due to the reduced friction and the increased weight of the additional water. Eventually, or sometimes instantly, the backside of the dam slides downhill. The root channels become exposed, and the dam begins to leak. The leak will likely worsen and the dam will wash out to that level or lower. It is possible to lose the whole pond in a worst-case scenario.

For decaying root problems, the old saying holds true that an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure. The best course of action is to never let woody plants become established on the pond dam. At least once a year, remove or kill any woody plants that are trying to grow on the dam. On new ponds, work hard to establish grasses on the dam so that it is difficult for woody plants to start growing. For pond dams that already have trees, shrubs and vines growing on them, kill or remove the plants, and try to re-establish some type of grass as a ground cover. Once the woody plants are removed, visually inspect the dam frequently, particularly after high rainfall events, to see if any leaks develop. These frequent inspections will need to be made for a few years until the majority of the roots have decayed.

## What Do *You* Want

Your Side of the Fence is published three times a year as a free publication for Oklahoma landowners. It is our mission to provide practical information for managing wildlife on your property and address issues that affect you, the landowner. Nowhere else can you receive helpful, in-depth information from experienced biologists and law enforcement officers who work in all corners of the state. With so much knowledge and insight at our disposal, we strive to provide you with information we think you may need. But, sometimes we do not address the management issues you want to know more about. So this is your opportunity to tell us what you think. What would you like to learn more about? Do you have any questions for any of our ODWC professionals? Are we doing a good job of providing useful, practical information? Please let us know. If you would like, provide any comments below and send in your advice to the editor. Send to:

**YSOF Editor**  
**PO Box 53465**  
**OKC, OK 73152**

## Protecting Your Farm Pond

*continued from pg 4*

freeze proof in the winter, and they reduce hoof disease by eliminating the need for livestock to wade in the pond.

Once a pond has been reshaped, it needs to be fenced off to limit or prevent livestock access. Fences should be constructed at least 60 to 100 feet from the shoreline and enclose the entire pond and dam. This will create a buffer zone that can be planted with vegetation that has specific wildlife benefits and may allow natural revegetation. This buffer will trap sediments before reaching the pond and slow runoff water, reducing shoreline erosion. Additionally, this buffer zone will provide food and habitat for local wildlife and migratory waterfowl.

### Programs That Help

There are a number of programs designed to cost share and provide technical assistance to landowners. The Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation provides the Wildlife Habitat Improvement Program (WHIP). The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service sponsors the Partners for Wildlife program. The Natural Resources Conservation Service has the Environmental Quality Incentives



Erosion may reduce the storage capacity of a pond and will greatly increase the turbidity of the water.

Program (EQIP) and the Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program (WHIP).

Contact any of the agencies listed above for more information and applications for these programs. All of these programs are available to landowners in Oklahoma and are instrumental in protecting fish and wildlife resources on private lands.

# Oklahoma Playa Lakes Initiative

By John Hendrix, private lands wildlife biologist

Landowners in Cimarron, Texas, Beaver and Harper counties may be eligible to participate in the Oklahoma Playa Lakes Initiative Program. Landowners who qualify may receive annual incentive payments for protecting a playa lake.

There are an estimated 1,200 playa basins in the High Plains region of Oklahoma. Playa lakes are an important wetland habitat used by migrating waterfowl, shorebirds, and numerous other wildlife species. Based upon the National Wetland Inventory data from the mid 1980's, 61 percent of Oklahoma's estimated 1,200 playa basins were farmed. A number of factors threaten the integrity and function of playa lakes, but the most serious threat is siltation. This happens as a result of farming activities in and around playa basins. Long term negative effects of increasing siltation include:

Change in hydrology, including:

- Decreased volume of surface water in the playa basin.
- Decreased duration of surface water in the playa basin.

Changes in vegetation communities in and around the playa basin.

The primary objective of the Oklahoma Playa Lakes Initiative Program is to reduce sediment loads entering enrolled playas. The benefits from this program will include:

- Water recharge to the Ogallala Aquifer.
- Protection of playa wetland functions.
- Establishment of native vegetative cover.
- Wildlife habitat enhancements.

Landowners can participate in this program by signing up for two levels of participation options. The first level is for landowners wanting the 50 percent cost-share assistance for the playa lake habitat establishment and protection projects. These projects may include the establishment of native grasses around the basin for a buffer to protect the basin from siltation. Fencing may also be



installed to protect the buffer and playa basin from livestock grazing. The second level of participation is an annual incentive payment to the landowner.

These and other practices will prove beneficial to a host of migratory and resident wildlife species, including waterfowl, shorebirds, wading birds and migratory upland birds, resident upland birds such as bobwhite quail and ring-necked pheasants. A competitive bidding process will determine the annual incentive amount by participating landowners. The length of the contract will be for a period of 10 years.

To apply for this program, playa lakes must fulfill the following criteria:

- Basins must be privately owned.
- Basins can be farmed or rangeland settings.
- Lands can not be currently enrolled in federal programs such as WRP, CRP, and WHIP.
- Lands can not be currently enrolled in the ODWC WHIP program.

Since playa lake areas are often too wet for consistent crop production, the Oklahoma Playa Lakes Initiative gives landowners a positive option to take these areas out of production. Participating landowners can enhance wildlife habitat on their property and also be eligible to receive an annual incentive payment for protecting this important habitat for 10 years. Landowners wanting additional information should contact wildlife biologist Danny Watson at (806)339-5175 or private lands wildlife biologist John Hendrix at (405)880-0994.

## Landowner Rights

continued from pg 3

risky business. Sometimes they just sit quietly and wait, other times they will get aggressive and leave. We don't recommend you try to stop them. What you need to do is make sure you get a good vehicle description, a tag number if possible, direction of travel and have a physical description of the people. Lately, cell phones have enhanced the ability of the landowner or lessee to stay in contact with game wardens that are responding to their call for assistance. Do not place yourself in danger trying to detain these people while waiting for the game warden to arrive. With good information the warden can probably track them down.

In closing, our Department wants to thank each one of you that provides hunters and fishermen with a place to enjoy the wildlife in our state. We are committed to ensuring that hunting and fishing are conserved for current sportsmen and future generations. With your help, we will meet our goals. We will do our best to assist you whenever possible, and if at some point you need a warden to assist you with people violating the wildlife laws, then you can count on us.

A complete listing of Oklahoma Game Wardens can be found on the Departments Web site, at [www.wildlifedepartment.com](http://www.wildlifedepartment.com).

# January

## Habitat Management Practices

- Collect deer harvest data as required by DMAP program.
- Install wood duck nest boxes.
- Strip disk to encourage native food resources.
- Develop fireguards for prescribed burn program.
- Prepare ground for tree/shrub establishment for wildlife cover.
- Replace nesting materials in Canada goose nesting structures.
- Evaluate and record food resources for wildlife.
- Mow to remove brush encroachment as needed.
- Half cut trees for loafing cover as needed for small game species.

## Pond Management Practices

- Cut cedar trees and stock-pile for fish habitat.
- Trap muskrat and beaver as needed.
- Catch and remove crappie.

# February

## Habitat Management Practices

- Strip disk to encourage native food resources.
- Develop fireguards for prescribed burn program.
- Monitor turkey flocks.
- Plant trees and shrubs as needed for wildlife cover.
- Clean out nesting structures/boxes.
- Set out your bluebird nest-boxes.
- Conduct prescribed burns as needed.
- Mow to remove brush encroachment as needed.
- Conduct prescribed burns as needed.
- Mow to remove brush encroachment as needed.
- Half cut trees for loafing cover as needed for small game species.

## Pond Management Practices

- Catch and remove crappie.
- Cut cedar trees and stock-pile for fish.

# March

## Habitat Management Practices

- Prepare ground for summer food plots if needed.
- Plant native grasses / forbes / legumes.
- Monitor / fluctuate water levels in wetland areas.
- Plan a grazing management system.

## Pond Management Practices

- Catch and remove beaver.

# April

## Habitat Management Practices

- Plant native grasses / forbes / legumes.
- Apply for Deer Management Assistance Program (DMAP). (405) 521-2739
- Clean and store prescribed burn equipment.
- Disk wetland areas to encourage moist soil plants as needed.
- Implement a planned grazing system.

## Pond Management Practices

- Install cedar brush piles.

## Management Measures

### October

#### **Wildlife Habitat**

- Begin to flood wetland areas
- Flood greentree reservoirs only after frost
- Collect deer harvest data as required by the DMAP program
- Construct brush piles for winter cover
- Plant wildflower seeds
- Prepare bird feeders for wintertime feeding

#### **Ponds**

- Stock new ponds with fingerling catfish and bluegill

### November

#### **Wildlife Habitat**

- Flood greentree reservoirs only after frost
- Collect deer harvest data as required by the DMAP program
- Construct brush piles for winter cover
- Evaluate areas needing prescribed fire treatment
- Evaluate forage resources and plan dormant season phase grazing

#### **Ponds**

- Catch and remove crappie

### December

#### **Wildlife Habitat**

- Collect deer harvest data as required by the DMAP program
- Evaluate and record food resources for wildlife
- Strip disk to encourage native food growth
- Evaluate areas needing prescribed fire treatment
- Get prescribed burn equipment ready for use

#### **Ponds**

- Remove crappie
- Trap beaver and muskrat