Instructor (Primary Contact)  
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Course Description  
Students will be introduced to general concepts of wildlife habitat management and conservation biology. Specifically, students will be acquainted with major land use practices on public and private lands, how these practices influence wildlife production, and alterations or manipulations of habitat used to achieve specific wildlife management goals. Ultimately, this information will be used to formulate plans to manage wildlife populations and their habitat. Upon course completion students shall identify:

1. General concepts of wildlife-habitat relationships as they pertain to wildlife management and conservation biology.  
2. Wildlife-habitat measurements useful in the manipulation and management of wildlife populations and their habitats.  
3. Wildlife habitat modification techniques useful in the manipulation of succession on the landscape.

Prerequisites  
A basic understanding of general ecology and experience with computers are useful. Students should have a graduate student classification and/or approval from instructor.

Course material  
All modules, videos, readings, and supplemental material can be found on the course website – [http://wildlifehabitat.tamu.edu](http://wildlifehabitat.tamu.edu)

All quizzes, discussion topics/forums, and grades can be found on eCampus – [http://ecampus.tamu.edu](http://ecampus.tamu.edu)

Grade Distribution  
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Points</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Weekly Quizzes (12 quizzes)</td>
<td>600</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Course Project</td>
<td>500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Class participation</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shoot from the Hip (12 questions)</td>
<td>300</td>
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</table>

Total Points 1,400
Attendance
Being a distance education course, there is **no class room attendance.** It is the student’s responsibility to keep up with the weekly modules, readings, discussions, and quizzes. A weekly checklist is available for each topic (see below). Given the self-paced nature of the course, it is possible to get ahead of schedule if needed. **Late work is discouraged and will not be accepted** unless provided a university approved excuse. If you have trouble keeping up with course materials, please let me know as soon as possible and not at the end (little sympathy will be given to those who wait to discuss any issues of concern).

Grading

**Weekly Quizzes**
- A total of 12 quizzes will be given during the semester. Each quiz will consist of approximately 10 questions (e.g., short answer, true or false, multiple choice, matching, etc.) from modules, readings, videos and any other material assigned for that week. Quizzes are timed (20 minutes). Each quiz is comprehensive and will have at least 1 question from previous lessons. **Quizzes will be made available on Monday mornings and need to be completed before 11:59 p.m. on Sunday night of the same assigned week.**

**Course Project**
- Management Plan— the student will be responsible for writing a wildlife habitat management plan for a property of their choice. Management plans can serve to guide landowners seeking an agricultural wildlife valuation for their properties (Texas House Bill 1358, Proposition 11), and will follow Texas Parks and Wildlife *Comprehensive Wildlife Management Planning Guidelines*. Students will be required to develop a management plan addressing **1 landowner objective and at least 1 qualifying management practice.** Typically, official plans have 3 objectives and 3 qualifying practices; however, for the purpose of this assignment, I want the student to focus on **1 objective and at least 1 qualifying management practice.** The written plan will be graded on application of qualifying practice, content, writing style/clarity, and grammar. Timely guidelines, forms, and other supplemental resources are posted on the Planning tab at wildlifehabitat.tamu.edu.

**Class Participation**
- Class participation is graded in this course. Students are expected to participate in the “Shoot from the Hip” discussions. Weekly discussion topics will be posted to the discussion board within eCampus on Sundays. Each student is required to post **1 well-thought-out response (minimum of 100 words)** to the discussion question **by 11:59 p.m. on Wednesday night** AND **at least 2 comments to responses posted by other students by 11:59 p.m. on Saturday night** each week. All three posts will account for a maximum of 25pts each week. **Posts made after the deadlines will not be accepted.**

**Extra Credit (optional)**
- Plant Collection— the student will be responsible for the collection of at least 25 native plant species (i.e., trees, shrubs, vines, grasses, or forbs) important to wildlife. Digital images will be used in place of actual specimens. Images must be taken by you personally and not taken from the internet or other sources. Digital images might include a collage of photos showing the species overall as well as close up photos of leaves, flowers, stems, fruit, etc. Information on each plant species includes the common and scientific name, brief description, habitat found, and its importance to wildlife (see course website for examples and grading rubric). If you do not have access to a digital camera or smartphone camera, contact me ASAP to make alternative arrangements. (Maximum of 50 pts.)
Academic Dishonesty
We believe in the Aggie Code of Honor:

*Aggies do not lie, cheat, or steal, nor do they tolerate those who do.*

Academic dishonesty includes copying, sharing, or obtaining information from an unauthorized source, attempting to take credit for the intellectual work of another person, falsifying information, and giving or receiving information about a test, quiz, or assignment to students in another course section. This includes the fabrication of data. Any student involved in academic dishonesty will receive no credit for work done and/or may be penalized in accordance with published University Rules. Plagiarism software is used in class to ensure academic integrity.

Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Policy Statement
The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you believe you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please contact Disability Services, in Cain Hall, Room B118, or call 845-1637. For additional information, visit [http://disability.tamu.edu](http://disability.tamu.edu).
| **WFSC 636 Fall 2014**  
**Tentative Schedule/Checklist**  
**Wildlife-Habitat Relationships** |
|---|
| **Sep 1-7 – Course Overview**  
To do checklist: |
| ☐ Familiarize yourself with the website and eCampus  
☐ Sep 5 – Last day for adding/dropping courses for the Fall semester |
| **Sep 8-14 – Habitat Concepts I**  
To do checklist: |
| ☐ Watch Habitat Concepts modules (Wildlife Management, Habitat, Succession, and Natural Selection)  
☐ Watch TPWD Wildlife Management Areas and Plant Succession videos  
☐ Read *Born in the Hands of Hunters, Future Challenges to the Model, A Conservation Timeline, The Habitat Concept and a Plea for Standard Terminology, and Early Successional Habitat*  
☐ Submit response and comments to Shoot from the Hip discussion question  
☐ **Weekly Quiz 1** (Due by 11:59 p.m. on Sunday 14<sup>th</sup>) |
| **Sep 15-21 – Habitat Concepts II/The Lorax**  
To do checklist: |
| ☐ Watch Habitat Concepts modules (Diversity, Landscape Ecology, Island Biogeography, and Fragmentation)  
☐ Read *A Philosophy of Habitat Management for Northern Bobwhites, Biodiversity of Rangelands, and Land Fragmentation*  
☐ Watch “The Lorax” on Google Video  
☐ Submit response and comments to Shoot from the Hip discussion question  
☐ **Weekly Quiz 2** (Due by 11:59 p.m. on Sunday 21<sup>st</sup>) |
| **Sep 22-28 – Wildlife Habitat Planning**  
To do checklist: |
| ☐ Watch Conservation Planning module  
☐ Read *Example Management Plan, Milam County WMP, and Grimes County WMP Small Acreage*  
☐ Submit response to Shoot from the Hip discussion question  
☐ **Weekly Quiz 3** (Due by 11:59 p.m. on Sunday 28<sup>th</sup>) |
| **Sep 29-Oct 5 – GIS/GPS technology**  
To do checklist: |
| ☐ Watch GIS-GPS Overview Module  
☐ Read *GIS Best Practices in Wildlife Management, Flooding-induced Landscape Changes, and Population variation in dune-dwelling lizards*  
☐ Submit response and comments to Shoot from the Hip discussion question  
☐ **Weekly Quiz 4** (Due by 11:59 p.m. on Sunday 5<sup>th</sup>) |
| **Measurement of Wildlife-Habitat** |
| **Oct 6-12 – Land measurement (Plane)**  
To do checklist: |
| ☐ Watch Land Measurement modules 1-2  
☐ Watch Basic Compass Use video  
☐ Read *Land Measurement and Surveys*  
☐ Submit response and comments to Shoot from the Hip discussion question  
☐ **Weekly Quiz 5** (Due by 11:59 p.m. on Sunday 12<sup>th</sup>) |
| **Oct 13-19 – Land measurement (Volume)**  
To do checklist: |
| ☐ Watch Land Measurement modules 3-4  
☐ Read *Ponds–Planning, Design, Construction*  
☐ Submit response and comments to Shoot from the Hip discussion question  
☐ **Weekly Quiz 6** (Due by 11:59 p.m. on Sunday 19<sup>th</sup>) |
### Oct 20-26 – Vegetation Measurement

**To do checklist:**
- Watch Vegetation Measurement modules
- Read *Robel Rangepole (Robel 1970), Use of Rangepole (Smith 2008)*
- Watch Softball Habitat Evaluation Technique video
- Submit response and comments to Shoot from the Hip discussion question
- **Weekly Quiz 7** (Due by 11:59 p.m. on Sunday 26th)

### Habitat Modification Techniques

### Oct 27-Nov 2 – Mechanical Treatments

**To do checklist:**
- Watch Mechanical Treatments modules
- Read *Brush Management Methods, Sculpting Brush Mechanically and Light Disking to Improve Wildlife Habitat*
- Watch Half-cutting Brush Technique video
- Submit response and comments to Shoot from the Hip discussion question
- **Weekly Quiz 8** (Due by 11:59 p.m. on Sunday 2nd)

### Nov 3-9 – Wetland Management

**To do checklist:**
- Watch Pond Management Modules
- Read *Techniques for Wetland Construction and Management and Restoring Americas Wetlands: A Private Lands conservation Story*
- Submit response and comments to Shoot from the Hip discussion question
- **Weekly Quiz 9** (Due by 11:59 p.m. on Sunday 9th)

### Nov 10-16 – Grazing Management and Harvest Management

**To do checklist:**
- Watch Grazing and Harvest Management modules
- Read *Grazing Systems for Profitable Ranching, Using Livestock to Manage Wildlife Habitat, Is Good Range Management for Livestock Really Good Management for Wildlife, and The Hunter and Conservation*
- Submit response and comments to Shoot from the Hip discussion question
- **Weekly Quiz 10** (Due by 11:59 p.m. on Sunday 16th)

### Nov 17-23 – Prescribed Fire

**To do checklist:**
- **Nov 21** – *Last day for all students to drop courses with no penalty (Q-drop)*
- Watch Prescribed Fire modules
- Watch TPWD Prescribed Fire and The Nature Conservancy Prescribed Fire videos
- Read *Prescribed Range Burning in Texas and Planning a Prescribed Burn*
- Submit response and comments to Shoot from the Hip discussion question
- **Weekly Quiz 11** (Due by 11:59 p.m. on Sunday 23rd)

### Nov 24-30 – Thanksgiving Holiday

**To do checklist:**
- Have a happy and safe Thanksgiving
- **Deadline to submit Extra Credit** (11:59 p.m. on Sunday Nov. 30th; submit electronically via email)
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<tr>
<th>Dec 1-7 – Herbicide/Supplemental Water</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>To do checklist:</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>□ Watch Herbicide module</td>
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<tr>
<td>□ Watch Supplemental Water module</td>
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<tr>
<td>□ Watch Rainwater Harvesting videos</td>
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<td>□ Read <em>Harvesting Rainwater for Wildlife, Benefits and Impacts of Wildlife Water Developments, and Managing Yaupon with Fire and Herbicides in the Texas Post Oak Savannah</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>□ Submit response and comments to Shoot from the Hip discussion question</td>
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<tr>
<td>□ <strong>Course Project (Due by 5:00 p.m. on Friday 5&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt;; submit electronically via email or turn in hard copy to my office)</strong></td>
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<td>□ <strong>Weekly Quiz 12</strong> (Due by 11:59 p.m. on Sunday 7&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt;)</td>
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<th>Dec 8-11 – Redefined Days and Reading Days</th>
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<th>Dec 12, 15-17 – Finals</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>To do checklist:</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>□ There is no final exam in this course</td>
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<td>□ Check your grades on eCampus</td>
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