

Wolf Creek Ranch

Visit on 7-22-2022

### **Commons Area**

During the meeting on 7-22-2022 we discussed the commons area that is managed by Wolf Creek Ranch. I determined that the range conditions are much like other areas of the county. It has been hot, dry and there is very little grass. Since the ranch is under ag valuation, I gave the only two options that livestock producers have at the moment is to feed through it or sell out. Since WCR is under ag valuation, I suggested to let the rancher feed through it to keep the ag valuation. There was lots of discussion about the ways cows eat and how different breeds of cattle are built different and that is why some consume less forage and still stay healthy. There was also discussion about the profit margin for cattle at the moment given the current market, lease agreements, vet concerns, feed cost and influx in producers have to sell some cattle off. The cattle market is just not good right now.

The main priorities now for the commons area include brush management and grass restoration. I think that brush control for the persimmon and cedar would be beneficial as well as raising up the canopy on cedars. One concern is the burn piles. I completely understand that we are under a burn ban, so it may not be an option to burn the brush. Prickly pear removal is also being addressed with America's Best Pest Control. Please continue to let any technicians know that there are cattle grazing, as that may affect grazing cattle. Grass restoration should be done in the spring. Get in contact with me in the late winter/early spring and we can discuss rainfall and grass restoration.

Continue to work with local fire departments and in house firemen on any Firewise issues. I think fire protection is a very important topic for your ranch.

### **Private Property Owners**

It was discussed to have a "pop up" on October 15 at 4:00 p.m. I will come and speak to interested private property owners. We can decide on topics at a later date, but discussed historically what this area looked like, land stewardship topics, brush control, how herbicides work and then a sign up sheet for individual or group site visits.

I really appreciate the Maintenance Committee inviting me to look at your ranch. I think you have a unique place and I am very glad that you are eager to be great stewards of the land.

Kelly Tarla

CEA – AGNR

Burnet County