

4/27/23

Dear Fawcett Wildlife Management Area Neighbor:

The Texas Parks and Wildlife Department is planning to conduct prescribed burns at the Fawcett Wildlife Management Area (WMA) at 4730 FM 2692 between June 15th, 2023 and September 15th, 2023.

During this period, you may see smoke in your area /neighborhood or on nearby roads. We caution you to reduce your speed and use your headlights when smoke is present. Prescribed burns are a management tool used to restore forest and prairie habitats that were periodically burned by natural fires. Prescribed burns also reduce the potential damage a wildfire could cause by reducing available fuels such as dead trees, leaf litter and other flammable vegetation on the landscape. Prescribed fires on state parks are conducted by Texas Parks and Wildlife Department personnel who have undergone extensive fire training and meet national wildland firefighting and incident management standards. Additionally, the Wildlife Management Area staff will work with local fire and emergency management officials to plan and conduct the prescribed fire.

Each prescribed fire plan defines the local weather and other conditions under which a prescribed burn may be conducted, the personnel and equipment required, and fire-break locations. Most importantly, the fire plan prioritizes public and firefighter safety. The plan reduces the risk of fire escaping onto adjacent properties and minimizes the effect of smoke in nearby residential and smoke sensitive areas. The plan also establishes contingency measures to protect adjacent properties if the fire were to escape established boundaries. The prescribed burns are ignited in predetermined patterns that insures the best measures for containment.

Texas has a history of naturally occurring wildfires, making prescribed burns very important to maintaining habitat on WMA's. Private landowners should consider implementing wildfire mitigation efforts on their lands as well in order to preserve their property and way of life before a wildfire event starts. Information on how to Wildland Fire Management:
http://tpwd.texas.gov/landwater/land/wildland_fire_management/

If you have any questions, please contact Wesley Evans at 512-265-4158 or email at Wesley.Evans@tpwd.texas.gov. If you would like to receive text message notifications prior to the burn, text 81010 with this message @rfwma. Thank you for your support and understanding of this valuable and necessary habitat management and fuel reduction tool.

Sincerely,

Colton Nolen
Wildlife Biologist
Fawcett WMA
4730 FM 2692
Gordon, Texas 76453
325-430-8373

May 1, 2023

The Honorable Shane Long
County Judge
[Palo Pinto County](#)
PO Box 190
Palo Pinto, TX 76484

Dear Judge Long:

As part of the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department's efforts to ensure good communications with our constituents and neighbors, and in compliance with §11.353 Parks and Wildlife Code, I want to inform you of the Department's intent to conduct one or more prescribed burns on the Roger R. Fawcett WMA between June 15, 2023 and September 15, 2023.

A site-specific Fire Management Plan for prescribed burning operations at the Fawcett WMA is in place and we will be happy to share a copy with your office if you desire. In addition, neighboring landowners have been notified of the Department's intentions with the attached letter and map. In order to reach the community at large a public notice will be published in the Weatherford Democrat prior to this burn period.

Additional community outreach on the upcoming burn may include information posted on the Department's website, social media outlets, and through a group text messaging application. If you or members of your staff would also like to receive these text message notifications prior to the burn, text @rfwma to 81010.

Advance notifications have also been made to Commissioner Gary Glover, Commissioner Mike Reed, Commissioner Mike Pierce, Commissioner Jeff Fryer, Senator Drew Springer, Representative Glenn Rogers, nearby water utility officials and owners of any utility infrastructure within the prescribed burn area. Prior to ignition of any fires, city or county emergency services dispatch center, local area fire departments and the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality will be notified to ensure they are aware of these actions.

If you have any questions, please contact Wesley Evans at (512) 265-4158 or Wesley.Evans@tpwd.texas.gov.

Sincerely,

Wesley Evans
Regional Fire Coordinator
Wildlife Division/Region II
P.O. Box 1140
Mason, TX 76856
512-265-4158

To find out more about the TPWD Wildland Fire Management visit our website, http://tpwd.texas.gov/landwater/land/wildland_fire_management/