

First Things First

The Making of a Solution

Principle 1: Know all you can about your land. Understand the natural and artificial systems operating on your property. Identify and inventory all resources (natural, introduced, mechanical and human).

Principle 2: Many options exist with respect to land management. Some practices are very intensive while others are less so. Some practices give quick results but may be rather expensive to apply. Others take time or require waiting for the right weather event, but may eventually give equally impressive results.

Principle 3. Apply a logical system to define your goals.

Know what you want to do and plan how you are going to do it. The better you develop your goals and plan, the greater will be your likelihood of success.

Learn who your neighbors are

For security and down home country sociality - meet your neighbors, learn their vehicles and common interests - make a list of phone numbers or start a neighborhood watch program -sure helps relations

Principle 4:

Locate resources that can help you achieve your plans for your land. There are governmental agencies and volunteer groups in every county in Texas. The Texas Agricultural Extension Service can provide information and direct you to a number of other resources.

Principle 5: Monitor your results as you implement your plan, making changes as appropriate. Continue to study and observe changes in weather, wildlife, habitat and range condition and make adjustments when needed.

Watershed Management

Everyone lives on a watershed, runoff water goes some place. We all influence what happens on our watershed, good or bad, by how we treat the natural resources - the soil, water, air,

What is a watershed?

It's the land that water flows across or under on its way to a stream, river, or lake.

plants, and animals. What happens in your small watershed also affects the larger watershed downstream.

There are many things you and your watershed community can do to keep your watershed healthy and productive. Learn more about caring for yours.

Rainwater Collection or Well

Many rural homes do not have access to a cooperative water supply, and must rely on wells or rainwater collection. Learn about your aquifer, its quantity and quality before making a decision on drilling a well. Cisterns and rainwater has supplied families with water for centuries. With new technology, it may be worth considering. A booklet titled "**Texas Guide to Rainwater Harvesting**" can provide lots of answers.

Can You Burn Brush? Contact your County Fire Marshall to see if a burn ban is in force.

Wild fires are very dangerous. Prescribed burns are becoming an alternative to other methods of brush control and rangeland management.

10,000 Springs and Belly High Grass

Texas used to be the home of 10,000 flowing springs. Today only about 60% of them still flow. The loss of these springs is due to 1)