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HABITAT PROJECTS COMPLETED ON TWO WMA'S

AUSTIN -- Habitat improvement projects completed recently on two Texas Parks and Wildlife Department wildlife management areas (WMAs) should pay dividends for hunters by next fall, officials said.

Regional Supervisor George Litton of Waco said disking and planting of vegetation beneficial to wildlife have been accomplished at Granger WMA in Williamson County north of Austin and Lake Ray Roberts WMA north of Denton. The department operates the Granger and Ray Roberts areas under license from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. Granger is a Type I WMA, while Ray Roberts is a Type II public hunting area. Hunting is allowed on Type I areas on a permission by registration basis or by special drawing in the case of big game. Type II areas offer a variety of hunting in season for those who purchase \$35 hunting permits. Only holders of the \$35 permit may hunt on Ray Roberts, but no permit is required to fish.

Litton said crews at Granger disked five areas of approximately 20 acres each to control grasses and stimulate growth of forbs such as croton and sunflower.

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Seedlings were planted in quarter-acre plots. Plantings included 80 native pecan tree seedlings to provide woody cover and food for wildlife, and 600 to 800 seedlings of other varieties of native trees and brush. These include cedar elm, western soapberry, osage orange and Texas sophora.

"These are all native varieties of plants and trees, so we expect good results," said Litton. "We also have the capability to irrigate the seedlings to help them get a good start."

The Granger area is located on the shoreline of Granger Lake, some five miles east of Granger.

Litton said the Corps of Engineers used \$23,000 earned from the Type II public hunting program for habitat improvements on the 22,000 acre Ray Roberts area enrolled in the Type II program the past two hunting seasons.

Local farmers were contracted to disk some 447 acres and plant corn on another 135 acres. Litton said the corn will be left unharvested to provide wildlife food and cover. A portion of the corn acreage will be shredded after the waterfowl season to provide waterfowl food, he said.

Litton said the habitat work should enhance the area which provided good waterfowl and quail hunting for Type II hunters last season.

The area surrounds Lake Ray Roberts and is located roughly between Sanger and Pilot Point, north of Denton.

Type II hunting permits for the 1989-90 hunting season will not be available for purchase until late summer, officials said.

JC 3/8/89

PUBLIC HUNTING LANDS
FOUNDATION SUPPORTED

AUSTIN -- The Texas Public Hunting Lands Foundation, a nonprofit corporation formed to support Texas Parks and Wildlife Department wildlife management programs, has received \$18,500 in donations since its inception in 1988

Department officials said donations from private individuals have partially funded the agency's eastern turkey restoration project. Donations from organizations such as Quail Unlimited have enabled the department to purchase portable water tanks for use during controlled burn operations, fire control and seedling irrigation.

Other planned habitat enhancement projects include the development of food plots for upland game and waterfowl.

The foundation is sponsored by Lone Star Brewing Co., Winchester Division of Olin Corp. and Carter's Country of Houston. The foundation encourages individuals to support these and other wildlife management projects undertaken by the department on public hunting lands.

Additional information about the foundation may be obtained by calling toll-free 1-800-792-1112, ext. 4505, or (512) 389-4505.

JC 3/8/89

BICYCLE TOUR ORGANIZED AT
KERRVILLE STATE PARK

KERRVILLE -- About 1,500 bicycling enthusiasts are expected to participate in the 16th annual Easter Hill Country Bicycle Tour on March 23-26 at Kerrville State Park

Riders will choose from three different routes of varying difficulty each day, according to Park Superintendent Tim Hufstedler

Members of the San Antonio Wheelmen organization will assist the park staff in hosting the event For further information call Tom Sickman during the day at (512) 826-0177 or Jay Holmes in the evenings at (512) 684-2925

JC 3/8/89

TEXOMA PRODUCING NEAR-
RECORD SMALLMOUTH BASS

DENISON -- A Denison angler recently came close to breaking Oklahoma and Texas records with one fish

Carl Gayle was fishing from the bank at Lake Texoma when he landed a big smallmouth bass in late January

Suspecting it might be a new lake record, Gayle weighed the fish shortly after it was caught It registered six pounds, six ounces, which beats the

lake record for the Oklahoma side. However, the fish apparently regurgitated several bait fish, and by the time it was weighed on a certified scale that afternoon its weight had slipped to six pounds, 1 1/2 ounces

The Oklahoma lake record smallmouth weighed six pounds, five ounces; while the largest from the Texas side of the border reservoir weighed in at six pounds, 8 1/2 ounces, according to Texas Parks and Wildlife Department fishery biologist Bruce Hysmith of Denison

Hysmith noted that the Texas lake-record smallmouth was six years old when caught by Mark Schmitt of Farmers Branch, and Gayle's fish was five years old. "Since smallmouths have been in Lake Texoma for eight years, there probably are fish out there that are two to three years older than the largest smallmouth on record," said Hysmith. "That means there are lake record, and possibly even state record, smallmouths in Lake Texoma." The current state record, caught recently from Lake Whitney in Central Texas, weighed seven pounds, 11 ounces

JC 3/8/89

MONTANA SEEKING HELP FOR
YELLOWSTONE ELK HERDS

HELENA -- Montana wildlife officials are appealing to sportsmen in Montana and other states to support the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation in obtaining vital winter range for winter-stressed elk herds

Ron Marcoux, interim director of the Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks, said up to 20 percent of the Northern Yellowstone elk herd could succumb to the elements this year because of several factors, including overpopulation and lack of public wintering range outside Yellowstone National Park

Interested persons or organizations may send contributions to the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation's North American Habitat Fund, P O. Box 8249, Missoula, MT 59807

JC 3/8/89

TYPE II AREAS STOCKED WITH
962 WHITE-TAILED DEER

AUSTIN -- The Texas Parks and Wildlife Department has trapped 962 white-tailed deer and released them on 10 Type II public hunting areas in East Texas

Horace Gore, white-tailed deer program leader, said the new Unit 129 in the Type II system got 247 deer. He said the 29,000-acre unit has deer populations that are below the habitat's carrying capacity, partly due to heavy hunting pressure in the past. The unit is forest products land located in southern Jasper County.

Gore said the other nine Type II units each received 50 to 100 deer. The animals were trapped from state parks, industrial parks and private ranches where deer are overpopulated, Gore said. About 750 of the animals were trapped in South Texas, with the remainder coming from Central Texas.

and the Coastal Prairie.

In most cases, one more year of restocking will be necessary in the Type II areas, Gore said. He added that game wardens are maintaining close surveillance on the release area to prevent poaching and allow the deer to adjust safely to their new surroundings.

JC 3/8/89

AUSTIN: Here is the weekly fishing report as compiled by the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department for March 9, 1989:

CENTRAL

BASTROP: Water clear 55 degrees, normal level. black bass fair in number in the 4-6 pound range on cranks and minnows in 6-12 feet of water; crappie fair to 20 fish per string on minnows and white jigs in 8 feet of water; catfish slow.

BELTON: Water clear, 52 degrees, 4 feet low; black bass slow; hybrid striper are fair to 6 pounds on chrome jigging spoons in 10 feet of water. crappie are fair to 20 fish per string on minnows in 22 feet of water; white bass fair to 10 fish per string on slabs; catfish fair to 5 fish per string to 3 pounds each on rod and reel.

BROWNWOOD: Water murky, 4 feet low; black bass slow; striper slow with some around the lights at night; crappie fair with some limits to 1 pound on minnows in the crappie houses; white bass slow; catfish slow.

BUCHANAN: Water clear, 48 degrees, 10 feet low. black bass fair in 10-14 feet of water to 5 pounds on Ringworms and DB#3s or diving baits. striper are good to 16 pounds most are in the 3-7 pound range on jigs. Bombers and large shiners. crappie are good under the docks with limits to 2 pounds on minnows; white bass are fair in the highline dock area on deep diving baits. catfish fair to 4 pounds on trotlines baited with stinkbait and worms.

CANYON: Water clear, 55 degrees, normal level. black bass fair to 6 pounds on black and blue jig and pig in 10-15 feet of water; striper slow to 11 pounds on Mann-O-Lures in 30 feet of water; crappie slow; white bass are very good in upper end of the main lake on Mann-O-Lures under the birds, trolling up river channels with Phantoms and at the rapids on small grubs and minnows; catfish slow; walleye slow.

COLORADO BEND: Water clear, 54 degrees, 9 1/2 feet low; black bass poor; striper poor. crappie poor. white bass slow due to cold weather and lack of fishermen; channel catfish fair to 2 1/2 pounds on blood bait with rod and reel.

FAYETTE: Water clear, 58 degrees, normal level. black bass good to 6 1/2 pounds before Saturday. slow between Saturday and Monday, with a single bass over 21 inches early Tuesday on dark worms; crappie to 18 fish per boat before the wind hit last Friday, slow since; catfish slow; the lake had 10 boats midweek.

GIBBONS CREEK: Water fairly clear, 50 degrees, 2 inches above normal level. black bass slow since the front due to lack of fishermen; crappie fairly good before the front, slow since; catfish slow.

LBJ: Water clear, 51 degrees, lake full; black bass good to 6 pounds on dark worms; striper are good in the Colorado arm on Storm Big Macs; crappie good with limits under the docks on minnows. white bass good until the cold front hit, slow since, some in deeper water on deep diving trolling baits; channel catfish are fair to 3 pounds on worms, shad and stinkbait; some yellow catfish to 7 pounds caught on trotline with live perch.

SOMERVILLE: Water murky, 48 degrees, 2 1/2 feet low; black bass slow. striper slow; crappie fair to 15 fish per string on jigs and minnows. white bass fair with no full strings on purple worms and minnows; catfish slow.

STILLHOUSE: Water clear, 44 degrees, 10 feet below normal; black bass slow; striper slow; crappie slow; white bass fairly good to 15 fish per string on slabs and jigs around marina and in the coves in 15-20 feet of water. catfish slow.

TRAVIS: Water clear, 53 degrees, 10 1/2 feet low; black bass fair to 6 pounds, 2 ounces on jig and pig, 4 inch plum worms in 15-25 feet of water, most bass in the 1 1/2 to 2 pound range; striper slow; crappie fair in 20 feet of water. some near limits under lights at Lakeway on minnows; white bass scattered. some trolling in Pedernales arm; catfish slow.

WACO: Water clear, 1 foot low; black bass slow due to lack of fishermen; striper slow; crappie fairly good around marinas in 9-12 feet of water on yellow redheaded jigs. white bass and catfish slow, primarily due to lack of fishermen. No fishermen on the lake midweek.

WHITNEY: Waters clear, 52 degrees, 8 3/4 feet low; black bass fair

to 3 pounds on Rat-L-Traps smallmouth bass fair to 5 pounds on Rat-L-Traps in shallow water; striper good to 19 pounds on live bait in the creeks; crappie slow with a few limits to 1 1/2 pounds each on minnows; white bass slow; catfish slow.

NORTHEAST

ATHENS Water clear, 49 degrees, 1/2 inch overflow; black bass slow due to lack of fishermen; striper slow; white bass and hybrids fair on the bottom in 20 feet of water on chrome slab spoons with limits 2 days running; crappie excellent in number to 1 1/2 pounds in 1-3 feet of water around weeds and brush piles; catfish slow.

BRIDGEPORT: Water clear, some thin ice around edges, snowdrifts to 3 feet around the lake; no fishermen out midweek; weather beautiful midweek.

CADDO Water fairly clear, 1 foot above normal level. black bass slow; striper slow; crappie slow; white bass slow; catfish slow.

CEDAR CREEK Water clear, 47 degrees, 1 foot low; black bass slow to 7 3/4 pounds on purple fire tailed worms in 10 feet of water around stumps; striper slow; crappie fairly good on the upper end of the lake; white bass slow; yellow catfish fairly good to 65 pounds on trotlines baited with bream and goldfish.

CYPRESS SPRINGS: Water slightly murky, 52 degrees, normal level. black bass good to 6 pounds on dark jig and pig; crappie good with limits to 25 fish in 29 feet of water on minnows; catfish good to 1 pound on a shrimp baited trotline.

FORK: Water clear, 46 degrees, normal level. black bass good to 12.7 pounds on black and white spinners and jig and eel in 8 feet or less of water; crappie slow, beginning to move out to deep water; catfish slow.

LAKE O THE PINES: Water clear. 46 degrees, 6 inches above normal level; black bass good before the front to 6 3/4 pounds on Rat-L-Traps and jig and pig in 5-8 feet of water, fishing has been slow since the front; crappie fair around the boat houses on minnows and jigs; white bass have been good around the dam and around 259 bridge on Sassy Shad and L'il Fishes. catfish slow; chain pickerel plentiful to 2 pounds on spinners.

LAVON: Water slightly murky, 44 degrees, 5 inches above normal level. black bass slow; striper and hybrid striper slow; white bass fair in creeks and near the power plant, no limits; crappie excellent with limits in 12-16 feet of water on minnows and jigs to 2 1/2 pounds near the power plant and in baited holes; catfish good drifting shrimp and on nightcrawlers and bloodbait during the day to 10 fish per string.

LEWISVILLE: Main lake clear, arms murky, 52 degrees, lake full. black bass good in number to 3 pounds in coves on Rat-L-Traps; striper slow; crappie picking up in the creek and around boat docks in 15 feet of water with a few limits on jigs mainly; white bass began showing up Monday, should be good by the weekend; catfish slow.

MARTIN CREEK: Water clear, 46 degrees, normal level; black bass good in the 2 1/2 to 5 pound range in 12 feet of water on spinners with gold blades and black worms with blue tails; catfish slow; striper slow; crappie slow; white bass slow.

MONTICELLO: Water slightly off color, 55 degrees, normal level. black bass good to 7 pounds, 14 ounces on live water dogs and 8-inch black neon worms; crappie slow; catfish good to 35 pounds with limits of 25 on Canadian crawlers and shrimp; channel catfish good in the 3-8 pound range.

MOSS LAKE: Water clear, normal level. black bass fair in number; striper slow; crappie good; white bass fair; catfish fair.

MURVAUL Water fairly clear, 50 degrees, 3 inches over spillway; bass fair to 6 pounds; most fishing slow due to bad weather and lack of fisherman; fishing should be good by the weekend.

PALESTINE: Water clear, 46 degrees, 8 inches above normal. all fishing slow due to bad weather and lack of fishermen.

PURTIS CREEK: Water clear. normal level; black bass good in the 5-6 pound range in good numbers on spinners. white bass slow; catfish fairly good in the 10-13 pound range; snows from last Sunday have melted.

RAY HUBBARD: Water murky, 44 degrees, normal level; black bass good to 3 pounds on jigs in 12 feet of water; striper and hybrid striper good to 8 pounds on Sassy Shad in 16 feet of water near Highway 66 bridge; white bass good in the 1-2 pound range on minnows with limits; catfish good to 6 pounds in 25 feet of water drifting shrimp.

TAWAKONI: Water clear, 48 degrees, spillway level, black bass slow; striper slow; crappie good to 25 fish per string to 1 1/2 pounds on minnows and jigs; white bass slow; catfish fair in the 4 1/2 to 5 pound range on shrimp and worms in deep water.

TEXOMA: Main lake clear, some arms murky, 45 degrees, 18 inches low; black bass and fish slow due to bad weather; a single 25 pound striper landed last Friday before the snow hit; plenty of snow and ice midweek; good numbers of big catfish landed in the red river channel between Loews and Island View.

WELSH: Water clear, 70 degrees, normal level, black bass fair to 7 1/2 pounds on topwaters early and late and worms and cranks during the day; crappie fair on minnows and jigs; catfish good on trotlines as well as rod and reels.

SOUTHEAST

CONROE: Water clear, 49 degrees on the surface, 2 feet low; black bass fairly good before the front, slow since; striper slow; white bass working near 1375 bridge with limits on small Rat-L-Traps and spoons; crappie slow due to lack of fishermen, some on north end, fish are big and full of eggs; catfish good in the creeks and in the river; fish right on the bottom, best baits are shrimp, nightcrawlers and catfish bait.

HOUSTON COUNTY: Water clear, 55 degrees, normal level; black bass fairly good to 8 pounds on shiners and water dogs, Rat-L-Traps and white spinners in 4 feet of water; striper slow; crappie good in the marinas to 6 fish per string on minnows; white bass fair on minnows in 4 feet of water; catfish good to 12 pounds on live perch and live shiners on trotline.

LIVINGSTON: Water slightly off color, 58 degrees, normal level; black bass fair on dark worms and chartreuse spinners to 5 1/2 pounds in 6 feet of water; striper slow; crappie fair to 6 fish per person in 8 feet of water around piers and boat docks on minnows; white bass still up the river, slow fishing in the lake; flathead catfish good to 52 pounds on trotline baited with live sunfish; blue catfish fair to 18 pounds on shad and stink bait on trotlines; channel catfish fairly good to 3 pounds on cut bait and trotline.

RAYBURN: Water discolored up creeks, clear in main lake, 52 degrees, 4 feet low; black bass were good before the front to 6 pounds on Rat-L-Traps, worms and jigs in shallow water, slow since the front; striper slow; crappie slow; white bass slow; catfish slow; high winds have kept most fishermen away from the water.

TOLEDO BEND: Water clear, 48 degrees, 1 foot low; black bass fair to 4 pounds on white and chartreuse spinners, worms, jig and eel; striper slow; crappie slow; white bass slow; catfish slow.

SOUTH

AMISTAD: Water clear, 54 degrees, 3 feet above normal level, black bass good to 7 pounds with a good number of limits, most fish in the 2-3 pound range on jig and pig and worms; striper good to 26 pounds with plenty of limits, the average catch is about 10 pounds on 8 inch Redfins twitched on the surface; crappie good in the 3-4 pound range with plenty of limits on minnows; white bass good with plenty of limits to 2 pounds each on chartreuse and white slabs; catfish slow.

BRAUNIG: Water clear, 52 degrees, 18 inches above normal level; black bass good to 10 pounds on Rat-L-Traps, several 7s and 8s on jig and pig and other artificials in 3 feet of water; striper fair to 3 pounds average on liver; redfish picking up, good off the bank on nightcrawlers and crawdads in the 4-15 pound range, the largest string of the month was caught by the Brandt Brothers with 10 fish which weighed 124 pounds on spoons; blue catfish fair to 4 pounds; a single yellow catfish weighed 5 pounds.

CALAVERAS: Water clear, 50 degrees, normal level, black bass slow; striper to 2 pounds in the hot water discharge on chicken liver and down rigging with silver spoons; corvina good to 7 pounds on green grubs and silver spoons; redfish good to 5 pounds in the warm water area on crawfish and shad.

CHOKO: Water clear, 4 feet low; black bass fair to 7 pounds on chartreuse and white spinners; striper slow; crappie slow because of cold weather; white bass fairly good in the river channels from Highway 99 to Bracken's Boat Ramp; catfish excellent to 11 pounds with limits of 25 fish on Roger's Cheese Bait or blood bait.

COLETO CREEK: Water clear, 62 degrees, 6 inches low; black bass good in the 3-4 pound range on plastic worms; striper slow; crappie

fair but small in size on minnows along the brushline. white bass slow; catfish good to 6 pounds on blood bait and carp, mostly up Coleta Creek.

CORPUS CHRISTI: Lake clear, murky in upper part, 56 degrees, 5 1/2 feet low; black bass good before the norther with several limits in the 3-6 pound range on black plastic lizards and white spinners in 3-8 feet of water; striper slow; crappie good in the coves in the Highway 88 area with some limits of good sized fish on minnows in 2-4 feet of water; white bass good up the Nueces early until noon with largest fish caught on chrome or white Rat-L-Traps and Small A Bombers; striper slow; blue catfish good to 28 pounds in the Brown Island area on trotlines baited with shad and cut sunfish. yellow catfish fair in number to 18 pounds on goldfish and perch.

FALCON: Water slightly murky because of the winds, winds from south midweek, 3 feet low and holding; black bass good before the cold weather hit on spinners, worms and lizards, a few on cranks. striper slow to 10 pounds on a crank bait; crappie slow; white bass good up the river, most fish are small on L'il Georges, Shysters, grubs; catfish good on frozen shrimp and sponge baits.

MEDINA: Water clear, 59 degrees, 20 feet low; black bass good to 19 inches on small grubs, jigs, Rat-L-Traps, no full strings; striper slow; crappie fair; white bass beginning to hit on minnows near the river; catfish slow.

TEXANA: Lake muddy, jungle area clear, 56 degrees, 1 foot low; black bass good in the jungle area to 4 1/2 pounds on jig and pig, no limits; striper slow; white bass slow; crappie slow; catfish fair to 30 pounds on trotline baited with live perch.

WEST

FORT PHANTOM HILL: Water clear, 54 degrees, 8 feet low; black bass fair to 2 pounds on slabs; crappie good to 1 pound on jigs and minnows; white bass are slow; catfish slow. Five inches of snow fell Saturday night and about half remains midweek.

GRANBURY: Water slightly off color, 49 degrees, lake full; black bass good to 7 1/4 pounds on jigs; striper fair to 16 1/2 pounds on white and chartreuse jigs on down riggers; crappie picking up in 6-8 feet of water on jigs and minnows; white bass good around Tintop Bridge on L'il Cleos; catfish slow. Most of the weekend snow has melted by midweek.

HUBBARD CREEK: Water clear, 7 feet low; black and all fishing slow due to cold windy weather; plenty of ice and snow remain from the weekend freeze.

OAK CREEK: Water clear, 45 degrees, 5 feet low; all fishing slow due to lack of fishermen and cold windy weather; most ice and snow were melted by midweek.

POSSUM KINGDOM: Water clear, 11 feet low; black bass and all fishing slow due to bad weather. Ice and snow with drifts to 3 feet are melting midweek.

SPENCE: Water clear, 48 degrees, 27 feet low; black bass good to 5 1/2 pounds on jig and pig; striper fair to 18 pounds on shiners; crappie slow; white bass fair to 15 fish per string on slabs; catfish fair on nightcrawlers to 12 fish per string to 3 pounds; no snow.

COASTAL

NORTH SABINE LAKE: Cold front hurt the fishing, north winds pushed out the water; a single flounder caught at the Outfall Canal; few fishermen out all week; live mud minnows and frozen shrimp available.

GALVESTON: Fishing has been very slow because of very low tides; north winds pushed water from the bays; limited live bait available.

ROCKPORT: Redfish good with limits to 27 inches on worms with shrimp bits in California Hole and Hog Island Hole, both in Redfish Bay; all other fishing slow; tides low because of north winds midweek; a possible new silver sea trout record caught by Jakki Merrill of Rockport last Friday in Aransas Bay, fish weighed 6 1/2 pounds and was caught on live shrimp.

PORT ARANSAS: Tides have been very low, returning to normal midweek; few fishermen out due to cold weather, low tides and lack of live bait. Caldwell Pier has been quiet since Sunday. Snapper boats going out when weather permits, one head boat came in Tuesday with 200 pounds of snapper, amberjack, grouper and blacktip shark.

CORPUS CHRISTI: Oso Pier fishermen catching a few sandtrout and whiting on dead shrimp; some oversized drum hooked but not landed; tides about 1 foot low. Bob Hall Pier fishermen are catching a few whiting, a few small blacktip and bonnetnose shark; before the front

a single fishermen had 86 whiting and a good stringer of pompano. No live bait shrimp available. Some trout to 3 pounds near the CP&L plant in the Laguna Madre; some trout in the Boat Hole
PORT MANSFIELD Low temperatures and moderate winds midweek, tides are still a little low because of the north winds; few fishermen since the front.

SOUTH PADRE: Few fishermen out early this week; a few redfish and trout around Unnecessary Island in the deeper water; best bait is live shrimp which is hard to get; surf fishermen are catching pompano and whiting. Some spring breakers are beginning to arrive, most rooms are booked solid between March 10 through the 19th.

PH 03/8/89