

# Habitat Restoration and Enhancement Using Native Seed Sources?



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# Why Do Anything



- ❧ Minimize habitat loss for wildlife
- ❧ Protect your land resource
- ❧ Limit exotic grass invasion
- ❧ Help disturbed areas recover and be usable by wildlife
- ❧ Enhance available habitat



# Opportunities



- ❧ Oil and Gas Activities
- ❧ EQIP Environmental Quality Incentives Program
- ❧ GRIP Grassland Restoration Incentive Program
- ❧ CRP Conservation Reserve Program
- ❧ WHIP Wildlife Habitat Incentive Program
- ❧ Texas Prairie Wetlands Project
- ❧ Texas Parks and Wildlife Landowner Incentive Program



# Why native



- ❧ What was historically here
- ❧ These plants are what wildlife evolved to use
- ❧ Water usage





# Well Adapted Together





# Native plants offer habitat diversity





# Native plants offer a wide variety of food sources utilized by wildlife





# Non Native Downfalls



- ❧ Unintended consequences
- ❧ Can take over
- ❧ No benefit to the natural system





# Common misconceptions about using natives for reclamation use

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- ❧ They simply don't work
- ❧ They cost too much
- ❧ Native seeds simply are not available
- ❧ All native seeds available are the same
- ❧ A two species mix is more than enough for my site



# Can it be done?





# We think so





# Is this a problem?



x 1,000's miles?



# Is this a problem?



# Is this a problem?



x 90,000 pads?



# Blue print for success



- ❧ Plan ahead
- ❧ Be clear with your oil company representative (or your lawyer), what you want done, and how. (Some people are even requesting the damage fees and doing the reclamation work themselves)
- ❧ Conduct site inventories before the work is started so you have a clear picture of what was there to begin with.



# Site preparation



- œ Contour sculpting
- œ A firm seed bed
- œ Weed free
- œ Timing

Good

Not so good





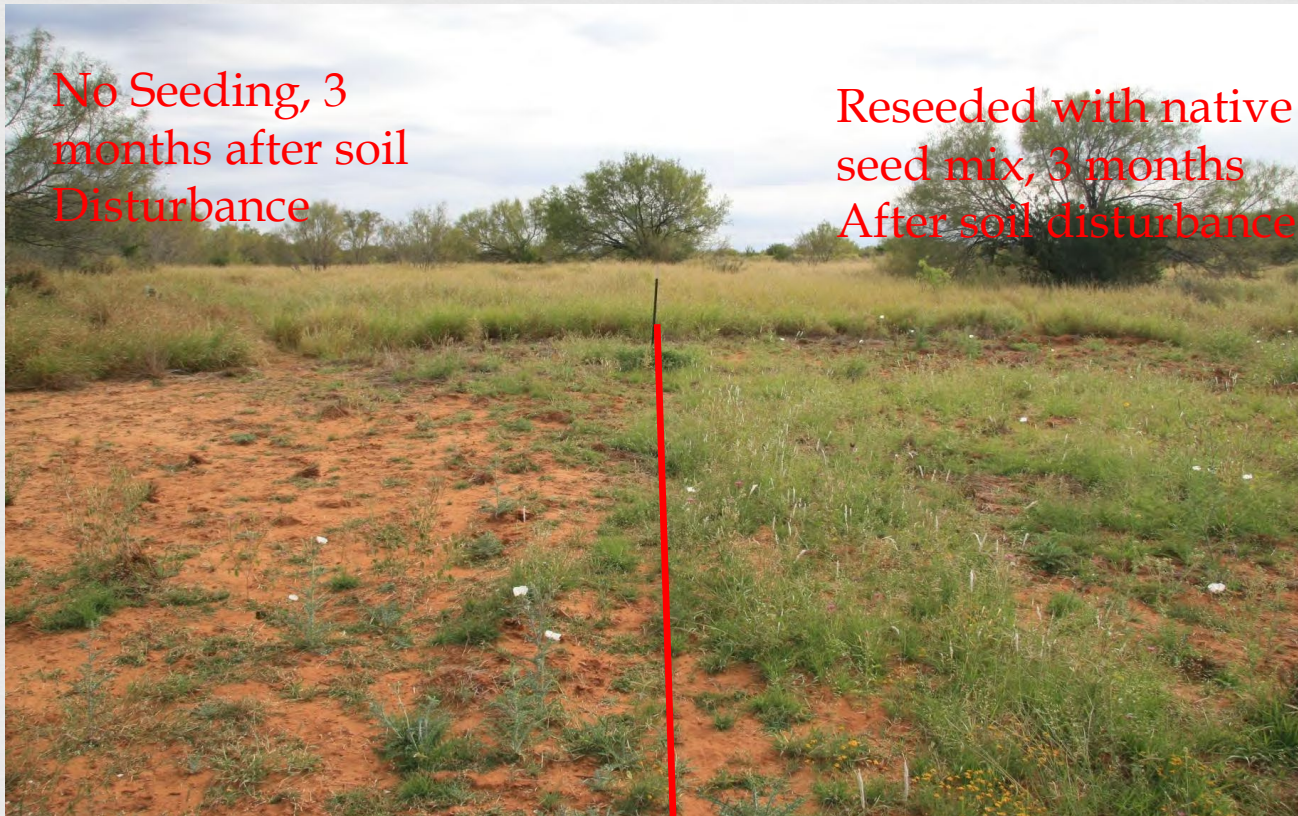
# Maintain soil integrity on the site



- Remove topsoil and store to be put back on the site
- Double ditch the sub soil trench and keep the sub-soil layers separate, and put them back in the same sequence they were removed.



# Do I need to seed?





# Select a seed mix for your site



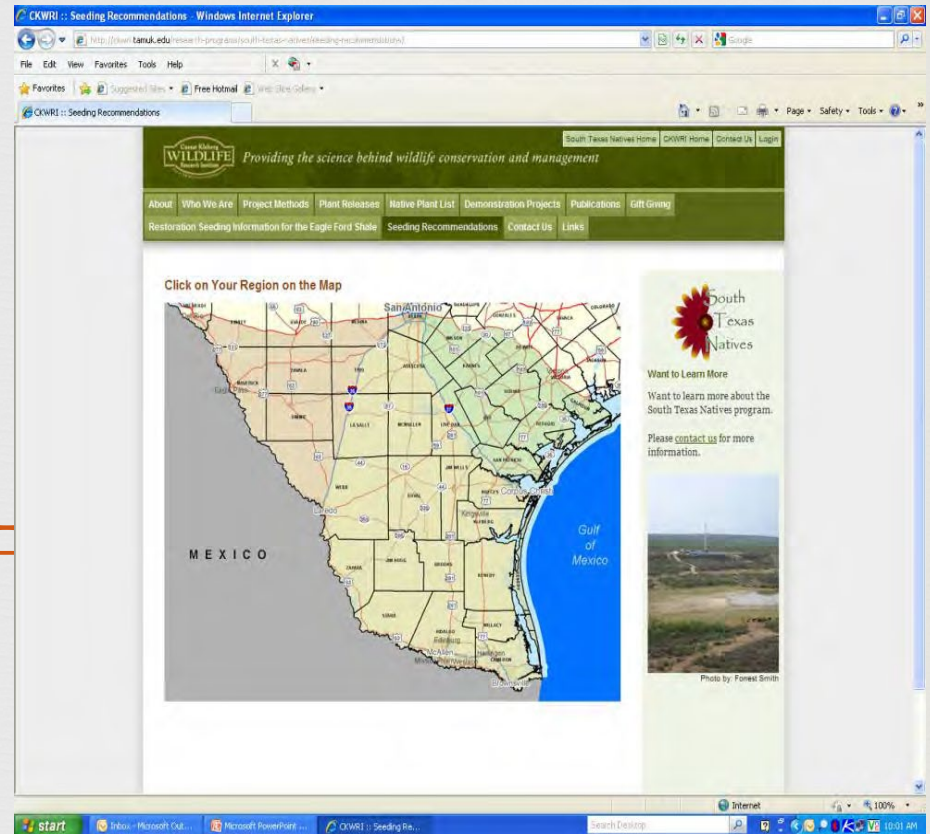
☞ Site inventory

☞ Soils

☞ Contact us

361-593-4037

[http://ckwri.tamuk.edu/  
research-programs/south-  
texas-natives/](http://ckwri.tamuk.edu/research-programs/south-texas-natives/)



# Ecotypic Seed





# Getting the right equipment



- ❧ Planting equipment can be site or application specific
- ❧ Not every contractor has equipment that can be used to plant natives correctly
- ❧ Some sites might have to be reworked so that they can be planted



# Native seed drills





# Broadcasters



# Hydroseeders





# Planting depth

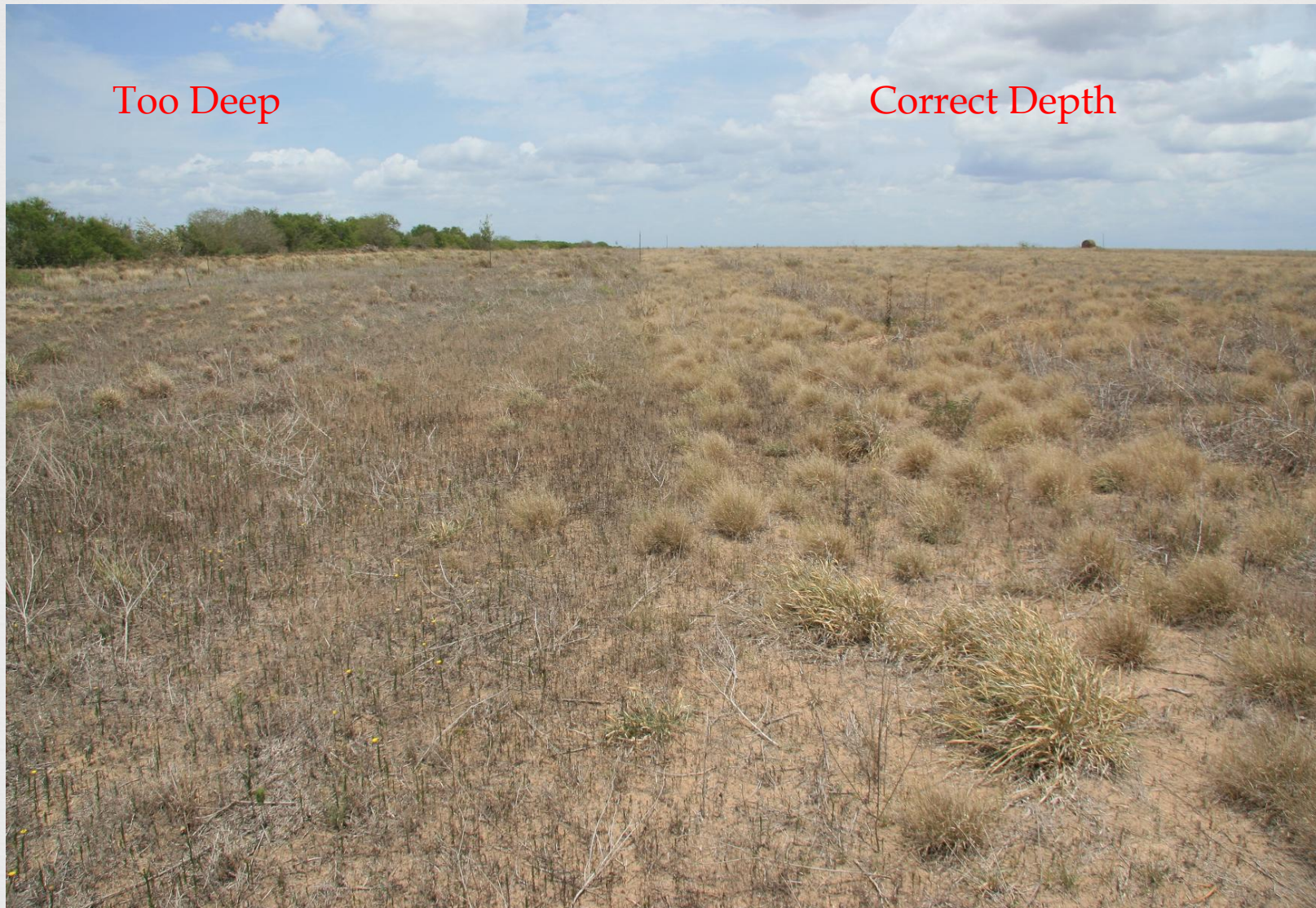


- œ Generally native seed should never be planted more than 1/4"
- œ Packing after planting
- œ If some seed is not visible on the soil surface your are planting too deep



Too Deep

Correct Depth





# Patience



- ❧ These things take time
- ❧ Plants have evolved over time to only come up in favorable conditions one rain may not be enough
- ❧ Plants can be daylight and temperature sensitive



# Weed control





# Concerns with exotics



- ❧ Try to eliminate as much as possible before planting
- ❧ Spot spray after emergence
- ❧ Try to minimize disturbance of planted area

# Livestock grazing



- ❧ Grazing should be deferred for at least 6 months after emergence if possible, one year is recommended
- ❧ Heavy grazing will set the native species back and allow room for exotic grasses to invade





# What's Possible





# What's Possible





# Enjoy





# Questions?

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