

## **Conversion of bermudagrass pasture to native grassland in 4 ecoregions of Texas**

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Large areas of the Cross Timbers and Prairies, Blackland Prairie, Post Oak Savanna, and Coastal Prairie Ecoregions of Texas have been converted to bermudagrass pasture. The extent of bermudagrass pasture is one factor thought to be causative of the decline in abundance of bobwhites and grassland birds in general in these ecoregions. Land use changes, economic factors, and growing emphasis on managing for wildlife, especially northern bobwhites has resulted in widespread need for techniques for converting bermudagrass pasture to native grassland. In the past, many such efforts have failed, in part because landowners and natural resources professional lack knowledge of the best techniques and methodologies for this land management need.

Beginning autumn 2014, we will test a variety of techniques for converting bermudagrass pasture to native grassland across 4 regions of Texas. Experiments in each region will focus on identifying treatments and combinations of treatments that can be used to reduce or eliminate bermudagrass stands, prepare seedbeds and successfully reseed native plants, influence successional change without reseeding, and evaluate the resulting habitats in the context of their ability to provide suitable habitat for northern bobwhites and other grassland bird species. Economic analyses of all methods studied will also be compiled.

Results of this research will be provided to natural resources professionals and landowners throughout the 4 ecoregions of interest.

*Cooperative funding provided by Texas Parks and Wildlife Department*