

## **Wilson County Eagle Ford Shale Pipeline Restoration Trial**

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Restoration of oil and gas pipeline right of ways is a common need of private landowners in and adjacent to the Eagle Ford Shale. In order to provide information to landowners and oil and gas operators about the best techniques for this need, we are conducting research on a pipeline right of way in Wilson County on the Buen Vecino Ranch. One objective of this experiment is to examine the differences in native plant restoration results when using a Truax seed drill and a Truax Trillion seeder. Our secondary objective is to compare restoration results when using a “low diversity” (10 species) mix of locally adapted native grasses only and a “high diversity” locally adapted native seed mix consisting of 31 different species of grasses, forbs, and legumes that could additionally serve as a food plot for wildlife.

Plantings were replicated across 2 soil types. We have found no difference in vegetation establishment results between the 2 planting methods, in support of the hypothesis that planting locally adapted seed, and doing proper land preparation are greater drivers of success than planting method. Cover of seeded plants averaged 52% in low- and the 62% in the high-diversity mix. Intuitively, plant diversity is almost double in plots planted with the high diversity seed mix, with 10 species documented as establishing in the low diversity mix and 19 species present on sites planted with the high diversity mix.

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