

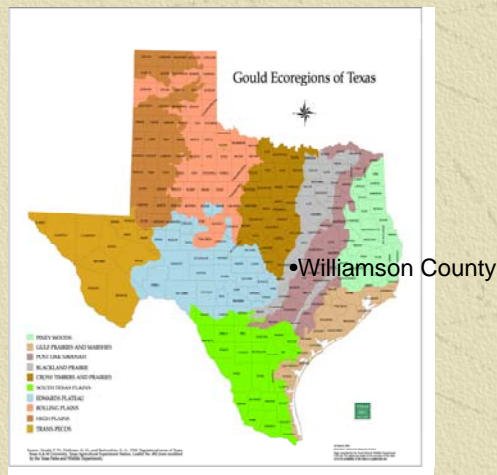
Life and Death in The Texas Blacklands

The Granger Prairie Project

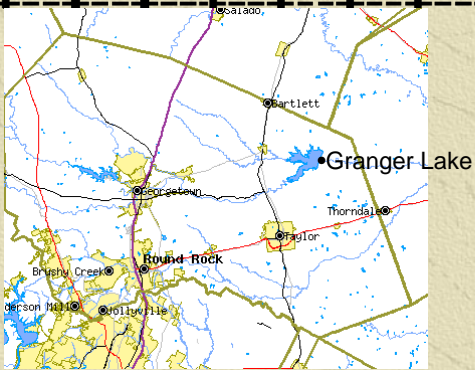
Carey D. Weber

August 15, 2006

Blackland Prairie in Texas – 12 million acres



Williamson County, TX



Blackland prairie eastern half of county – about 25 miles wide.

Uneducated Management - Typical Roadside



Johnson Grass, Sunflower and Ragweed are typical roadside plants due to disturbance and use of herbicides.

Typical Roadside



Mowed to control grass and weed seed that contaminate crops.

Typical Roadside



Herbicide of entire R.O.W.

Granger Lake



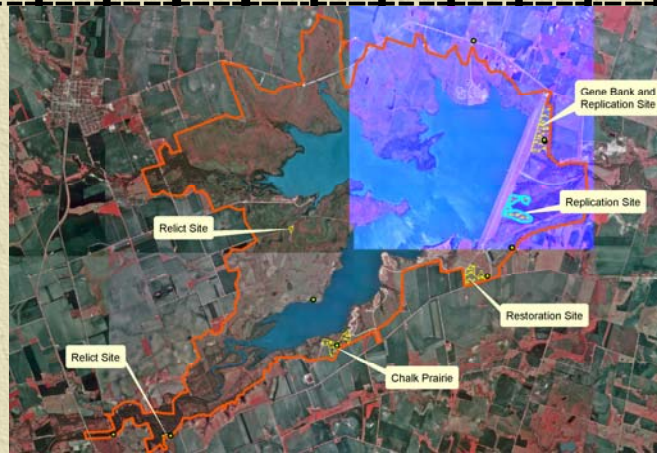
10000+ acres of land; 4400 acre conservation pool

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Partners originally signed.

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Location of relict sites, replication sites and gene bank.

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In the lions den – signage, newspaper articles, letters to prospective donors and partners

Relict Sites - Survivors



Chalk Prairie West Taylor Park – almost 200 species
(Photo courtesy of Native Prairies Association of Texas)

Relict Sites – Survivors



Loamy Bottomland Prairie
(Photo courtesy Native Prairies Association of Texas)

Replication Sites – Imitating Nature



Replication Site #1 established 1991 25 acres

Replication Sites – Imitating Nature



Replication Site #2 established 1993 35 acres

Replication Sites – Imitating Nature



Replication Site #3 established 1994, 50 acres

Replication Sites – Imitating Nature



Lometa Indian Grass and Kaw Big Bluestem – 95”

Gene Bank – Plant Rescue



Established 1991. 4 acres, plots on grid, root clones, seed.

Gene Bank – Plant Rescue



Grasses and herbaceous plants – private and public donors.

(Photo courtesy Native Prairies Association of Texas)

Bell, Milam and Williamson Counties Survey



•Isolated Indian Grass

To increase donations - map, identify landowner, gain access.

Bell, Milam, Williamson Counties Survey



•Big Bluestem

Not all are accessible

Bell, Milam, Williamson Counties Survey



•White Rosinweed

Not all survive transplanting – and shouldn't be attempted!

Gene Bank – Plant Rescue



Move plants in fall – plot in preparation for planting
(Photo courtesy Native Prairies Association of Texas)

Gene Bank – Plant Rescue



Newly installed clones
(Photo courtesy Native Prairies Association of Texas)

Gene Bank – Plant Rescue



Established clone – over 1000 planted
(Photo courtesy of Native Prairies Association of Texas)

Conclusions



- Partnerships key to success – strength in numbers, but all need to be committed.
- Plan for long term management – formalize agreements if possible.
- Celebrate and replicate successes – expand lessons learned to outgrants.
- Communicate and educate – share goals.

Parting Shot



Switchgrass at sunset

(Photo courtesy of Native Prairies Association of Texas)