Landscape Conservation
Value to Society

Society of Range Management
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma
February 4, 2013
Barber County, Kansas

Alexander Ranch

Alexander Ranch

Medicine Lodge

Kansas
Historic Cedar Tree Encroachment

1956
1963
1979

Alexander Ranch
Transitional Phase

- Production Minded
  - Animal Performance
  - Forage Production - Rainfall Driven
  - Efficiency
  - Traditional Paradigm
Recovery on the Ranch
Transitional Phase

- **Paradigm Shift**
  - Educational Events
    - Expanded Peer Influence
    - Eclectic Exposure – Blending principles and ideas
  - Technical Assistance
    - Local and Regional Specialists
    - Consultant Viewpoints
    - Adoption Phase
Transitional Phase

- Exposure…
  - Seeing it
- Digestion…
  - Commitment
- Application…
  - Evaluating/Measuring/Managing/Adjusting
- Sharing…
  - Explaining why you do what you do
Recovery on the Ranch

Improved Hydrology
Species Composition Changes
Riparian Area Improvement

Arkansas Darter Habitat Improved through Grazing System Approach
Grazing System Development

- No Longer Sailing with Columbus
  - From Traditional (Animal Driven) Grazing Systems
  - Rotational (Management Driven) Grazing Systems
  - Managed-Intensive (Intensive Management) Grazing Systems
Transition on the Ranch

Alexander Ranch
Grazing System Design
Grazing System Development
Grazing System Development

South Cell
1840 Acre

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<th>Stocking Rate</th>
<th>250</th>
<th>200</th>
<th>150</th>
<th>100</th>
<th>50</th>
<th>100</th>
<th>575 hd</th>
<th>368 hd</th>
<th>400 hd</th>
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<tr>
<td>Per Acre</td>
<td>64</td>
<td>61</td>
<td>61</td>
<td>72</td>
<td>75</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>97 DAYS</td>
<td>143 DAYS</td>
<td>130 DAYS A.V.</td>
<td>138 days</td>
<td>130 days</td>
<td>123 days</td>
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<td>ADG</td>
<td>2.12</td>
<td>1.9</td>
<td>2.0</td>
<td>1.92</td>
<td>1.97</td>
<td>1.75</td>
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7 Pasture Rotation
9 Pasture Rotation
11 Paddock Rotation

DESIGN: 14.° N.M.
Adaptive Management Phase

- ........ Happens
  - IRS Day Fire
  - Infra-Structure Challenges
  - Strategic Plan – Tactical Adaption

- Opportunities Arise
  - Partnerships Opportunities Crossing the Ranch Borders
Adaptive Management Phase

- Joining Minds, Thoughts, and Processes
  - Sharing Experiences – Successes and Failures
  - Impacts Far Greater Than Just My Ranch
  - Landscape Change Evolves Through Learning From Previous Experiences
Previous Experiences

- Community Partnership Opportunities
  - Comanche Pool Prairie Resource Foundation
  - Kansas Grazing Lands Coalition
  - Red Hills Prescribed Burn Association
Comanche Pool Prairie Resource Foundation STORY

Map Courtesy of US FWS
Good Neighbors and Teamwork!

Prescribed Fire

Alexander Ranch
Ecosystem Services – The Goods and Services Provided by Ecosystems That Have Value to Society

- It’s Not Just About the Grass
  - Wildlife
  - Air Quality
  - Water Quality/Quantity
  - Local and Regional Economics
  - Ranching Legacy
  - Cultural Legacy
A Stewards Request

- Understand the Importance of Landscape Conservation and Stewardship to:
  - Your Ranch
  - Your Community
  - Your County
  - Your State
  - United States of America
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