

Indian Creek Ranch

Emergency Contacts

Fire

Rocksprings
(830) 683-4111
Barksdale
(830) 234-3473
Camp Wood
(830) 597-6100

Border Patrol

(830) 683-2255

EMS

Rocksprings
(830) 683-3305
Camp Wood
(830) 597-4200

Sheriff & Highway Patrol

(830)683-410



Ranch Contacts

President -	Mike Hoffman,	(713) 301-7088,	mwh1113@hotmail.com
Vice President -	Dan Himmerich,	(512) 656-4748,	Dan_Himmerich@hotmail.com
Secretary/Treasurer- Wildlife Mgmt Committee Chairman –	Robert Lenz,	(512) 657-0854,	Robert_Lenz@Dell.com
Security Committee Chairman -	Randy Wood,	(830) 683-4537,	rw09176997@yahoo.com
Webmaster -	Dan Himmerich,		ICRSecurity@gmail.com
	Philip Nelson,	(210) 863-0360,	PNelson@newtek.com

President's Report

Thanks to everyone involved in making our Annual Meeting a wonderful success. We had great participation, as usual, with around 80 landowners, their families and guests mingling and enjoying the great food. You should have received the meeting minutes by now along with some Wildlife Management Plan information relating to the 2011 census results and harvest recommendations. If

you have not received the minutes please let me know. For those of you that weren't able to make the meetings, the key points were:

1. Main gate combinations and locks were changed on October 3.
2. Board Elections were held. I was re-elected as President, Bill Wilson was elected as Vice-President, Robert Lenz was also re-elected as Treasurer. Dan Himmerich

remains as the Security Chairman.



3. The harvest recommendation this year is X does and X mature bucks per 100 acres. See the meeting minutes and attachments for all the details.

We will continue to use the contractor lock as it has been very successful. Look for a new contractor lock combi-

nation before the beginning of the rifle season.

Read on, as Randy will give you an update on the road maintenance, Dan and Bill will talk about water, Robert will discuss our financial situation (excellent), and a special article by guest contributor, David Heft.

Mike



Vice President's Report

As mentioned in previous newsletters, I can't emphasize enough the importance of closing your valves when you're not at the ranch. Many of us have been without water on numerous occasions simply because someone left their valve open and then developed a major leak on their property due to frozen pipes, hog damage, etc. We appreciate your help in solving this long-term problem.

Speaking of frozen pipes, we're getting close to that time of year when pipes can burst



from freeze damage. Please wrap your main valve to ensure we don't have a major leak. You may also want to wrap all of the pipe connections on your wildlife watering system. While wrapping doesn't guarantee



the connections won't break under extreme conditions (I had 2 breaks during the severe freeze of last year), it will help prevent problems under most freezing conditions.

As Dan mentioned in the last newsletter, remember to complete your 2011 planned activity BEFORE the end of the year. Properly documented

activities, at the appropriate levels of intensity, will help ensure that you retain your Open Space valuation in 2012. If you have any questions about your plan, or the activities you are expecting to complete, please speak with Cotton or Bruce at the Edwards County Appraisal Office. You must complete your annual reports on time, and that may be difficult if you wait until January to begin your work.

It's good to be back on the Board, and I look forward to working with everyone again. As always, I will continue to work to make the ranch a better place and ensure we get the most for our Association dollars.

Hope everyone has a successful hunt!

Bill and Dan

Wildlife Committee Report



Where did September and October go?

Seems like last week we were doing the first census in mid-August. Things were dry and brown -- then in late September we began to get some rain - 3"to 4" depending on where you were. Good news: lots of new green since then. Consumption of protein has fallen from 100 pounds per day in one of our feeders to less than 10 pounds per day. But we now see far less of the animals at the feeder than we did through the summer. If we continue to get rain the animals will probably continue to be scattered and hunting will be more difficult.

Our biologist, Sylvestre Sorola provided his harvest recommendation at the

annual meeting October 1. President Mike Hoffman has provided the complete document to you so that you can include this in your annual report to the Appraisal Office in January.

Wildlife Management includes harvests to meet the goal of balance between available habitat and habitat users. Our habitat is seriously stressed so please take Sylvestre's recommendations to heart. As always please record your harvests in the register in the Exit mailbox.



As you harvest pigs turn your tails in at Country Boys feed store for two purposes. First, you get a chance to win a nice Rifle. Second, you help the County in a statewide contest for up to \$20,000 for its predator control program. Given the number of hogs in the county and the number



of hunters, Edwards County could win. (Also be sure to record your hog harvest in the Association log book).

Our wells have not improved with the rain, so please be judicious with water and walk all your lines after you turn your valves on. We have lots of Squirrel and Porcupine damage to water lines. One leak in a line can empty tanks overnight. Also winter is coming--really-- so think about insulating valves etc. If you see Kenny Wilson extend a big thank you for his donation of a big bucket of new water valves.





Finally--Roads: As I write this, the main road from the front gate to the "top" of phase VII and the cutting pen draw road have been graded. Plans are to complete the Phase VII road and address the major problem areas in phases I, III, IV, and VI. Some of this may

have to wait for more moisture. Road deterioration increases significantly with speed and driving in the "ruts". A speed of 40 mph does 4 times as much damage as a speed of 20 mph. So if you can, drive a little slower and spread your tracks out over the width of the road.

Good hunting and have a great time.

Randy



Treasurer's Report

As we continue to remind you, the burn ban is still in effect even though we have had a little rain....don't throw those cigarette butts

out the window, dispose of them properly.

We are missing only one landowners dues, appropriate action is being taken to place a lien on that property.

Good Luck and send in those pictures of the bow harvest !

Robert

Financial Report

Please see the edition sent to you by email for financial details.



Request for Trapping Research Assistance



I've asked the association to include this article in the newsletter to solicit support for on-going research into trapping tools being con-

ducted by the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (AFWA) which is the umbrella organization for all of the state wildlife agencies in the United States. Because of the controversy generated by various groups across the country regarding trapping methods the AFWA began a process in 1996 to identify best management practices (BMPs) regarding the most efficient and humane tools for the taking of the most common furbearing and predatory species in the United States.

Due to funding and manpower constraints species were prioritized as high, medium, or low depending on their economic and recreational values. The process uses a rigorous protocol to identify those trap types and methods that based on scientific testing are most appropriate for the species involved. After the last 15 years the AFWA is now testing methods for the lowest priority species. Having just recently retired from the U.S. Forest Service as a wildlife biologist and

with experience during my career with the Federal Wildlife Services program I was asked if I would be interested in assisting with the testing this winter for ringtails. I agreed to act as both a trapper and recording technician for the effort.

The research would involve utilizing 2 types of traps for a 2 week period (the last 2 weeks of January) to try and take 10-15 ringtails in each trap type. The trap types being tested this winter are a body gripping type trap which kills the animal (similar to the principle behind a rat trap) and a rubber padded jaw foot gripping trap equipped with a shock spring. The testing would be done by setting up 1 or 2 trap stations with each type of trap at each station per property for the 2 week period. All traps would be checked by noon each day. (The reason for waiting until after deer season so as not to disturb any deer hunting). The assistance I would ask for would be written permission to set up 1 or 2 stations on an individual property for

the 2 week period. I would hope to secure enough permissions to have at least 20 stations set. We have locations for 3 stations on our own property. If a landowner so desired I would also be happy once the research is done to remove as many raccoons, skunks, opossums, etc. from your property up through March 15 for nothing except a written permission slip. Having 45 years of trapping experience including time as



a former federal trapper I have resolved problems with everything from muskrats to mountain lions.

I have had one landowner express concern over taking ringtails since they are not regarded as the destructive pests that our coons, skunks, and opossums are sometimes viewed as. Based on previous population research efforts in the Edwards Plateau area (as published in scientific

journals) a highly conservative population estimate for the ranch's ringtail population would be a minimum of 300 animals. The BMP research effort would only remove up to a maximum of 10% of the population. The AFWA maintains a website on which more information regarding the BMP process is available. I can be contacted at our house in New Mexico at 575-835-4956. If no answer we have caller ID and I will return your call. A message can be left with my wife or on her cell phone at 505-573-1588. Until we sell the house in New Mexico I will be back and forth regularly to the ranch for several weeks at a time. Our place is across the road from the Woods so if the gate is open you're welcome to stop by and talk to me in person. I will be there the last week of bow season and first week of gun season. Once we move to the ranch permanently we will have a phone there. Thank you in advance for your help.

David Heft



Miscellaneous Business

CALENDER - Upcoming Events

January 31, 2012 - Annual Reports due to the Edwards County Appraisal District

ICR Website address:

www.Indian-Creek-Ranch.org

FOR SALE: 24 foot travel trailer available. Home is built wife says to get it off the property. Needs some work but roof is sound and tires are good. Can be seen at 5840 county road 520 (Phase 2, Tract 1). Contact Dave or Socorro Heft at 505-573-1588. First \$40 (not a typo) takes it. Have title.