MATTHEW W. WAGNER

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ACADEMIC BACKGROUND

B.S. Range Science, Texas A&M University, December 1980

M.S. Range Science, Montana State University, August 1985

Ph.D. Urban and Regional Science, Texas A&M University, December 2005

WORK EXPERIENCE

February 2024 – Current: Texas Chapter of The Wildlife Society

Executive Director. Represent the Chapter on state and national conservation issues. Testify at wildlife-related legislative and agency hearings. Coordinate Chapter efforts on state and national legislative affairs and partnerships. Serves as co-chair of the Chapter's Conservation Affairs Committee.

February 2018 – Current: Weston Ranch

Land and wildlife management consultant for Weston Family Ranch, Guadalupe County. Prepare grazing, farming and hunting leases, assist in day to day operations, and develop mission and future plans for the Weston Ranch Foundation.

May 2017 – December 2023: Texan by Nature

Former Interim Operations Director. Responsible for maintaining day to day operations of this 501(c)(3) conservation organization, founded in 2011 by former First Lady Laura Bush. Was responsible for field operations of habitat restoration in the Eagle Ford Shale.

September 2016 – December 2017: Wildlife Management Institute

Project Administrator. Serve as staff member on the Great Plains and Gulf Coast Prairie Landscape Conservation Cooperatives (LCCs), two of the 22 LCCs nation-wide. Coordinate research and management projects using federal funds to prioritize habitats for strategic conservation on a landscape scale.

September 2015 – Current: Texas State University, Biology Department

Lecturer, Wildlife Law and Policy. Introduce students to the history and processes of making and implementing state and federal laws in wildlife and fisheries management. Analyzes the property and constitutional underpinnings of state and federal wildlife laws, and uses case law as examples for the structuring of state regulation of wildlife. The course also focuses on several federal statutory benchmarks, including the Endangered Species Act, Lacey Act, and the Migratory Bird Treaty Act. Additionally, the course considers wildlife law in other countries compared to the North American Model of Wildlife Conservation.

September 2013 – Current: Texas A&M University, Ecosystem Science and Management Department

Adjunct Faculty. Serve on multiple graduate committees and give annual guest lectures regarding wildlife and natural resource management.

December 2009 – August 2016: Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, Austin, Texas
Deputy Director, Wildlife Division. Responsible for the supervision of the division's federal aid, budget, contracting, purchasing, human resource, and wildlife research functions, supporting 300 FTEs and a budget of approximately $30 M. This includes detailed budget analysis and aligning federal grants to the budget process, as well as determining which division activities and projects are most appropriate for dedicated stamp funds. Coordination of capital equipment and construction expenditures, budget cut exercises, responding to legislative requests, division re-organization, and personnel issues. Led the division's strategic plan which was completed in 2011. This plan was then integrated into the division's operating budget and agency-wide Land and Water Plan. Communicate conservation priorities for the division to internal and external stakeholders.

January 2006 – November 2009: Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, Austin, Texas
Program Director, Wildlife Diversity, Wildlife Division. Guides the policy, management and research activities for nongame and rare wildlife species in Texas. Supervises Nongame and Endangered Species programs, Conservation Outreach, Wildlife Research and Data Analysis programs, with 30 FTEs. Administers Wildlife Division's science activities and research budget ($1.5 - $2 million annually). Coordinates with the Wildlife Diversity Advisory Committee, and numerous other state, federal, and private conservation organizations.

April 1998 – December 2005: Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, College Station, Texas
Technical Guidance Biologist, Wildlife Division. Provide technical assistance and prepare wildlife management plans for private landowners in the Post Oak Savannah Region of Texas. Includes dissemination of wildlife management information to landowners, hunters, and the general public using videos, publications, clinics, and popular articles. Recommend wildlife habitat enhancements and conservation strategies on over 400,000 acres of private lands in a 30-county district. Create cost-share incentive program for quail habitat restoration. Co-teach senior level class in private lands habitat planning and management (WFSC 406/407). Instructor, Recreation, Parks and Tourism Sciences Department at Texas A&M University, Fall 2002.

December 1992 - May 1998: Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, Austin, Texas
Nongame Program Leader, Wildlife Division. Coordinate statewide program in nongame research, education and management. Supervision of 4 FTEs. Includes responsibilities in land acquisition and management of unique habitats for nongame resources, policy and regulation of commercial use of nongame resources, and nuisance wildlife management. Prioritize multiple projects and develop long-term goals for nongame conservation. Develop urban wildlife programs including backyard habitat, school projects and local park planning. Present conservation and education programs in diverse forums. Seek outside funding in the form of grants, cost-share programs, private donations, and sale of program materials. Build strong relationships with non-governmental conservation organizations to strengthen support for nongame funding, research and educational programs.

September 1988 - December 1992: Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, Austin, Texas
Biologist II, Parks Division. Inventory and assessment of flora and fauna of State Parks. Develop resource management plans for new park sites, including habitat evaluations, ecological restoration using prescribed burning, strategic grazing management, and integrated mechanical/herbicide treatments. Establish long-term research and monitoring projects. Also develop public awareness and demonstration programs through volunteer projects, interpretive

brochures, and educational presentations.

September 1985 - September 1988: Texas A & M Agricultural Research and Extension Center, San Angelo, Texas

Research Associate, Range Science. Designed and conducted experiments with emphasis on noxious plant control and forage research for livestock/wildlife use. Managed state leased land.

MEMBERSHIPS, CERTIFICATIONS AND AWARDS

Chronic Wasting Disease Working Group, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, 2026

Sam Beasom Conservation Leadership Award, Texas Wildlife Association, 2024

Mentor, North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission Leadership Program, 2019

Board Member, Native Prairies Association of Texas, December 2019-March 2024

Vice Chair, Wildlife Conservation Committee, Texas Wildlife Association, 2018-present

Alumnus, National Conservation Leadership Institute, Cohort 10, 2015

Chair, Steering Committee, Gulf Coast Prairie Landscape Conservation Cooperative, 2015-2016

Member, Steering Committee, James G. Teer Conservation Leadership Institute, 2014-2016

Honorary Life Member, Texas Chapter of The Wildlife Society

Past President, Texas Chapter of The Wildlife Society, 2013-2014

Past President, Texas Section Society for Range Management, 2010-2011

Mentor, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, Natural Leaders Program, 2010

Adjunct Faculty, Ecosystem Science and Management Department, Texas A&M University, College Station, TX, 2009-2022

Chair, Wildlife Diversity Committee, Southeast Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies, 2009

Member, Threatened and Endangered Species Policy Committee, Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies, 2007-2016

Advisory Committee, Texas Wildlife Management Council, 2009-2016

Doctoral Fellow, National Water Research Institute 2002-2005

Board of Directors, Texas Section Society for Range Management 2002-2004

Certified, Wildlife Biologist (The Wildlife Society)

Certified, Professional in Rangeland Management (Society for Range Management)

Advisory Committee, Center for Grazinglands and Ranch Management, Texas A&M University 2000-2005

Regional Committee Member, Wildlife Alliance for Youth 1999-2002

Austin Independent School District Textbook Advisory Committee 1995-1998

Member, Society for Range Management

Member, The Wildlife Society, Private Land Working Group

Member, Texas Wildlife Association

Member, Native Plant Society of Texas

Certified Big Game Award Scorer

JOURNAL ARTICLES

Wagner, M. W., U. P. Kreuter, R. A. Kaiser, and R. N. Wilkins. 2007. Collective action and social capital of wildlife management associations in Texas. Journal of Wildlife Management. 71 (5): 1729-1738.

Wagner, M. W., R. A. Kaiser, U. P. Kreuter, and R. N. Wilkins. 2007. Managing the commons Texas style: wildlife management and groundwater associations on private lands. Journal of the American Water Resources Association. 43 (3): 698-711.

Lopez, Roel, B. Hays, M. Wagner, S. Locke, R. McCleery, and N. Silvy. 2006. Integrating land conservation planning in the classroom. Wildlife Society Bulletin. 34 (1): 223-228.

Wagner, M., F. Smeins and B. Hays. 2005. Pastures for Upland Birds: Landowner incentive program restores native plants in bermudagrass pastures (Texas). Ecological Restoration. 23 (3): 209-210.

Wagner, M. and U. Kreuter. 2004. Groundwater supply in Texas: private land considerations in a rule-of- capture state. Society and Natural Resources. 17: 349-357.

Wagner, M .W., K.M. Havstad, D.E. Doornbos, and E.L. Ayers. 1986. Forage intake of rangeland beef cows with varying degrees of crossbred influence. Journal of Animal Science. 63: 1484.

PROFESSIONAL PROCEEDINGS, ABSTRACTS OR REPORTS

Jex, B. A., J. B. Ayotte, V. C. Bleich, C. E. Brewer, D. L. Bruning, T. M. Hegel, N. C. Larter, H. M. Schwantje, R. A. Schwanke, and M. W. Wagner. 2016. Thinhorn sheep: conservation challenges and management strategies for the 21st Century. Wild Sheep

Working Group, Western Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies, Boise, Idaho, USA.

Brewer, C. E., V.C. Bliech, J.A. Foster, T. Hosch-Hebdon, D.E. McWhirter, E.M. Rominger, M.W. Wagner, and B.P. Wiedmann. 2013. Bighorn Sheep: Conservation Challenges and Management Strategies for the 21st Century. Wild Sheep Working Group, Western Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies, Cheyenne, Wyoming. USA.

Wagner, M. 2010. Invasive species in Texas – the biological battlefront. Plenary Session, Annual Meeting, Texas Chapter Wildlife Society, February, Galveston, Texas.

Wagner, M. and L. Campbell. 2008 Texas Wildlife Action Plan. Annual Conference, The Wildlife Society, November 9-11, Miami, Florida.

Ortego, B., M. Wagner, T. Anderson, W. Harrell, and C. Carter. Engagement of Texas private landowners in bird conservation. 2008. Proceed. Fourth International Partners in Flight Conference, McAllen, Texas. February 13-16.

Wagner, M. and L. Campbell. 2006. Texas Wildlife Action Plan. Annual Conference, Society for Range Management, February 12-15, Reno, Nevada.

Wagner, M.. R. Kaiser, U. Krueter, N. Wilkins. 2006. Collective action and social capital of wildlife management associations. Annual Meeting, Texas Chapter Wildlife Society, February, South Padre Island, Texas.

Hays, Brian, Matt Wagner, and Fred Smeins. 2005. Restoring native grassland habitat in the Post Oak Savannah of Texas. Annual Conference, The Wildlife Society, September 25-29, Madison, Wisconsin.

Wagner, Matt. 2005. Wildlife management in the Post Oak Savannah – strategies in a private land state. Annual Conference, Society for Range Management, February 5-11, Fort Worth, Texas.

Lopez, R., M. Wagner, B. Toole, and B. Hays. 2004. Integrating land conservation planning in the classroom. Annual Meeting, Texas Chapter The Wildlife Society, February 19-21, Kerrville, Texas.

Wagner, Matt, Fred Smeins, and Brian Hays. 2003. Pastures for upland birds: restoring native plants in bermudagrass pastures. Annual Conf. Society for Ecological Restoration. November 19-22, Austin, Texas.

Wagner, Matthew W., Urs Kreuter, and Ronald Kaiser. 2002. Maintaining wildlife habitat, and groundwater supply in Texas through landowner associations. Proceed. American Water Resources Association Annual Meeting, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. November 3-7, 2002.

Rideout, David, Matt Wagner, and Kirby Brown. 2001. Wildlife management activities and practices - comprehensive wildlife management planning guidelines for the post oak and blackland prairie regions. Texas Parks and Wildlife Department. Austin, Texas. 130 pp.

Wagner, Matt, Mario Vazquez, and Felipe Chavez. 1999. Managing for wildlife diversity in the Tamaulipan region. Proceed. Fourth International Workshop Wildlife Conservation and Management, Saltillo, Mexico August 19-20, 1999. Center for Grazinglands and Ranch

Management, Texas A&M University, College Station, Texas.

Calvert W. H. and M. Wagner. 1999. Patterns in the monarch butterfly migration through Texas–1993 to 1995. Proceed. North American Conference on the Monarch Butterfly. Commission for Environmental Cooperation, Montreal, Canada.

Wagner, Matthew W.(ed.)1997. Wildlife Research Highlights. Texas Parks and Wildlife Department. Vol. 2.

Wagner, Matt. 1997. Brush sculpting for nongame birds. Proceedings, Brush Sculpting Symposium, Uvalde and Abilene, Texas. Texas A&M University Res. And Ext. Center, San Angelo, Texas. 150 pp.

Matt Wagner and Brad Simpson. 1997. Inventory and monitoring habitat and wildlife diversity on wildlife management areas. Wildlife Research Highlights. Texas Parks and Wildlife Department. Vol. 2.

Wagner, Matt and Bill Calvert 1997. Monarch conservation efforts of the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department. Proceed. North American Monarch Butterfly Conf., Morelia, Mexico. Nov 10-14, 1997. Commission for Environmental Cooperation, Montreal, Canada. 428 pp.

Wagner, Matt. 1995. Coastal Prairie Restoration in Texas. Habitat Restoration News. The Wildlife Society. No. 5.

Wagner, Matthew W. 1995. Acquisition and Management of Nongame and Sensitive Species Habitats. Federal Aid Performance Report. Project No. W-130-L-2, Job No. 72.

Wagner, Matt and David Riskind. 1992. Edwards Plateau Habitat Restoration on State Parks. Annual Meeting Texas Chapter The Wildlife Society, Feb. 27-29, Austin, Texas.

Wagner, Matt and David Riskind. 1992. Coastal Prairie Restoration on State Parks. Annual Meeting Texas Chapter The Wildlife Society, Feb. 27-29, Austin, Texas.

Wagner, Matt and Michael L. Lange. Texas Colonial Waterbird Census Summary 1991-92. Special Administrative Report, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department.

Wagner, M.W., D.N. Ueckert, and J.L. Petersen. 1989. Fungicide seed treatment of winterfat (Ceratoides lanata) and fourwing saltbush (Altriplex canescens). 42nd Annual Meeting Society for Range Management, Billings, Montana, Feb. 19-24.

Wagner, M.W., D.N. Ueckert, J.L. Petersen and J.D. Whipple. 1988. Pricklypear cactus: effect of forage yield and availability and soil water depletion. 41st Annual Meeting Society for Range Management, Corpus Christi, Texas, Feb. 14-19.

Wagner, M.W., E.L. Ayers, D.E. Doornbos, and K.M. Havstad. 1985. Forage consumption of five beef cow breeds differing in milk production ability. 38th Annual Meeting Society for Range Management, Salt Lake City, Utah, Feb. 11-15.

Balin, Lois, Thomas C. Tacha, Matt Wagner and Gary Waggerman. 1996. Comparative habitat use of neotropical migratory, wintering and resident birds in the Lower Rio Grande Valley

of Southern Texas. Wildlife Research Highlights. Texas Parks and Wildlife Department. Vol. 1, No. 1.

Kazmaier, Richard, Eric Hellgren, Jimmy Rutledge, and Matt Wagner. 1995. The Effect of Grazing on the Demography and Ecology of the Texas Tortoise. Annual Report, Caesar Kleberg Wildlife Research Institute, 1994-1995.

Ueckert, D.N., J.L. Petersen, J.E. Huston and M.W. Wagner. 1990. Relative value of fourwing saltbush as a source of supplemental protein for yearling ewes during winter. Research Report. Sheep and Goat, Wool and Mohair, Texas Agricultural Experiment Station.

Petersen, J.L, D.N. Ueckert, and M.W. Wagner. 1989. Herbicidal control of Sacahuista (Nolina texana) in Western Texas. 42nd Annual Meeting Society for Range Management,Billings, Montana, Feb 19.

Petersen, Joseph L., Darrell N. Ueckert, and Matthew W. Wagner. 1989. Herbicides to aid establishment of fourwing saltbush. Proceedings: Symposium on cheatgrass invasion. Shrub die-off and other aspects of shrub biology and management, Las Vegas, NV, April 5-7.

Ueckert, D.N., J.L. Petersen, J.E. Huston, and M.W. Wagner. 1989. Evaluation of fourwing saltbush as a forage for sheep and angora goats. Proceedings: Symposium on cheatgrass invasion, shrub die-off, and other aspects of shrub biology and management, Las Vegas, NV, April 5-7.

Petersen, J.L., D.N. Ueckert, M.W. Wagner and J.D. Whipple. 1988. Performance of fourwing saltbush (Atriplex canescens) stem cuttings from low and high-vigor parent plants. 41st Annual Meeting Society for Range Management, Corpus Christi, Texas, Feb. 14-19.

Ueckert, D.N., J.L. Petersen, M.W. Wagner and J.E. Huston. 1988. Performance of sheep and angora goats grazing fourwing saltbush (Atriplex canescens) and littleleaf leadtree (Leucaena retusa). 41st Annual Meeting Society for Range Management, Corpus Christi, Texas, Feb. 14-19.

POPULAR ARTICLES

Locke, S.L., C. Frentress, J.C. Cathey, C. Mason, R. Hirsch, and M.W. Wagner. 2007. Techniques for wetland construction and management. Texas Cooperative Extension, Publication SP-316.

Cathey, J.C., S.L. Locke, A.M. Feldpausch, I.D. Parker, C. Frentress, J. Whiteside, C. Mason, M.W. Wagner. 2007. Linking water conservation and natural resource stewardship in the Trinity River Basin. Texas Cooperative Extension, Publication SP-318.

K. Brian Hays, Matthew Wagner, Fred Smeins and R. Neal Wilkins. 2004. Restoring native grasslands. Texas Cooperative Extension, Publication L-5456. (Awarded best popular article by Texas Chapter Wildlife Society, 2005)

Wagner, Matt. 2003. Managing riparian habitats for wildlife. Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, PWD BR W7000-306.

Pastures for Upland Birds - Restoration of Native Plants in Bermudagrass. 2001. Grazinglands. Vol. 4, No.2. Center for Grazinglands and Ranch Management, College Station, Texas.

Trinity River Basin Wildlife Management Cooperative Formed. 2000. Making Tracts for Texas Wildlife. Vol. 8, No.1. Texas Parks and Wildlife, Austin, Texas.

Land Fragmentation in Texas: Meeting the Challenge. 2000. Grazinglands. Vol. 3, No. 1. Center for Grazinglands and Ranch Management, College Station, Texas.

Restoring Texas Landscapes. 1998. Texas Parks and Wildlife Magazine. February issue, Vol. 56, No. 2 .

Coastal Prairie Management for Nongame Birds in Texas. 1997. Texas Section, Society for Range Management Newsletter. Vol. 48, No. 4.

Habitat Restoration on Texas Parks and Wildlife Department Lands. 1997. Texas Restoration Notes. Texas Society for Ecological Restoration. Vol. 2, No. 2.

Habitat Restoration - Solving the Puzzle of Wildlife Diversity in Texas. 1996. Rangelands. Vol. 18, No. 3.

Urban Wildscapes Attract Nature. April 4, 1994, Austin American Statesman.

Texas Coastal Prairies are Vanishing Resource. August 24, 1993. Austin American Statesman.

Abandoned Hatcheries Natural as Wetlands. October 5, 1993. Austin American Statesman.

Endangered Species: Habitat Acquisition vs. Habitat Management. 1992. Texas Section, Society of Range Management Newsletter. Vol. 43, No. 3.

Firebreak Construction Using Portable Electric Fencing. 1992. Texas Section, Society for Range Management Newsletter. Vol. 43, No. 1.