

# What Do I DO About This Mess

Cedar is taking over my land

# Phase I



Try riding a 4 wheeler through this cedar mess.





Would you like to drive your truck in  
my pasture?



# Hunters were not happy.

- They were complaining that they could not see the deer.
- We did not even try to conduct wildlife (deer) surveys on this side of the ranch.
- All you can see is **BIG CEDAR.....little cedar.**





Hunters would cut cedar every year  
away from their feeders.





**Our Hunters Loved What They Saw  
When They Came To Fill Feeders.**



# What fence? Where is the fence?



- Checking fences and livestock was hard to do because we were limited on what we could see and where we could drive.







Now we can see and drive the fences.





Imagine having to walk through cedar to check this gap after every rain this summer. (2007)



- We had to carry fencing supplies down into this draw to check and fix this gap. Now we can drive up to the area in a nice pickup without worrying about adding Texas pen stripes.

# We were growing rocks



- After two years of drought we were out of grass.
- Cows were not breeding back during our breeding season.
- We were having to buy more feed.
- We were only growing more rocks.



**This Pasture was rested the spring  
and fall growing seasons.  
Where's the grass?**



This past year this pasture was  
burned and rested the spring  
growing season.





















Piles of cedar? Yes, we have piles.







# We want our piles to break down and compost.



- The Cedar pile of left was cut in 2006 and the cedar pile of the right was cut in 2007
- Notice now much the cedar piles break down in just one year.
- Our goal is small piles of cedar slash.





# Cedar has been piled in rows to slow erosion.



- With the lack of grass because of cedar and the large draw that ran through this pasture, erosion was a major concern. So we piled cedar slash in rows to slow the water flow down a very rocky hill.













# Brush Piles are not left under trees especially under the Spanish (Red) Oaks









When we cut we move in the cows  
and goats everyone has a job to do.









# Not all cedar is cut

- Male cedar trees were left along fence lines, near hunting blinds and feeders, in headers and at random throughout pasture for wildlife and livestock shelter.



We leave cedar for this little one.





# Phase II

- Prior....Proper .....Planning.....Prevents....  
Poor.....Performance

# Happiness is smoke on the Horizon





# Not a typical burn



- We had to burn in our fire guards.
- We used blowers and brooms to control the fire
- We used very little water
- We mostly went slow, burned into the wind and burned from rock to rock

# Long days





# We burned from rock to rock

- Fire guards were about 75 feet across.
- Slash was pulled out of the fire guard before area was blackened.



# Develop a comprehensive fire management plan well in advance of the burn and follow the plan.



- Don't get in a hurry and take short cuts
- Enlist the help of qualified workers
- Review the fire plan with everyone
- Clearly defined everyones responsibility.



# Gear up



We used sheep to over graze the adjoining pasture as another safety tool







# Pyromanagers not Pyromaniacs





Don't burn with relative humidity  
less than 20%



Don't burn with winds over 20 miles per hour.

























# And then it Rained





# And Rained

















# Everywhere the fire got hot we found good native grasses.

- This was where a big cedar tree burnt and around the edge of this burned area we found a variety of grasses growing

























# Sideoats Grama













This is the pasture we over grazed  
with sheep before the burn.



This is what we want.





This was a rocky hillside









# Hot spot











Poor baby what do I eat first.



Claudia has never seen this much  
water in this spring so high up in the  
pasture





# This spring has come back







There sure are a lot of weeds.



Don't you have this flower in your yard ?





Ya know us girls could burn this.



# So How Can I Do that?

- Get off your butt, stop talking about it and cut something with what ever you have one tree at a time.
- Go help someone else burn.
- We started with nippers, then a chainsaw, then a bobcat, then we helped someone else burn, then we burned.
- Look what we have done.



# Thank you.

- Thank you to everyone who has helped us advised us or gave us encouragement.
- Burn Association, friends, family, neighbors  
NRCS personal

This is what we have.





# Michelle Brangenberg & Claudia Parker.

## We did this one step at a time.

