



**Comparison of Watering Preferences and Movement Times among Wildlife in Edwards
County
Progress Report**

Edwards County

Cooperators:

**Sam Silvers, County Extension Agent, Edwards County
Shanklin Brothers Land and Livestock Ltd.**

Summary

Game camera monitors were set up at two different locations within the same pasture. North camera location was situated at a concrete water trough; Southern camera location was situated at a natural water hole that catches rainwater. Cameras were placed at these locations to monitor the preference wildlife may have over Natural or Manmade water sources. Also, data was collected on the time of day in which species prefer to move towards water. Final evaluations will be conducted in 2013.

Objective

The purpose of this project was to test the preference wildlife may have over watering systems as well as movement times during extreme drought. This will help local landowners and sportsman determine movement patterns and preferences wildlife may have in the Edwards County area.

Materials and Methods

Monitoring locations were established in Edwards County during the months of August through November, 2012 (Table 1). Locations were monitored using Wild Game Innovations IR 4 5.0 megapixel Trail Cameras. All locations were set at the same distances from water sources to ensure picture Quality.

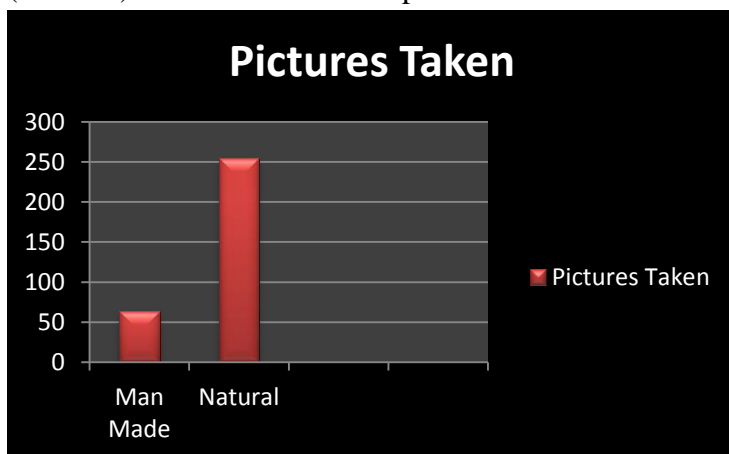
Table 1. Locations and Monitoring Dates

Location	Monitoring Dates
South Babb	8/30/2012 - 11/26/2012
North Babb	8/30/2012 - 11/26/2012

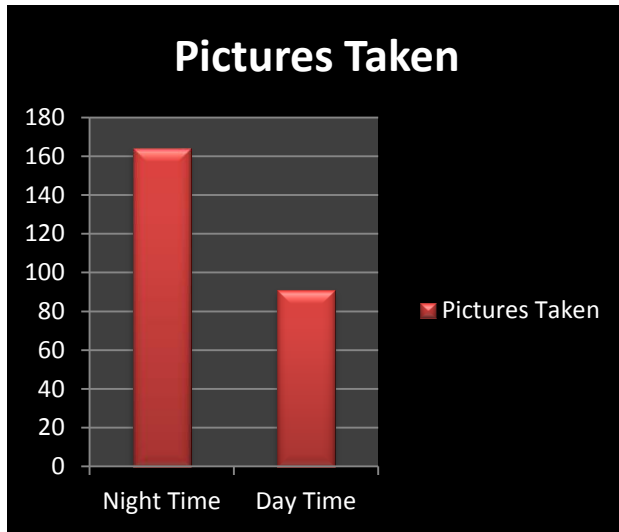
Results and Discussion

Results indicate wildlife prefer natural water sources over manmade water troughs. (Table 1) shows the number of wildlife pictures at the natural water source over the manmade water trough. A total of 319 pictures were taken during the sampling period, 255 photos were captured at the natural water source while only 64 were taken at the manmade water source. In addition (Table 2) indicates the number of wildlife pictures captured after dark in comparison to pictures taken during daylight hours. 164 pictures were taken at night while only 91 pictures were taken during the day.

(Table 1) Indicates number of pictures taken at each location



(Table 2) Indicates number of pictures taken during the day compared to pictures taken at night.



*Non Target Animal Pictures were removed prior to Data Input

Conclusions

Final conclusions will be made after two-year evaluations. It appears that further study will indicate whether drought is the major deciding factor of water choices for wildlife.

Acknowledgements

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