

**Babcock Ranch Preserve Management Plan
ARC Amendments
July 17, 2008**

Title of Plan

All pages in the plan and exhibits

Title changed to: Babcock Ranch Preserve Management Plan

REMOVE: Conceptual

Tenant Farming – Section 3.1.2 and Section 1.3.1

Pg 55 Management Plan

Table 1-3, pg 11 Management Plan

Pgs 1-3 Summary (7/8/08)

ADD: Additional amendment language in yellow (as emailed to Babcock Ranch, Inc.) for consistency with Section 3.1.3.

Amended text:

3.1.2 Long Term Management Needs for Ranch Operations

There are several clear challenges to the ranching operations at BRP given public ownership. The ranch must continue to generate revenue sufficient to cover operating expenses while adhering to the guidelines of public conservation and management and applicable county, state, and federal laws, regulations, and guidance. In particular, previous revenue sources including cypress harvesting (excluding salvage harvest) and private hunting leases were ended by the execution of the Management Agreement and it is the intent that tenant farming is to be phased out, **subject to future evaluation and the development and terms of any future management and business/operational plans** (see Section 3.1.3 Ranch Operations and Public Ownership for details on tenant farming).

1.3.1. Status of Major Management Activities at BRP Following ~~CM~~Plan Adoption

Table 1-3. Status of Management Activities at BRP Following ~~CM~~Plan Adoption

Activity	Status Following CMPlan Adoption
Apiary	Continues
Archaeological and Historical Site Protection	Increases
Cattle Operations	Continues
Ecotourism	Increases
Grazing	Continues with possible adjustments
Horticultural Debris Disposal	Continues
Hunting	Resumes with adjustments

Activity	Status Following CMPlan Adoption
Invasive Species Control	Continues
Native Plant Nursery	Recommended
New Income Producing Operations	Recommended
Prescribed Fire	Continues with adjustments
Public Access	Increases
Public Education	Increases
Silviculture Operations	Continues with adjustments
Sod Operations	Continues
Tenant Farming	Intention is to phase out over time, subject to future evaluation (see Section 3.1.3 Ranch Operations and Public Ownership for details)

Prescribed Burning – Section 3.4.3 and 3.1.1

Pg 53 and 70 Management Plan
Pg 13 Summary (7/8/08)

ADD: Whenever possible, all-season burning should be encouraged...

ADD: 1-3 year prescribed fire return interval (not just 3 year return interval)

Amended text:

Prescribed Burning: The southern portion of the state has an extended growing season for pine trees and other vegetation. There is also an extended wet season that could limit the frequency of prescribed burns. Therefore, the objective is to **encourage all-season prescribed burning whenever possible, with the understanding that much of the prescribed fire will be applied, but not limited to, from** December through March, on a target of a **one (1) to three (3) year fire** return interval, with the BRP Forest Management Plan being the controlling document for prescribed burning in the **CMPlan**.

3.1.1. Grazing and Ranch Management

South Florida native range is generally nutrient poor and thus successful commercial cattle grazing requires careful land management and carefully planned stocking rates. Without regular and frequent fire, or some mechanical means of land clearance, shrubs, particularly saw palmetto, will increase and eventually become almost equivalent to a monoculture over the flatwoods and dry prairies, which is the majority of the range available. Frequent prescribed fires (every 1 – ~~53~~ years) are the cheapest way to retard saw palmetto encroachment and thus maintain openings in which annual and perennial grasses, shrubs, and forbs can grow. Frequent fires also encourage higher quality forages for both cattle and wildlife and increase diversity in the ground cover.

Stumps – Section 3.4.3.

Pg 71 Management Plan

Pg 14 Summary (7/8/08)

ADD: a minimum of 5 stumps per every 100 acres of sale area (as opposed to 5 per sale area)

THIS AFFECTS CHARLOTTE COUNTY PORTION ONLY.

Amended text:

Stump Removal: Lightered stump harvesting was a historic use on BRP prior to State and County ownership. Lightered stump harvesting may continue to occur on the Charlotte County portion of BRP. Lightered stump harvesting shall not continue on the Lee County portion of BRP.

Lightered stump harvest operations shall be conducted as outlined below:

- All applicable BMPs shall be followed.
- **Approximately A minimum of 5 stumps per every 100 acres of** sale or harvest area shall remain after the sale is concluded to provide wildlife habitat.
- Stump holes shall be smoothed over.
- Stump removal sites shall be monitored for compliance.
- The site shall be monitored for invasive species until the native ground cover is re-established.

Fish and Wildlife Management – Section 3.7.

Pg 79 Management Plan

ADD: Unless otherwise specifically mentioned, the entity responsible for the completion of the recommended management objectives described in this section is the BRP Manager.

Amended text:

3.7.3 Endangered, Threatened, and Special Concern Wildlife Species

Unless otherwise specifically mentioned, the entity responsible for the completion of the recommended management objectives described in this section is the BRP Manager. The intent of wildlife management is to maintain and enhance populations of indigenous species present in the area. Wildlife composition and abundance is a function of environmental systems, particularly of plant communities. The BRP Manager intends to manage wildlife by managing plant communities.

Exhibits – Section 8

Exhibit M-8 BRP agriculture, Pasture, and Natural Areas Map

UPDATE MAP: Exhibit M-8 legend indicating “Pasture” changed to “Pasture and/or Native Grazing Range”