

DAVID W. GRAVES

LEGACY WILDLIFE SERVICES DIVISION
NATURAL RESOURCE PLANNING SERVICES, INC.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Legacy Wildlife Services – Wildlife Biologist/ Hunt Lease Manager (May/2019 – Present)

- Manage 400,000+ acres of hunting lease land in Arkansas, Louisiana, and Mississippi
- Supervise and observe 500+ hunting clubs
- Monitor and patrol hunt lease properties
- Collect and analyze harvest data including whitetail deer (WTD)
- Wildlife and habitat consultation and recommendations
- Building business and professional relationships with timber managers
- Building business and professional relationships with lease holders and lease members
- Construction of wildlife and habitat management plans
- Mapping of hunt lease property
- Performed hunt lease site visits to assess WTD habitat
- Attend public functions to promote Legacy Wildlife Services and/or speak on behalf of WTD management

Deseret Cattle and Timber (DCT) – Wildlife Biologist (July/2016 – January/2019)

- Incorporated the Deer Management Assistance Program (DMAP) into the an existing wildlife management program
- Partnered with the creation and implementation of the DCT wildlife management plan
- Built relationships with DCT employees
- Reconstructed lease contracts for all DCT leases
- Participated in monthly New Supervisor Training courses to develop skills needed to be an effective 2nd level manager
- Collected and analyzed whitetail deer (WTD) harvest data from DCT hunting clubs
- Constructed annual WTD reports which included site specific harvest recommendations
- Performed DCT hunt lease site visits to assess WTD habitat
- Offered recommendations for habitat improvements and supplemental plantings
- Presented WTD management strategies as Power Point presentations at DCT leaseholder annual meetings
- Officially scored WTD for the Florida Buck Registry
- Performed prescribed burns on DCT property
- Performed WTD surveys including (helicopter, spotlight, and trail camera)
- Analyzed all survey data and constructed reports that explained this survey data
- Assisted with the prescribed burning of 500+ acres of pine plantation on DCT property
- Assisted FWC biologists with collaring, tagging, and data collection of Florida black bears and cubs
- Attended public functions to promote DCT and/or speak on behalf of WTD management
- Oversaw Apiary Lease operations on DCT property
- Oversaw Palmetto Berry location and harvest throughout DCT property

- Assisted an alligator biologist with catching, tagging, and collection of data from rod and reel caught alligators on Cape Canaveral
- Assisted with greater prairie chicken population counts on Ag Reserves property in NE Oklahoma
- Assisted Florida law enforcement with monitoring DCT property for poachers and trespassers
- Attended the annual Southeast Deer Study Group Meeting
- Formulated annual wildlife budgets
- Operated wildlife program at or below set cost goals
- Assisted with annual Law Enforcement Appreciation Day
- Assisted with biannual leaseholder meetings
- Maintained DCT truck, side by side, and other various wildlife equipment

Deseret Cattle and Citrus (DCC) – Lease Liaison/Wildlife Biologist (January/2016 – July/2017)

- Gained knowledge of wildlife and habitat management on DCC by spending time with the natural resource manager and natural resource biologists
- Attended the annual Cattle Breakout Meeting on DCC to gain knowledge of all programs being implemented on all Ag Reserves properties nation and worldwide
- Participated in monthly New Supervisor Training courses to develop skills needed to be an effective 2nd level manager
- Participated in monthly Empower Hour meetings where the focus was team building and understanding the needs of the departments across DCC
- Built business/professional relationships with lease holders and lessees
- Collected WTD harvest data from Deseret Cattle and Citrus (DCC) hunting clubs
- Attended the NWTf Youth Turkey Day at the DCC Rodeo Grounds
- Assisted with the annual Ranch Rodeo at the DCC rodeo grounds
- Reconstructed lease contracts for all DCC leases
- Assisted with the prescribed burning of 1000+ acres of pasture on DCC
- Presented a Power Point on “How to Age Bucks on the Hoof” at the annual Lease Holder meeting on DCC
- Assisted with Florida bass survey on Taylor Creek Reservoir which included shocking, tagging, weighing, and measuring each fish to help determine growth rates, slot limits, and survivability
- Collected Osceola turkey harvest data DCC hunting clubs
- Co-author of the DCC quarterly newsletter
- Tagged Florida bass during the annual Youth Fishing Tournament on Taylor Creek Reservoir
- Formulated annual wildlife budgets
- Performed transect and point count surveys for whitetail deer, coyotes, Osceola turkeys, bald eagles, Florida alligators, and Florida Sandhill cranes
- Performed whistle counts for bobwhite quail
- Entered Osceola turkey harvest data into an Excel database
- Constructed the preliminary details for a helicopter deer capture on DCC beginning in 2017
- Constructed preliminary details for a Dashboard needed for wildlife data analysis

- Observed a trapper checking and resetting coyote traps located in multiple DCC pastures
- Attended the annual Southeast Deer Study Group Meeting
- Assisted with the annual DCC Lessee Appreciation Day showing all club lessees thanks for their support and effort in wildlife and habitat management
- Attended a meeting with alligator egg collectors and gained knowledge of future goals concerning collected DCC alligator eggs

Mississippi Department of Wildlife Fisheries and Parks (MDWFP) – Deer Program

Biologist (January/2012 – January/2016)

DMAP

- Collected WTD harvest data, (jawbones and datasheets), from DMAP hunting clubs
- Analyzed DMAP harvest data and constructed annual DMAP reports which include site specific harvest recommendations
- Performed DMAP club technical guidance site visits to assess WTD habitat and offered recommendations for habitat improvements and supplemental (food plot) plantings
- Presented WTD management strategies in the form of Power Point to DMAP hunting clubs at annual meetings
- Performed and assisted with annual post season herd health evaluations
- Performed and assisted MDWFP biologists and private land owners with prescribed burns on public and private lands
- Constructed prescribed burn plans covering burn parameters for burning private lands safely and effectively
- Assisted landowners with seasonal trail camera surveys
- Attended public functions to promote the MDWFP and/or spoke on behalf of WTD management, (wildlife extravaganzas, wildlife banquets, civic meetings)
- Officially scored WTD for the Mississippi Magnolia Records Program
- Assisted with annual youth squirrel and rabbit hunts
- Assisted Mississippi State University (MSU) with annual WTD management workshops
- Assisted the wildlife program with youth Field Days at the Mississippi Museum of Natural Science (MMNS)
- Dissected WTD for youth students at the annual youth Field Days at the MMNS
- Assisted MSU students with various WTD research projects including the use of a drop net to capture fawns and 1 year old bucks to gain data of dispersal rates
- Assisted MSU wildlife program with university deer pen data collection by darting penned WTD
- Collected CWD and other biological samples from sick deer located by concerned landowners
- Assisted Law Enforcement (LE) with the confiscation of captive WTD kept on private residence through the use of chemical immobilization equipment
- Attended the annual Southeast Deer Study Group Meeting
- Answered general public phone calls concerning human/wildlife interactions and governmental affairs
- Maintained MDWFP truck, 4-wheeler, and other various departmental equipment
- Monthly meetings with the Deer Program to discuss statewide deer issues and the state of regional deer herds

High Fenced Enclosures

- Performed part time duties as the Enclosure Coordinator (EC) before transferring those duties to a full time coordinator
- Assisted the EC and LE with annual inspections of enclosure facilities and breeder pens
- Assist the EC with the investigation and depopulation of WTD within illegal enclosure facilities
- Assisted the EC with data collection of enclosed WTD with the use of chemical immobilization equipment
- Assisted the EC with the construction of procedures for building an online payment system for enclosure owners to pay annual fees
- Assisted the EC with the construction of SOP's for annually inspecting a high fenced enclosure and breeding facilities

Deviney Construction – Wildlife Manager (November/2009 – December/2011)

Free Range Property

- Managed a highly motivated, hard-working crew to ensure day-to-day tasks were completed and visiting lease cliental were entertained
- Performed vegetation transects for the purpose of investigating nutritional content of various plant species consumed by various wildlife species
- Constructed management plans to meet the goals set forth by the property owner
- Collected harvest data on various wildlife species
- Constructed and implemented burn plans for the purpose of managing brush used by various wildlife species
- Performed prescribed burns on native brush for the purpose of providing high quality nutrients and habitat for several native wildlife species
- Operated heavy machinery to enhance the habitat of numerous wildlife species including whitetail deer and migratory waterfowl
- Operated heavy machinery and implements used for seed planting and fertilizer and lyme application for row crops utilized by migratory waterfowl species
- Incorporated and maintained food plots utilized by WTD
- Installed and repaired an irrigation system for the purpose of flooding waterfowl impoundments and providing water for row crops utilized by migrating waterfowl
- Constructed waterfowl blinds
- Constructed an annual budget for the purpose of purchasing feed and materials needed for the wildlife management program
- Assisted the MDWFP with WTD herd health evaluations
- Assisted with land prep and tree plantings of loblolly pines

Deer Pen Management

- Managed a supplemental feeding program for the purpose of meeting the nutritional needs of pen raised whitetail deer
- Assisted a deer breeder with the Artificial Insemination of whitetail does
- Inserted and removed CIDRs from whitetail does
- Collected data from newborn whitetail fawns and mature whitetail bucks and does

- Chemically immobilized penned whitetail deer using a dart rifle
- Transported a mature whitetail buck under permit to another enclosure facility
- Performed maintenance on the deer pen structure as needed

Rancho Tio Moya Lease (King Ranch) – Wildlife Biologist/Assistant Manager (August/2005 – March/2008)

- Supervised and maintained wildlife for a low-fenced, free range, corporate hunting lease
- Worked as part of a highly motivated, hard-working team to ensure day-to-day tasks were completed and visiting lease cliental were entertained
- Performed vegetation transects for the purpose of investigating nutritional content of various plant species consumed by various wildlife species
- Managed a supplemental feeding program for the purpose of meeting the nutritional needs of whitetail deer
- Constructed a site-specific supplemental protein pellet by collecting mineral deficiency data from harvested whitetail bucks
- Constructed management plans to meet the goals set forth by the lease manager
- Collected population data for WTD, nilgai, Rio Grande turkey, and bobwhite quail using helicopter and spotlight surveys
- Collected harvest data on various wildlife species such as whitetail deer, Rio Grande turkey nilgai, various (ever species of wildlife I've ever touched) waterfowl species, and bobwhite quail
- Constructed and implemented burn plans for the purpose of managing brush used by various wildlife species
- Performed prescribed burns on native brush for the purpose of providing high quality nutrients and habitat for several native wildlife species
- Supervised youth hunts as a TYHP Hunt master teaching youth the importance of safety in the field, firearm safety, and stand safety
- Operated heavy machinery to enhance the habitat of numerous wildlife species
- Constructed an annual budget for the purpose of purchasing feed and materials used in a wildlife management program
- Monthly meetings with ranch biologist to discuss the state of the lease

Texas A&M University-Kingsville - Deer Captures (October/2003 – August/2005)

- Coordinated deer captures for the Caesar Kleberg Wildlife Research Institute
- Assisted with the capture of whitetail deer for the purpose of DNA extraction, radio collar application, ear tag application, and various data collection using net guns shot from an R22 helicopter
- Organized and entered collected whitetail deer capture data using Microsoft Excel

EDUCATION

Texas A&M University-Kingsville – M.S. (August 2009)

Range and Wildlife Management. “Assessing helminth community structure and patterns in gizzard worms of blue-winged teal”

Sam Houston State University – B.S. (December 2001)

Emphasis: Animal Science Minor: Science

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

- Proficient in Microsoft Excel, PowerPoint, and Word
- Mapped boundaries, roads, and plotted landmark waypoints using GPS
- Exported GPS data into ArcGIS map programs
- Constructed prescribed burn plans
- Directed and participated in prescribed burns
- Helicopter, spotlight, and trail camera surveys involved in the censusing of WTD, Eastern turkeys, Florida black bears, wild hogs, and bobwhite quail
- Knowledgeable in wildlife and vegetation data collection methods
- Tracked whitetail deer and nilgai using radio telemetry equipment
- Participated in the capture of whitetail deer and nilgai for the purpose of DNA extraction, radio collaring, ear tag application, and various data collection
- Use of drop nets to capture WTD and gain knowledge of dispersal rates of young bucks

CERTIFICATIONS

- Basic Fundamentals of ArcGIS (2019)
- S130/S190 Prescribed Fire Certification – Florida Forest Service (2018)
- Florida Buck Registry WTD Scoring Certification – (2016)
- Prescribed Burn Manager – Mississippi Forestry Commission (2014)
- Quality Deer Management Association – Deer Stewardship II (2013)
- Mississippi Magnolia Records WTD Scoring Certification – (2012)
- Safe Capture Chemical Immobilization of Animals (2012)
- Quality Deer Management Association – Deer Stewardship I (2012)
- Texas Private Pesticide Applicator (2009)
- Learning ArcGIS Desktop (2009)
- Official Master Measurer for Safari Club International (2006)
- Artificial Insemination (2005)
- Texas Big Game Awards Official Scorer – (2004)
- Texas Youth Hunt Program Huntmaster (2004)
- PADI, SCUBA open water certification (1999)

PUBLICATIONS

- 2014. Outdoors 'n Mississippi. White-tailed Deer Habitat Management. pp. 30–32.
- 2013. Outdoors 'n Mississippi. The Basics of White-tailed Deer Data Collection. pp. 30–32
- 2013. Journal of Parasitology. Thesis. October 2013. Vol. 99. No. 5. pp. 748-751
- 2008. Restoration Manual for Native Habitats of South Texas. Watering System. pp. 151–152
- 2008. Vertebrate Pest Conference 23rd Annual Meeting Program. The Impact of Vertebrate Pests on a South Texas Supplemental Feeding Program and Associated Control Methods. Abstract. p. 12

- 2005. Southwestern Association of Parasitologists 38th Annual Meeting Program. Assessing Helminth Community Structure and Patterns in Gizzard Worms of Blue-winged Teal (*Anas discors*). Abstract. p. 9
- 2003 – 2004. Assessing Helminth Communities of Gizzard Worms in Blue-winged Teal. Report of Current Research. In Progress Research. p. 55

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

- QDMA – (January 2012 – Present)
- NWTF – (April 2016 – Present)
- Safari Club International – (2006 – Present)
- Texas Chapter of the Wildlife Society – (2003 – Present)
- National Rifle Association – (2000 – Present)