

8th International Wildlife Ranching Symposium

“Managing the public’s wildlife on private lands: A landowner’s perspective”

By
Greg Simons
President: Texas Wildlife Association
Owner: Wildlife Systems, Inc.
Co-Owner: Wildlife Consultants, LLC.



American Wildlife History

A conservation success story.....

- American wildlife culture
- North American Model of Wildlife Conservation
 - Public Trust Wildlife (Foundation Principle)



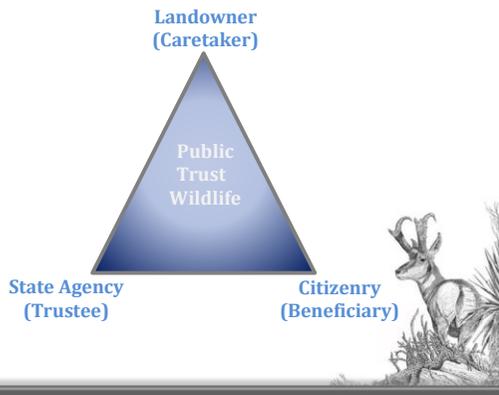
“Conservation will ultimately boil down to rewarding the private landowner who conserves the public’s interest.” -Aldo Leopold 1934



Wildlife as a Public Trust Resource

- English and Roman Common Law
- Martin vs. Waddell (1842)
- Has shaped our American wildlife culture
- Should not be compromised
- Does NOT preempt or supersede private property rights (landowner rights)





A Landowner's Perspective.....so what?

- Large land mass (contiguous habitat)
- Control access
- Capitalize local economics (Community-Based Conservation)
- Capitalize wildlife agency budgets
- Influence politics and policy
- Fund stewardship
- Control the stewardship toggle-switch

A Landowner's Perspective.....

Equip and Incentivize:

- 1) Technical advice/assistance
- 2) Incentivize....don't penalize
- 3) Reasonable regulations that are easy to understand
- 4) Predictable regs that help create value for the resource
 - Hunting seasons
 - Hunting license allocation
 - a) Guaranteed
 - b) Resident vs. Nonresident
 - c) Public vs. Private

A Landowner's Perspective.....

Equip and Incentivize:

- 5) Open ear policy
- 6) Limited landowner liability
- 7) Stiff trespass laws
- 8) Reasonable law enforcement
- 9) Outsource flexibility
- 10) Options, when possible
- 11) Minimal or no federal interference
- 12) Friendly collaboration

*"The conservation of our natural resources is the fundamental problem. Unless we solve that problem it will avail us little to solve all others."
-Theodore Roosevelt, 1907*

