

RWFM 4309

MECHANICAL TREATMENT EXERCISE

It is now Spring 1996. Enclosed is a map of the LOTTOWINNER ranch, which you just purchased with your MEGABUCKS winnings. This north-central Texas ranch in the rolling plains has been a working cattle ranch for nearly 90 years. It includes about 29,600 acres of mixed-prairie that has had significant shrub invasion by mesquite and junipers in some areas. The main attraction for you to buy this ranch was the Dry River and the ranch house (located at the junction of the forks of the river). The owner had been running a steer operation successfully through last year and had even managed to do some mesquite and juniper control particularly in 2 sections (square miles) south of the highway towards the west edge of the ranch. These sections were mechanically treated to meet the previous owners objectives of improving grazing for his cattle. Relatively dense junipers were removed either across the entire section or leaving a few mottes of trees.

MAP INTERPRETATION

A legend is supplied on the map.

Added info that you should know includes:

- You can pretend that this is sort of an aerial picture. The density of dots is about equal to the density of shrubs in the area.
 - Different kinds of shrub covers are denoted with different darkness of dots.
 - Topo lines are added. You can interpret these as representing 10% of slope for every line within a scale mile. (You can see the ranch is pretty flat except near the river)
 - The adjacent properties (labeled A-G) consist of the following land-use patterns.
- A. A small (15,000 acre) privately owned ranch. The bordering portions caught the brunt of the winter 1995 fire that continued on to burn 2,000 acres on the LOTTOWINNER. Most of the property boundary was burned in that fire.
- B. A large (250,000 acre) corporate cattle ranch owned by some Dallas oil folks. This ranch extends > 20 miles north primarily between the 2 forks of the Dry River that also runs through the LOTTOWINNER. The habitats on this corporate ranch (along the property boundary) are just like those on the LOTTOWINNER.
- C. East of the LOTTOWINNER is an old cattle ranch that has not had any range improvements conducted on it for almost 50 years. The dense juniper along the east side of the LOTTOWINNER continues as an extensive stand for nearly 2 miles across this neighbors property before you find agricultural fields (cotton). The owner of this property has ceased running cattle (no longer profitable) and now grows cotton on the east side of his property where he has water for irrigation.
- D. and E. are also ranches. They are owned by 2 brothers who have split the family ranch to 2 pieces (each about the same size as the LOTTOWINNER) with similar habitats. Both brothers are still running active cattle grazing businesses. The 1990 Crash fire, which started when a car flew off the road crossing the creek on the LOTTOWINNER in 1990, burned (6,800 acres) across the SE portion of the LOTTOWINNER and then continued across both D and E. The property boundary here is a similar patchwork of 1990 wildfire burned range with scattered patches that escaped the fire or have re-grown since 1990.
- E. see above.
- F. The Dry River empties into a reservoir (water supply for nearby Metro area and local agriculture) in this area. Most of F to south and west is reservoir and its' associated habitats.

- G. The town (5,000 people) extends along the highway and comes to within a $\frac{1}{4}$ mile of the LOTTOWINNER ranch here. This town is continuing to grow towards the ranch.