

SPECIAL RECOGNITION AWARD

Mark Mitchell

This year the Texas Section Society for Range Management proudly awards the Special Recognition Award to Mark Mitchell, manager of the Mason Mountain Wildlife Management Area. The purpose of Special Recognition Awards is to provide the Texas Section an opportunity to occasionally recognize certain individuals for the outstanding contributions they have made directly or indirectly to the general field of range management.

Mason Mountain Wildlife Management Area is centrally located within the state making it an ideal location for the Texas Section to hold its board meetings and other events. The facilities at Mason Mountain WMA are very conducive to holding productive business meetings. TSSRM has been meeting at the WMA since 2004. Mark has been a very willing and gracious host for which the Texas Section is very grateful.

In 2006, the WMA provided its facilities for a facilitated session to discuss and develop a strategy on how to educate the public on the values of rangeland. The major concept that emerged from the meeting was the concept of forming a rangeland coalition. The Texas Native Lands Alliance is a product of this concept. The Texas Native Lands Alliance holds great potential to educate the public on values and benefits of rangelands. Time will only tell if it is a success, but it would not have happened without the support of Mark and the Mason Mountain WMA.

Research activities at the WMA are centered on observing wildlife interactions between exotic and native wildlife species. The WMA is also very involved in the use of prescribed burning. They are applying the technique of patch burning to aide in wildlife management. Mark strives to ensure that their research efforts are relevant to issues that have value to local land managers. Prior to becoming manager of Mason Mountain WMA, Mark was a biologist for the Mason Mountain WMA. He also served as a regulatory biologist in the Edna, Texas area.

Because of his accomplishments and service to the Texas Section, it is with great honor that the Texas Section Society for Range Management presents Mark Mitchell with the 2008 Special Recognition Award.