

# Quail Ranch LLC



## Texas and New Mexico

Quail Ranch LLC, owned and operated by ConocoPhillips, stewards lands that stretch across 195,000 acres of the Permian Basin in Texas and New Mexico. As it has grown and continues to evolve, Quail Ranch LLC applies best management practices to improve habitat quality and promote wildlife diversity. Every project proposed on surface lands is reviewed and routed to avoid sensitive and unique habitats, limit large-scale disturbance and preserve wildlife corridors.

## Promoting ecosystem health and function



### Habitat management

To restore and enhance native habitats, Quail Ranch composes and implements comprehensive wildlife management plans:

- Develop population goals for key species.
- Outline ecologically significant areas.
- Collaborate with ConocoPhillips operations and third parties to minimize impacts of development and site infrastructure to limit habitat fragmentation.
- Integrate rotational grazing to allow for pasture rest and flexibility.



### Restoration and reclamation

- Reseed all rights of way with native seed mixes.
- Reclaim retired oilfield infrastructure including pad sites, roads, overhead electric, and frac ponds.
- Restore degraded rangelands through brush management, reseeding, discing and fertilization.
- Improve ranch infrastructure with wildlife-friendly fencing.
- Collaborate with universities, agencies, industry partners and NGOs to conduct research and provide outreach and education.

## Water enhancements

### Why management is necessary

To ensure factors that lead to habitat degradation (historic land/water overuse and low/variable annual rainfall) do not impact:

- Wildlife populations.
- Usable grazing acres.
- Livestock dispersion.

### Implementation

- Mapped the ranch's waterless zones using one-mile buffers.
- Multiyear water development project.
- Installed dual-use and wildlife-specific watering facilities to improve distribution.

## Ranch improvements

### Texas

- 14 miles of water distribution lines
- 6 new livestock troughs
- 7 wildlife watering facilities
- 10 windmill conversions to solar
- 4 pond restoration projects
- 1 pond creation project

### New Mexico

- 22 miles of water distribution lines
- 11 new livestock troughs
- 9 trough replacements
- 7 new water storage tanks
- 15 wildlife watering facilities
- 2 pond improvement projects

## Seasonal surveys

### Wildlife population monitoring

- Deer
- Quail
- Black-tailed prairie dogs
- Burrowing owls
- Pronghorn





One year post-mesquite treatment – Reverchon's bristlegrass, hooded windmill, black grama and mesa dropseed have flourished. This pasture was dominated by bare ground and mesquite scrub prior to treatment. Pitchfork Ranch, New Mexico.

Texas

**7,737**

acres of brush management

**1,497**

acres of reseeding

New Mexico

**7,014**

acres of brush management

**999**

acres of reseeding

## Grassland and playa restoration

### Mechanical and chemical brush management

- Target invasive species, e.g., mesquite, tarbush, creosote.
- Increase rainfall infiltration and retention, herbaceous cover, nutrient cycling and biodiversity while reducing erosion.

### Native seed planting

- Pipeline ROWs, reclamation areas and selected rangelands are seeded with Quail Ranch-approved seed mixes, developed from ecological site descriptions.

### Control of noxious and invasive species

## Current and future projects

### Carbon sequestration on semi-arid grasslands

- Collaborative research with Texas A&M University Natural Resources Institute and Tarleton State University to evaluate and quantify current and future impact of management practices on carbon sequestration.

### CKWRI Texas Native Seeds (TNS) Lehmann Lovegrass

- Research to evaluate the efficacy of control methods on Lehmann lovegrass to improve biodiversity.

### Delaware River Basin Project

- Identifying and implementing restoration projects on private lands to improve the health of the Delaware River Basin in collaboration with BLM, Texan by Nature, Sul Ross University BRI, Rio Grande Joint Venture, CEHMM and Texas Parks and Wildlife.

### Quail Ranch Grassland Restoration Goals

Working to meet the following targets by 2030:

- 12,800 acres of brush management
- 1,850 acres of reseeding
- 300 acres of noxious weed spraying
- Continual oilfield reclamation projects

## Collaboration

### Promoting proven management, innovation, research, education and outreach

- Utilizing partnerships to better understand and promote land stewardship across the Permian Basin.

### Partners

- American Bird Conservancy
- Borderlands Research Institute
- Bureau of Land Management
- Ceasar Kleberg Wildlife Research Institute
- Texas A&M Natural Resources Institute
- Rio Grande Joint Venture
- Rolling Plains Quail Research Ranch
- Texan by Nature
- Texas Native Seeds
- Texas Parks and Wildlife

## Awards and accolades

### Texas Parks and Wildlife Department

Lone Star State Steward Award, 2022

### Texan by Nature

TxN certified wildlife habitat project, 2021

### New Mexico Department of Game and Fish

Pronghorn Conservation Recognition Program

Private Land Deer Incentive Program