

Texas Section Society for Range Management

Resolution Number 1

Texas GLCI

October 8, 2014

WHEREAS, private grazing lands are one of Texas' largest natural resources, comprising approximately 73% of privately owned working lands in the state, and are the foundation of the ranching industry in Texas, providing forage for livestock, livelihood for Texas ranchers, habitat for diverse wildlife, open space enjoyment, and the primary source of clean water for all Texans. AND;

WHEREAS, the health, vitality and productivity of private grazing lands are under constant and increasing pressure from many sources including energy infrastructure, new roads, recreational uses, grazing by livestock, urbanization, fragmentation, weather extremes, and other influences. AND;

WHEREAS, the Texas Grazing Lands Conservation Initiative (GLCI) is an organization of landowners, biologists, range management specialists, wildlife groups, producer groups and others whose sole purpose is to come together to provide a forum for research, education and promotion of grazing land health. AND;

WHEREAS, through partnership with the Natural Resources Conservation Service, a team of highly trained and motivated grazing land specialists is available upon request from ranchers and other users of grazing lands to provide high-quality technical assistance on the land and to promote the education and outreach goals of the Texas GLCI to land users and the non-ranching public. AND;

WHEREAS, Texas GLCI regions throughout the state are guided by ranchers and private landowners who coordinate with regional grazing land specialists, state and federal agencies, and producer groups to recommend GLCI activities that will benefit ranchers, private landowners, and local communities and help address local and state natural resource concerns. AND;

WHEREAS, all activities of Texas GLCI are predicated on protection of private property rights and the promotion of the stewardship ethic in the management of private grazing lands. AND;

WHEREAS, the Texas Section Society for Range Management (TSSRM) is part of an international scientific society whose members are concerned with studying, conserving, managing and sustaining the varied resources of rangelands and these goals closely parallel those of Texas GLCI.

NOW, be it resolved that TSSRM will:

1. Support the Texas Grazing Lands Conservation Initiative as a source of technical grazing land assistance to Texas ranchers on a completely voluntary basis and as a means to promote public education, research, and other collaborative efforts that encourage the sustainability of private grazing lands.
2. Maintain a TSSRM member on the Texas GLCI Executive Committee to act as a liaison between TSSRM and Texas GLCI.
3. Offer assistance and information where needed and feasible in Texas GLCI efforts.
4. Support private, local, state, and federal funding to increase grazing land specialist technical expertise and GLCI educational and research activities to address the growing and complex issues facing grazing land managers.