



2011 TSSRM President Matt Wagner and Grass Roots Award Recipient Kevin Wright

Texas Section Society for Range Management
Grass Roots Award-NRCS
Kevin Wright

The 2011 TSSRM Grass Roots Award recipient for Natural Resources Conservation Service has worked for the NRCS for over 32 years. He has spent numerous hours on and off the clock assisting with Rangeland and Ranch tours as well as field days across his area. He has taken the initiative of assisting with the Texas Plant Materials Centers developing field trials with new and innovative conservation plant materials. He has been very involved in the regional control efforts of controlling Salt Cedar, through chemical, mechanical and biological methods including collaborated with Dr. Allen Knutson with Texas Agrilife developing conservation efforts on Salt Cedar with Tamarisk beetles. He has also worked effectively with the Colorado River Water District and Texas Parks and Wildlife on various conservation efforts over the years.

He is considered by his peers to be a local expert within his work area. He has many years of experience planning and implementing rangeland conservation practices through working with ranchers in his county and across 3 Major Land Resource Areas. Because of his extensive experience and local knowledge he is consistently utilized by the NRCS as a training office for new NRCS employees. He has trained and molded numerous NRCS employees over the years by providing high quality training built on years of experience and local knowledge.

Recently, this years recipient was instrumental in the development of the Southern Rolling Plains Coalition of the Grazing Lands Conservation Initiative (GLCI) who's mission is to promote sound grazingland management through on-the-ground technical assistance and grazingland technology transfer.

He has attained a tremendous amount of rangeland expertise throughout his career. He truly understands his counties ecological sites, community dynamics, plant community interactions, and their effects on conservation practices applied in his work area. Most of all he has a unique ability to sell conservation when working with landowners. This year's recipient takes the extra time to not only learn the landscape and the resources he's working with but, he focuses on listening to the landowners and highlights those details in conservation plans designed specifically meet the landowners objectives.

He has conducted himself as a rangeland steward for over 32 years and is one of my mentors, which makes it a great honor and privilege to present Mr. Kevin Wright as the 2011 recipient of the NRCS Grass Roots Award.