

# Sandra Rideout-Hanzak, PhD

Sandra Rideout-Hanzak is a certified Senior Wildland Fire Ecologist, and a Lead Burn Instructor for the Texas Certified and Insured Prescribed Burn Manager program. She is a Professor of Fire Ecology and Restoration Ecology in the Department of Rangeland and Wildlife Sciences, and a Research Scientist with the Caesar Kleberg Wildlife Research Institute at Texas A&M University-Kingsville. Sandra has led research teams studying effects of season of prescribed burning on forage quality, livestock movement, vegetation community dynamics, butterfly populations and Texas tortoises in southern Texas grassland communities. Sandra has also investigated restoration of thornscrub habitat for endangered ocelots, vegetation characteristics of South Texas lomas and their value as habitat for threatened Texas tortoises, native grasses and pollinators, restoration of endangered slender rush-pea habitat using fire, and wild and prescribed fire effects on hedgehog cacti. As a Lead Burn Instructor for the state of Texas, she teaches prescribed burning for her college students and land owners and managers in Texas. She also teaches graduate-level Fire Ecology, and Restoration Ecology courses.

Sandra completed her PhD (forestry) at Stephen F. Austin State University in 2001. Her doctoral dissertation was a study of ecological effects of prescribed burning in several East Texas state parks. Following that she served as a Research Forester with the USDA Forest Service at their Southern Research Station where she studied fuels and fire effects in southern pine, Piedmont, and Appalachian forests of the southeastern U.S. Sandra continued her career in fire ecology on the faculty at Texas Tech University before joining the Caesar Kleberg Wildlife Research Institute in 2010. While at Texas Tech Sandra led a team that investigated the effects of the East Amarillo Complex wildfires of 2006 on the vegetation and avian communities. The EAC wildfires burned over 900,000 acres of rangelands in the Texas panhandle in just four days killing thousands of livestock, destroying many homes, and tragically killing 13 people. It remains as both the largest and deadliest wildfire complex in Texas' recorded history.

Ph.D., Arthur Temple College of Forestry, Stephen F. Austin State University, 2001

M.S.F., Arthur Temple College of Forestry, Stephen F. Austin State University, 1997

B.A., Health & Safety Education, Latin minor, Ball State University, 1987

Related Honors and Awards

Best Popular Article, Society for Range Management, Texas Section, 2018: Wester, D.B., F.C.

Bryant, A.D. Tjelmeland, J.L. Grace, S.L. Mitchell, J.T. Edwards, F. Hernández, R.K. Lyons, M.K. Clayton, S. Rideout-Hanzak, R.V. Machen and J. Alfonso Ortega-S. 2018. Tanglehead in southern Texas: A native grass with an invasive behavior. *Rangelands* April:37-44.

Texas A&M University-Kingsville:

Sponsored Research Merit Award, 2013.

Dick & Mary Lewis Kleberg College of Agriculture, 2012 Junior Teacher Award.

Texas Tech University:

Alumni Association, 2010, New Faculty Award Winner (one of 8 recipients campus wide).

College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources:

2008 Master Teacher Award, one of 12 recipients in the college

Association for Fire Ecology, Superior Service Award, 2009.

Member of Sigma Xi (The Scientific Research Society) since 2006.

USDA Forest Service, Spot Award, September 2004

#### Paid Wildland Fire Consulting

Rankin Ranch Road wildfire. 2017. Consultant to Uhl, Fitzsimons, Jewett and Burton. Spring 2017 wildfire effects on woody plants on ranch in the Texas panhandle.

Rideout-Hanzak, S. and D.B. Wester. 2011. Effects of summer burning on endangered slender rush-pea (*Hoffmannseggia tenella*) in Nueces County. USDI Fish & Wildlife Service.

Bastrop County Wildfire. 2011. Consultant to Carlson, Calladine and Peterson, LLP. Effects of the Bastrop County wildfire on ecosystem services.

Wildfire. 2008. Consultant to City of Lubbock in re: White vs. City of Lubbock. Rangeland damages estimation following wildfire in the Texas high plains.

Borger Wildfire. 2006. Consultant to Haynes and Boone law firm, Fort Worth, in re: No. 9840, Burnett Ranches, et al. vs. Cano Petroleum. Cause and origin, and fire behavior modeling on the Borger wildfire in the Texas panhandle.

#### Professional Organization Memberships

Association for Fire Ecology: Charter member since 2000

Texas Chapter of The Wildlife Society: Lifetime member since 2013

Natural Areas Association: Member 2017-2022

Society for Range Management: Member since 2006

#### Related Professional and Community Service

Instructor, Texas Certified and Insured Prescribed Burn Manager (CIPBM) courses:

-Matagorda County, May 29-June 1, 2023. Spread Oaks Ranch, Markham, TX.

-Calhoun County, May 25-28, 2020. Port Lavaca, TX.

-Gus T. Canales Lectureship on Prescribed Burning, and Continuing Fire Training (CFT) Workshop for Certified Prescribed Burn Managers, King Ranch Institute for Ranch Management:

Aug 2-Aug 5, 2021. Kingsville, TX. Lead Burn Instructor.

July 29-Aug 1, 2019. Kingsville, TX. Lead Burn Instructor.

July 31-Aug 3, 2017. Kingsville, TX. Lead Burn Instructor.

Dec. 15-18, 2014. Kingsville, TX. Lead Burn Instructor.

Jan. 2013. Kingsville, TX. Co-Instructor

Jan. 3-6, 2012. Kingsville, TX. Co-Instructor

-CKWRI, Aug. 11-14, 2014. Plus: Region 5 One-day Continuing Fire Training (CFT) for TPWD Certified Prescribed Burn Managers. Lead Burn Instructor. Kingsville, TX.

-Welder Wildlife Foundation & Coastal Bend Prescribed Burning Association, Prescribed Fire School. Feb. 2014. Sinton, TX. Co-Instructor.

-Region 5 One-day Continuing Fire Training (CFT) for TPWD Certified Prescribed Burn Managers. Instructor. 2 Aug. 2013. Victoria, TX. Lead Burn Instructor.

1Clarendon College, April 2008 and March 2007. Co-Instructor.

Texas Certified and Insured Prescribed Burn Manager program:

Lead Burn Instructor, 2012 to present.

Chaired committee and wrote white paper to Texas Prescribed Burn Board on revising the mandatory hours and creating a standardized exam for the burn manager's program education requirement. 2017.

Lead Instructors group, Online education committee member, 2012-13.

Region 5 contact, 2013 to present.

Texas Prescribed Fire Council:

Board Member (elected) 2023-2025.

Secretary (elected) 2023.

Member of the Education and Outreach committee, 2019 to 2020.

Invited participant in the organizational meeting of the TPFC, February 12, 2019. Member of the Interim Steering Committee that followed which created the organization goals, committee structure, and by-laws, Spring 2019. By-laws were adopted and the Council was created May 21, 2019.

Texas Prescribed Burn Board:

Meeting coordinator, Kingsville, TX. February 2022.

Advisory Board Member, appointed 2013.

Subcommittee Member: Chapters 75 and 82, Civil Practice and Remedies code, 2014.

Member (state legislative appointment), August 2006 to 2010.

Association for Fire Ecology (international society)

Program Committee member: 7th International Fire Ecology and Management Congress, November 2017, Orlando, FL.

Steering Committee Chairperson: 6th International Fire Ecology and Management Congress, 16-20 Nov. 2015, San Antonio, TX.

Steering Committee Member: 5th International Fire Ecology and Management Congress, 3-7 Dec. 2012, Portland, OR.

Board of Directors:

Vice-President 2009 and 2010.

Board Member 2007 to 2010.

Board Secretary 2003.

Steering Committee Chair: 4th International Fire Ecology and Management Congress, Fire as a Global Process. 30 Nov. - 4 Dec. 2009. Savannah, GA.

Conference Committee Member 2007-2011, Chair 2010.

Founding Sponsor: Student Association for Fire Ecology, TTU chapter, 2006 to 2010.

Wildland Fire Litigation Conference Faculty:

2012: Presenter. Uses and limitations of fire behavior modeling programs in fire litigation.  
April 2012.

2011: Session Moderator for two panel discussions. Panel discussion No. 1—Conditions under which Wildfires are Beneficial. Panel discussion No. 2—Conditions under which Wildfires are Harmful. San Diego, CA.

Associate Editor: Fire Ecology, 2009 to 2013.

Member: Georgia Prescribed Fire Council, 2001.