

## **King Ranch's New Paradigm in Brush Management**

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Brush control efforts on King Ranch have a long and detailed history. Early attempts consisted of chopping and grubbing brush in the 1890's. The first mechanical treatments in 1915 used steam-powered tractors and plows. The invention of the rootplow and initial chaining applications in 1935 led to an aggressive management program that still exists today. Brush control/management is needed more today than ever as brush densities continue to increase. King Ranch's brush management program continues to be active, but uses the most advanced Geographic Information Systems (GIS) and Global Positioning Systems (GPS) technology available. GIS technology has an extensive database that can be linked to detailed maps used to delineate areas to be treated. GPS technology is used in the field in conjunction with GIS information to increase production, decrease cost, provide navigation with improved accuracy of treatments, and to maintain a database of knowledge for future use. The application and implementation of this new technology provides a beneficial tool to help maintain an equal balance among livestock and wildlife habitat management goals and production. This technology will remain a strong part of our management in the future.