Dixon Water Foundation

ANNUAL REPORT 2025

Dear Friends of Dixon Water Foundation,

As we reflect on 2025, I am filled with gratitude and optimism for the future of our watersheds, our working lands, and the communities that steward them. This year affirmed what we have long believed at Dixon Water Foundation: that healthy land management—rooted in sound science, collaboration, and respect for working landscapes—can restore watersheds while strengthening the economic viability of ranching.

One of the most significant milestones this year was securing long-awaited funding for the Foundation's endowment. With The Bahnsen Group serving as our investment manager, we are confident this endowment is being stewarded with the same care and long-term perspective that guide our land and water conservation work. This achievement provides critical financial stability and ensures that Dixon Water Foundation can continue stewarding land, providing education, and funding mission-aligned partners well into the future.

Leadership and learning also played a meaningful role in 2025. I was honored to complete and graduate from the Texas Water Leaders leadership course, joining a statewide network of professionals dedicated to solving Texas's most pressing water challenges. The experience reinforced the importance of collaboration across sectors and sharpened our resolve to lead by example in watershed conservation.

On the land, this year brought welcome rain to both of our demonstration ranches in North Texas and West Texas. These rains revitalized soils, supported forage growth, and reminded us of the resilience of healthy landscapes. At our West Texas Mimms Ranch, conditions improved enough to allow cattle to return—an important step in demonstrating how adaptive grazing can restore rangeland health while supporting productive ranching operations.

We were especially honored to receive the Texas Section Society for Range Management's Range Manager of the Year Award for the Mimms Ranch. This recognition reflects the dedication of our team and partners, and it underscores the value of regenerative grazing as a tool for improving rangeland condition, water infiltration, and ecosystem function.

Another significant advancement this year was placing both of our demonstration ranches under contract with Grassroots Carbon. These partnerships allow us to demonstrate that carbon sequestration is not only beneficial for soil health and the environment, but can also provide a meaningful revenue stream for ranching operations. By pairing regenerative land management with emerging carbon markets, we are showing a practical pathway for conservation and profitability to work hand in hand.

In North Texas, we were proud to launch our long-awaited internship program at our Leo Ranch. This program represents an important investment in the next generation of land and water stewards. Morgan Vaughn, our first North Texas intern, had a tremendous experience and quickly became an asset to our team. Her enthusiasm, curiosity, and contributions reinforced the value of hands-on learning in advancing our mission.

Education and outreach continued to be a cornerstone of our work. Throughout the year, we hosted numerous educational events in partnership with others at the Betty and Clint Josey Pavilion and at our West Texas ranches. These gatherings brought together ranchers, landowners, researchers, students, and conservation professionals to share knowledge, build relationships, and advance practical solutions for watershed and soil health.

At the same time, we continued to refine our grantmaking strategy. By focusing on more targeted and strategic grants, we are furthering watershed and soil health initiatives across the state of Texas in ways that align closely with our mission and amplify on-the-ground impact.

None of this progress would be possible without the leadership and guidance of our Board of Directors and the commitment of our dedicated staff. Their vision, expertise, and daily work enable Dixon Water Foundation to serve as a living laboratory—demonstrating that regenerative practices can restore watersheds, strengthen rural economies, and create lasting resilience for Texas landscapes.

I am deeply grateful for the dedication of our Board and staff, and I look forward to building on this momentum together in the year ahead.

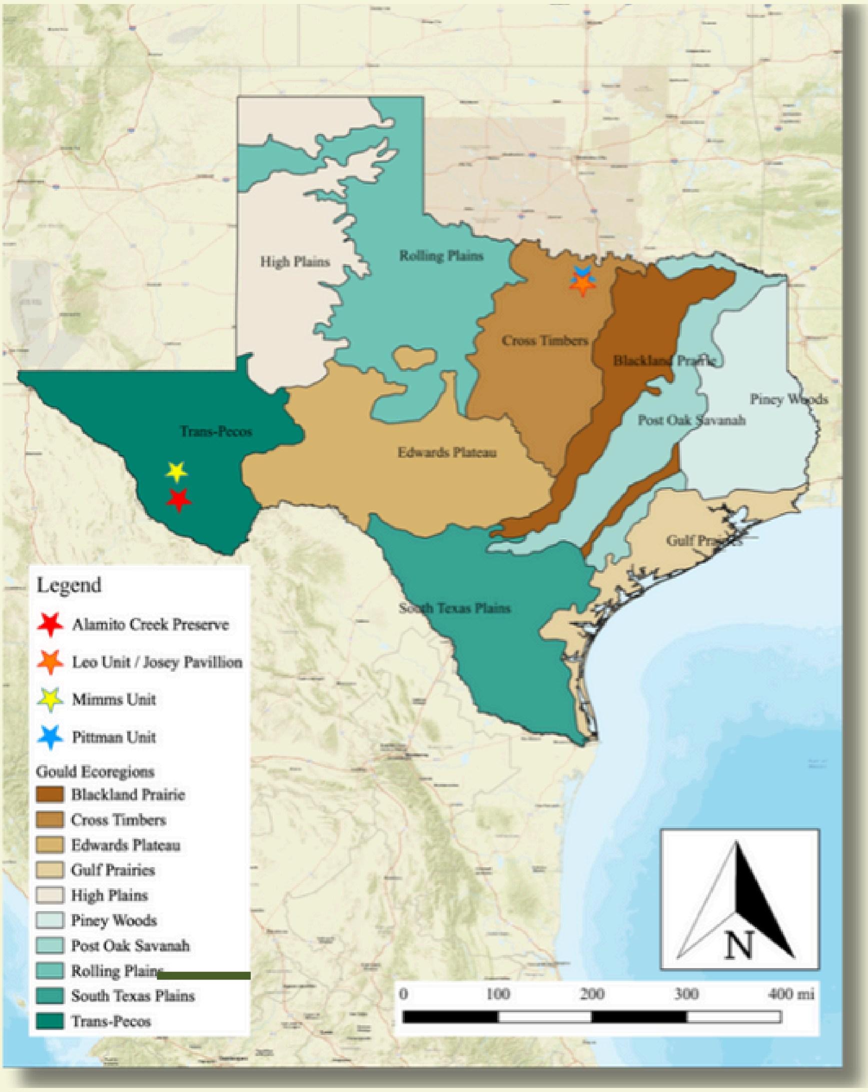
With gratitude,

Casey Wade
President & CEO
Dixon Water Foundation

ABOUT US

The Dixon Water Foundation promotes healthy watersheds through regenerative land management so that future generations of Texas will have the water resources that they need.

Through our ranches, grants, education programs, and research partnerships, we hope to ultimately impact how Texans protect the great environmental resources of our state.



Eco-Regions o Texas (Gould, F. W. 1975 and Texas Parks and Wildlife Department 2004)

Working in Two Distinct Texas Eco-Regions

Our research and demonstration ranches are the keystone of our Foundation's opeartions. With Texas being around 97% privately owned, and with much of that private land devoted to livestock grazing, our primary goal is to use cattle as a tool to responsibly manage the land and impact watershed health.
Our ranches are located in the tall-grass prairies of the Cross Timbers Eco-region, which receives between 30-40" of annual rainfall, and in the Trans-Pecos, which receives less than 15" of rain per year.

On our ranches, we demonstrate adaptive multi-paddock grazing management practices while also hosting traditional, continuously grazed areas, as well as areas excluded from grazing. We host educational workshops, field trips, and invite researchers out to study the natural resources between the different grazing regimes.

Ultimately, we believe that grasslands are adapted to large animal disturbance and that they can work in harmony to promote healthy native prairie ecosystems which function as a sponge to build a healthy water cycle.

ABOUT US

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- Zach Vaughn - West Texas Ranch Manager
- Greg Auen - North Texas Ranch Technician

DixonWaterFoundation

5-YEAR STRATEGIC PLAN

This plan was outlined in 2022 for the subsequent 5-Year period (2023-2027).
The year 2023 was the first year of the current plan.

GOALS

1. Operate the Foundation's ranches (Ranches) as model ranches for watershed and grazing land health using adaptive multi-paddock (AMP) grazing.

2. Conduct and host monitoring and research on the Ranches to understand the changing conditions of the Ranches and the role of management in influencing those changes.

3. Share information about the management and changing conditions of the Ranches as well as the benefits of AMP grazing to land managers and the general public through direct communications and through education events with the Foundation's partners at the Ranches.

4. Develop and implement an annual apprenticeship program to train future ranch managers in the techniques and benefits of AMP grazing.

5. Develop and support partnerships with other organizations to encourage the implementation of good watershed and grazing land management practices beyond the Ranches.

HIGHLIGHT

Dixon Water Foundation's Mimms Unit won the Texas Section Society for Range Management's Outstanding Rangeland Management Award

OUTREACH

North Texas

296 Visitors
13 Events
4 Research Projects

DixonWaterFoundation

2025 Events

West Texas

319 Visitors
9 Events
8 Research Projects

LETTER FROM RANCH MANAGERS

Greetings,

As always, it has been another exciting year on the Dixon ranches. We've been busy with drought and destocking, removing old fences and adding virtual ones, interns and more. 2025 was a good year. One with lots of rain across the Leo and the Mimms alike. We are grateful for all we were able to accomplish this past year and for how we are postured to accomplish more in the new year.

At the Mimms, 2025 was a year of rest and recovery for our tired pastures. We destocked the ranch entirely in the fall of 2024 as we received only 3 inches of rain that year, and not much more in years prior. The ranch was able to rest for over a year. We knew that moving forward, we needed a change in our grazing operation. We settled on a stocker model, specifically custom grazing. The flexibility provided in this model suits the harsh environment in far West Texas much better than our traditional cow/calf. Zach was able to build a contract with a local rancher to develop heifers and graze them on the Mimms from November 2025 through May 2026. Also, the Mimms was awarded the "Outstanding Rangeland Management Award" by the Texas section of the Society for Range Management.

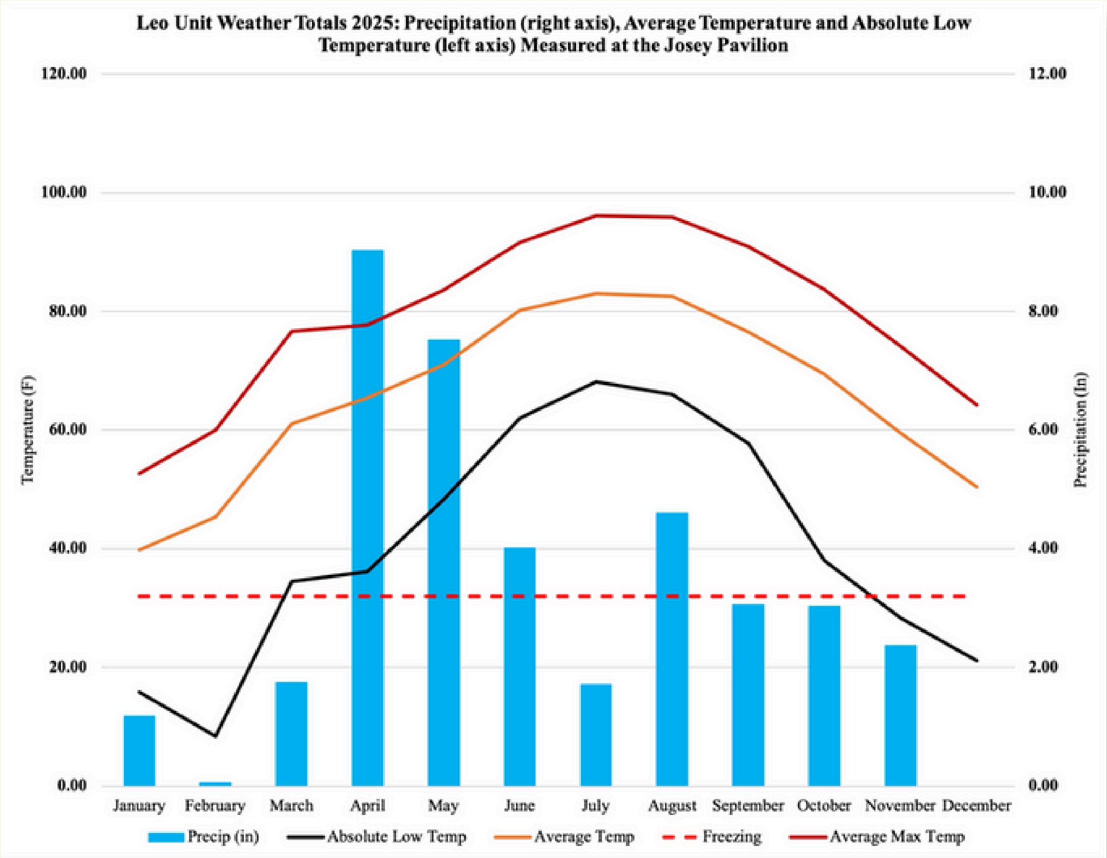
As for the Leo, the year started off well. The cows and sheep were in great condition leading up to calving and lambing season which was tremendous. The rains came in heavy, and we rotated grazing across the ranch. We hired Greg Auen in April, and he has been a tremendous asset to the ranch. Morgan Vaughan worked as an intern throughout the Summer. With their help, we were able to accomplish many projects. Fencing was our chief concern as we rolled up and removed old fencing and rebuilt new. Also, we installed Halter virtual fencing collars on heifers at the Pittman and that has been excellent.

2025 was a great step forward for the ranches. Every year, we find new avenues to demonstrate just how quality land management can influence watershed and rangeland health. We have a unique opportunity to test and experiment with various land management techniques and share the results with others. We are excited for all that 2026 will bring and are hoping for more rain. We cannot help but be a little greedy.

With Respect,
Jake McNamara and Zach Vaughn
Ranch Managers
Dixon Water Foundation

2025 PRECIPITATION TOTALS:

NORTH TEXAS



DATA COLLECTED BY INDEPENDENT WEATHER STATION

NORTH TEXAS TOTAL: 37.76"

WEST TEXAS

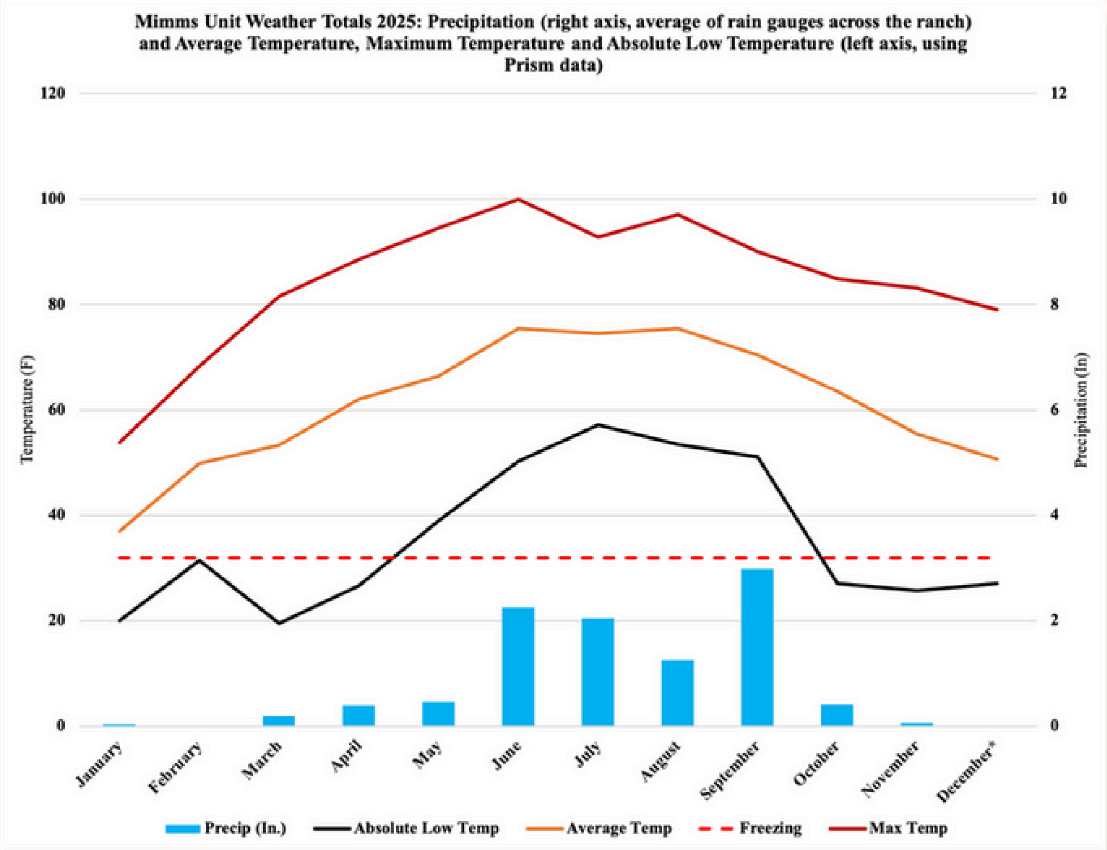


CHART DATA COLLECTED FROM HTTPS://PRISM.OREGONSTATE.EDU/EXPLORER/

WEST TEXAS TOTAL: 11.49"* (*AVERAGE BETWEEN 3 GAUGES)

BIOLOGICAL MONITORING WEST TEXAS

Each year we survey several fixed monitoring points on our ranches to document the condition of ground cover and plant communities on the land. The process involves throwing 100 darts around each point, documenting what ground cover class was struck (bare ground. litter, or the base of a plant) and what the closet plant was to the dart, identified by successional plant community (low seral, mid seral, high seral). The Foundation began measuring infiltration rates at each monitoring point in 2023.

The Foundation's West Texas ranches are located in Presidio County, in the Trans-Pecos region Texas. The Mimms Unit was purchased by the Foundation in 2008. The Foundation has monitored this ranch since 2010. In 2019, the Foundation purchased the adjoining George property to the Northwest. The Foundation also grazes and monitors a neighboring ranch, the Hip-O East.

The Mimms Unit is 16,000 acres and was set up with an intentional design to feature both adaptive multi-paddock grazing (referred to here as 'rotational') and continuous grazing treatments since the early days of the Foundation's ownership of the ranch. Researchers are invited to study and compare the different grazing treatments to evaluate their impact on the natural resources on the landscape.

There are 6 monitoring points on the Mimms Unit and 2 on the Hip-O East.

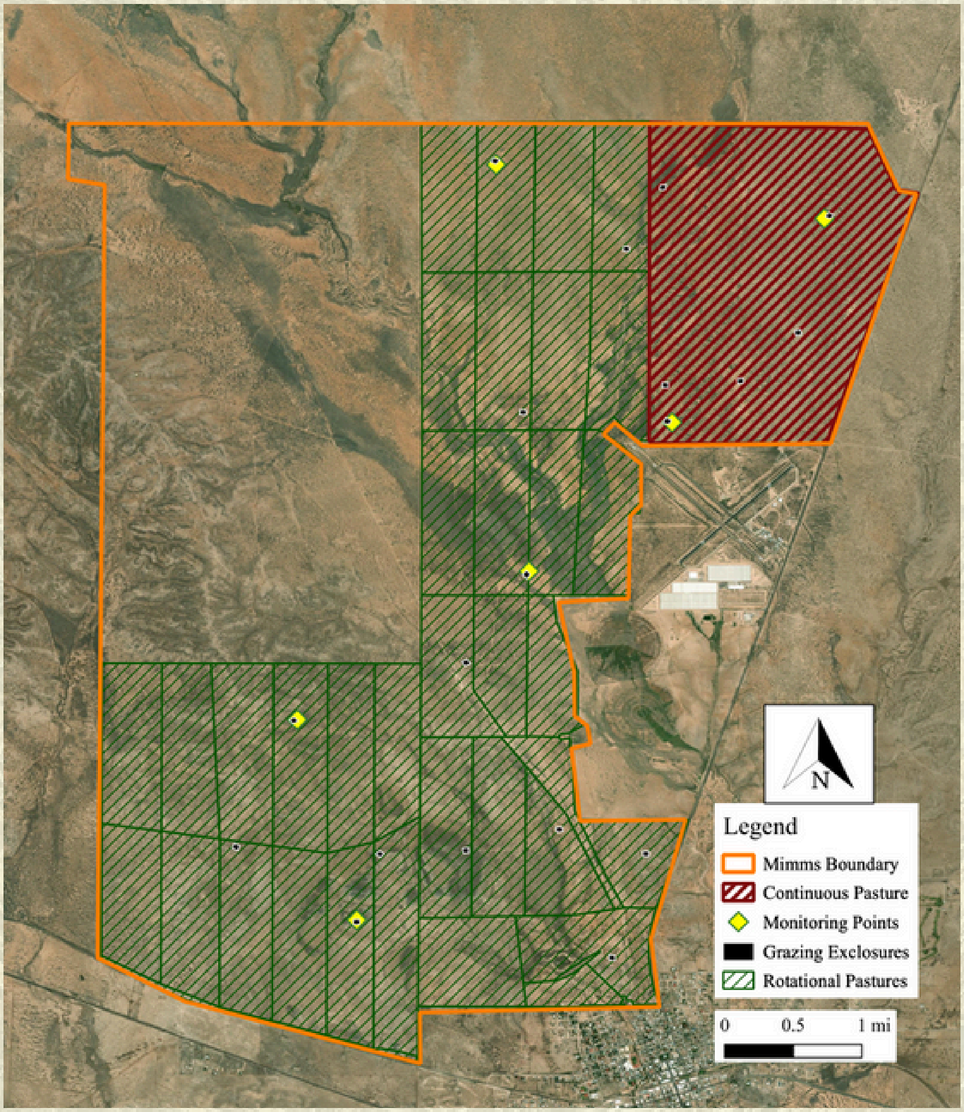
The Mimms Unit features 4 points in the adaptive multi-paddock grazing portion of the ranch and 2 in the continuously-grazed portion of the ranch. Additionally, there are 2 points on the George Property. The George property is moderately rotationally-grazed, with more infrastructure development to come.

The Mimms Unit also features 19 1-acre grazing exlosures, but these are not surveyed during the annual biological monitoring process.

PTRANS-PECOS REGION OF WEST TEXAS

BIOLOGICAL MONITORING WEST TEXAS

A note about biological monitoring in West Texas in 2025:

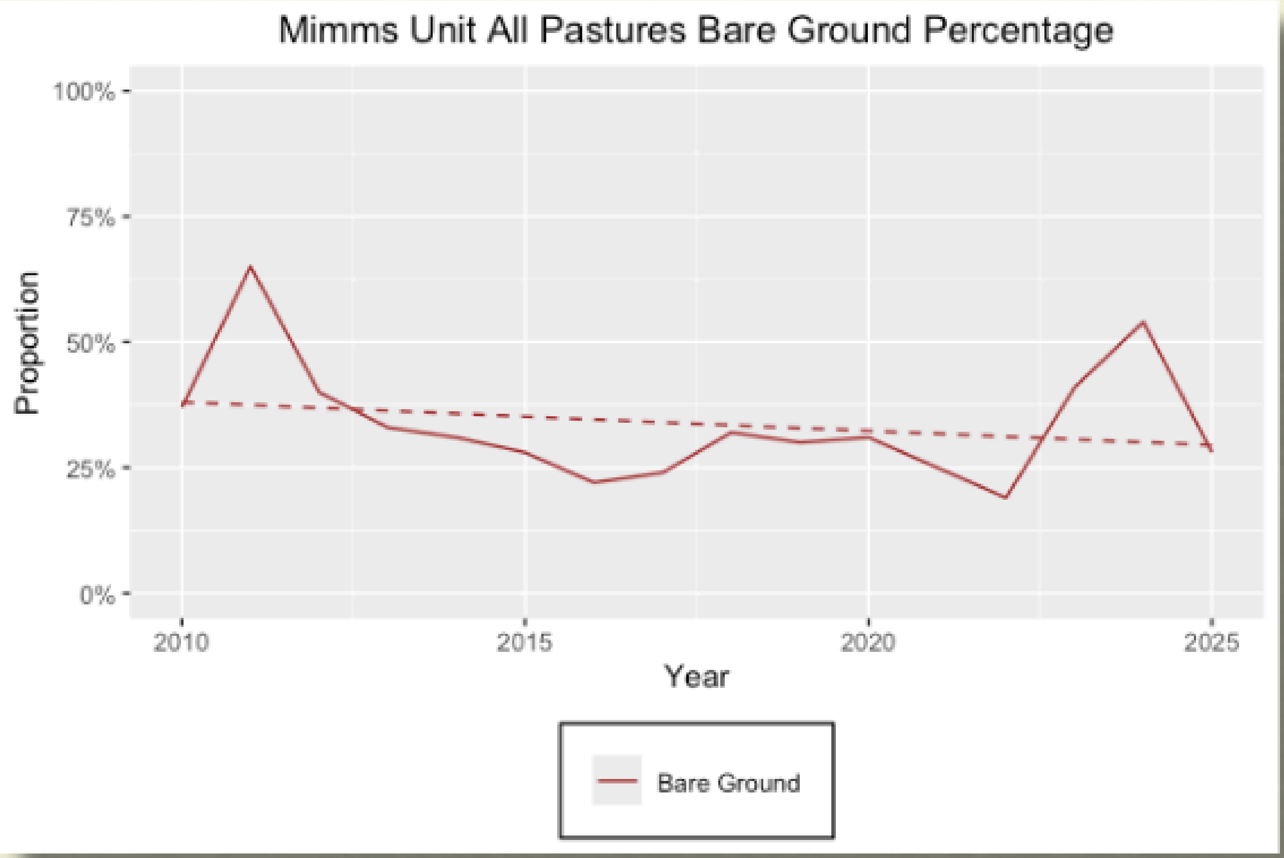


MIMMS UNIT GRAZING REGIMES AND MONITORING POINT LOCATIONS

Due to extremely low rainfall in recent years, the Foundation decided to destock the Mimms Unit in November 2024. After roughly 15 years of the Foundation's initial study design, demonstrating 3 grazing regimes: excluded, cow/calf continuous, and cow/calf rotational grazing. The Foundation moved to a seasonal stocker operation in mid-November 2025. This allowed the ranch to rest for 1 year between grazes and allowed for annual monitoring in the fall of 2025 to document the ranch's response to the 2025 growing season, before the stocker operation was implemented.

BIOLOGICAL MONITORING WEST TEXAS

MIMMS UNIT



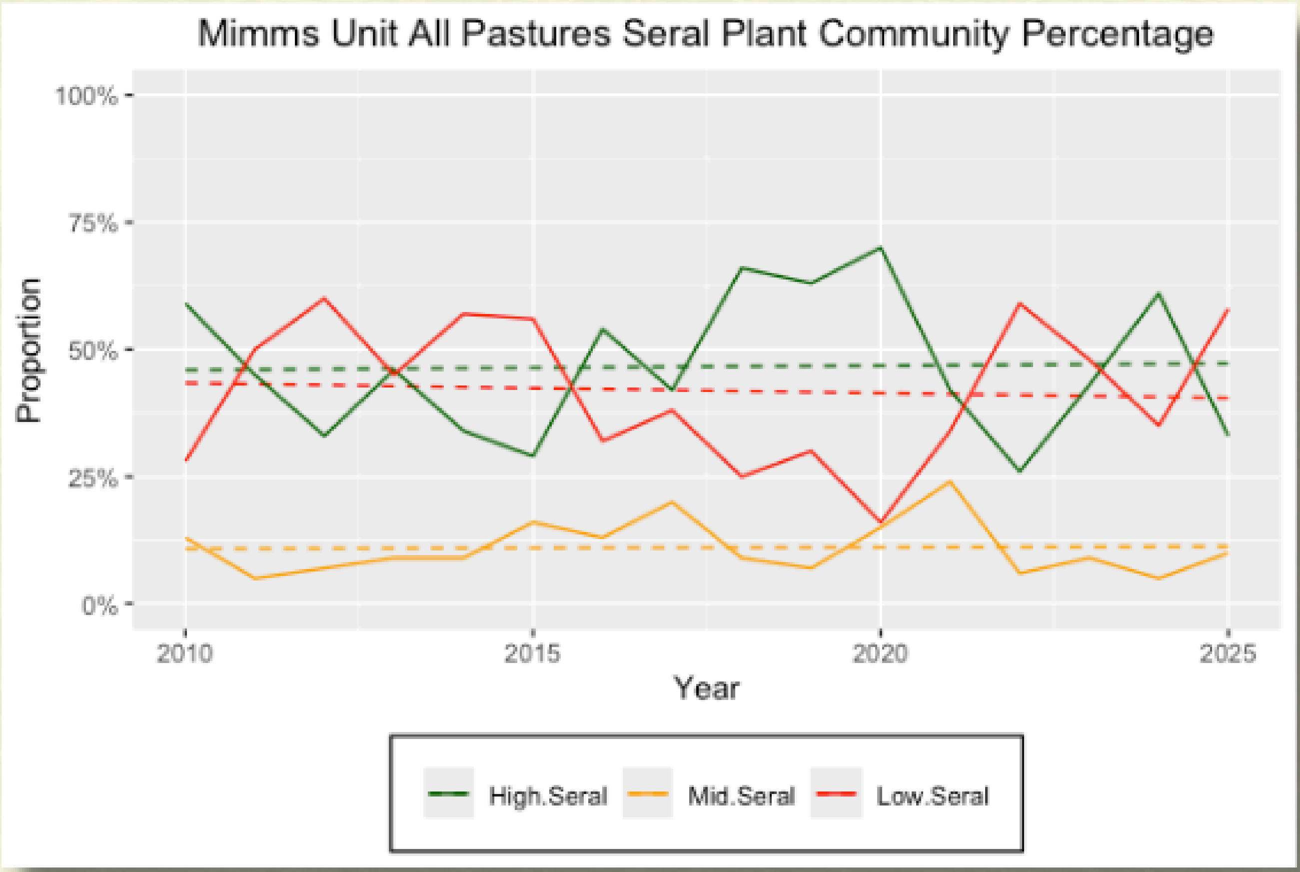
This chart plots the recorded percentage of bare ground cover every year since 2010, averaged acrossed all monitoring points on the Mimms Unit and encompassing both the continuously grazed and rotationally (or adaptive multi-paddock) grazed pastures.

The two highest peaks on the line chart show the years 2011 and 2024. These years featured a large regional wild fire (2011) and an extreme drought (2024) in which the Miimms only received just over 3" of rain for the entire year. The dip in bare ground cover in 2025 represents the rebound by the plant community with increased rainfall.

Overall, despite these setbacks, the trend of bare ground cover, represented by the dashed line, has been decreasing under Dixon Water Foundation management, indicating more living ground cover, which can improve watershed health by capturing the rains when they come.

BIOLOGICAL MONITORING WEST TEXAS

MIMMS UNIT



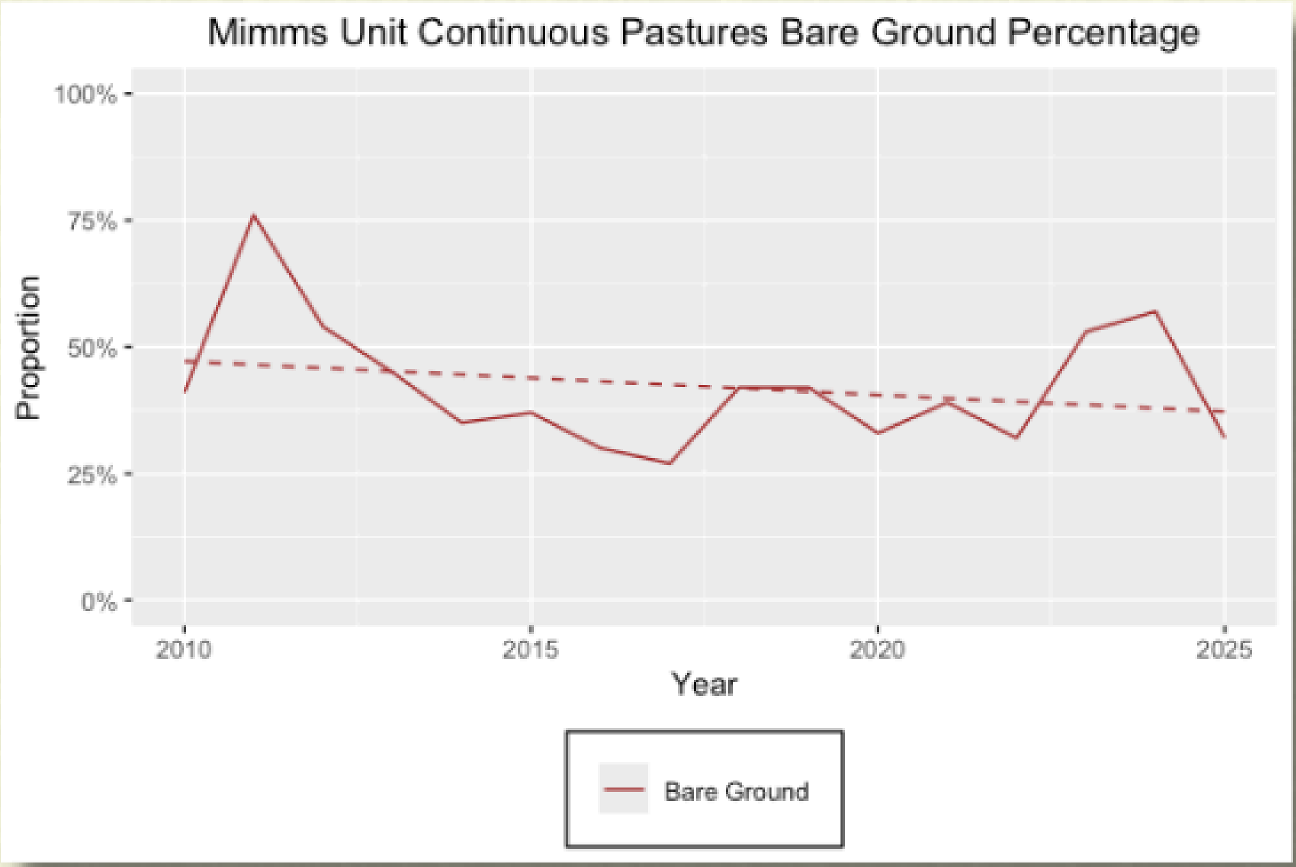
This chart plots the shows percentage of successional plant cover communities year since 2010, averaged across all monitoring points on the Mimms Unit.

The red line represents the lowest successional plant communities, yellow as the mid-level successional communities, and green as the higher successional communities. The variability is most likely due to variable rainfall from year to year. For instance, 2025 shows an increase in low successional plants due to an increase in annual plants responding to rain after a drought year.

The dashed trend lines in the chart indicate that the middle successional communities remain relatively level, while the low successional communities show a slight decreasing trend and the high successional communities show a slight increasing trend. The goal of the Foundation’s management is to increase ground cover with the highest successional communities, as possible, so these trends indicate management is generally moving in the right direction.

BIOLOGICAL MONITORING WEST TEXAS

MIMMS UNIT



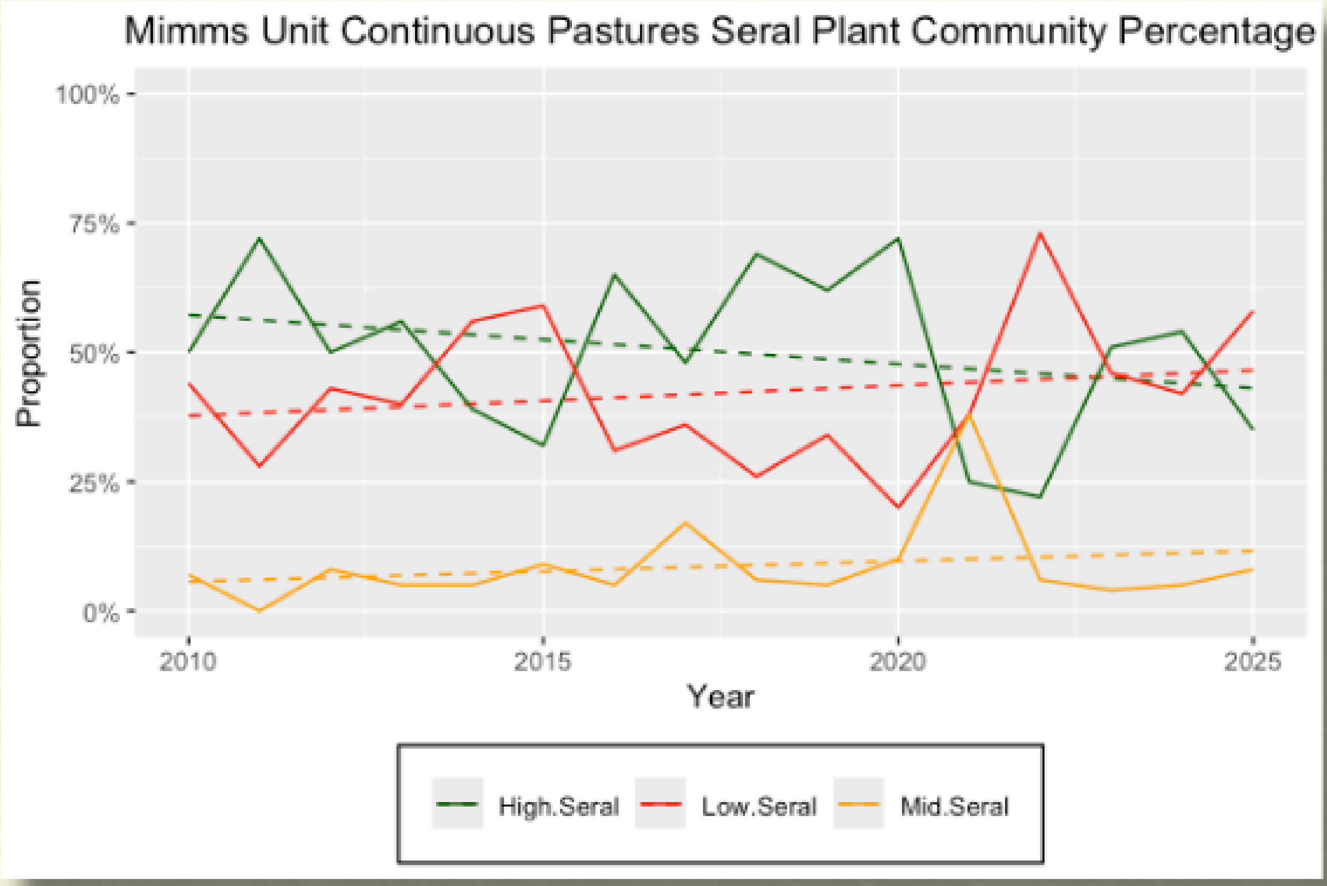
This chart plots the recorded percentage of bare ground every year since 2010, averaged across the continuously grazed pasture.

The two highest peaks on the line chart show the years 2011 and 2024. These years featured a large regional wild fire (2011) and an extreme drought (2024) in which the Miimms only received just over 3" of rain for the entire year.

Overall, the dashed trend line indicates a decrease in bare ground, across the continuously-grazed pasture since 2010..

BIOLOGICAL MONITORING WEST TEXAS

MIMMS UNIT



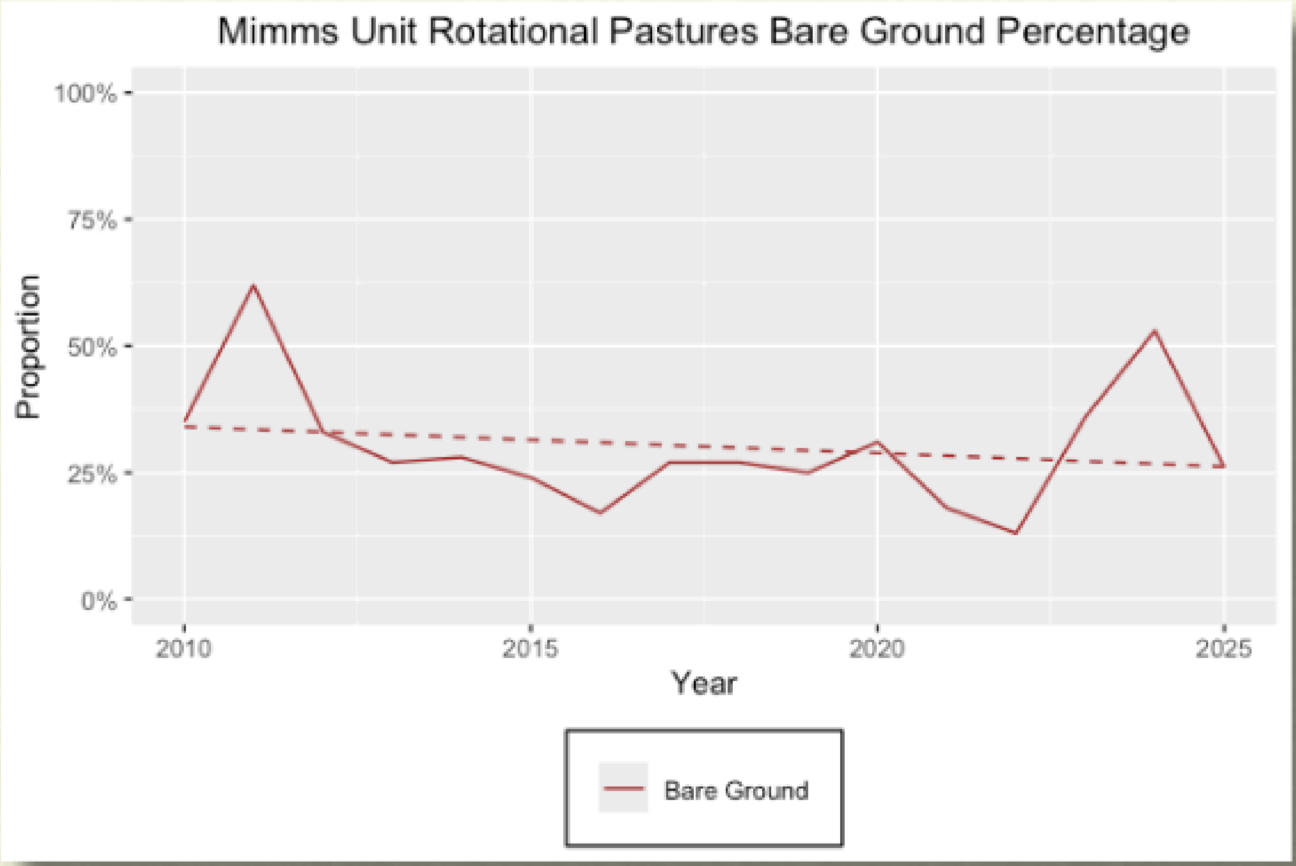
This chart plots the shows percentage of successional plant cover communities year since 2010, averaged across the 2 continuously-grazed monitoring points on the Mimms Unit.

The red line represents the lowest successional plant communities, yellow as the mid-level successional communities, and green as the higher successional communities. The dashed lines are the trend lines for each community.

This chart shows that the high successional communities have a decreasing trend, while the middle and low successional communities display an increasing trend.

BIOLOGICAL MONITORING WEST TEXAS

MIMMS UNIT



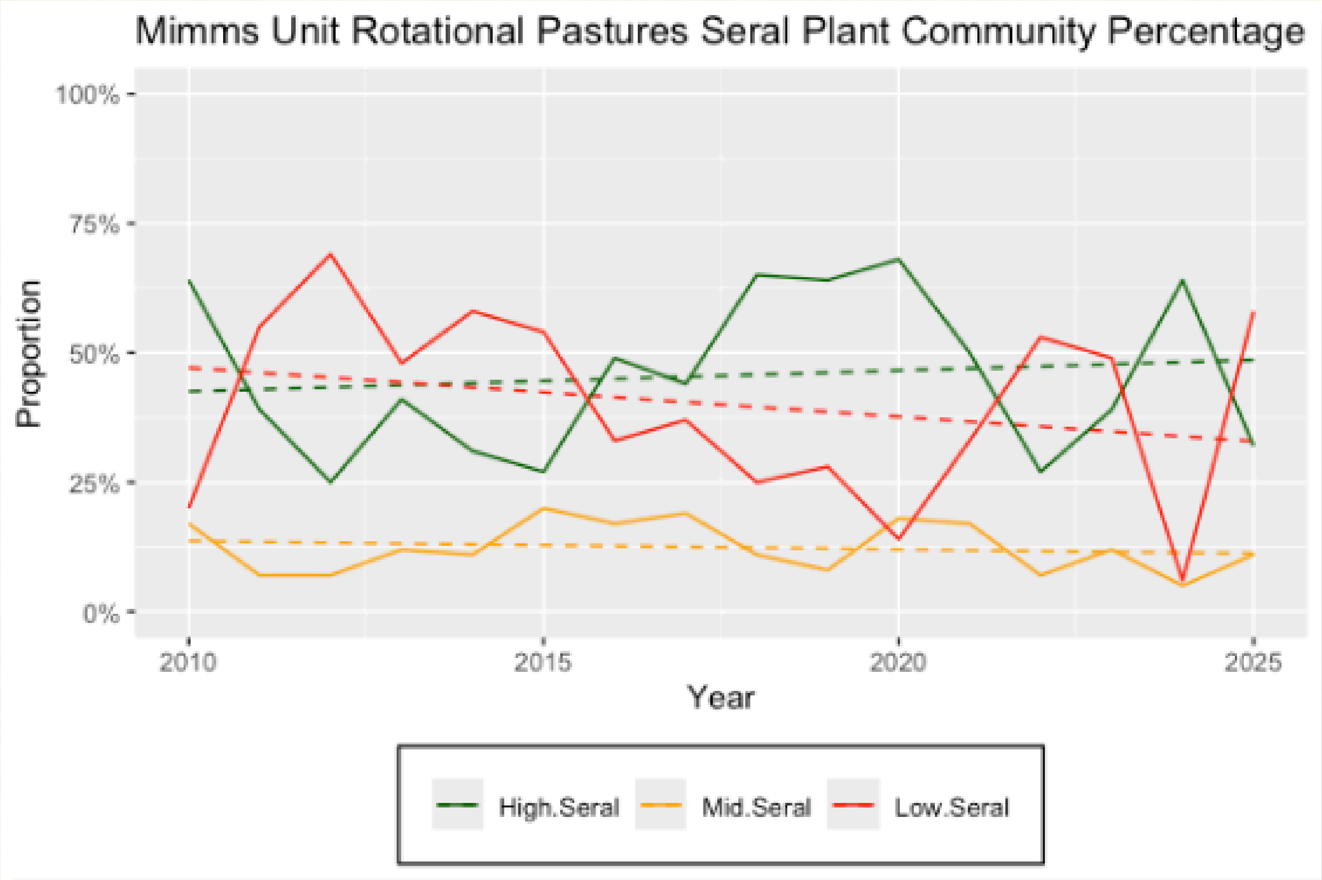
This chart plots the recorded percentage of bare ground cover every year since 2010, averaged across the 4 monitoring points in the rotationally-grazed pastures.

The two highest peaks on the line chart show the years 2011 and 2024. These years featured a large regional wild fire (2011) and an extreme drought (2024) in which the Miimms only received just over 3" of rain for the entire year.

Overall, the dashed trend line indicates a decrease in bare ground, across the continuously-grazed pasture since 2010.

BIOLOGICAL MONITORING WEST TEXAS

MIMMS UNIT



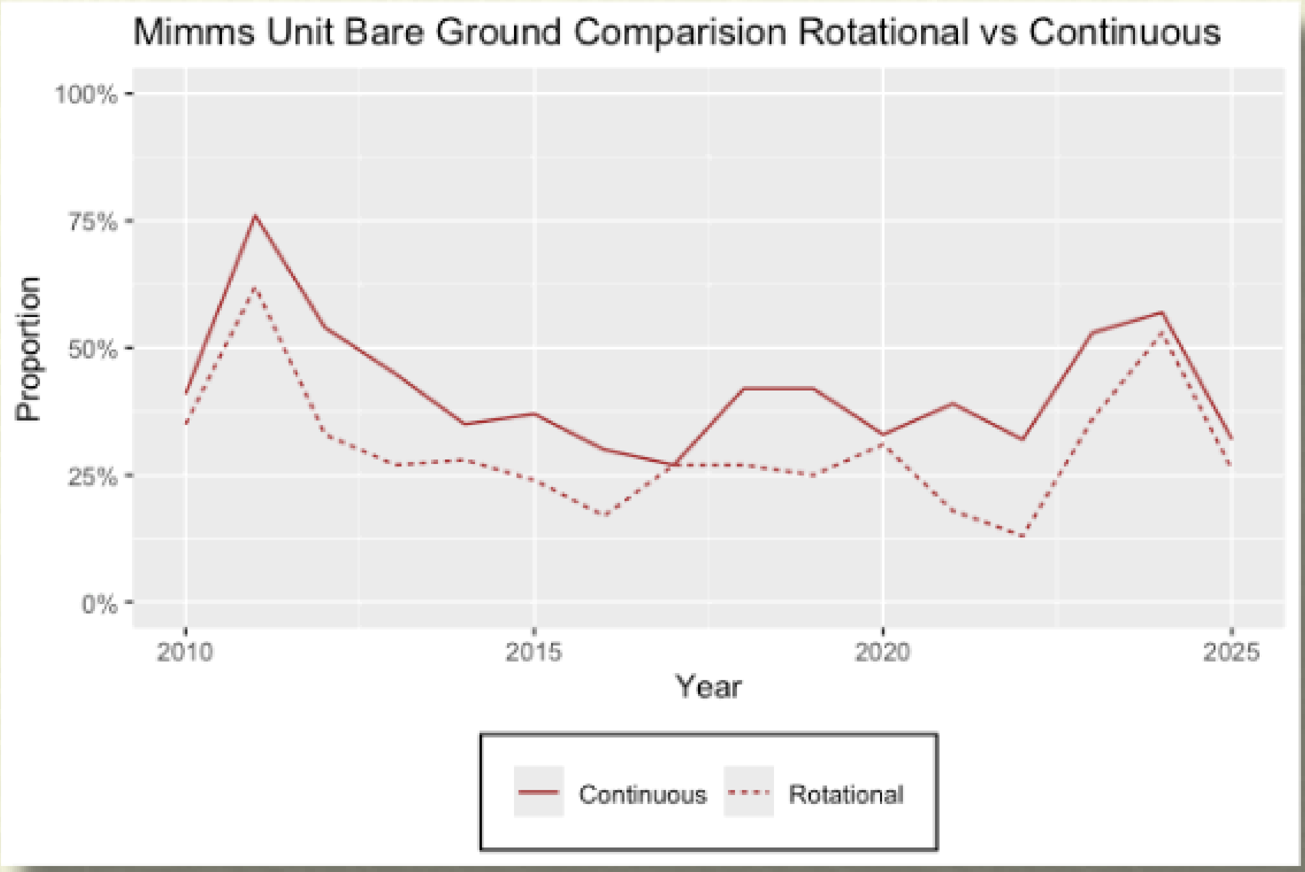
This chart plots the shows percentage of successional plant cover communities year since 2010, averaged across the 4 rotationally-grazed monitoring points on the Mimms Unit.

The red line represents the lowest successional plant communities, yellow as the mid-level successional communities, and green as the higher successional communities. The dashed lines are the trend lines for each community.

This chart shows that the high successional communities have an increasing trend, while the middle and low successional communities display a decreasing trend.

BIOLOGICAL MONITORING WEST TEXAS

MIMMS UNIT

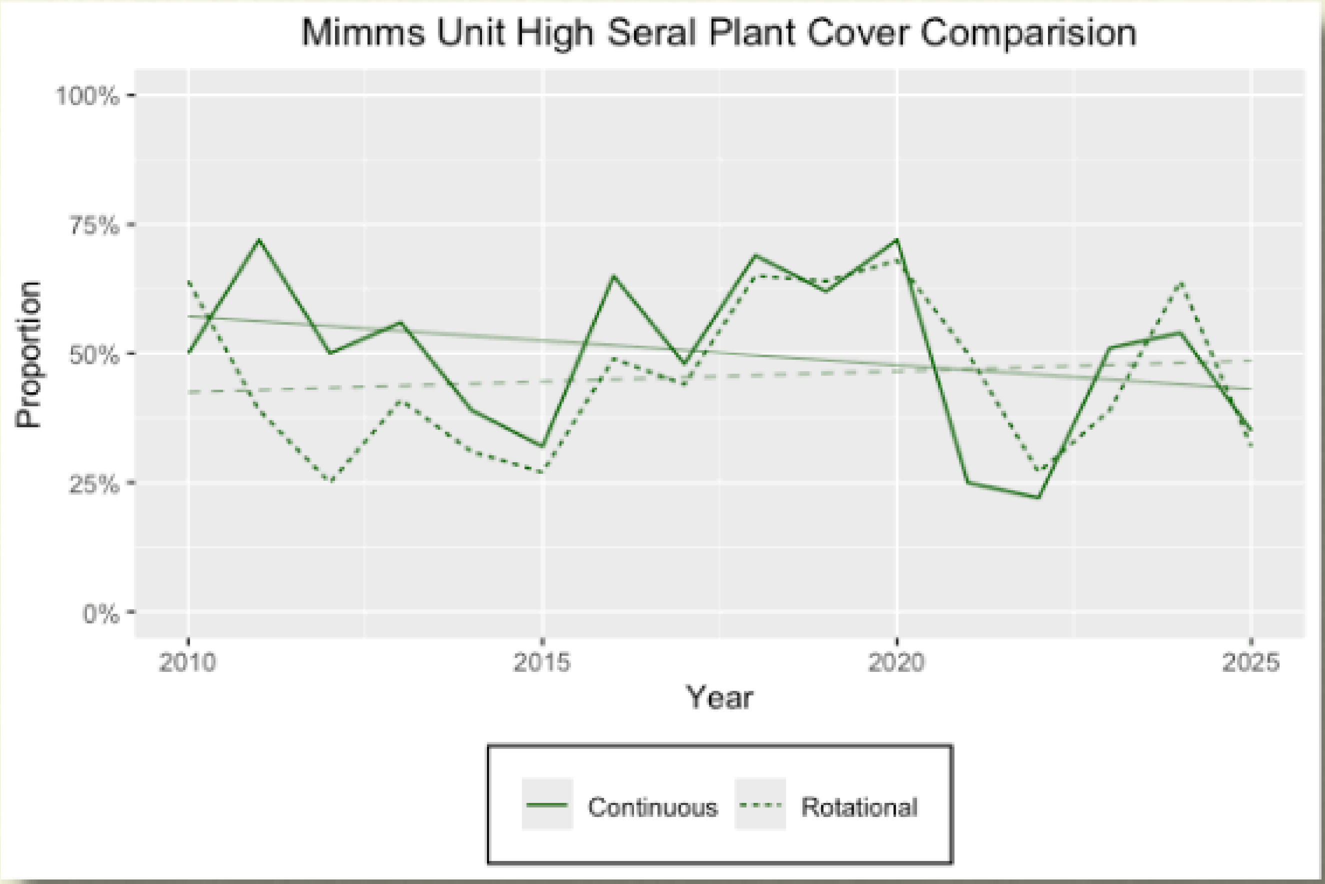


This chart plots the recorded percentage of bare ground cover every year since 2010 compared between the continuously-grazed pasture and the rotational, or adaptive multi-paddock grazed pastures. It is important to note that the rotationally-grazed portion of the ranch is larger (roughly 9,000 ac) and features 4 monitoring points, while the continuously-grazed portion of the ranch is around 2,100 ac and has 2 monitoring points.

The chart represents the rotational pastures with a dashed line and the solid line represents the continuously-grazed pastures. The rotational pastures' line shows a slightly lower proportion over time than the continuous pasture, though these numbers are likely not statistically significant.

BIOLOGICAL MONITORING WEST TEXAS

MIMMS UNIT



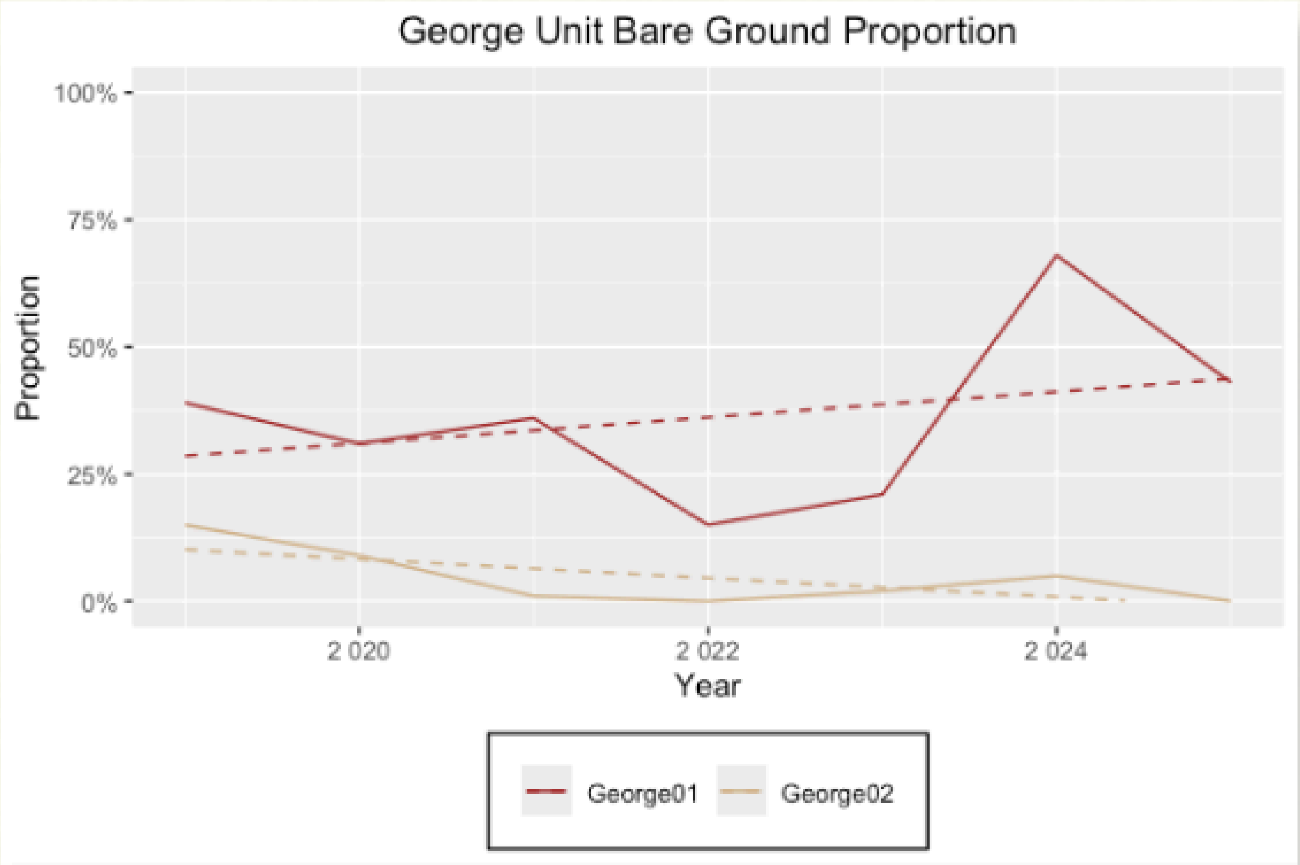
This chart plots the recorded percentage of high seral plant community cover as compared between the continuously-grazed pasture and the rotational, or adaptive multi-paddock grazed pastures. It is important to note that the rotationally-grazed portion of the ranch is larger (roughly 9,000 ac) and features 4 monitoring points, while the continuously-grazed portion of the ranch is around 2,100 ac and has 2 monitoring points.

The chart represents the rotational pastures with a dashed line and the solid line represents the continuously-grazed pastures.

The straight solid line represents a decreasing trend line for the continuously-grazed pasture and the straight dashed line represents an increasing trend line for the rotationally-grazed pastures.

BIOLOGICAL MONITORING WEST TEXAS

GEORGE UNIT

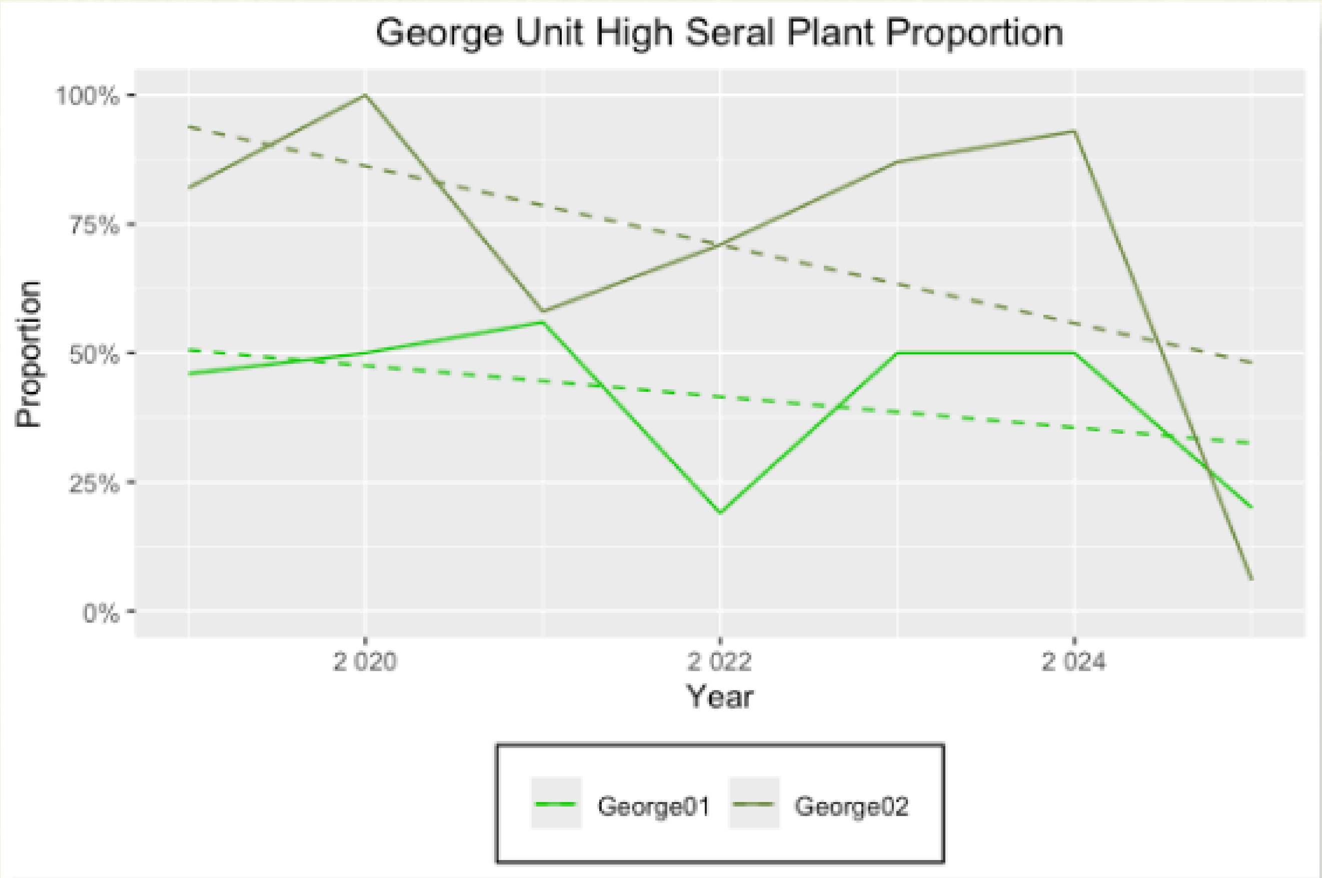


This chart plots the recorded percentage of bare ground cover every year since 2019 for the George Unit, which was purchased by the Foundation that year and is now part of the Mimms Unit. The George is typically used for young animal development.

This chart plots bare ground percentage at the 2 monitoring points on the Geoge Unit. George Unit Point 2 (tan line) sits at the terminus of a large area of sheet flow just before water falls into a gully that formed sometime in the first half of the 1900s. Due to the amount of water that can move through this site, bare ground is minimum. George Unit Point 1 (dark brown line) sits at the base of a gradual slope and has a higher proportion of bare ground.

BIOLOGICAL MONITORING WEST TEXAS

GEORGE UNIT

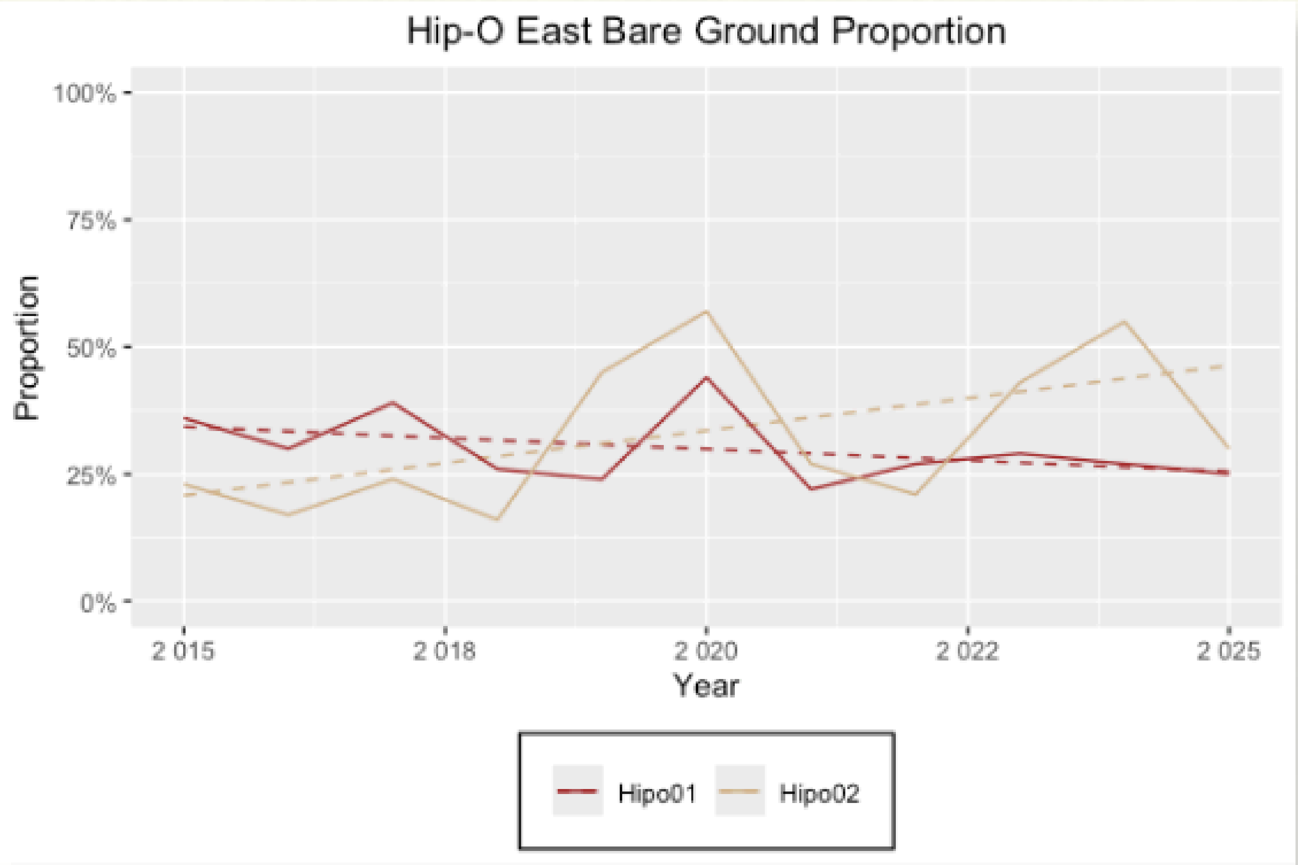


This chart plots the recorded percentage of high successional plant cover every year since 2019 on the George.

Both sites show a decreasing amount of high successional plant cover. There was a large dip in all plant cover in 2024 during the drought and a subsequent rebound in low successional plants when rains finally came in 2025, which supressed the detection if high successional plants.

BIOLOGICAL MONITORING WEST TEXAS

HIP-O EAST

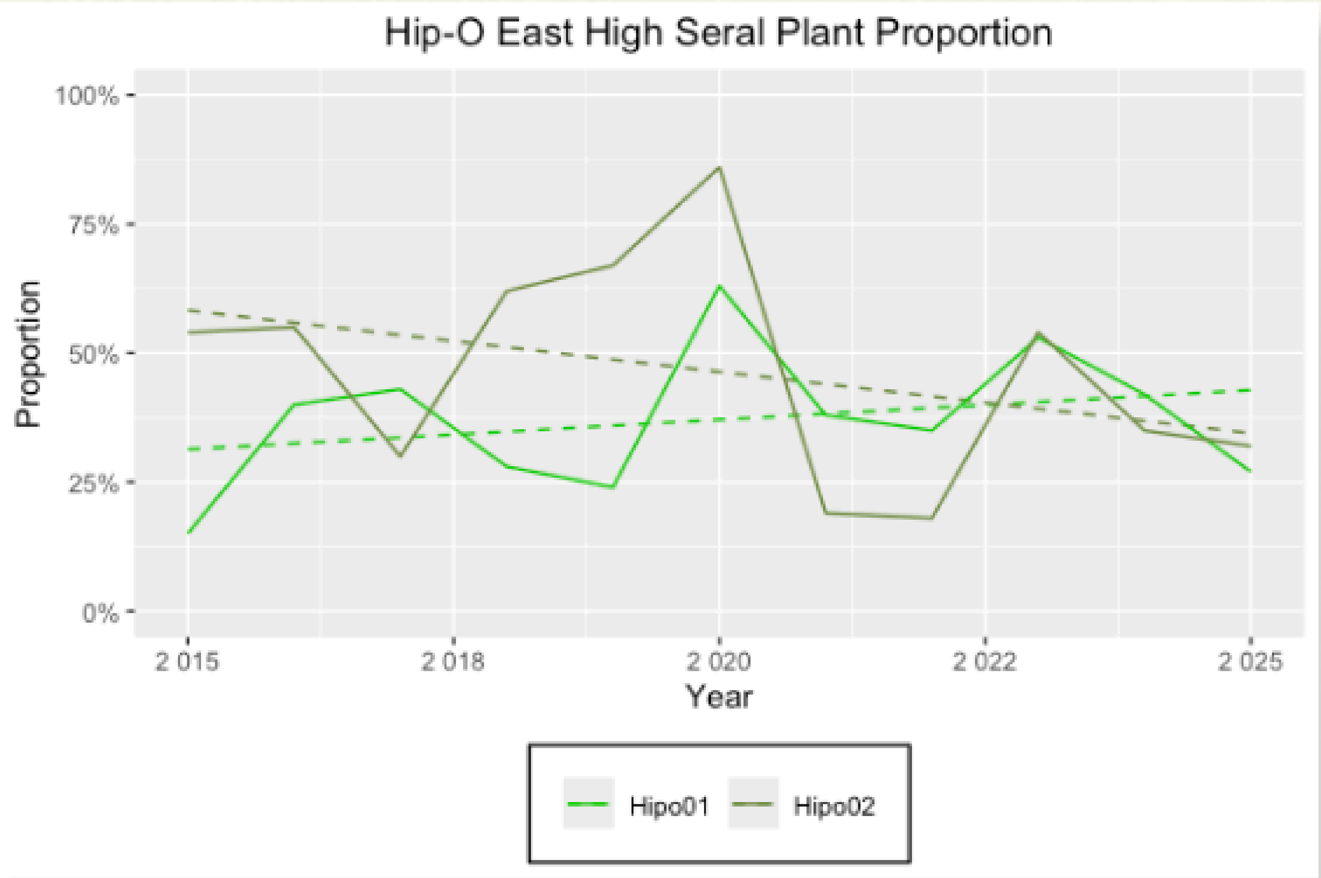


This chart plots the recorded percentage of bare ground cover every year since 2015 on the Hip-O East Ranch which borders the Mimms Unit to the west. The Hip-O is not owned by Dixon Water Foundation, but the Foundation occasionally grazes the Hip-O with the Foundation's herd, when stocked and when conditions support it.

This chart plots bare ground percentage at the 2 monitoring points on the Hip-O East from 2015 to 2025. The point Hip-O 1, to on the southwest corner of the ranch, shows a decrease in bare ground, while the Hip-O 2 shows an increase over the time period.

BIOLOGICAL MONITORING WEST TEXAS

HIP-O EAST



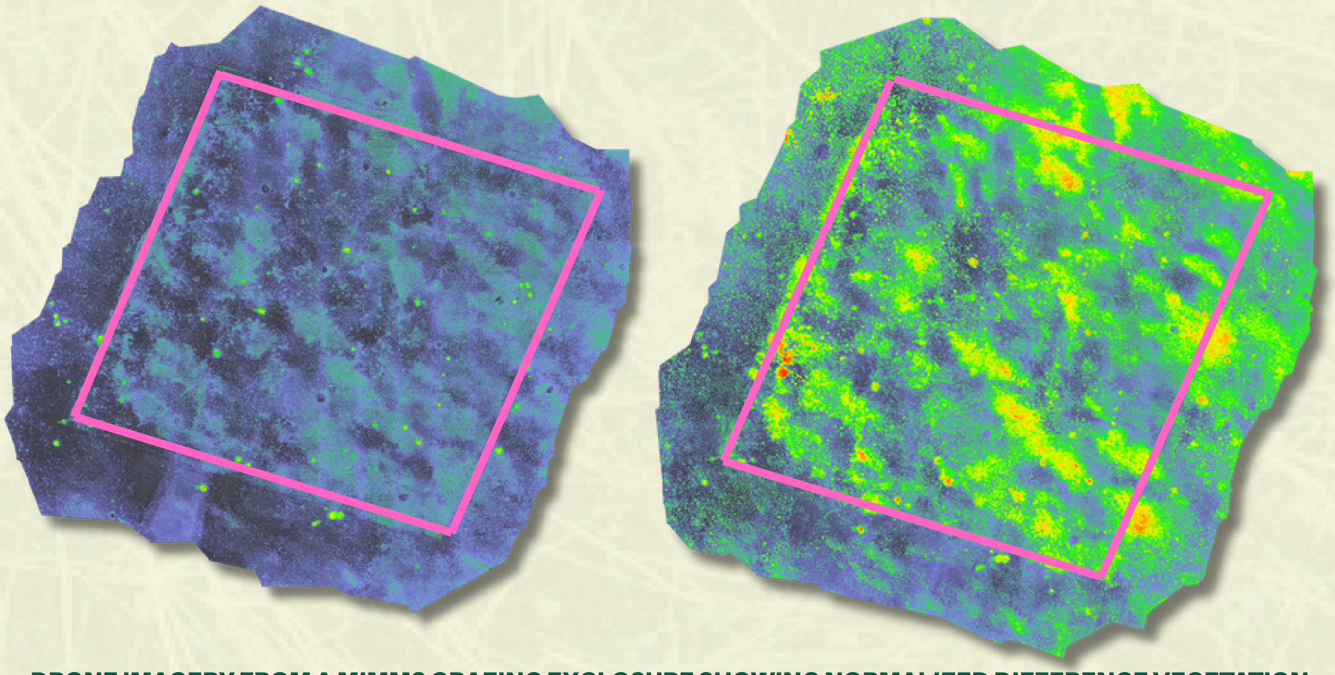
This chart plots the recorded percentage of high successional plant cover every year since 2015 on the Hip-O East Ranch.

TThe point Hip-O 1, to on the southwest corner of the ranch, shows an increase in bare ground, while the Hip-O 2 shows an decreasing trend over the time period.

The Hip-O is close in proximity to the Mimms Unit and receives similar rainfall.

DRONE MONITORING WEST TEXAS

MIMMS UNIT



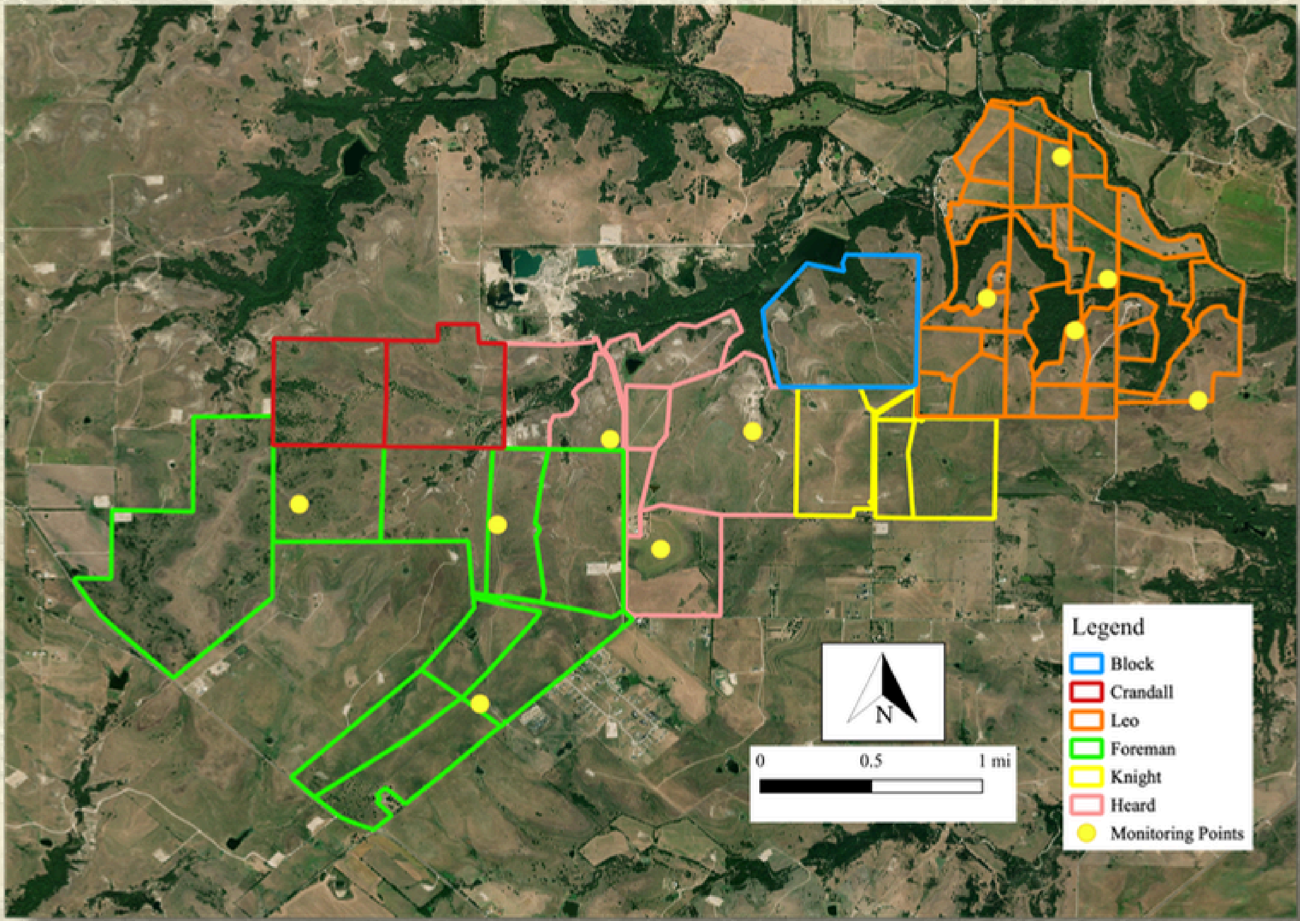
DRONE IMAGERY FROM A MIMMS GRAZING EXCLOSURE SHOWING NORMALIZED DIFFERENCE VEGETATION INDEX IN AUGUST 2024 (LEFT) AND AUGUST 2025 (RIGHT). EXCLOSURE FENCELINE IS MARKED IN PINK.

In addition to the Foundation's standard monitoring practices, drone imagery of each monitoring point and nearby grazing exclosure has been captured since summer of 2024. Using a drone equipped with a multi-spectral camera allows for the capture of wavelengths of light that are invisible to the human eye. Because healthy, photosynthesizing plants reflect near-infrared light and absorb more red light, the images can be analyzed and displayed in such a way that indicates where the healthy plants are on the landscape,

The images above show Grazing Exclosure S, near Mimms Bio Monitoring Point 6 The image on the left shows the exclosure in August 2024, during the drought. If you read the image like a heat map with cooler colors indicating plant inactivity and warmer colors indicating activity, you can see that the drought caused nearly all plants to stay dormant. The image on the right shows the same location in August 2025, one year after the image on the left. It is obvious in the image on the right that even below average rainfall of a fair amount, falling at the right time of year, can spark the plants into life. In this instance, the purpose of these two contrasting images is to broadly show the difference in plant response to rainfall (or lack there of) and not to specifically analyze the impact of management.

BIOLOGICAL MONITORING NORTH TEXAS

Leo Complex

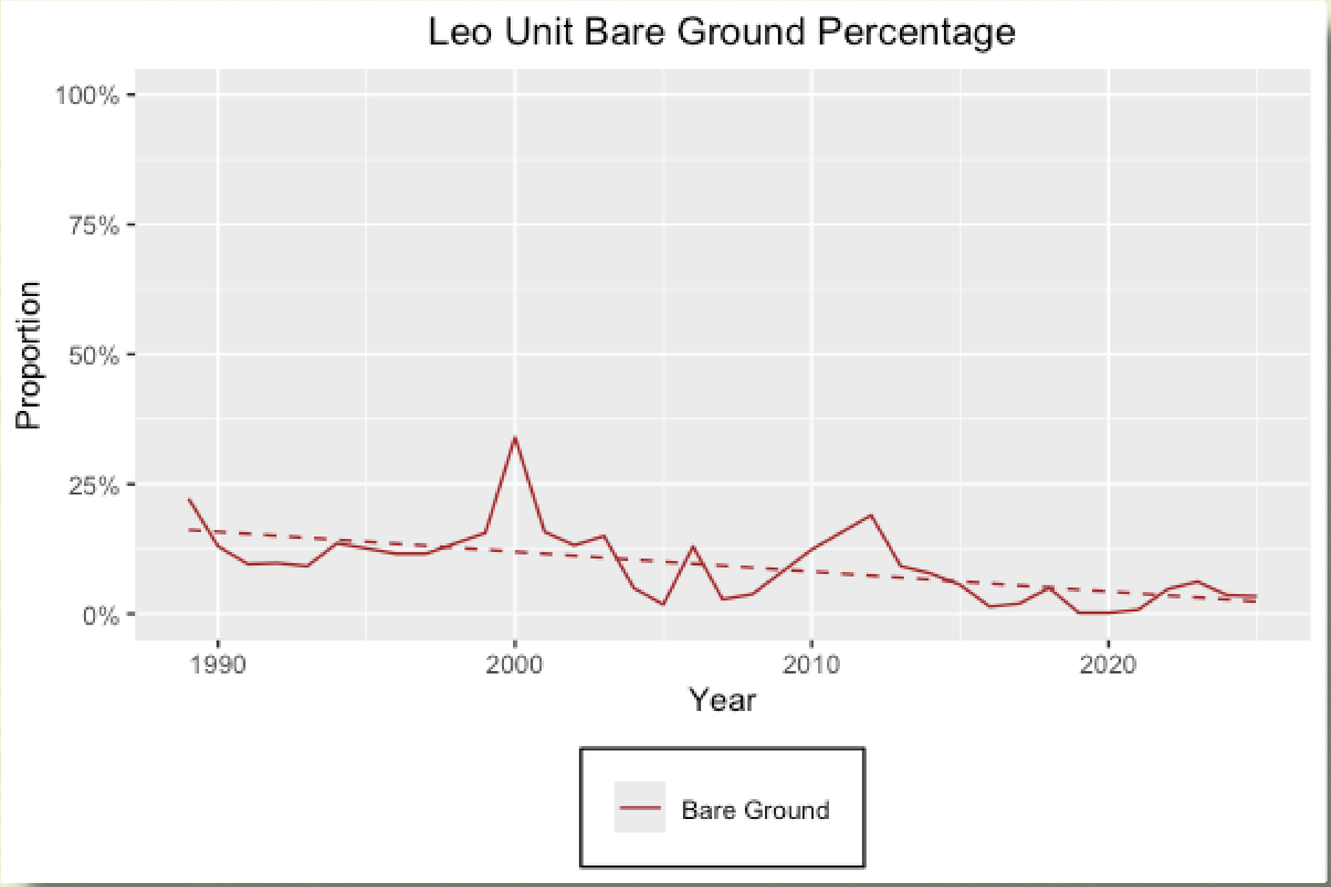


MAP OF THE LEO COMPLEX OF RANCH UNITS

Dixon Water Foundation has been managing the Leo Unit (marked by orange boundaries) since the Foundation was formed. The Leo Unit has been managed under adaptive, multi-paddock grazing and monitored since the late 1980s. In the last two decades, the Leo Unit has grown to a complex of neighboring ranch units that are now all under Foundation ownership and management. These units include the Block (blue), Crandall (red), Forman (green), Heard (pink), and Knight (yellow). The monitoring results on the following pages are broken out by each ranch unit. Results for the 5 monitoring points on the original core Leo Unit have been averaged, while the Forman and Heard Units have fewer monitoring points per unit, and are presented with each individual monitoring point displayed on the plots.

BIOLOGICAL MONITORING NORTH TEXAS

LEO UNIT - ORIGINAL, CORE UNIT



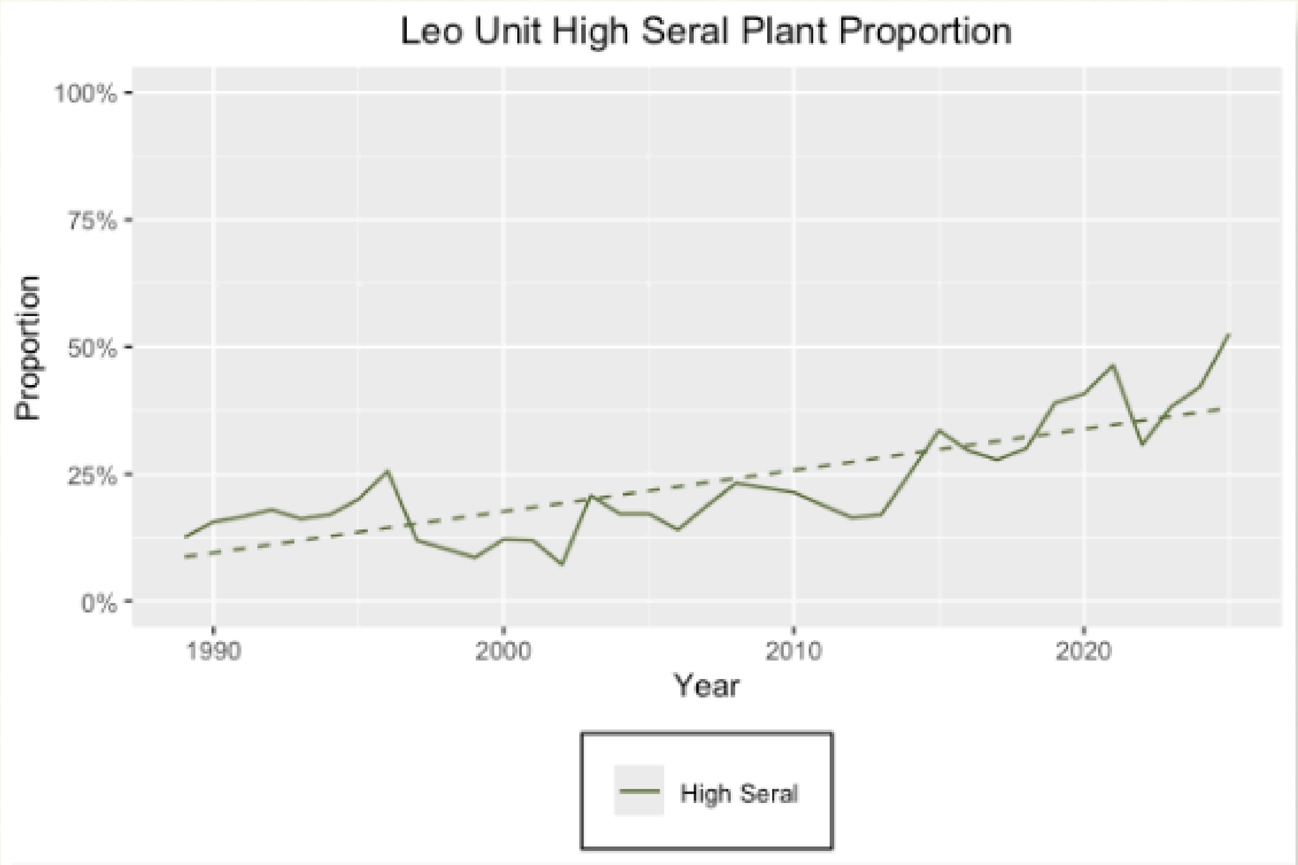
This chart plots the recorded percentage of bare ground cover every year since 1989 averaged across 5 monitoring points on the original, core Leo Unit.

The chart shows that bare ground is lower proportional component of the North Texas landscape as compared to the more arid West Texas landscape.

The dotted line represents the trend of the bare ground data for the Leo, and shows a decreasing trend over the monitoring period.

BIOLOGICAL MONITORING NORTH TEXAS

LEO UNIT - ORIGINAL, CORE UNIT

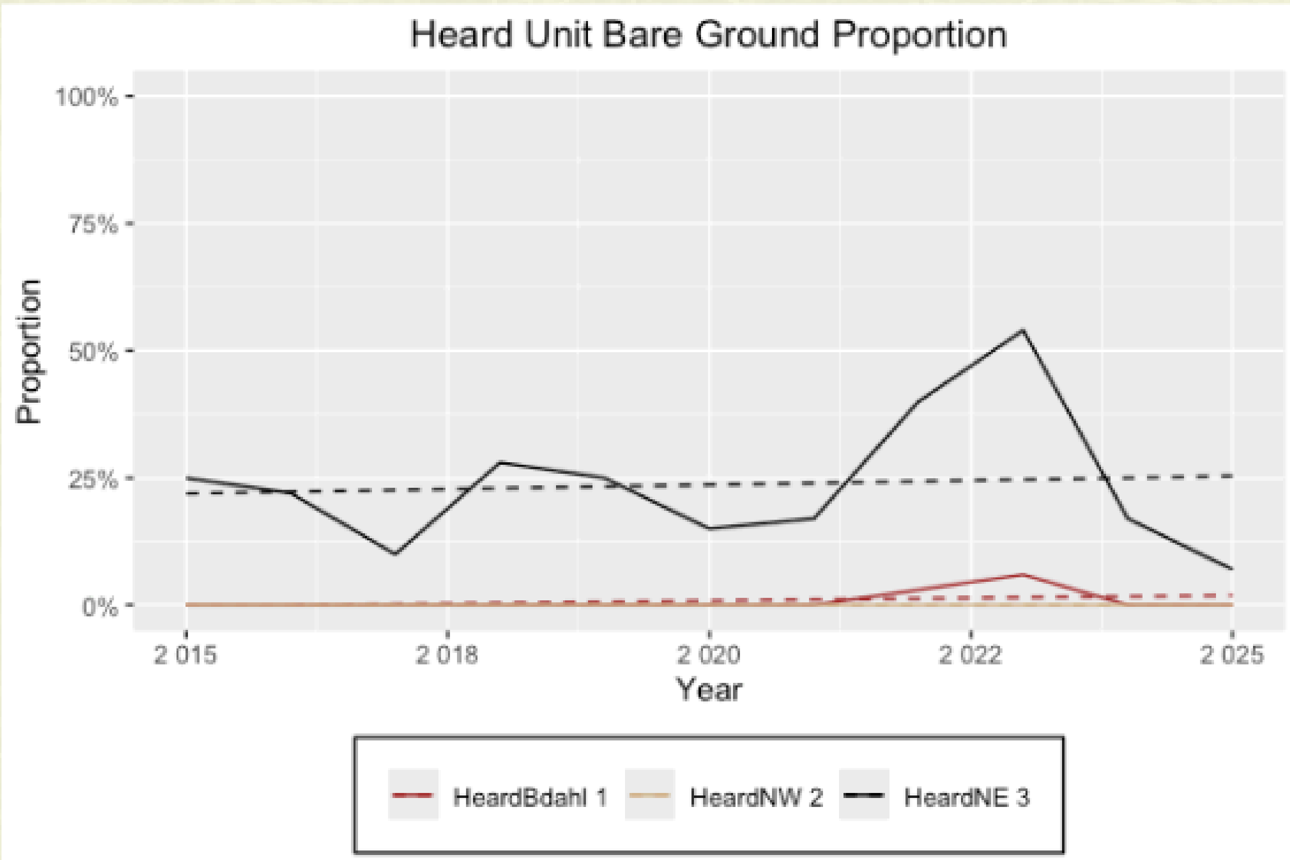


This chart plots the recorded percentage of High Seral plant community cover every year since 1989 averaged across 5 monitoring points on the original, core Leo Unit.

The dotted line represents the trend of the data and shows a consistent inrease of this plant community over time. This indicates that the Leo Unit has transitioned towards a higher successional, native prairie plant community under Dixon Water Foundation’s holistic planned grazing, over the monitoring period of the last few decades.

BIOLOGICAL MONITORING NORTH TEXAS

HEARD UNIT - (LEO SUB-UNIT)



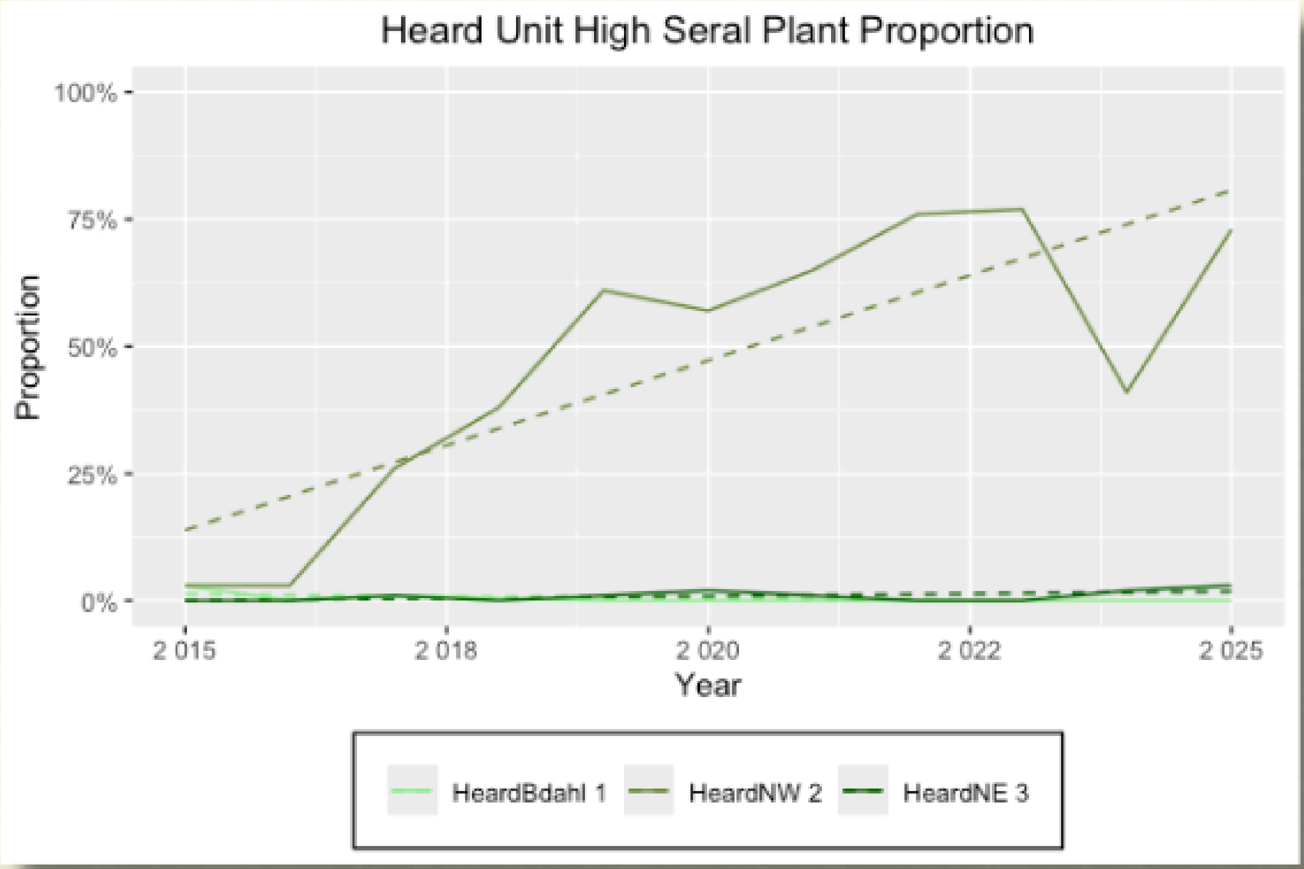
This chart plots the recorded percentage of bare ground cover every year since 2015 for each of the 3 monitoring points on the Heard sub-unit of the larger Leo Complex.

Two of the monitoring points show a relatively imperceivable amount of bare ground, while monitoring point “Heard 03” shows much more, including a large spike in 2023. This spike is likely due to the location of the point, which is on a gravelly hill side of a former utility easement. After the spike was noticed through these monitoring efforts, the location was bale grazed, which is the process of feeding hay on the site when livestock are present, and this seems to have reversed the trend. The site has shown a decrease in bare ground presence since the bale grazing effort was applied.

GOOGLE EARTH IMAGE OF HEARD MONITORING POINT 03

BIOLOGICAL MONITORING NORTH TEXAS

HEARD UNIT - (LEO SUB-UNIT)

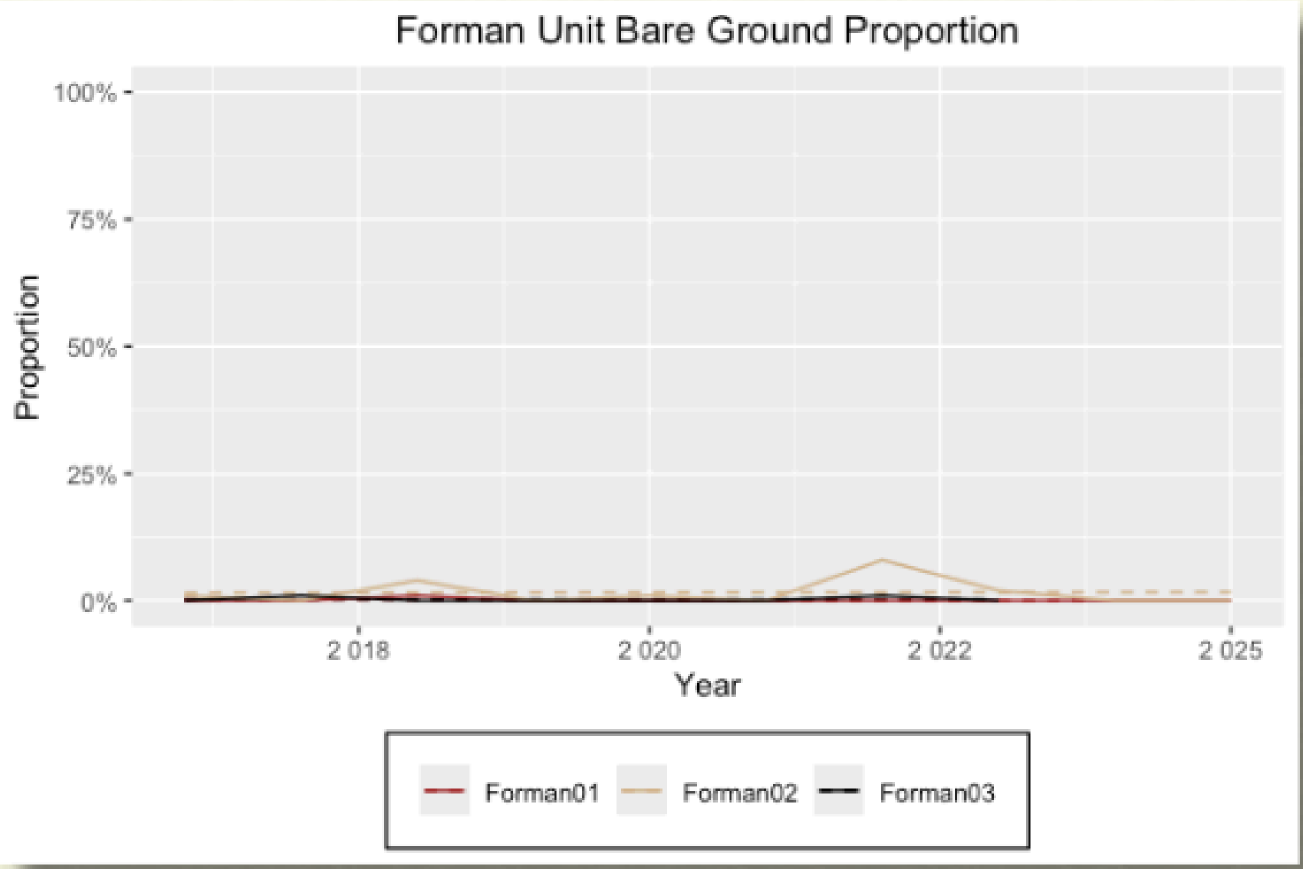


This chart plots the recorded percentage of high successional plant cover every year since 2015 for each of the 3 monitoring points on the Heard sub unit of the larger Leo Complex.

Two of the monitoring points show a relatively low amount of high successional plants. This is due to Heard 01 hosting a large amount of introduced B-Dahl Bluestem, which is an introduced grass that has become established. Heard 03, as mentioned above in the bare ground portion, was a degraded utility easement and so it also has a low proportion of high successional plants. Heard point NW2 is a site that is in good condition, as indicated by the sharp increasing trend in high successional plant community presence.

BIOLOGICAL MONITORING NORTH TEXAS

FORMAN UNIT - (LEO SUB-UNIT)

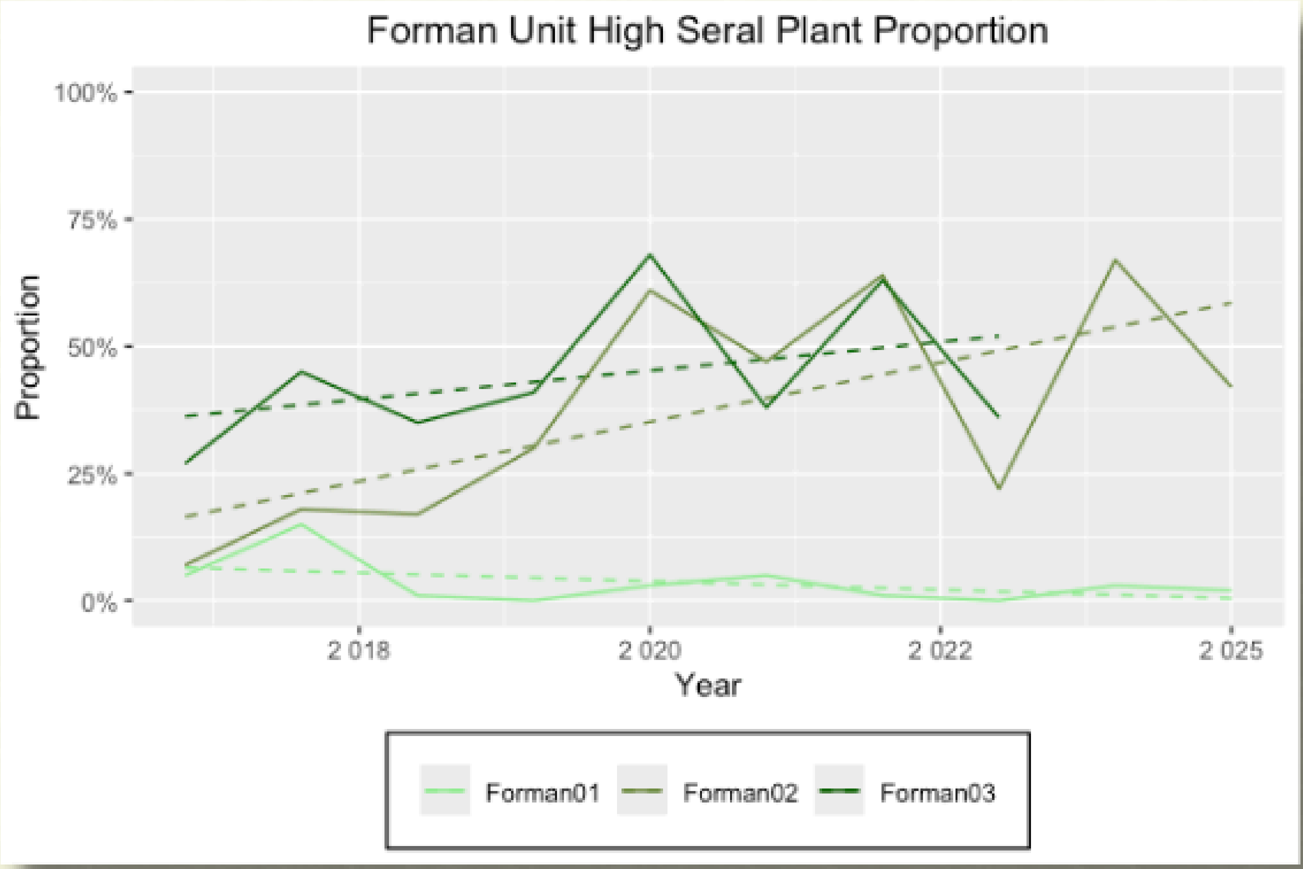


This chart plots the recorded percentage of bare ground cover across all points on the Forman sub unit of the Leo Complex every year since 2016. One point, Forman 03, was removed from the monitoring process in 2024 and was replaced with a new point, in the Knight sub unit.

All Forman points show a very little amount of bare ground presence across all monitoring years.

BIOLOGICAL MONITORING NORTH TEXAS

FORMAN UNIT - (LEO SUB-UNIT)

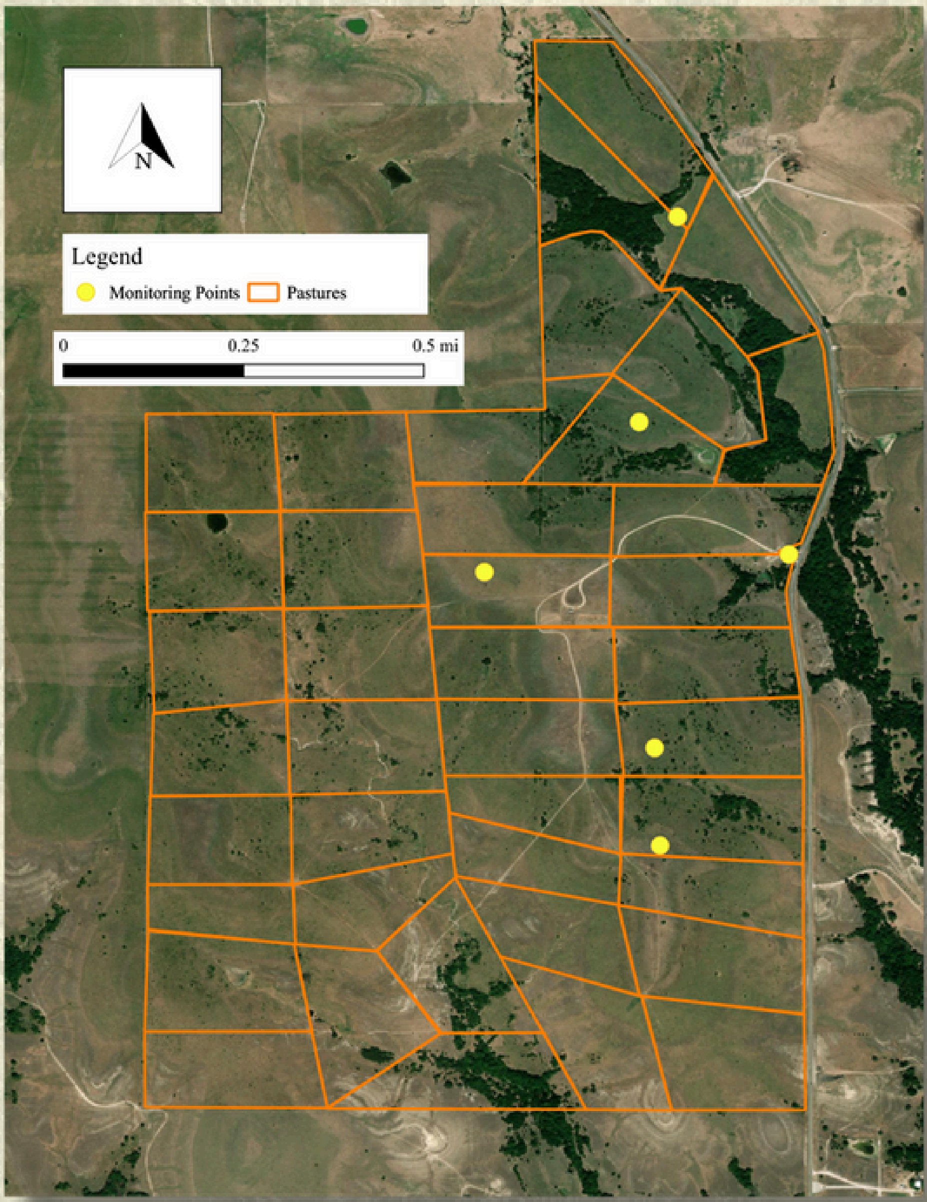


This chart plots the recorded percentage of high successional plant cover across all points on the Forman sub unit of the Leo Complex every year since 2016. One point, Forman 03, was removed from the monitoring process in 2024 and was replaced with a new point, in the Knight sub unit.

Two points on the Forman show an increasing trend over time of presence of high successional plant communities, while Forman 01 shows a low amount and decreasing trend. This is likely due to the area around Forman 01 historically being farmed and plowed, so higher succession seed bank and plant community have been diminished, creating a steeper road to recovery.

BIOLOGICAL MONITORING NORTH TEXAS

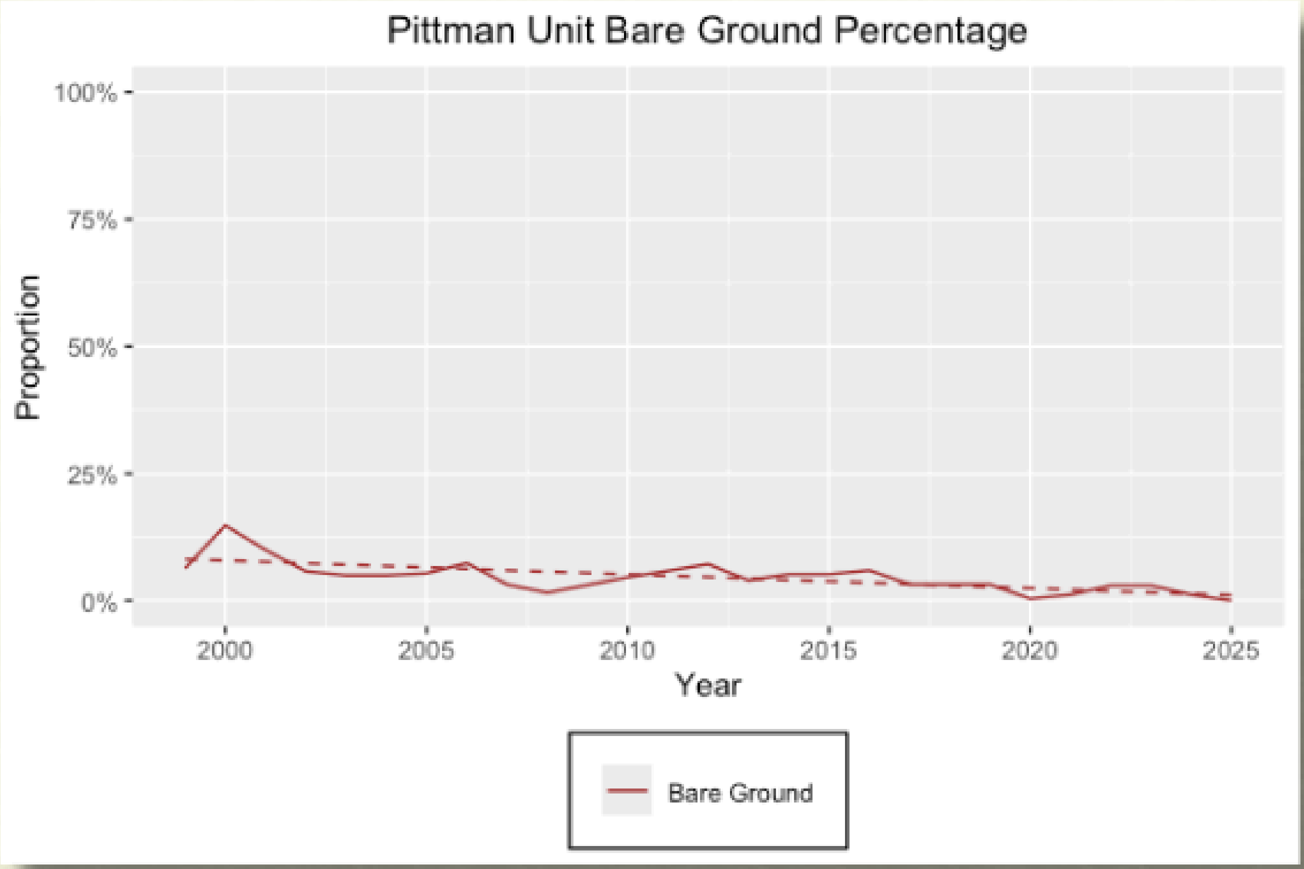
Pittman Unit



MAP OF THE PITTMAN UNIT IN NORTH TEXAS

BIOLOGICAL MONITORING NORTH TEXAS

PITTMAN UNIT

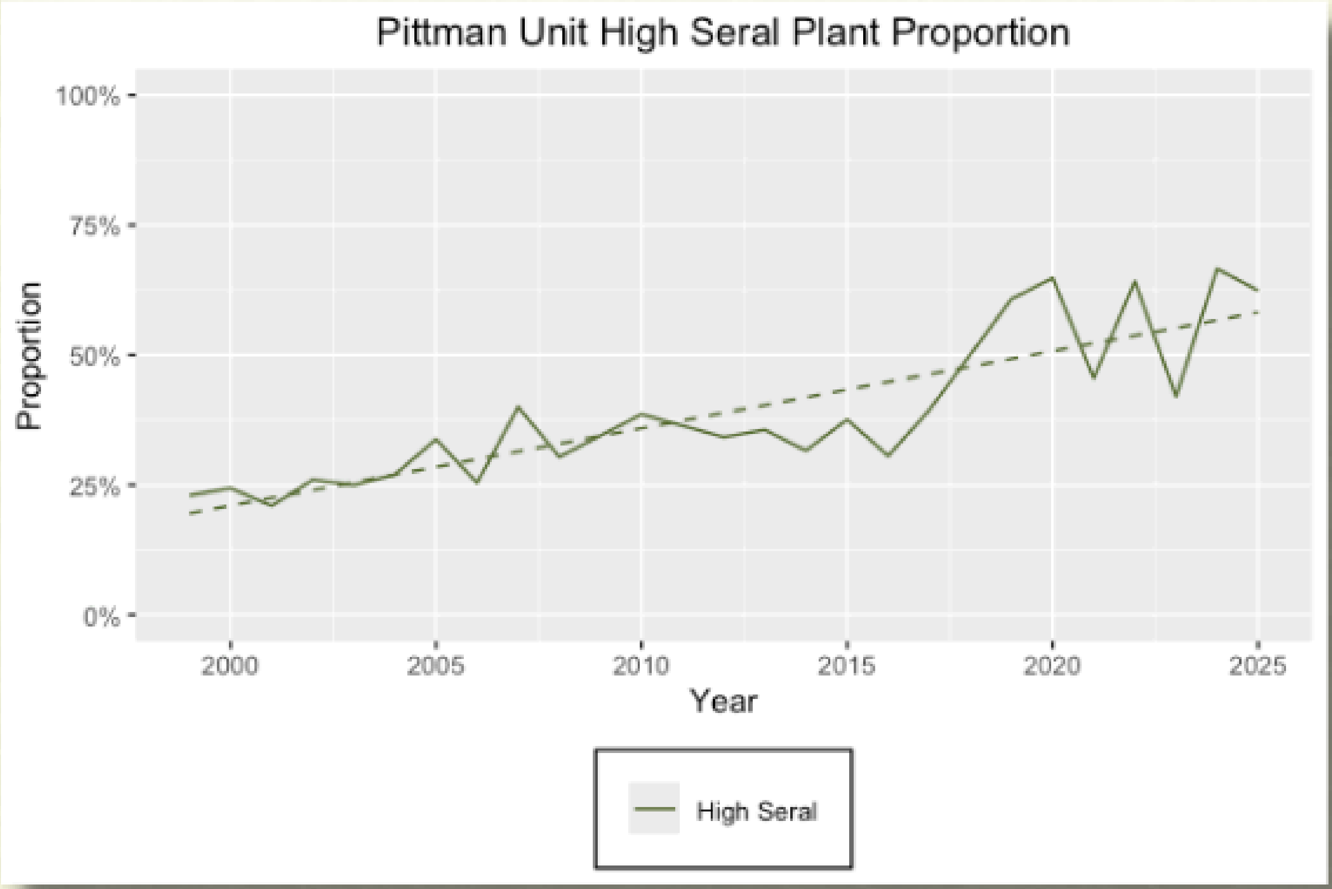


This chart plots the recorded percentage of bare ground cover every year since 1999 for 6 monitoring points on the Pittman.

The Pittman Unit is considered to be in overall good condition, as displayed by the decrease in bare ground presence over the management and monitoring period.

BIOLOGICAL MONITORING NORTH TEXAS

PITTMAN UNIT



This chart plots the recorded percentage of high successional plant cover every year since 1999 for 6 monitoring points on the Pittman.

In addition to the low presence of bare ground, the plant communities that comprise the ground cover at the Pittman are of a higher successional variety, as evident in the increasing trend of documented cover in the chart above.

ALAMITO CREEK CONSERVATION INITIATIVE

The year 2025 was a productive year with our partners at the Borderlands Research Institute and at the Rio Grande Joint Venture as part of the Alamito Creek Conservation Initiative (ACCI).

During the winter, before the spring and summer rains came, 43 wood and rock in-stream structures were installed on Matonoso Creek at the Alamito Creek Preserve. These structures were intended to induce meandering, slow the flow of water, and increase residency time of water on the property. These goals ultimately aimed to support recharging the riparian aquifer, reducing erosion, improving stream functionality, and supporting habitat for wildlife. These projects are being monitored for their effectiveness.

(LEFT). LOCATIONS OF IN-STREAM STRUCTURES INSTALLED IN 2025 ALONG MATONOSO CREEK ON THE ALAMITO CREEK PRESERVE AS PART OF THE ACCI PARTNERSHIP

(RIGHT). BIRD'S EYE VIEW OF TWO 'WOOD POST VANES' THAT LOOK TO SLOW EDDY FLOW, INCREASE SEDIMENT DROPOUT, AND THE FORMATION OF GRAVEL BARS TO HELP INDUCE MEANDERING IN THE CREEK.

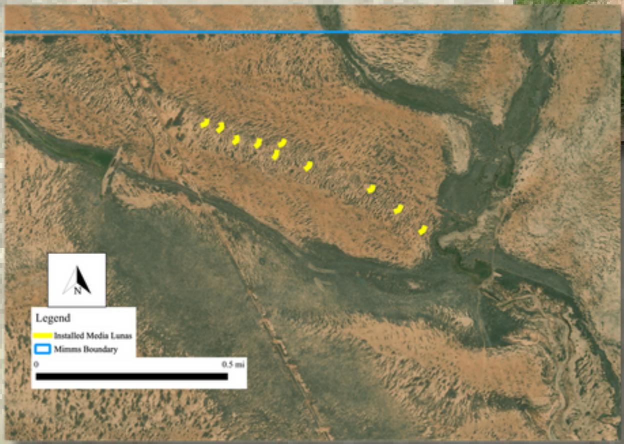
ALAMITO CREEK CONSERVATION INITIATIVE

With the MImms Unit destocked in response to drought, the ACCI partnership was leveraged to build 10 media luna, or half moon rock structures, in an area of the grasslands that is subject to overland sheet flow working its way towards Alamito Creek. At points on the ranch, this flow concentrates and has formed headcuts that are eroding soil and taking grasses with it.

The media luna structures were built with the help of student volunteers and aim to slow and distribute the flow of water so that it can be utilized by the prairie prior to reaching the headcuts. The summer brought a productive growing season, so the media lunas were able to be seen in action. Plans to build more structures and implement monitoring are in place for 2026.

(LEFT). MEDIA LUNA INSTALLED DOWNSTREAM FROM A BAND OF VEGETATION DURING THE DORMANT SEASON, APRIL 2025.

(RIGHT). MEDIA LUNA AFTER THE RAINY SEASON HAD COMMENCED, JULY 2025, AND VEGETATION GREENED UP.



(BOTTOM LEFT). MAP SHOWING LOCATIONS OF MEDIA LUNAS INSTALLED ON THE MIMMS UNIT APRIL 2025.

EROSION MONITORING

One of the sites that features major erosion issues is a gully downstream from the media luna sites, which has been monitored and reported on during previous reports.

In 2025, after receiving around 11" of rain following a severe drought year, overland sheet flow headed to the gully and caused a collapse in its banks, causing the gully to expand in size. The drone images below taken in May 2024 and June 2025 highlight some of the newly-collapsed banks with red arrows.

DRONE IMAGES OF A GULLY ON THE NORTH MIMMS, NEAR MONITORING POINT GEORGE 2 IN MAY 2024 (ABOVE) AND JUNE 2025 (RIGHT) HIGHLIGHING EROSION

RESEARCH PROJECTS

NORTH TEXAS

- Noble Institute - 3M: Metrics, Management, and Monitoring (Leo and Pittman Units)
- Texas A&M AgriLife Extension - Cover-Cropping Study (Pittman Unit)
- University of North Texas - Linking Ranch Management to Pollinator Conservation (Leo and Pittman Unit)
- University of North Texas - Nutrient Cycling Study (Leo Unit)
- University of Texas -How Do Livestock Management Practices Influence Soil Biodiversity and Carbon Sequestration? (Leo and Pittman)

WEST TEXAS

- Presidio County Underground Water Conservation District - Long-term well monitoring
- Rio Grande Joint Venture - Long-term monitoring of Vegetation, Groundwater Recharge, and Bird Diversity
- Sul Ross State University - Livestock Grazing Systems Within A Desert Ecosystem: Ecological & Economic Implications (Mimms Unit)
- Sul Ross State University - Livestock Tanks for Migratory and Wintering Grassland Birds in the Trans-Pecos (Mimms Unit)
- Texas Tech University - Zone-Tailed Hawk Migration Study (Alamito Creek Preserve)
- University of Texas -How Do Livestock Management Practices Influence Soil Biodiversity and Carbon Sequestration? (Mimms)
- Yale University - Global Change Effects on Soil Greenhouse Gas Exchange Along a Temperature Gradient in the North American Central Grasslands (Mimms Unit)
- Yale University - How variations in C3 and C4 Plant Composition Influences Radiation Use Efficiency Across Climatic Gradients in the Great Plains (Mimms Unit)

In addition to these research projects, there are on-going monitoring projects such as over-wintering grassland bird surveys on the Mimms Unit with the Bird Conservancy of the Rockies and Sul Ross State University, the hosting of 2 Motus Telemetry towers to track migratory wlidlife, Annual visits from the Texas Water Developmnet Board to measure well depth-to-water, and visits from bird surveyors in support of Aubuon's Bird Friendly Beef/Conservation Ranching Bird Friendly Index metrics. In-house, we've also been collecting multi-spectral drone imagery of our biological monitoring points and some of our bale-grazing restoration projects.

SPONSORSHIPS AND GRANTS

DIXON WATER FOUNDATION GAVE:

$23,859.25

in sponsorships to these organizations:

Big Bend Ranch Rodeo
Devils River Conservancy
Green Spaces Alliance of South Texas
Holistic Management International
Marfa Education Foundatoin
Marfa ISD
San Solomon Springs Collaborative
Sand County Foundation
Texas FFA
Texas Section Society for Range Management

$495,598.00

in grants to these organizations:

Borderlands Research Institute at SRSU
Bureau of Economic Geology at UT
Devils River Conservancy
Environmental Defense Fund - NY
Friends of Pecos River
Hill Country Alliance - Austin
Holistic Management International
Native Prairies Association of Texas
Ogallala Commons, Inc.
Texas Agricultural Land Trust
University of North Texas Foundation, **Inc**