Urban Feral Hogs:
Problems and Management Resources

Rachel Richter
Urban Wildlife Biologist
Texas Parks and Wildlife
How did they get here?

- Domesticated pigs 1st introduced by early Spanish explorers
- Wild boars were introduced for hunting in 1930s
Distribution: 2004
Distribution: 2010
Reasons for Spread:

- Reproduce quickly
- Low natural mortality rates
- Highly adaptable generalist
$1.5 Billion in Damage Annually

- Water Quality
- Erosion
- Increased Invasive Plants
- Native Plants
- Native Wildlife
- Landscaping
- Livestock
- Crops
- Natural Habitats
- Public and Private Lands
Disease Vectors

- Brucellosis
- Leptospirosis
- Salmonella
- Toxoplasmosis
- Sarcoptic Mange
- *E. coli*
- Trichinosis
- Pseudorabies
- Tuberculosis
- Vesicular Stomatitis
- Swine Fever
- Hoof-and-Mouth Disease
Population Control

- 70% population removal required to stop growth
- 29% population removal currently in Texas
- Intense, strategic, adaptive, collaborative approach is necessary
Hog Removal Regulations

- Unprotected, non-game animals
- Any legal means or methods, year round, no bag limits
- Aerial Wildlife Management Permit
- Texas Animal Health Commission regulates transport of live feral hogs
TPWD Urban Wildlife Biologist Program

Roles:
- Outreach
- Technical Guidance
- Research
TPWD Assistance

- Design a management strategy
- Provide credible, scientific basis for management actions
- Educate the public
- Facilitate community discussions
Questions?

Contact Info:
Rachel Richter
rachel.richter@tpwd.texas.gov
972-293-3841