

## Owens, M Keith

Dr. Owens has a worldwide reputation for excellence in rangeland management research. Over the past 15 years, he has been awarded \$2,500,000+ for individual and joint research proposals to investigate ecological and managerial questions at multiple spatial scales. A central issue in Texas has been water resources availability and sustainability. Dr. Owens has led efforts in determining water use patterns in dominant trees and shrubs of the Edwards Plateau. This work has largely been on individual leaf, branch, and plant scales and has been incorporated into simple models for plant community water use. With collaborators, he has also been investigating water production from small watersheds and experimental rainfall simulator plots. He has worked with local and state entities to develop a network of experimental sites over a wide geographic range and to provide the data on a nightly basis through the internet. Projects at a slightly larger spatial scale have included foraging behavior of domestic livestock and wildlife within individual plant communities, and fire behavior during summer fires in south Texas. Larger spatial scale projects include foraging patterns of cattle and deer in large (2500-acre) pastures and of sampling protocol and foraging behavior of reindeer in the Bering Land Bridge National Preserve in Alaska. Ranchers and range professionals are both looking to Dr. Owens for leadership in the management and understanding of rangelands.



A hallmark of his research is his ability to develop interdisciplinary teams of scientists to address specific problems facing Texas ranchers. Dr. Owens has been active within the Uvalde Center, the Department of Rangeland Ecology and Management, and the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences. He has been an active member of the departmental tenure and promotion committee that evaluates all teaching, research and extension faculty with the Department of Rangeland Ecology and Management, and on the college Tenure & Promotions committee. He has also participated in the Experiment Station Committee on Policy's Leadership Development Course to enhance his capabilities in agricultural leadership. He is also a member of a long-term research and management team at the Uvalde Center, which sets priorities for research in the context of a viable ranch enterprise. These accomplishments are the basis for Dr. Keith Owens's recognition with the Society's *OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENT AWARD*.

