Wichita Mountains Wildlife Refuge
History, Foundation Animals, and Additions to the WR Herd

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Historically, the Texas Longhorn waned in popularity and in numbers during the late 1800's and early 1900's due to fencing, availability and distribution of shipping points, and the introduction of European and Indian breeds of cattle to increase beef production and disease resistance. The WR herd today owes its existence to farsighted Forest Service employees such as Earl Drummond who is credited with first suggesting the idea of preserving a remnant herd and who managed the herd from 1927 until 1950, Will C. Barnes and John H. Hatton, who worked ten years to obtain funding for the purchase and who selected the original herd, Secretary of the Oklahoma Historical Society Joseph B. Thoburn who actively supported and campaigned for maintaining a herd on the Wichitas, and Montana Senator John B. Kendrick, a former Texas cattleman, who persuaded Congress to purchase the cattle. Specific Congressional appropriation language for the establishment of the WR herd is found on page 989, Sixty-Ninth Congress, Session II, Chapter 39, 1927 as follows: "...Provided, that not to exceed $3000 of the sum appropriated in this paragraph shall be expended for the purchase and maintenance of a herd of longhorned or Spanish breed of cattle for the Wichita National Forest in Oklahoma to the end that the present comparatively few living examples of this historic breed of cattle may be preserved from complete extinction..."

The Refuge's objective for the Texas Longhorn cattle is one of protecting and preserving a significant cultural and historical resource and has not been compromised or changed through the years. The specific management objective is: "To maintain and preserve under reasonably natural conditions, with as little change and as true to type as is possible, a herd of historically significant Texas Longhorn cattle for the enjoyment and study by present and future generations."

In selecting the foundation herd, Will Barnes and John Hatton traveled over 5,000 miles and looked over more than 30,000 head of cattle in the brush country of South Texas and the Texas Coastal Bend area. In August, 1927, thirty Texas Longhorns were released on the Wichita National Forest (now the Wichita Mountains Wildlife Refuge). The herd consisted of three bulls, three steers, twenty cows, and four calves (two bull and two heifer). Not all the animals were of the best type, but were of the best type obtainable at the time. A review of records indicates that one bull, nineteen cows, and one of the bull calves formed the foundation herd. The others were either steers, died, or were sold due to non-conformance to type. Throughout the history of the WR herd careful culling, selection, and the addition of other animals from various sources has been practiced to improve type and diversify genetics within the herd now recognized as the Wichita Refuge or WR bloodline. Sources of, dates, and brand numbers of the founding longhorns and those added to the herd are as follows:

Foundation Herd: Arrived Wichita National Forest, August, 1927.

Seth Brown, Devers, Texas:

Cow	WR 1
Cow	WR 24
Cow	WR 13B
Cow	WR 16
Cow	WR 28
Cow	WR 15A

Source Unknown, Edinburg, Texas area:

Cow	WR 20A
Cow	WR 34
Cow	WR 7B
Cow	WR 22
Cow	WR 27
Cow	WR 33
Cow	WR 6A
Cow	WR 14
Cow	WR 23

Frank Y. Dew, Devers, Texas

Steer	WR 39
Steer	WR 40
Steer	WR 41
Bull	WR 42
Bull	WR 43

J.F. Howenstine, Cache, Oklahoma - An area rancher who grazed large numbers of cattle obtained in Mexico and South Texas.

Cow	WR 3
Cow	WR 4A
Cow	WR 25

Fort Worth Stockyards, Fort Worth, Texas

Steer	WR 41

Purchased in Mexico:

Bull	WR 83
Bull	WR 84
Bull	WR 2B
Bull	WR 3B

Bulls arrived August, 1931, from Monterey, Mexico.
Bull 84 not used, Jersey type horns.
Purchased by Superintendent Harry French, 1936.

J. C. Clower, Laredo, Texas and Medicine Park, Oklahoma: An area rancher with ranches in both Texas and Oklahoma who crossed and grazed many cattle, predominately originating in

Mexico. Traded longhorn cattle of good type to the Refuge. Animals obtained in 1946.

Bull	WR 4	Cow	WR 17A
Bull	WR 5	Cow	WR 1A
Bull	WR 6	Cow	WR 3C
Bull	WR 7A	Cow	WR 5B
Bull	WR 8	Cow	WR 7
Bull	WR 9	Cow	WR 10B
Bull	WR 10	Cow	WR 12
Bull	WR 12A	Cow	WR 13C
Bull	WR 13	Cow	WR 14A
Bull	WR 20	Cow	WR 15
Bull	WR 20B	Cow	WR 16A
		Cow	WR 18A

I.G. "Cap" Yates, Marathon & Alpine, Texas:
Founder of the Yates bloodline Texas Longhorn cattle, one of the original seven families.

Bull	WR 829	Received 1949
Bull	WR 960	Received 1951
Bull	WR 1042	Received 1953
Bull	WR 1133	Received 1954
Bull	WR 1134	Received 1954
Bull	WR 1425	Exchanged for bull WR 1421 in 1956
Bull	WR 1426	Exchanged for bull WR 1960 in 1956

Jack G. Phillips, West Columbia, Texas:
Founder of the Phillips bloodline of Texas Longhorn cattle, one of the original seven families.

Bull	JP-3 (Copper)	Exchanged for bull WR 2031 in 1965

Darrel Dickinson, Calhan, Colorado:
This bull was of the Butler bloodline Texas Longhorn cattle, one of the original seven families.

Bull	Bold Ruler	On loan for the 1976 breeding season.

Fort Niobrara National Wildlife Refuge, Valentine, Nebraska:
This herd was founded by longhorns from the WR herd in 1936 to prevent the possible loss of the WR herd to diseases common at that time. Exchanges between the herds have been and will continue to be done whenever necessary to improve type or increase genetic diversity.

Cow	US 5622	Transferred 1962
Cow	US 7901	Transferred 1994
Cow	US 7923	Transferred 1994
Cow	US 7925	Transferred 1994

Cow	US 7926	Transferred 1994
Cow	US 7981	Transferred 1994
Cow	US 8263	Transferred 1994
Bull	US 7619	Transferred 1985
Bull	US 8233	Transferred 1985
Bull	US 8036	Transferred 1985
Bull	US 8633	Transferred 1988
Bull	US 8670	Transferred 1988
Bull	US 8478	Transferred 1988
Bull	US 89036	Transferred 1990
Bull	US 89095	Transferred 1990
Bull	US 89084	Transferred 1996

Fayette Yates, Abilene, Texas

Son of I.G. "Cap" Yates, founder of the Yates bloodline cattle. Continues to maintain and preserve this exceptional true to type bloodline of longhorn cattle. Cattle exchanged for WR steers 3341, 3572, 3673, 3752A, 3754A, 87, 205, 215, 335, 414, and 994 in 1991.

Cow	Y/S 365	Schlaben family Yates Longhorn
Cow	Y 102/4	
Cow	Y 19/6	
Cow	Y 20/6	
Cow	Y 204/9	
Cow	Y 2011/9	
Cow	Y 27/0	
Cow	Y 03/1	
Cow	Y 19/1	
Bull	Y 28/8	
Bull	Y 34/8	
Bull	DRY 90/8	Dos Rios Yates, Dr. Joe Knowles' Yates breeding (Lely family)
Bull	Y 3/0	
Bull	Y 13/0	
Bull	Y 55/0	
Bull	Y 103/0	
Bull	Y 00/1	
Bull	Y 01/1	
Bull	Y 102/1	
Bull	Y 2	Received in 1992.

The WR longhorn herd has been developed through careful selection and the addition of animals believed to contribute to the true to type characteristics of this unique and wonderful breed of cattle. It is doubtful that more additions to the herd will be necessary any time in the immediate future, due to the amount of diversity within the WR bloodline and semen storage for future use on Refuge bulls.