

## **PROVIDING SUPPLEMENTAL FOOD**

### **GRAZING MANAGEMENT**

(This is identical to Grazing Management in Activity A. Refer to Grazing Management in Activity A for information to prepare a specific grazing proposal for the plan under this Activity).

### **PRESCRIBED BURNING**

(This is identical to Burning Prescribed in Activity A. Refer to Prescribed Burning in Activity A for information to prepare a specific burning proposal for the plan under this Activity)

### **RANGE ENHANCEMENT (Range Re-Seeding)**

(This is identical to Range Enhancement (Reseeding) in Activity A. Refer to Range Enhancement (Range Reseeding) in Activity A for information to prepare a specific range enhancement proposal for the plan under this Activity)

### **FOOD PLOTS**

The establishment of locally adapted annual (spring and fall) or perennial forages on suitable soils to provide supplemental foods and cover during critical periods of the year. Livestock should be generally excluded from small food plots. The shape, size, location, and percentage of total land area should be based on requirements for the target species (e.g., 2-5% of area for white-tailed deer) and should meet goals of a comprehensive wildlife plan. **A minimum of 1% of the acreage should be planted in seasonal food plots.**

Managing the habitat for proper nutrition should be the primary management goal. Supplemental feeding and/or planting of food plots are not a substitute for good management. These practices should only be considered as "supplements" to the native habitat, not as "cure-alls" for low quality and/or poorly managed habitats. Supplemental feeding should always be combined with population management or the resulting artificially higher numbers of animals will have a negative impact on native plants. Consult with the NRCS, TCE, TPWD, and local seed dealers for food plot mixtures suitable for your area, as well as local soil conditions. Plant according to soil tests (through TCE County Extension Agent) and fertilize as necessary.

Proposed Food Plots Project(s) may include the following considerations:

- Size(s)\_\_\_\_\_
- Fencing required?
  - yes
  - no
- Plantings:
  - cool season annual crops, i.e. wheat, rye, clovers, etc.
  - warm season annual crops, i.e. sorghums, millets, cowpeas, etc.
  - annual mix of native plants
  - perennial mix of native plants
- Irrigation required?
  - yes
  - no
- Fertilizer recommended?
  - yes
  - no

## FEEDERS AND MINERAL SUPPLEMENTATION

Dispensing supplemental foods from artificial devices to meet the dietary requirements of selected wildlife species during critical periods of the year. Attractants for hunting do not apply unless used for selective harvest to control excessive numbers of deer and/or exotic ungulates as defined within a comprehensive wildlife management plan with a targeted harvest quota that is regularly measured and achieved or nearly so. Aflatoxin levels in feed should not exceed 20 ppb. Mineral supplementation may be supplied by means other than artificial devices (poured on ground, blocks, etc.). This practice must be a part of an overall habitat management plan that addresses all animal units and attempts to maintain populations below carrying capacity. **A minimum of one free-choice feeder per 320 acres in use during the recommended time period, with a minimum of 16% crude protein feed (See Appendix F for deer), required to qualify.**

Proposed Feeders and Mineral Supplementation Project(s) should include the following considerations:

- Purpose:
  - supplementation
  - harvesting of wildlife
- Targeted wildlife species
- Feed type
- Mineral type
- Feeder type
  - Number of feeders
- Method of mineral dispensing
  - Number of mineral locations
- Year round
  - yes
  - no, if not, when practiced\_\_\_\_\_

## **MANAGING TAME PASTURE, OLD FIELDS AND CROPLANDS**

This practice may include: a) over-seeding or planting cool season and/or warm season legumes and/or small grains in pastures, easements (pipelines), or range land in order to provide a supplemental food for wildlife, b) using plant materials and establishment methods applicable to the county; c) periodic ground disturbance through shallow discing that encourages habitat diversity, d) the production of native grasses and forbs for supplemental foods, or d) increasing bare ground feeding habitat for selected species. Conservation tillage practices are recommended that leave waste grain and stubble on the soil surface until the next planting season to provide supplemental food or cover for wildlife, control erosion, and improve soil tilth. Shred, disk, and/or fertilize native vegetation to improve the growth and quality of plants. Many broadleaf plants (forbs - weeds and wildflowers) are beneficial to wildlife for forage and/or seed production. Encourage "weed and wildflower" species by selective application of chemical, biological (e.g., grazing management) and/or mechanical means on native range lands and improved grass pastures. **A minimum of 3 percent of the designated area must be treated annually to qualify.**

## **TRANSITION MANAGEMENT OF TAME GRASS MONOCULTURES**

Transition from tame grass to native grass communities should include annually overseeding improved grass pastures with locally adapted legumes (e.g., clovers, vetches, peas) to increase the plant diversity, provide supplemental wildlife foods, and gradually convert the tame pastures to native vegetation as per wildlife and habitat plan. Legumes should be planted annually until all pastures are established to native vegetation. **A minimum of 25 percent of the designated area must be treated annually to qualify.**