WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT PLAN GUIDELINES

(please use only as a guide to complete the blank fill-in WMP)

SECTION 1 – TRACT IDENTIFICATION AND CONTACT INFORMATION

Tract Name: _____ **Majority County:** _____

Additional Counties (if any): _____

Owner: _____ **Agent or Manager:** _____

Address: _____ **Address:** _____

City, State, Zip: _____ **City, State, Zip:** _____

Telephone numbers of person submitting form:

Specify: ☐ *Agent* ☐ *Landowner* **Home:** _____

Business: _____ **Ranch:** _____

Fax: _____ **Mobile:** _____

Email:

Location of Property (distance and direction from nearest town; specify highway/road numbers:

Is Acreage Under High Fence? ☐ **Yes** ☐ **No** ☐ **Partial (Describe)** _____

Acreage under high fence:

SECTION 2 – HABITAT MANAGEMENT GOALS AND RECOMMENDATIONS:

Complete the following information, include additional sheets if necessary

1. Describe the landowner's wildlife management goals and objectives, including a description of the landowners goals for wildlife-associated recreation:

Discuss and outline landowner goals and objectives for the property. Include plan/method of managing and harvesting game species to meet objectives. For example, if managing deer is an objective, include desired density goal for deer population (acres/deer), desired sex ratio (does/buck), and desired fawn production (fawns/doe).

2. Habitat Types and Amounts in Acres (*Indicate acreage for each major type)*

Cropland/Food Plots: _____ **Bottomland/Riparian:** _____

Non-native Pasture: _____ **Wetlands:** _____

Native Grassland/Savannah: _____ **Timberlands:** _____

Native Rangeland/Brush: _____

Other (describe): _____

Total acres included in this Management Plan: _____

3. Describe current habitat types and plant composition:

Describe vegetation association or type (e.g. Mesquite-Granjeno, Cenizo-Blackbrush, Mesquite-Lotebush Elm-Hackberry; Crops; Native Rangeland or Introduced Grasses, etc.). Describe dominant plants occurring and/or crops grown on the property. The description can include the soil types and associated vegetation, geology, landscape features, slope, surrounding land uses and other landscape features affecting habitat suitability. Documentation may include any USDA, NRCS or FSA, TPWD, or other plan, map or aerial photo that may exist for the tract to identify soils, vegetation and water sources. The plant list should include forbs, browse and grasses (dominant, native, non-native, annual, perennial, warm or cool season) plants utilized by key wildlife species identified in the management goals. Also, describe structure as it relates to cover requirements of key species and the degree of use of key browse plants utilized by livestock and deer. ***Note: A Stem Count Index (SCI), cursory browse survey, or other appropriate vegetation evaluation, may be conducted by TPWD to determine relative condition of browse plants and other plant community components.***

4. Describe past/current history of land use, habitat manipulation and wildlife management, including livestock and exotics:

Describe past land use practices that have been implemented such as prescribed burning, brush management, range re-seeding, pasture planting, crop production, etc. Describe past history of cropping, livestock, and wildlife management (census, harvest, etc.) not otherwise covered in other sections of this Plan.

5. Habitat Management - current practices and recommendations:

List all current management activities implemented to conserve and improve the quantity and quality of soils, water and vegetation and designed to maintain a productive and healthy habitat. Describe practices such as proper stocking, rotational grazing, prescribed burning, management of deer and exotics, providing supplemental wildlife water, brush management, supplemental feeding through food plots, and other habitat management practices designed to benefit wildlife.

6. Livestock Management – current practices and recommendations:

	Present	Recommended
Kind and Class of Livestock		
Stocking Rate (acres/animal unit)		
Grazing Management System(s)		

Type of Livestock Operation: ☐ **cow/calf** ☐ **registered herd** ☐ **stockers** ☐ **yearlings**

Grazing management is the planned manipulation of livestock and grazing impacts to enhance food and cover, or improve structure in the habitat of selected wildlife species. Grazing management includes: 1) kind and class of livestock grazed, 2) determination and adjustment of stocking rates, 3) implementation of a grazing system that provides planned periodic rest for pastures by controlling grazing intensity and duration.

7. Watering Facilities - type and location of existing facilities and future plans:

List sources of water and distribution. Include current and/or future developments.

8. Supplemental Feeding - current practices and recommendations:

Managing the habitat for proper nutrition should be the primary management goal and landowners should be reminded that 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 a "fix" for low quality and/or poorly managed habitat. List recommendations concerning adapted plant species, method and dates for establishment, placement based on key species and habitat features, and management of these areas.

9. Supplemental Shelters or Structures – type, location, future plans, and recommendations:

Actively creating or maintaining vegetation or artificial structures that provide shelter from weather; for nesting, and breeding sites; or "escape cover" from predators. Examples include nest boxes and bat boxes; brush piles and slash retention; half-cutting trees and shrubs; managing fence lines, hay meadows, pastures, or cropland; establishing woody plants and shrubs; and developing natural cavities and snags.

10. Erosion Control – specific actions implemented or recommended:

Any active practice that reduces or keeps soil erosion to a minimum for the benefit of wild animals. Some erosion control practices include: pond construction; gully shaping; streamside, pond and wetland re-vegetation; establishing native plants; dike or levee construction or management; or water diversion.

11. Appendices – Additional information on species identified in this plan:

Where appropriate, refer to supporting information presented in the appendices on the biology, life history, population dynamics, and management of identified species.

SECTION 3 – DEER AND BIG GAME MANAGEMENT

1. List deer harvest history for past three seasons (include exotics):

Year	Bucks	Does	Total Deer	Exotics

Enter the <u>total</u> number of deer harvested and include deer removed by Trap, Transport, and Transplant Permit (TTT), Antlerless Deer and Spike Control Permit (ADCP) or any other type of permit.

2. Methods used to determine population density and date to submit data

Survey Technique	Comments	Submit by date
Spotlight:		
Aerial:		
Mobile:		
Other:		

List approved survey method to be used for determining population density. Indicate date when current year's survey data will be submitted. For MLDP's, a partial issuance (no more than 30%) based on previous year's census and harvest history can be made. A supplemental issuance can then be made after submitting the current year's survey data. Complete ***Deer Population Summary s****heet (page 6). A minimum of three counts is to be conducted annually for spotlight surveys. A minimum of 100 deer should be identified for Daylight Herd Composition Surveys. For aerial surveys, (i.e. helicopter) indicate percent of area surveyed (total count, 50%, or other). Other associated survey data may be requested by TPWD. Ensure that additional deer to be released via Scientific Breeder/DMP pens are included in the current year's density estimate.*

3. Population Management Goals Recommended by Biologist

Recommended Density Goal for Deer Population (Acres/Deer): _____

Recommended Sex Ratio (does/buck): _____

Desired Fawn Production (fawns/doe): _____

List recommended deer population goals (Recommended density in acres/deer, sex ratio, desired fawns/doe ratio, etc.). It is important that deer population goals reflect a deer density that is compatible with the habitat.

4. List Density Estimates for the past three seasons and techniques used to determine these estimates (include exotics):

Year	Bucks	Does	Fawns	Acres/Deer	Exotics

Indicate deer estimates including exotic game for the past two seasons. Deer population data for the current year will additionally be required for certain deer permit programs (complete Page 6 - Deer Population Summary). Indicate any plans for the addition/release of deer via Scientific Breeder/DMP pens. Also indicate if deer have ever been stocked under permitted TTT and if so, when. List approved survey technique (i. e. helicopter, spotlight, etc.) used to determine these estimates.

15. Landowner/Agent's Desired Harvest: Bucks Does

List desired and/or anticipated deer harvest including deer to be removed by Trap, Transport, and Transplant Permit (TTT), Antlerless Deer and Spike Control Permit (ADCP) or any other type of permit. See attached information sheet(s) concerning compliance requirement for participation in various special extended season and bag limit permit programs (MLDP, ADCP, DMP).

SECTION 4 – MANAGEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS FOR VARIOUS GAME AND NONGAME WILDLIFE SPECIES

1. Specific Habitat Management Recommendations and Population Management Goals

*Provide management recommendations for wildlife species of interest to the landowner, such as Rio Grande and Eastern Wild Turkey, Bobwhite and Scaled Quail, Mourning and White-winged Dove, Waterfowl and Wetland Wildlife, Songbirds and other Nongame Species***.**

2.Wildlife Harvest and Record Keeping Recommendations

Discuss target density, sex ratio, and production. Include information concerning keeping records on land management practices, costs, dates practices conducted, age-weight-antler measurement data for deer, harvest numbers of turkey-quail-doves, etc.

3. Habitat Management Recommendations Benefiting Multiple Species:

Discuss prescribed burning, brush management, farming practices, disking, water development, use of herbicides, and other practices used to benefit multiple species and habitats. A Prescribed Burn Plan (see form on WILDnet) must be prepared for each specific burn and is considered part of this Wildlife Management Plan.

4. Predator Control (if any):

Predator management is used to manage the population of predators to benefit the owner's target wildlife population. Examples of predators include: mammals, fire ants, brown-headed cowbirds, grackles or starlings.

SECTION 5 – COMMENTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS CONCERNING RARE AND DECLINING WILDLIFE SPECIES

1. Habitat Management Recommendations for Rare Species:

Provide habitat recommendations for rare or listed species that occur or may occur on the property. When appropriate, discuss measures to avoid negative impacts to rare species.

2. Landowner Incentive Program Participation:

If property is currently under contract or has applied for financial/technical assistance through the TPWD Landowner Incentive Program (refer to contract number), provide a summary of the project work and refer to the LIP contract for details.

3. Comments Concerning Any State/Federally listed Threatened/Endangered Species or Species of Concern:

Depending on the habitat and the landowner, the biologist may want to add a statement concerning impacts to listed species. The following is suggested wording: To the best of my knowledge, there are no habitat recommendations in this plan which, if carried out as prescribed, could adversely impact habitat for any state or federally-listed threatened or endangered species, or "species of special concern" which might occur on the property.

SECTION 6 – PARTICIPATION IN USDA FARM BILL PROGRAMS

Indicate specific Farm Bill Program providing assistance (EQIP, CRP, WHIP) and describe practices to be completed under Farm Bill Contract (include contract number). Indicate where the practices will be applied, time frame for completion, and expected wildlife benefits.

1. Indicate specific program(s) and practices to be implemented:

2. Indicate where practices will be applied, time frame for completion, and expected wildlife benefits:

SECTION 7 – PLAN PREPARATION

1. Individual Preparing Plan:

Name: _____ **Title:** _____

Address: _____

Phone(s): _____

2. Individual preparing the plan: ☐ **Landowner** ☐ **Manager** ☐ **Resource Management Professional** ☐ **Consultant** ☐ **Certified Wildlife Biologist**

3. Landowner/Agent Affidavit

By my signature below, I certify that I am the landowner of the above described property or a specifically authorized agent for the landowner. Authorized agent is defined as any person with verbal or written authorization to make decisions on behalf of the landowner. I also certify that the above information is true and correct to the best of my knowledge. I authorize TPWD to use this information for its purposes, but not to release it to other parties or agencies without my approval.

Landowner/Agent Signature	***Printed Name***	***Date Signed***

TEXAS PARKS AND WILDLIFE DEPARTMENT CERTIFICATION

Circle One: **Approved** **Disapproved**

Authorized TPWD Signature **Date**

Name:

Title:

Certification provides that this Wildlife Management Plan was reviewed and is found to be biologically and technically sound with regard to management of wildlife populations and habitats.

DEER POPULATION SUMMARY

Ranch: _____ **Survey Technique:** _____

County: _____ **Year:** _____

Survey Route	Date	Deer Observed					Acres Sampled	Acres Per Deer	Deer Per 1,000 Ac.
		Bucks	Does	Fawns	Undet	Total			
Survey Totals									
Incidental Observations									
Combined Totals									

Ranch Size (ac.) _____

High Fence (Y/N/P) _____

Acres/Deer: _____

Does/Buck: _____

Fawns/Doe: _____

Composition-

Bucks: _____

Does: _____

Fawns: _____

Deer/1,000 Ac: _____

Adult/1,000 Ac: _____

Acres/Adult: _____

Estimated Population-

Bucks: _____

Does: _____

Fawns: _____

Total: _____

Harvest Recommendation

Antlered Bucks: _____

Antlerless Deer: _____

Remarks: _____