

Call for Habitat Management Proposals

TARGET: Upland Game Bird Management with an Emphasis on Eastern Wild Turkey in Northeast Texas

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PURPOSE: In an effort to concentrate resources for the conservation and management of healthy ecosystems and to monitor Eastern wild turkey recovery efforts, an Eastern wild turkey focus areas has been identified in Bowie, Camp, Cass, Delta, Hunt, Fannin, Franklin, Grayson, Harrison, Hopkins, Lamar, Marion, Morris, Rains, Red River, Titus, Upshur, and Wood Counties. This focus area has historically supported some Texas' highest densities of Eastern wild turkeys. However, in recent years Eastern wild turkey populations, as well as other upland game bird populations, have seen consistent declines. In an effort to conserve, manage and/or restore upland game bird habitat for the benefit of Eastern wild turkeys and other upland wildlife species, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department is requesting habitat management proposals targeted at improving the quantity and quality of habitat in these counties listed above.

MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES: The objectives of this request for habitat proposals are to promote healthy ecosystems and increase the quantity and quality of habitat for the benefit of Eastern wild turkey populations and other upland species in the focal counties mentioned above. Proposals should address the most limiting factor(s) to Eastern wild turkey populations by manipulating habitat using accepted management practices. The cost of each practice can be estimated using the 2013 NRCS Environmental Quality Incentive Program pay rates. One or more of the objectives listed below should constitute the primary focus of any proposal.

Specific objectives

1. Use prescribed fire as a tool to increase the availability of open forest systems, increase useable habitat and increase the availability of low growing shrubs to serve as nesting cover.

2. Conduct timber stand improvements through opening forest canopies utilizing timber thinning and other mechanical treatment to increase the amount of sunlight reaching the forest floor and thereby increasing herbaceous cover.
3. Use rotational grazing and/or grazing deferments to improve nesting and brood-rearing cover.
4. Create herbaceous and woody corridors to improve Eastern wild turkey movements and dispersal across large expanses of open habitat.
5. Remove invasive shrubs such as Eastern Red Cedar from rangelands.
6. Conversion to site-specific species such as shortleaf pine restoration activities.

The guidelines for upland game bird management habitat proposals are located here:

[Guidelines](#)

Ranking Criteria: The goals and objectives of TPWD's Upland Game Bird Strategic Plan (UGBSP) will be the basis for ranking all proposals submitted through this process. The criteria used to evaluate proposals are provided below to assist each applicant develop a quality proposal.

- Does the project address one or more of the goals outlined in the UGBSP?
- How many UGBSP statewide goals and species specific objectives does the project incorporate?
- Does the proposal have a habitat and/or bird monitoring component?
- Is the project location within a focus county?
 - If outside of a focus county, the distance of the project location to a public or private property that is actively managing for upland game birds will be considered.
- What is the amount of match funds the applicant is providing (direct and in-kind)?
- How many upland game bird species will benefit from the project?
- Does the project have the resources (e.g., equipment, funding, manpower, staff/volunteers) to continue the project into the future without additional TPWD funding?