

# STEPHENS COUNTY APPRAISAL DISTRICT



## BOARD POLICY

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# GUIDELINES FOR DETERMINATION OF SPECIAL VALUES: WILDLIFE

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Compiled with the assistance of the  
Agricultural Advisory Board for  
Stephens CAD

Approved by the Stephens  
CAD Board of Directors

{DATE}

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## WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT

All questions and issues not covered will be referred to the Texas Property Tax Code, Manual for the Appraisal of Agricultural Land, Qualification of Agricultural Land in Wildlife Management Use published by the Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts, and Comprehensive Wildlife Management Planning Guidelines published by the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department.

Wildlife management is defined as actively using land that at the time the wildlife management use began was appraised as qualified open-space land under Section 23.51 of the Texas Property Tax Code in at least three of the following ways to propagate a sustaining breeding, migrating, or wintering population of indigenous wild animals for human use, including food, medicine, or recreations. The minimum standards listed below are set by the Texas Parks and Wildlife

## HABITAT CONTROL

### Grazing Management

Including deferments, extended rest from grazing, seasonal stocker operations. A range that has not been grazed for a long period of time and is otherwise not periodically disturbed can become stagnant. It will be dominated by relatively few species of plants and exhibit limited variety and diversity. Therefore, total long-term deferment from livestock grazing is not normally recommended of optimum range and wildlife habitat management. Continuous grazing should not be used as a grazing method if the land manager's desire is to improve habitat for wildlife. *See TPWD Appendix D- Livestock Recommendations for information to help prepare a specific grazing proposal. Activities should be reviewed annually.*

### Prescribed Burning

The planned application of fire to enhance habitat and plant diversity, control woody species, increase food, manipulate cover, or improve structure in the habitat or selected species. *A minimum of 15% of acreage burned over 7 years in the Cross Timbers and Prairies.*

### Range Enhancement or Native Reseeding of Grasses or Forbs

Establish native grasses and forbs that provide food and cover for wildlife or erosion control benefits. Non-native plant species are generally not recommended, but if required for a specific purpose, non-native species should not exceed 25 percent of the seeding mix. *Enhancement should annually affect a minimum of 10% of the total area designated in the plan, or a minimum of 10 acres annually, whichever is smaller, until the project is completed.*

### Brush Management

May be removal or establishment of woody plants. It can be the selective removal or suppression of target woody species, including exotics, to allow for increased population of desirable trees, shrubs, grasses and forbs for forage nesting, or protective cover for selected species. This practice can include the planting of native tree and shrub species. *Brush management practices should annually affect a minimum of 10% of the total area designated in the plan, or a minimum of 10 acres annually, whichever is smaller.*

#### Riparian Management and Enhancement

Can include providing livestock with alternate watering sites, deferring livestock grazing in pastures with riparian areas, and fencing riparian areas to exclude or provide short duration grazing livestock. *A minimum of 1 Riparian Management and Enhancement project must be implemented and maintained every 10 years to qualify.*

#### Wetland Enhancement

Annually provide seasonal or permanent water for roosting, feeding, or nesting habitat for wetland wildlife. *Construction and maintenance of a new project will qualify for 10 years.*

#### Habitat Protection for Species of Concern

Planned protection and management of land or a portion of land to provide habitat for an endangered, threatened or rare species, such as fencing off critical areas, managing vegetation structure and diversity within species parameters, establishing and maintaining firebreaks to protect critical overstory vegetation and annually monitoring the species of concern. *A minimum of 1 project must be implemented every 10 years to qualify.*

#### Prescribed Control of Native, Exotic and Feral Species

Populations of exotics, feral animals and wildlife should be strictly controlled to minimize negative impact on native wildlife and habitat. *The removal or control of exotic vegetation or the conversion of tame grass pastures must affect a minimum of 10% of the area designated, or 10 acres annually, whichever is smaller.*

### WILDLIFE RESTORATION

Restoration or enhancement of habitat to good condition for target species, and reintroduction and population management of TPWD approved native species within the carrying capacity of the habitat as part of an approved restoration area at a scale capable of supporting sustainable population.

### EROSION CONTROL

A minimum of 1 project must be implemented and maintained every 10 years to qualify.

Pond Construction and Major Repair

Gully Shaping

Streamside, Pond and Wetland Revegetation

Plant Establishment on Critical Areas (erodible)

A minimum of 10 seedlings per acre must be planted and maintained annually on 10 acres or a minimum of 10% (whichever is smaller) of the total designated area treated annually.

Dike/Levee Construction/Management

Establish Water Diversion

#### PREDATOR CONTROL

Predator Management

The management of predator populations to increase survival of target species. Key native predator species may include coyote, raccoon, bobcat, mountain lion, and rat snakes. Exotic predators may include feral house cat, feral dog, and feral hogs. The predator control plan should be prepared or approved by a competent professional and include the list, duration and intensity of methods to remove the target species annually.

Imported Red Fire Ant Control

To protect native wildlife species or their food base, including native fire ants which seem to restrict the spread of the imported fire ants; proper treatment of at least 10 acres or 10% of infested area per year, whichever is more.

Control of Cowbirds

Reducing populations of these birds for the purpose of decreasing nest parasitism on target Neotropical bird species in a PLANNED PROGRAM ( see TPWD Appendix J, K and Q ). Trapping and euthanizing requires certification from TPWD. Removal of at least 30 cowbirds annually is required to qualify.

Grackle/Starling/ House Sparrows Control

Reducing populations of Grackles, Starlings and or House Sparrows for the purpose of controlling avian diseases and reducing overcrowding to exclusion of other avian fauna in a planned program- See TPWD Appendix J, particularly targeting white-winged dove and other Neotropical birds. Removal of at least 30 grackles/starlings/house sparrows annually is required to qualify.

## PROVIDING SUPPLEMENTAL WATER

Includes providing supplemental sources of water specifically for wildlife in habitats where water is limited. Wildlife water developments are in addition to those sources already available to livestock and may require protection from livestock.

### Marsh/Wetland Restoration or Development

Provide supplemental water in the form of shallow wetlands for wetland dependent wildlife. *Minimum requirement of 1 marsh/wetland restored or developed per 10 years. Annual water management of project or existing wetland qualifies.*

Well/Trough/Windmill Overflow/Roof Rainwater Harvesting Wildlife Watering Facilities  
Designing and implementing water systems that provide supplemental water for wildlife and or wetlands. *A minimum of 1 project per 10 years must be completed to qualify. Consistent water management for wildlife at sites qualifies.*

### Spring Development and or Enhancement

Implementing methods designed to protect the immediate area surrounding a spring. *A minimum of 1 project per 10 years must be completed to qualify. Existing or restored springs consistently managed to prevent degradation qualifies.*

## PROVIDING SUPPLEMENTAL FOOD SUPPLIES

### Food Plots

The establishment of locally adapted annual (spring and fall) or perennial forages on suitable soils to provide supplemental food and cover during critical periods of the year. Livestock should be generally excluded from small food plots. 2-5% of total land area should be required for white-tailed deer. *A minimum of 1% of the acreage should be planted in seasonal food plots.*

### 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. *A minimum of 1 free-choice feeder per 320 acres in use during the recommended time period, with a minimum of 16% crude protein feed is required to qualify. (See TPWD Appendix for deer)*

### Managing Tame Pasture, Old Fields and Croplands

May include: planting cool season and or warm season legumes and or small grain pastures, easements and periodic ground disturbance through shallow discing. *A minimum of 3% of the designated area must be treated annually to qualify.*

### Transition Management of Tame Grass Monocultures

Transition from tame grass to native grass should include annually overseeding improved grass pastures with locally adapted legumes (clovers, vetches, peas) to increase plant diversity, provide wildlife foods and gradually convert the tame pastures to native

vegetation. *A minimum of 25 % of the designated area must be treated annually to qualify.*

**PROVIDING SUPPLEMENT SHELTERS**

The best shelter and cover for wildlife is provided by a well-maintained habitat. Some practices can be implemented to provide types of shelter that may be limited in the habitat.

Nest Boxes, Bat Boxes

*Number and location of nest boxes should be consistent with habitat needs and territorial requirements of the target species, and sufficient over the area to provide a real supplement to the target population and address and identified severe limiting factor as a part of a comprehensive wildlife management plan. Must have records of the activity in the nesting boxes.*

<u>SPECIES</u>	<u>SHELTER TYPE</u>	<u>MINIMUM # / ACRE</u>
Bats	Bat house	1 per 30 acres
Great crested flycatcher, E Bluebird, Carolina Chickadee, Tufted Titmouse, White-Breasted Nuthatch, Bewick's Wren, Prothonotary Warbler, Carolina Wren	Nest Box	1 per 5 acres (max 40)
Squirrel	Nest Box	1 per 5 acres
Various Woodpeckers	Resting cavity	1 to 10 acres
Wood duck, Black-bellied whistling duck	Nest Box	1 per 8 acres
American Kestrel, Barn Owl, Eastern Screech Owl, Barred Owl	Nest Box	1 per 10 acres
Purple Martin	Nest Box	1 site per 30 acres. Minimum 8 cavities per site

## **BAT HOUSE**

A bat house should be at least 24" high x 16" wide. Smaller bat houses do not offer adequate thermal stability.

- Should *not* contain fabric or mesh. Roosting boards and landing pads should consist of roughened wood.
- Bats prefer roosts mounted on buildings or other large wooden or concrete structures rather than roosts mounted on poles or trees.
- Pole mounts can work well in moderate to hot climates that do not experience extreme temperature swings between day and night.
- Tree mounts should be avoided. They are vulnerable to predation and almost always too shaded.
- Bat houses should receive at least 8 hours of daily sun exposure.
- Bat houses should have a nearby water source, preferably less than a quarter-mile away.
- The bottom of bat houses should be located 10 feet off the ground. 12 to 20 feet off the ground is even better.
- Bat houses should have 10-14 feet of clear space above any vegetation below the bat house.
- Bat houses should be mounted 20 to 30 feet from the nearest trees.
- Bats are more likely to move into a group of 3 or more roosts.
- Multiple bat houses can be mounted side-by side on buildings and structures or mounted on back-to-back poles.
- Some bat house owners number bat houses to identify roosts.
- Some paint north-facing bat houses a light color and south-facing roosts a dark color. The color of your bat house doesn't matter as much as the shade of that color. This varies based on your area and its climate, as the different colors absorb different amounts of heat.
- Average high temperatures in July should be used when determining the color needed on your bat box: 85 degrees or less use black / 85-95 degrees use dark or medium colors like brown, gray or green / 95-100 degrees use medium to light colors / 100 degrees and higher use light colors or white.



## NESTING BOXES FOR COMMON BIRDS

### **Eastern Bluebird**

Floor – 5 ¾ inches by 5 ½ inches  
Depth- 10 inches  
Top of Hole – 8.75 inches above floor  
Hole – 1.5 inches  
Mounting – at least 5 feet above ground on metal pole - not on post, tree or “t” post.  
A bluebird box should not have a perch.  
Predatory House Sparrows and House Wrens are attracted to perches. Monitor nest boxes regularly and remove House Sparrows and their nests early and aggressively.  
Biologists recommend mounting the nest box so the entrance hole points away from the hot afternoon sun and faces away from prevailing winds— usually somewhat eastward is best.

### **Carolina Wren**

Floor – 4 inches by 4 inches  
Depth – 6 to 8 inches  
Entrance Height above floor – 1 to 6 inches  
Entrance diameter – 1 ½ inches  
Recommended height above ground – 6 to 10 feet

### **House Wren**

Floor – 4 inches by 4 inches  
Depth – 8 to 10 inches  
Entrance height above floor – 1 to 6 inches  
Entrance diameter – 1 ¼ inches  
Recommended height above ground – 6 to 10 feet

### **Tufted Titmouse**

Floor – 4 inches by 4 inches  
Depth – 8 to 10 inches  
Entrance height above floor – 6 to 8 inches  
Entrance diameter – 1 ¼ inches  
Recommended height above ground – 6 to 15 feet

### **Red-headed Woodpecker**

Floor – 6 inches by 6 inches  
Depth – 12 inches  
Entrance height above floor – 10 inches  
Entrance diameter – 2 inches  
Recommended height above ground – 10 to 20 feet

### **Northern Flicker Woodpecker**

Floor – 7 inches by 7 inches  
Depth - 16 to 18 inches  
Entrance height above floor – 14 to 16 inches  
Entrance diameter – 12 ½ inches  
Recommended height above ground – 6 to 20 ft

### **Barn Owl**

Floor – 10 inches by 18 inches  
Depth – 15 to 18 inches  
Entrance height above floor – 4 inches  
Entrance diameter – 6 inches  
Recommended height above ground – 12 to 18 feet

### **Screech Owl**

Floor - 8 inches by 8 inches  
Depth – 12 to 15 inches  
Entrance height above floor – 9 to 12 inches  
Entrance diameter – 3 inches  
Recommended height above ground – 10 to 30 feet

### **Wood Duck**

Floor – 10 inches by 18 inches  
Depth - 10 to 24 inches  
Entrance height above floor – 12 to 16 inches  
Entrance diameter – 4 inches by 3 inches  
Recommended height above ground – 10 to 20 feet

#### Brush Piles and Slash Retention

The planned placement and or retention of brush piles to provide additional wildlife cover in habitats where cover is a limited factor for the selected species. *A minimum of 1 % of the designated area must be treated annually to qualify.*

#### Fence Line Management

Maintain, establish or allow the establishment of trees, shrubs, forbs and grasses on fence lines to provide wildlife food and cover a minimum of 30 yards wide. This practice is only applicable where cover is limited in the habitat (cropland or tame pasture). *A minimum length of 100 yards of Fence Line Management per ¼ mile of fence is required annually to qualify.*

#### Hay Meadow, Pasture and Cropland Management for Wildlife

Mowing of hay fields should be postponed until after the peak of nesting/rearing period of birds and mammals (after July 15<sup>th</sup>). A wide bar should be placed on the front of the tractor at a height of 1' when mowing to help flush wildlife using this cover. Weeds are an important source of food for most wildlife species. *Annually mow/shred 25% of open areas per year, preferably in strips or mosaic types of patterns, to create "edge: and structural diversity.*

#### Half-Cutting Trees or Shrubs

This practice is best done in the early or middle part of the growing season. *A minimum of one clump of trees/shrubs per 100 yards on at least 10% of acreage or 10 acres, whichever is smaller, annually to qualify.*

#### Woody Plant/Shrub Establishment

Plantings should consist of native trees and shrubs that produce hard or soft mass, or provide nesting or escape cover. Planting should be made in groups to provide both cover and additional food rather than scattered trees.

#### Natural Cavity/snag Development

Retain and create snags for cavity dwelling species. Undesirable trees can be girdled or individually treated with herbicide and left standing. *A minimum of 5 snags per acre, on 5% of the acreage, must be retained / created annually.*

### CENSUS COUNTS

For census activity to qualify for deer, a combination or methods must be used to obtain a reasonable assessment of the deer herd for habitat and harvest management. For most properties, this will require spotlight surveys, daylight or incidental observations, and harvest data for all deer. Results of annual surveys should be recorded on appropriate forms as evidence of completion of the practice. Similar intensity should be applied for other species to qualify for this activity.

#### Spotlight Counts

A minimum of 3 counts or a minimum of 15 surveyed miles must be completed annually.

#### Aerial Counts

Should be performed by a trained individual annually.

#### Daylight Deer Herd/Wildlife Composition Counts/Photo Stations

Counts should be conducted on standardized transects along 5-mile minimum lines and run at least 3 times to obtain at least 100 observations. On smaller tracts, at least 5 separate, 2 hour counts during early morning or late afternoon from deer blinds may be used.

#### Harvest Data Collection/Record Keeping

Collect all age, weight, and antler development data from harvested deer. Age and sex information should be obtained from game birds and waterfowl to determine sex ratios and annual production.

### QUALIFICATION FOR APPRAISAL OF WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT USE

A tract of land qualifies for agricultural appraisal based on wildlife management use if the tract is currently appraised as qualified open space, primarily used for wildlife management, actively managed to sustain a breeding, migrating, or wintering population of indigenous wildlife through implementation of a wildlife management plan, the landowner manages indigenous wildlife for human use, and the tract meets the specified use requirements if applicable. The minimum acreage for Stephens County is 15 acres unless property is part of a Wildlife Management Property Association or designated by the Texas Parks and Wildlife as a habitat for endangered species.

### WILDLIFE USE REQUIREMENT

A tract of land's wildlife use requirement is a number expressed as a percentage and calculated by subtracting one from the total number of acres in the tract of land and dividing the result by the total number of acres in the tract of land. The following formula expressed the calculation, with "x" representing the tract of land's total acreage:  $(x-1)/x = \text{wildlife use requirement}$ . If the number of acres in the tract of land is equal to or greater than the number of acres in the tract of land on January 1<sup>st</sup> of the preceding tax year, the tract of land is not subject to the wildlife use requirement. All member owners must sign the form or must file individually.

Stephens County is located in the Cross Timbers & Prairies of the Wildlife Use Appraisal Regions. Based on this location, minimum acreage requirements are suggested by the Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts. The wildlife use requirement states that the percent range for qualification in our area is 93-95%. And if the land is in an area designated by the Texas Parks and Wildlife as habitat for endangered species, a threatened species, or a candidate species for listing as threatened or endangered, the wildlife use requirement will be in a range of 91-92%.

The percentage set for the wildlife use requirement is set by the chief appraiser with the advice and consent of the Appraisal District Board of Directors. The percentages set for Stephens County are 95% for normal tracts and 92% for tracts that are a habitat for an endangered species.

To calculate if a property meets this requirement, take the acreage of the property applied for and subtract one, then divide by the total acreage of the property. If this value is 95% or more, then the property qualifies for wildlife management. For example, if the property is 15 acres, then  $15 - 1 = 14$ , 14 divided by 15 is 93.3 or 93%. The property would then meet the minimum acreage requirements.

#### WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT PLAN

In order to apply for wildlife management use special valuation, a property owner must file a Wildlife Management Plan on a form provided by the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department on or before April 30<sup>th</sup> of the year the application is for. The deadlines, denials, and protest requirements are also the same as they are for 1-d-1 open-space land.

The plan must include landowner goals for the property and provide a set of activities designed to integrate wildlife and habitat improvement. A common plan is likely to include elements of all seven listed wildlife management activities. Activities and practices should be appropriate for Stephens County.

#### FILING DEADLINE

The deadline for applications is “before May 1<sup>st</sup>,” meaning the application form must be postmarked or filed no later than midnight April 30<sup>th</sup>. For good cause and only on the property owner’s request, the chief appraiser may extend the filing deadline for not more than 60 days.

#### LATE APPLICATIONS

The property owner may file a late application up until the appraisal review board approves the appraisal records for that year. This usually occurs around July 20<sup>th</sup>. However, there is a penalty for late application. An application filed after April 30<sup>th</sup> is subject to a penalty equal to 10% of the difference between the tax if imposed at market value and the tax imposed at the agricultural productivity value. The chief appraiser must note the penalty in the appraisal records and send the property owner written notice explaining the reasons for the penalty.

#### ACTION ON APPLICATIONS

The chief appraiser or her designee must review each application and decide to approve it and grant agricultural appraisal, disapprove it and ask for more information, or deny the application. The chief appraiser must determine the validity of all timely filed applications before she turns the appraisal records over to the appraisal review board. The chief appraiser usually gives the appraisal records to the appraisal review board by May 15<sup>th</sup>. The chief appraiser must also review all late applications before the appraisal review board approves the appraisal records. If

she denies an application, she must notify the applicant in writing within five days. The applicant then has 30 days to file a protest with the ARB.

#### ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

If the initial application does not contain all the information needed to determine whether or not a property qualifies, the chief appraiser may request additional information. The applicant must provide additional information within 30 days after the date of the request or his application will be denied.

#### ON SITE INSPECTION

All tracts of land associated with an application are inspected via a field visit to the property to determine if the information provided on the application is accurate. Upon inspection of the property, the appraiser will look for signs of actively doing what is listed on your Wildlife Plan and make notes of what is seen or not seen. Pictures of the property and evidence of agricultural appraisal may also be taken at this time. A determination is then made either to grant or deny the agricultural special valuation and the application. If the application is denied, the applicant is notified by certified mail with a reason for the denial. If the application is approved, it will be dated and initialed by the appraiser. After the wildlife use is entered into the property, the agricultural use application is scanned in to the account. *Any and all properties that filed for Wildlife Management are visited before approval or denial of application.*

#### DENIAL OF APPLICATION

If the application is denied, the chief appraiser shall deliver written notice to the applicant within 5 days after the date he makes the determination. The notice shall include a brief explanation of the procedures for protesting his action and a full explanation of the reasons for denial of the application. All denials are mailed out by certified mail within 5 days of determination of denial.

#### WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT ANNUAL REPORT

The chief appraiser requires a property owner receiving wildlife management special valuation to file a signed "annual" report detailing the activities and results of the wildlife management plan for that appropriate year. Failure to return the annual report could result in loss of wildlife management special valuation.

# ADDENDUM

## MINIMUM INTENSITY STANDARDS FOR STEPHENS COUNTY

### Cross Timbers Ecoregion

#### HABITAT CONTROL

<b>PRACTICE/ ACTIVITY</b>	<b>Examples and Minimum Requirements</b>
Grazing Management	Deferment and or rotational grazing
Prescribed Burning	Minimum of 15% of the acreage burned over 7 years
Range Enhancement	10% of the designated area or 10 acres annually (reseeding), whichever is smaller, until project is complete.
Brush Management	10% of the designated area or 10 acres annually, whichever is smaller (sculpt / plant)
Riparian Management	Fence / Defer grazing / Establish vegetation & Enhancement 1 project every 10 years
Wetland Enhancement	Annual moist soil management or 1 new project per 10 yrs
Habitat Protection Species of Concern	Maintain / Restore / Protect suitable habitat. Reduce negative impacts. Must implement 1 new project every 10 years
Prescribed Control of	Harvest native / feral animals / plant survey. Invasive plant species control on 10% or 10 acres, whichever is smaller
Wildlife Restoration	Must work with TPWD for native species reintroduction & management to qualify

## EROSION CONTROL

PRACTICE/ ACTIVITY	Examples and Minimum Requirements
Pond Construction & Major Repair	Approved NRCS erosion control. 1 new project every 10 years
Gully Shaping	Grading & planting erodible areas. 1 new project every 10 years
Streamside, Pond Wetland Revegetation	Native hay bales / fencing / seeding buffer strips / Rip-Rap Low water crossings. 1 new project every 10 years
Native Plant Establishment Or Erodible Areas	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Establish / manage windbreak or shelterbelt (min &gt; 4 rows in 120' width by ¼ mile length)</li> <li>2. Field Border &gt; 30 yard wide</li> <li>3. No-till</li> <li>4. Manage CRP. Minimum 10 seedlings per acre must be planted and maintained annually on 10 acres or 10% of designated area</li> </ol>
Dike / Levee Construction & Management	Reshape / Repair and revegetate levees / Exclusion fencing/ water control structures. 1 new project completed and maintained every 10 years.
Establish Water Diversion	Diversion to protect erodible areas and recharge wetlands. 1 new project completed & maintained every 10 years

## PREDATOR CONTROL

PRACTICE/ ACTIVITY	Examples and Minimum Requirements
Predator Management	Professionally prescribed native / exotic control
Imported Red Fire Ant Control	10 acres or 10% of infested area
Control of Brown-headed Cowbirds	Remove 30 cowbirds annually
Grackle / Starling Control	Remove 30 annually by trapping or shooting

## SUPPLEMENTAL WATER

PRACTICE/ ACTIVITY	Examples and Minimum Requirements
Marsh /Wetland Restoration Or Development	1 marsh / green tree / shallow wetland restored or created per 10 years or annual management or existing wetland
Well/Trough/Windmill	Establish or modify Wells/Pipelines/Windmills/Pump, Troughs/Wildlife water guzzlers. 1 project per 10 years or consistent water management qualifies
Spring Development and or Enhancement	1 project per 10 years or annual management of existing spring to prevent degradation

## SUPPLEMENTAL FOOD

PRACTICE/ ACTIVITY	Examples and Minimum Requirements
Grazing Management	Deferment and or Rotational Grazing
Prescribed Burning	15% annually rotated across property during adequate yrs; professionally planned and administered
Range Enhancement	Reseeding 10% of designated area or 10 acres annually, whichever is smaller, until project is complete
Food Plots	Plant 1% of acreage in both summer & winter food plots
Feeders & Mineral Supplement	White-tail deer: 1 Free Choice Feeder (16% crude protein) per 320 acres during select period
Managing Improved Pasture, Old Fields & Croplands	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Overseed or plant legumes / small grains</li> <li>2. Shallow disc / Fertilize / Graze / Shred native vegetation, or</li> <li>3. No-till Treat 3% of designated area annually</li> </ol>
Transition Management of Grass Monoculture	Overseed introduced grasses with legumes. Annually treat 25% of designated native restoration area.



## SUPPLEMENTAL SHELTER

PRACTICE/ ACTIVITY	Examples and Minimum Requirements
Nest Boxes	<p>Great crested flycatcher, E. Bluebird, Carolina Chickadee, Tufted Titmouse, White-breasted Nuthatch, Brownheaded Nuthatch, Bewick's Wren, Carolina Wren, Prothonotary. 1 box per 5 acres. Maximum number required in this aggregate: 40.</p> <p>Squirrel. 1 per 5 acres</p> <p>Wood duck, Black-bellied whistling duck. 1 box per 8 acres.</p> <p>American Krestrel, Barn Owl, Eastern Screech Owl, Barred Owl. 1 per 10 acres.</p> <p>Purple Martin. 1 site per 30 acres. Minimum 8 cavities per site.</p>
Bat Houses	1 house per 30 acres.
Resting Cavity Brush piles/Slash Retention	Various woodpeckers. 1 cavity per 10 acres. Hand-stack brush piles or leave dead brush on ground where it was cut. Annually treat 1% of designated area
Fence-line Mgt	> 30 yards wide by 100 yards in length
Hay Meadow, Pasture, & Cropland Mgt	Mow/shred 25% of open areas per year, preferably in strips or mosaic pattern
Half-cutting Trees or Shrubs	A minimum of one clump per 100 yards on at least 10% of the area or 10 acres annually, whichever is smaller.
Natural Cavity/Snag Development	A minimum of 5 snags per acre on 5% of the total acreage must be created/retained annually.

## CENSUS

PRACTICE/ ACTIVITY	Examples and Minimum Requirements
Spotlight	Deer: A minimum of three counts or a minimum of 15 surveyed miles must be completed annually
Aerial Counts	Counts should employ accepted methodology for the region and be performed by a trained individual annually.
Daylight Wildlife Counts/Photo Stations	<b>a.</b> 5-mile length lines surveyed 3 times per year, <b>b.</b> A total of 15 miles, <b>c.</b> Obtain > 100 observations, or <b>d.</b> 5 separate 2-hour counts.
Harvest Data Collection & Record Keeping	Age, weight & antler for deer or age and sex data for game birds.
Browse Utilization Surveys	One property-wide browse utilization survey must be conducted annually.
Endangered, Threatened or Protected Species	Standardized & Routine surveys conducted annually.
Nongame Wildlife Species	Standardized & Routine surveys conducted annually.
Time / Area Counts	Standardized & Routine surveys conducted annually.
Roost Counts	Standardized & Routine surveys conducted annually.
Song Bird Transects/ Counts	Standardized & Routine surveys conducted annually.
Quail Call and Survey	Standardized & Routine surveys conducted annually.
Point Counts	Standardized & Routine surveys conducted annually.

**RESOLUTION**

We the undersigned represent the Board of Directors for the Stephens County Appraisal District and by this writing approve the following resolutions and consent their adoption.


**Whereas**, the information in this document is provided to the District as a set of guidelines;

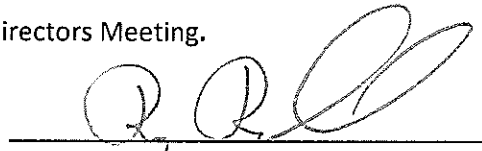
**Whereas**, this information was created with input from the local Ag Advisory Board;

**Whereas**, this information will be reviewed annually by the Ag Advisory Board;

**RESOLVED**, that the Board of Directors recognizes its duties and retains oversight of the delegated duties to the Ag Advisory Board and maintains the right to revise, reject, amend and resolve any information in this policy.

Approved this day the 6 day of DECEMBER, 2022 approved by a vote of \_\_\_ to \_\_\_ during a called Board of Directors Meeting.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Chairman, Board of Directors

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Secretary, Board of Directors

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Chief Appraiser in Training

# STEPHENS COUNTY APPRAISAL DISTRICT



## OPERATING PROCESSES AND PROCEDUES

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### POLICY ON DISCLOSURE

It is necessary for all employees and the directors to disclosure any and all interests within this district that are subject to appraisal in order to make a public report for anyone to see and know about that interest so a conflict will not develop.

#### PROCEDURE

Each January a list will be compiled of:

- any property that is owned in part or whole by an employee or director
- any gifts larger than \$500.00 received from vendors, third-party contractors or taxpayer to an employee
- Any contractor doing work for the district must disclose any conflict of interest with an employee or director of the district
- Any action or business conducted with the Appraisal District that a company would benefit from or gain from, and an employee or director has an interest must be disclosed to the public.


The list will be presented to the Board of Directors at the next meeting, reviewed and accepted into the minutes.

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### RESOLVED

Approved and adopted by the Board of Directors of the Stephens County Appraisal District on this the

6 day of NOVEMBER, 2022

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Chairman, Board of Directors

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Secretary, Board of Directors

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Chief Appraiser in Training