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)

FENCE MODIFICATION

This practice is identical to Fence Modification in Activity A. Refer to Fence Modification in Activity A for information to prepare a specific fence modification proposal for the plan under this Activity. This practice can not qualify under more than one Activity.

FOOD PLOTS

The establishment of locally adapted annual or perennial forages on suitable soils to provide supplemental foods and cover during critical periods of the year. **This practice is generally not practical in west Texas without irrigation.** Livestock generally should be excluded from small food plots. The shape, size, and location of food plots and the percentage of total land area dedicated to food plots should be based on requirements for the target species (eg., 2-5% of area for deer or pronghorn) and should meet goals of a comprehensive wildlife plan. **A minimum of 1% of the acreage should be planted in both winter and summer 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.

This practice may also include late winter disking to encourage the germination and growth of native forbs. This practice is most beneficial on properties with considerable grass cover (85%+) and relatively low availability of forbs and/or bare ground. Late winter disking promotes annual grasses and seed-producing forbs such as sunflower, croton (doveweed), ragweed, buffalo-bur, and pigweed, which can be particularly valuable to quail, doves, and other seed-eating birds. These patches of forbs also tend to harbor an abundance of insects that serve as forage for a variety of birds, reptiles, and other wildlife. If bobwhite or blue quail are the targeted species, the disked strips should meander through low-growth, woody cover. The strips should be disked in February or early March and may be conducted on the same acreage each year, or the soil disturbance can be alternated between adjacent strips. Disking should be conducted at a depth of 4-6" along the contour and only in areas where the slope does not exceed 3% (preferably less than 1%). **A minimum of 1% of the acreage should be disked annually to qualify.**

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 nutritional requirements of selected wildlife species during critical periods of the year. This practice must be a part of a comprehensive habitat management plan that addresses all animal units and attempts to maintain populations below carrying capacity. Using feeders to attract big game animals for harvest does 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. The plan should include a targeted harvest quota that is regularly measured and achieved or nearly so. Aflatoxin levels in grain feeds should not exceed 20 ppb. Mineral supplementation may be supplied from

artificial devices or by other means (poured on ground, blocks, etc.).

For big game animals and wild turkeys, **a minimum of one free-choice feeder, feeding station and/or mineral station per 2 sections (1,280 acres) is required to qualify** (See Appendix G and H for deer; See Appendix O for turkeys). Feeders must be in use during recommended seasons and appropriate supplements must be provided. For deer, protein supplements (cottonseed cake, whole cottonseed, 16% or 20% protein pellets, etc.) may be provided during any season, while energy supplements (corn, whole cottonseed, etc.) may be used during late summer/early fall and winter. For quail and other birds, **a minimum of one free-choice feeder per 640 acres is required to qualify** (See Appendices P, Q and R for quail). Because the distribution of each wildlife species is dictated by habitat type, the above standards for qualification apply only to the portions of the property where the target species occur.

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: 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, using plant materials and establishment methods applicable to the county; periodic ground disturbance through shallow discing that encourages habitat diversity, the production of native grasses and forbs for

supplemental foods, 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 (eg., grazing management) and/or mechanical means on native range lands and non-native grass pastures. **A minimum of 5 percent of the designated area must be treated annually to qualify.**