

# The Texas Certified Forest Steward Program

The **Forest Stewardship Program** is founded upon the principle of a multiple resource approach to managing nonindustrial private forest (NIPF) lands. This program brings professional natural resource management expertise to NIPF landowners by providing technical and planning guidance in developing **Forest Stewardship Plans**.

These multiple-use resource management plans aid landowners in accomplishing *their* objectives for *their* property. Properly managed private forests provide timber, wildlife habitat, watershed protection, recreational opportunities and other benefits.

The **Certified Forest Steward** program recognizes landowners that have followed their written Stewardship plans by installing on-the-ground practices called for in their plans.

## HOW DO I QUALIFY?

A landowner must own 10 or more qualifying acres to be eligible.

The landowner **MUST** have a written Stewardship plan for the property that:

- identifies the owner's objectives;
- identifies and describes the resources (timber, wildlife, soil, water, recreation, etc.) that are to be managed;
- contains a schedule, list or description of the activities recommended to meet the stated objectives.

Once a Stewardship plan has been implemented, the landowner can request certification or be nominated by a local resource professional, consultant or agent. The nomination form at this website can be used. Forms can also be obtained from most TFS offices. A copy of the Stewardship plan must accompany the completed nomination form. Mail the completed nomination form and a copy of the Stewardship plan to: *Certified Forest Steward Program, Texas A&M Forest Service, P. O. Box 310, Lufkin, TX 75902-0310.*

## HOW DOES IT WORK?

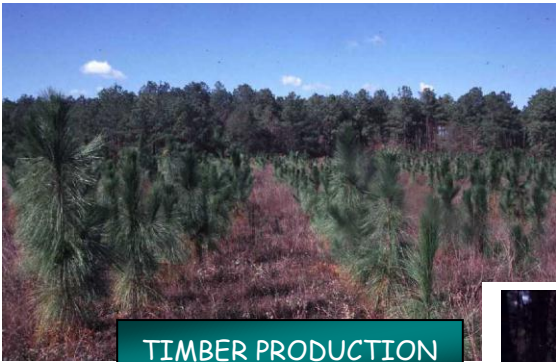
Each implemented Stewardship practice will be awarded up to ten points, based on the relative importance of each practice to proper land management. Thus, a thinning that improves a timber stand will be worth more points than a practice such as fencing to manage woods grazing. Successful reforestation will be worth more points than firelane maintenance. *All practices included in the nomination must adhere to state Best Management Practices for water quality.*

Landowners will be notified of their selection and will be presented a certificate and a sign for their property at a public ceremony of their choosing. This could be a Forest Landowner Association meeting, a Rotary or Lions Club luncheon or some other setting important to the landowner.

For more information about becoming a Certified Forest Steward, contact your local Texas A&M Forest Service office: <http://tfsweb.tamu.edu/main/article.aspx?ctrl=10>.

## EXAMPLES OF STEWARDSHIP PRACTICES

- ⌘ Use of voluntary Best Management Practices (BMPs)
- ⌘ Critical area repair and planting
- ⌘ Historical/cultural resource protection
- ⌘ Recreation trail establishment
- ⌘ Tree planting/natural regeneration
- ⌘ Treatment for southern pine beetle
- ⌘ Prescribed fire
- ⌘ Stand improvement
- ⌘ Boundary lines well defined
- ⌘ Firelane installation and maintenance
- ⌘ Food plot installation
- ⌘ Nest box installation
- ⌘ Pond stocking or fertilization



TIMBER PRODUCTION



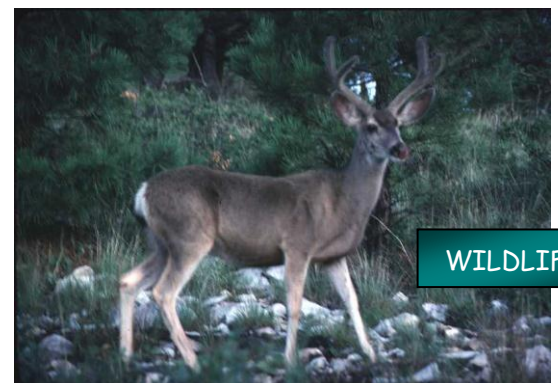
LIVESTOCK PRODUCTION



RECREATION AND AESTHETICS



SOIL AND WATER



WILDLIFE