





**Step 4. Standards Met** (during previous three years)

Please check off the following Standards that have been met by property owner or authorized agent. All nineteen (19) performance measures are REQUIRED to qualify as a NDA Pledged Lands property. Refer to end of this application (in the Standards and Performance Measures section) to determine eligibility of each.

**Standards 1-4: COMMITMENT TO QDM, THE NDA, WILDLIFE LAWS AND SAFETY**

**1. Commitment to NDA, Ethics and Conservation**

**Have you met?**

- a. NDA membership current  Yes  No
- b. NDA Mission supported  Yes  No
- c. All hunting in accordance with "Fair Chase" rules  Yes  No
- d. NDA Code of Conduct followed  Yes  No
- e. NDA Issue/Position Statements supported  Yes  No

**2. Compliance with Laws**

- a. Federal, state and local laws followed  Yes  No
- b. All hunters are licensed, no existing violations  Yes  No

**3. Commitment to Safety**

- a. State or provincial hunter education course required  Yes  No
- b. Policy on rules of hunter safety outlined  Yes  No
- c. Hunter location procedure in place  Yes  No
- d. Stands inspected and safety harness required  Yes  No
- e. Gates, bridges and other hazards checked/marked  Yes  No
- f. Guidelines for safe vehicle/ATV use in place  Yes  No
- g. Emergency planning  Yes  No
- h. Shooting/archery range safety considered  Yes  No

**4. Commitment to Four Cornerstones of QDM**

- a. Herd management strategies applied  Yes  No
- b. Habitat management strategies applied  Yes  No
- c. Hunter management strategies applied  Yes  No
- d. Herd monitoring strategies applied  Yes  No



Step 5. Approval of Application

If signing the Land Certification Program application, the landowner or the authorized agent of the landowner (applicant) agree to follow and uphold the program's Standards. The Landowner and NDA Representative signatures are required prior to approval.

If applicant is not the landowner, I acknowledge and agree that NDA is a non-profit conservation organization whose primary business and purpose is to coordinate, support and participate in the education of the public in wildlife management and conservation; especially as such activities relate to and include legal hunting and management of deer and related wildlife species.

I understand that if I provide false/fraudulent information my application for the NDA Land Certification Program could be denied or revoked by the NDA, and in that event I agree to remove and turn in my Land Certification Program sign(s). Therefore, I declare that I have examined this form, and to the best of my knowledge, all statements are true, correct, and accurate. In addition, my signature authorizes the National Deer Association to examine and audit my property to ensure that I am upholding all accounts of the Land Certification Program Standards.

Signatures:

Approved (date): \_\_\_\_\_ By: (Landowner-required) \_\_\_\_\_
Approved (date): \_\_\_\_\_ By: (Leasee, Manager, Contact for Company or Group) \_\_\_\_\_
Approved (date): \_\_\_\_\_ By: (Qualified Inspector) \_\_\_\_\_
Approved (date): \_\_\_\_\_ By: (NDA Representative-required) \_\_\_\_\_

Revocation of Designation

Property certification may be revoked by the NDA at any time for: 1) providing false information or statements during any part of the enrollment process, 2) flagrant or repeated violation of state or federal laws or regulations pertaining to hunting or management activities on the property, or 3) flagrant or repeated violation of the NDA Code of Conduct.

The NDA is an international nonprofit wildlife conservation organization dedicated to ensuring the future of wild deer, wildlife habitat and hunting. The NDA can be reached at 1-800-209-DEER or deerassociation.com.

Pledged Lands Cost and Payment Information:

Table with 8 columns: Acreage, Management Plan Required, NDA Standards Required, Inspection, Renewal Frequency (# of yrs), Application Fee, Renewal Fee, Sign Provided. Rows include acreage ranges from < 500 to 3000+.

PAYMENT INFORMATION: [ ] Check # \_\_\_\_\_ [ ] Money order # \_\_\_\_\_
[ ] MasterCard [ ] Visa [ ] American Express

CARD # \_\_\_\_\_ EXPIRATION DATE: \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_

SIGNATURE: \_\_\_\_\_

REMIT COMPLETE APPLICATION WITH PAYMENT TO:

NDA • RE: LCP PLEDGED LANDS APPLICATION • P.O. BOX 162305 • ATLANTA, GEORGIA 30321-2305

OR CALL: (800)209-3337 • OR FAX TO: (706)353-0223



## Standard 1: Commitment to NDA, Ethics and Conservation

### *Landowner/manager shall:*

#### Performance Measure a.

Be a current NDA member, agree to remain a member during the duration of their property designation under this program, and encourage all property hunters to become members.

#### Performance Measure b.

Agree to support NDA's mission: "To ensure the future of wild deer, wildlife habitat and hunting."

#### Performance Measure c.

Affirm that hunting on the property is conducted in accordance with Fair Chase standards as defined by the NDA (*see Glossary for definition*).

#### Performance Measure d.

Affirm that management and hunting activities on the property are in accordance with NDA's Code of Conduct (*see Glossary for definition*).

#### Performance Measure e.

Support NDA Position Statements on 1) Canned Hunts, 2) Controlled Breeding and Artificial Insemination, and 3) Cervid Importation and Translocation (*see Glossary for definitions and position statements*).

## Standard 2: Compliance with Laws

#### Performance Measure a.

Comply with all relevant Game Laws and Regulations (*see Glossary for definition*), and commit to correct any conditions that could, or will, lead to adverse regulatory actions.

#### Performance Measure b.

Affirm that all hunters who hunt on designated lands are properly licensed and agree to obey all relevant laws and regulations, and that any hunter who habitually violates game or fish statutes, or other property damage offenses, will not be allowed to hunt on designated lands.

## Standard 3: Commitment to Safety

#### Performance Measure a.

Ensure all hunters who are required to complete a hunter education course will have completed such course before being allowed to hunt on the property.

#### Performance Measure b.

Have a written policy that outlines safety rules for all hunters, with specific rules for youth, first-time hunters, and guests.

#### Performance Measure c.

Have a procedure to determine the location of all hunters at any given time, including hunting, scouting, conducting deer management activities or during general recreational activities.

#### Performance Measure d.

Inspect all hunting stands both prior to and during the hunting season to ensure they are safe, and require the use of safety harnesses while hunting from elevated stands, with the exception of fully enclosed box-type stands.

#### Performance Measure e.

Mark all gates, bridges, and any other hazards and notify all hunters of such areas.



## Performance Measure f.

Establish guidelines for the use of vehicles, (including ATVs and UTVs), tractors, watercraft and other modes of transportation. **NOTE:** Several states have recently enacted All Terrain Vehicle Acts – otherwise known as Chandler Laws – which requires persons under age 16 to complete a safety certification course before being allowed to drive an ATV. In these states parents or guardians are liable for uncertified minors.

## Performance Measure g.

Have a written emergency plan containing emergency contact numbers and route maps to medical treatment facilities.

## Performance Measure h.

If applicant property has designated archery and/or firearm practice areas with safe backstop, be sure to provide eye and ear protection at all times and adhere to safe weapon handling techniques as outlined by the International Hunter Education Association (IHEA).

## **Standard 4: Commitment to Four Cornerstones of QDM**

### Performance Measure a.

Commit to apply herd management strategies under QDM, such as passing young bucks and harvesting the biologically appropriate number of antlerless deer, in order to achieve a balanced adult age structure and sex ratio within the deer herd found on the property.

### Performance Measure b.

Commit to apply habitat management strategies under QDM, including ones that address forest, field and water resources, in order to create a property with quality food and cover for all wildlife species, a diversity of vegetative communities, and a deer herd in balance with the carrying capacity of the surrounding landscape.

### Performance Measure c.

Commit to apply hunter management strategies under QDM, such as host or attend educational events and maintain written policies on hunter efforts, in order to address overall hunter knowledge about property goals and hunting pressure.

### Performance Measure d.

Commit to monitor the success of the QDM program on the property, such as the herd quality and hunting quality, through ongoing data collection and analysis.

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## Glossary of Terms

**Canned Hunt** - The term “canned” hunt generally refers to the practice of providing a hunting opportunity under controlled conditions in which deer do not have a reasonable opportunity to avoid the hunter. This may include situations that approach and include put-and-take hunting in which animals are raised in pens and “hunted” after being released. Important issues include privatization of wildlife, transmission of diseases, genetic impacts, and fair chase and other social issues.

- POSITION STATEMENT: The National Deer Association opposes the practice of canned hunts for deer.

**Cervid Importation and Translocation** - Translocation of deer for restoration purposes has been a successful strategy in North America that has gained widespread public approval. However, the need for restoration has passed and most agency restoration programs have been abandoned. The current trapping and translocation of deer to increase populations for hunting, provide trophy bucks for canned hunts, or to alter the genetic characteristics of a herd raises ethical questions. There is increased pressure from the public to handle deer overabundance problems with trapping and translocation rather than hunting or other lethal means. Important issues include a need for understanding the historical role of trapping and translocation of deer, potential disease transmission (especially CWD), conservation and genetic issues, and legal issues.

- POSITION STATEMENT: The National Deer Association opposes importation and translocation of deer as means to manage wild deer populations

**Controlled Breeding and Artificial Insemination** - Controlled breeding is the practice of controlling the reproductive process of white-tailed deer within a confined facility using controlled access by specific males/females or using semen inserted via artificial insemination. Controlled breeding is practiced to assemble or sell breeding stock of known lineage and to alter the normal frequency of certain phenotypes (e.g., antler characteristics). Important issues include privatization of wildlife and other social issues, transmission of diseases, and genetic impacts.

- POSITION STATEMENT: The National Deer Association opposes the practices of controlled breeding and artificial insemination as a means to manage wild deer populations.

**Fair chase** - is defined by the National Deer Association as the ethical, sportsmanlike and lawful pursuit and harvest of deer in a manner that does not give the hunter an improper or unfair advantage. Properties enclosed by natural barriers (e.g., islands) and those enclosed by human barriers (e.g., high fences) will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis.

**Game Laws and Regulations** - federal, state and local laws and regulations addressing wildlife, forest management, and access to real property.

### NDA Code of Conduct:

- Hunters/land manager should know and obey all hunting rules and regulations. Any conviction for the willful violation of a game law will result in expulsion from the NDA.
- Hunters/land manager should learn as much as possible about wildlife management, recreational hunting, and hunting ethics.
- Hunters/land manager should act in a manner which brings credit to deer hunting and the NDA.
- Hunters/land manager should present a positive image to the public by setting examples as responsible hunters.
- Hunters/land manager should participate in hunter education and safety courses and encourage other hunters to do the same.
- Hunters/land manager should respect the activities and beliefs of other hunters, landowners, and the public.
- Hunters/land manager should support the objectives of the NDA.
- Hunters/land manager should adopt this Code of Conduct.