

ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP PLAN

This document serves as a template that may be used by sportsmen’s clubs and shooting ranges within the State of Florida in their preparation of an Environmental Stewardship Plan (ESP or Plan). ***A copy of this template is included on the CD accompanying this manual in order to ease the modification of this template into a workable Environmental Stewardship Plan for your specific range.***

This template was adapted from the National Shooting Sports Foundation’s manual entitled *Environmental Aspects of Construction and Management of Outdoor Shooting Ranges*, Appendix C (i.e., the NSSF manual). This template is only a tool to assist in making ESP preparation easier for sportsmen and should be modified to incorporate specific information relative to your club and its ranges. This template is intended to be used in conjunction with the NSSF manual and with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) manuals.

Websites for the aforementioned agencies are included in Appendix H “Resources” of this manual.

A list of County Cooperative Extension offices is available in Appendix K of this manual.

Disclaimer: This template does not serve as a substitute for understanding the concepts and techniques discussed in the NSSF manual. This template is not to be used as a substitute for consultation with scientists, engineers, attorneys, other professionals, or with DEP.

ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP PLAN

[Club Name]
[Street Address]
[City/Town,] FL [Zip Code]

[Date]

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

The XYZ Club, Inc. is located at 123 X Road in Blanktown, Florida...

1.1 Mission Statement

The XYZ Club, Inc. is committed to...

1.2 Purpose

The Purpose of this Environmental Stewardship Plan (i.e., the Plan) is to:

- Identify issues of potential environmental concern that may exist;
- Identify, evaluate, and prioritize appropriate actions to manage these issues;
- List short and long-term action items and the steps needed for implementation;
- Develop an implementation schedule;
- Identify ways to measure the Plan's success;
- Annually evaluate the progress made towards achieving our environmental stewardship goals:

1.3 Goals

- Avoid shooting over and into water and wetlands.
- Prevent off-site migration of lead through groundwater and surface water runoff.
- Conduct lead recovery.
- Discourage ingestion of lead by wildlife.
- Maintain soil pH between 6.5 and 8.5 in the shotfall zone.

2.0 SITE ASSESSMENT

2.1 Description of Ranges and Support Facilities

The XYZ Club has an x position Trap Range, a y position Skeet Range, a z position Sporting Clays Course, and a q position Small Arms Range. These ranges are located in a rural setting and are oriented away from residential areas and surface water bodies.

Briefly describe each range, its dimensions, orientation, vegetative cover, numbers of shooters and targets used per year, wildlife usage, etc.

2.2 Existing Environmental Conditions

Describe the most significant environmental issues associated with the ranges. Refer to figures, tables, the results of surveys, inspections, professional opinions, etc.

2.2.1 Trap and Skeet Fields

2.2.2 Sporting Clays Course

2.2.3 Rifle and Black Powder Range(s)

2.2.4 Outdoor Handgun Range(s)

3.0 TRAP (AND) SKEET FIELD(S)

3.1 Action Plan

3.1.1 Potential Management Alternatives

Alternative 1: Achieve all of the environmental goals identified simultaneously.

Alternative 2: Work on one goal this year and address all other later.

Alternative 3: Choose a few Goals that can be implemented immediately and begin planning longer-term alternatives.

Alternative 4: Vegetate sparse grass area of trap/skeet field.

Alternative 5: Reorient trap field to avoid lead shot entering wetlands.

Alternative 6: Reorient sporting clays stations to maximize the overlap of falling shot into the open field where it can be more easily recovered for recycling.

Alternative 7: Limit use of the trap/skeet range to only those stations that do not have wetland areas within the shotfall zone.

Alternative 8: Apply lime to shotfall zones if soil test results indicate this would be beneficial.

Alternative 9: Prepare fields for lead reclamation.

Alternative 10: Get bids for lead reclamation project.

Alternative 11: Conduct lead reclamation within the trap/skeet shotfall zones.

Alternative 12: Conduct lead reclamation within the berm of the small arms range.

Alternative 13: Conduct lead reclamation within the sporting clays shotfall zone.

Alternative 14: Change mowing frequency to closely mow grass in shotfall zones.

Alternative 15: Construct lean-to's at backstop berms.

Alternative 16: Construct a lime-lined drainage swale for stormwater management.

Alternative 17: List additional Best Management Practices that may be appropriate to your club.

3.1.2 Selection of Management Alternatives to be Implemented

Describe the process by which the above alternatives will be, or were, selected. Incorporate club officers, the membership, and outside consultants as applicable.

3.1.3 Alternatives Selected

Based on the stewardship goals of the Plan, the benefits provided, and the current availability of funds, the following priorities were chosen for the current calendar year.

Alternative x:

Alternative y:

Alternative z:

These choices were made to address: the most pressing concerns, the most easily resolved issues, and to initiate management practices that would create longer-term environmental benefits.

In order to achieve the goals of the Plan, the following actions are necessary.

- a) Management Actions: Assign personnel responsible for initiating, conducting, and completing the alternatives selected above.
- b) Operational Actions: Collect soil samples for pH analysis, consult with USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service and/or the county Cooperative Extension Service regarding best suited vegetative management recommendations.
- c) Construction Actions: Do site preparation work, get bids, institute mowing and vegetative management recommendations, reorient shooting position as appropriate.

3.2 Plan Implementation

3.2.1 Schedule for Implementation

Winter/Spring: pH survey, contact local officials for vegetation management recommendations, reorient shooting positions as appropriate, realign shooting positions as appropriate.

Summer/Fall: Prepare site for reclamation project, apply lime/fertilizer/seed, get bids for berm lean-tos/reclamation. As a rule of thumb, 50 pounds of lime per 1,000 square feet should raise soil pH by 1 once the residual acidity is overcome.

3.2.2 Responsibilities

For example: The trap/skeet chairman/chairmen will... The club treasurer will... The membership will provide the labor to...

4.0 RIFLE, BLACK POWDER, AND OUTDOOR HANDGUN RANGE(S)

4.1 Action Plan

4.1.1 Potential Management Alternatives

Alternative 1: Achieve all of the environmental goals identified simultaneously.

Alternative 2: Work on one goal this year and address all other later.

Alternative 3: Choose a few Goals that can be implemented immediately and begin planning longer-term alternatives.

Alternative 4: Culvert the stream through the shooting ranges.

Alternative 5: Vegetate the backstop berm(s) to minimize erosion.

Alternative 6: Construct a lime lined drainage swale for stormwater management.

Alternative 7: Apply lime to the berm and foreground if pH test determines it is necessary.

Alternative 9: Begin planning a lead reclamation project.

Alternative 10: Change mowing frequency to closely mow grass in shotfall zones.

Alternative 11: Construct lean-tos at berms.

Alternative 12: List additional Best Management Practices that may be appropriate to your club.

4.1.2 Selection of Management Alternatives to be Implemented

Describe the process by which the above alternatives will be, or were, selected. Incorporate club officers, the membership, and outside consultants as applicable.

4.1.3 Alternatives Selected

Based on the stewardship goals of the Plan, the benefits provided, and the current availability of funds, the following priorities were chosen for the current calendar year.

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These choices were made to address: the most pressing concerns, the most easily resolved issues, and to initiate management practices that would create longer-term environmental benefits.

In order to achieve the goals of the Plan, the following actions are necessary.

a) Management Actions: Assign personnel responsible for initiating, conducting, and completing the alternatives selected above.

b) Operational Actions: Collect soil samples for pH analysis, consult with USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service and/or the county Service Forester regarding best suited vegetative management recommendations.

c) Construction Actions: Do site preparation work, get bids, institute mowing and vegetative management recommendations, reorient shooting position as appropriate.

1.2 Plan Implementation

4.2.1 Schedule for Implementation

Winter/Spring: pH survey, contact local officials for vegetation management recommendations, reorient shooting positions as appropriate, realign shooting positions as appropriate.

Summer/Fall: Prepare site for reclamation project, apply lime/fertilizer/seed, get bids for berm lean-tos/reclamation.

4.2.2 Responsibilities

For example: The small arms range chairman/chairmen will... The club treasurer will... The membership will provide the labor to...

5.0 SPORTING CLAYS COURSE

5.1 Action Plan

5.1.1 Potential Management Alternatives

5.1.2 Selection of Management Alternatives to be Implemented

5.1.3 Alternatives Selected

5.2 Plan Implementation

5.2.1 Schedule for Implementation

5.2.2 Responsibilities

6.0 MEASURING SUCCESS

By monitoring the impact or success of the Plan, the club is best prepared to make whatever changes may be necessary to reinforce success and make the most of environmental stewardship efforts.

6.1 Vegetation

The density of vegetation growth should be measured throughout the growing season, especially in areas of sparse growth where steps have been taken to increase the vegetative cover. This is can be done by taking periodic photographs (e.g., once a month) from the same places to document the impact of the Plan.

6.2 Wildlife

Keep a log of visual observations made regarding the frequency of range usage by the variety of species in the area.

6.3 Soil and Runoff pH

Track soil and runoff pH through semi-annual monitoring and adjust the amount of lime applied to different areas of the range to maintain a pH level that will prevent lead from dissolving (i.e., a pH of 6.5 - 8.5).

6.4 Erosion

Again, keeping a photographic record of problem areas best prepares your club to document achievements and adjust the Plan as appropriate.

7.0 PLAN REVIEW AND REVISIONS

Continue to monitor the environment and review the Plan on an annual basis. Update the Plan as needed and set goals for subsequent years. Make recommendations for future club officers to consider when updating the Plan and in setting goals (tell them what worked, what didn't work, and what still needs to be done).

FIGURES

(Insert Site Location Map Here)

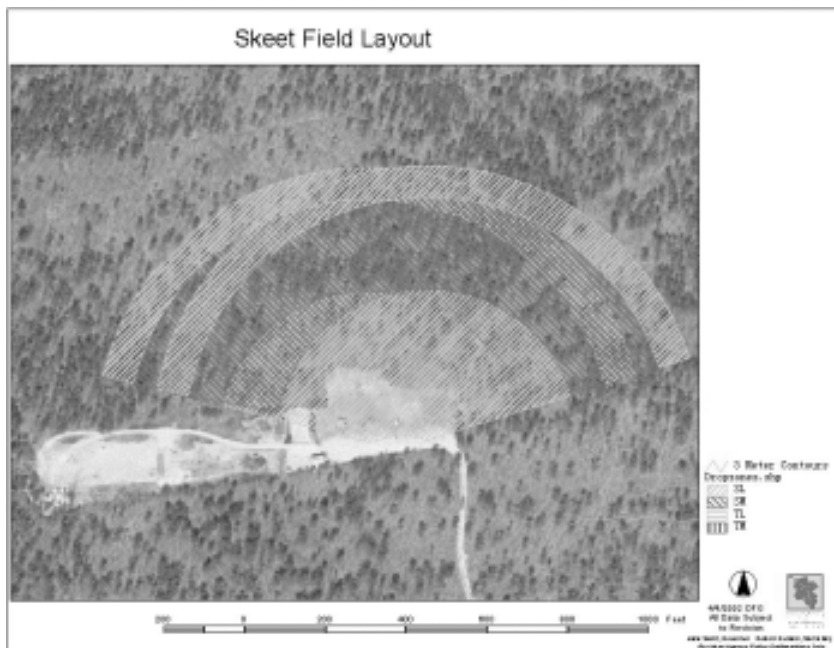
Typically, a Site Location Map is cut from a USGS Topographic Map of you Club's area.

The Club should be centered on the map.

Indicate the property boundaries and layout of the range.

(Insert other figures as necessary to support the text)
Other figures may include an aerial photograph, and sketches of the Club property in general and/or specific ranges in particular.

Example:



Appendix A

Information from USDA, Natural Resources Conservation Service (and/or county Cooperative Extension Service)

(concerning soil and vegetation management recommendations)

A list of Cooperative Extension offices
is available in Appendix K of this manual

Appendix B (etc.)

(For other supporting documentation as needed.)