



RESEARCH • EDUCATE • ADVOCATE • CERTIFY • HUNT

# LAND CERTIFICATION PROGRAM OVERVIEW

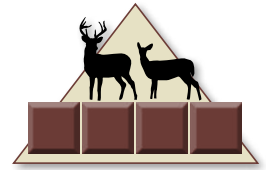
RECOGNIZE • ENCOURAGE • INSPIRE



## I. PROGRAM OBJECTIVES:

The National Deer Association's (NDA) Land Certification Program was developed to achieve the following objectives:

1. Recognize the accomplishments of landowners and sportsmen implementing the four cornerstones of Quality Deer Management (QDM) throughout North America, as well as those committed to ethics, conservation and biodiversity through land stewardship; and
2. Encourage management practices on participating lands that will enhance deer and other wild-life species, habitat conditions, and hunting experiences by providing incentives, recommendations and/or assistance; and
3. Inspire others to engage in sound wildlife management and conservation of our natural resources.



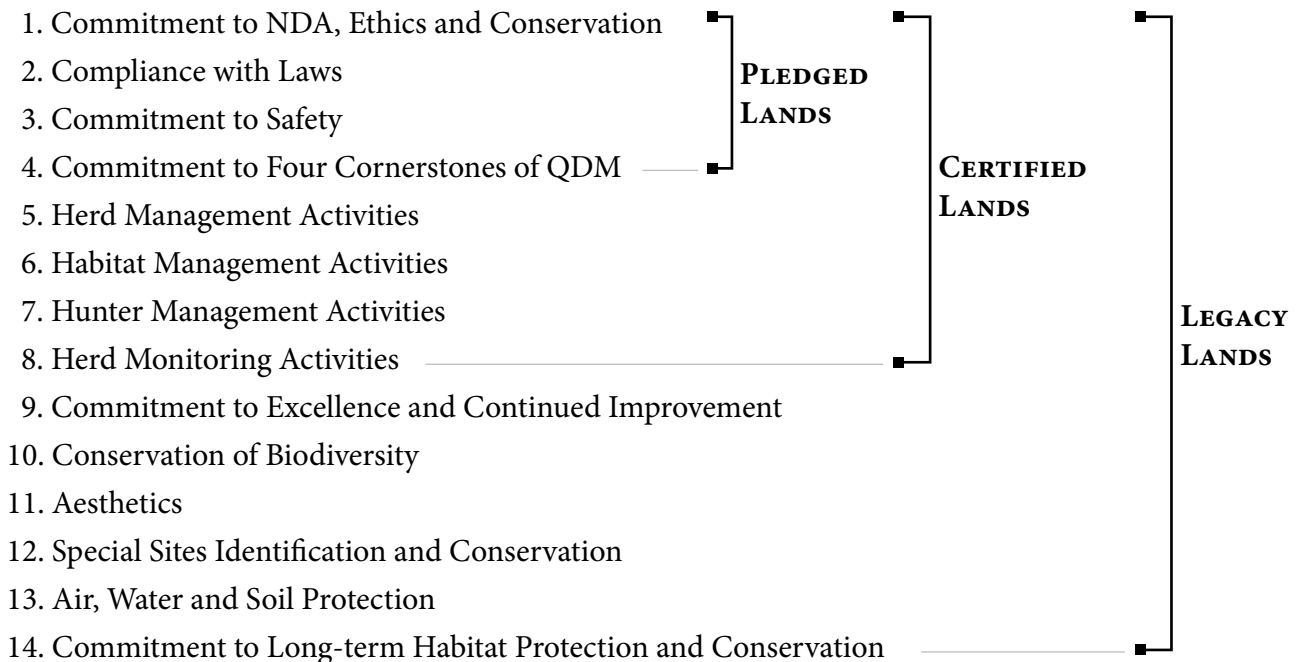
HERD MANAGEMENT  
 HABITAT MANAGEMENT  
 HUNTER MANAGEMENT  
 HERD MONITORING

## II. PROGRAM STANDARDS:

The NDA Land Certification Program is a voluntary process which evaluates one or more properties against established standards and performance measures. Given the variation in deer herds, habitats, and hunting styles throughout North America, applicants are encouraged to adapt their specific objectives, goals and limitations to the framework provided.

Below is a list of standards that an applicant property will be measured against:

### NDA LAND CERTIFICATION PROGRAM STANDARDS



## III. PROPERTY APPRENTICE LEVEL

There is one apprentice level for the Land Certification Program:

**NDA Pledged Lands** – Recognizes properties committed to QDM, the NDA, wildlife laws and safety (Standards 1-4). This designation does not require a written management plan or a site visit by qualified property inspector, thus properties that achieve Pledged Lands status are not certified; self-application available. Applicants can bypass this level and apply directly for one of the certification levels if so desired.



## IV. PROPERTY CERTIFICATION LEVELS

There are two certification levels within the Land Certification Program:

**NDA Certified Lands** – Recognizes properties meeting the Pledged Lands requirements (Standards 1-4) as well as minimum qualifications for the four cornerstones of QDM (Standards 5-8). This designation requires a written, approved management plan<sup>1</sup> and a site visit by a qualified property inspector<sup>2</sup>.

**NDA Legacy Lands** – Recognizes properties that not only satisfy the requirements for Pledged and Certified Lands designation (Standards 1-8), but also meet minimum requirements for Standards 9-14. These properties exemplify the highest level of land protection, conservation, stewardship, and commitment to the preservation of our hunting heritage. This designation also requires a written, approved management plan<sup>1</sup> and site visit by qualified property inspector<sup>2</sup>.

<sup>1</sup>Approved management plans include those obtained through the Forest Stewardship Program, American Tree Farm System, Natural Resource Conservation Service, private forest/wildlife consultants, and other plans deemed equivalent and approved by NDA.

<sup>2</sup>NDA will approve qualified property inspectors through professional standards and mandated training sessions. A list of approved inspectors is available from NDA.



## V. PROPERTY MANAGEMENT CLASSIFICATIONS:

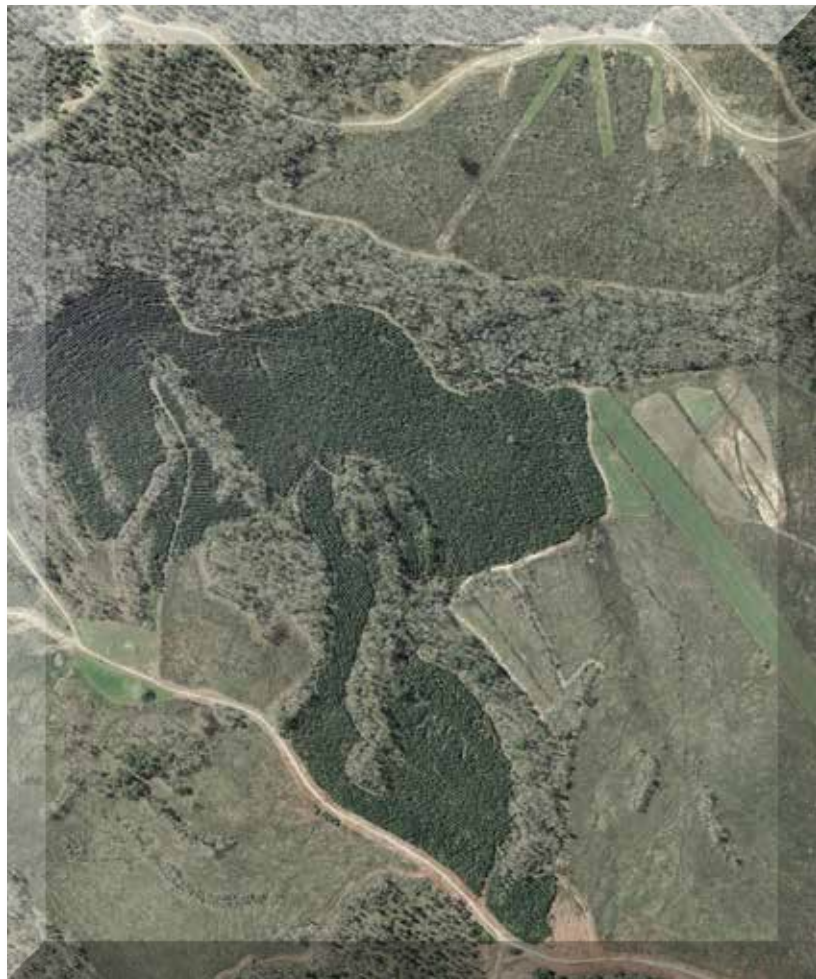
Within the two Property Certification Levels, there are two Property Management Classifications:

**Individual** - designed for single landowners, leased land holders, LLCs, companies, or similar legal entities.

**Group** – designed for groups of landowners or QDM Cooperatives wishing to have their collective lands designated under a single application. A minimum of two land ownerships is required, and all properties must be managed under a common set of goals and/or objectives.

## VI. NON-CONTIGUOUS ACREAGE

In cases of non-contiguous acreage, properties under one ownership, group or lease agreement that fall within the same principal county OR are within 5 miles (as the crow flies) of the closest boundary point of the largest parcel may be certified under the same application and fee schedule.





## VII. PROPERTY DESIGNATION TRANSFER OR REVOCATION

From a legal standpoint, none of the NDA Land Certification Program designations are permanently binding, nor do they create encumbrances on the property if the land is sold, transferred or inherited. However, in the event a property designated under the Land Certification Program is sold or changes ownership (e.g., deed transfer, by Will or at death, etc.), a transfer of designation to the new owner is permissible for a nominal fee and a signed commitment by the new owner(s) will be required.

All properties must continuously maintain the standards set by the NDA, or they will be decertified.

## VIII. PROPERTY RECOGNITION

Once a property meets the requirements of a given designation category, the applicant property will receive a certificate and one (1) property sign.

All applicants may purchase additional signs (at their designation level).



## CONTACT INFO

For more information about the NDA's Land Certification Program,  
visit [deerassociation.com](http://deerassociation.com) or call us at

800.209.3337



## IX. PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS AND FEES

Written agreement by the property owner or their authorized agent is a requirement for all designation levels within the NDA Land Certification Program.

Below is a description of fees<sup>3</sup> and other requirements for the **NDA Pledged Lands** designation

PLEGGED

<u>Acreage</u>	<u>Management Plan Required</u>	<u>NDA* Standards Required</u>	<u>Inspection</u>	<u>Renewal Frequency (# of yrs)</u>	<u>Application Fee</u>	<u>Renewal Fee</u>	<u>Sign Provided</u>
< 500	No	1-4	None	5	\$75	\$50	Yes
500-999	No	1-4	None	5	\$100	\$75	Yes
1000-2999	No	1-4	None	5	\$125	\$100	Yes
3000+	No	1-4	None	5	\$0.05/ac.	\$0.04/ac.	Yes

Below is a schedule of fees<sup>3</sup> and other requirements for the **NDA Certified Lands** and **Legacy Lands** designations:

CERTIFIED

<u>Certified Individual</u>	<u>Acreage</u>	<u>Management Plan Required</u>	<u>NDA* Standards Required</u>	<u>Inspection</u>	<u>Renewal Frequency (# of yrs)</u>	<u>Application Fee</u>	<u>Renewal Fee</u>	<u>Sign Provided</u>
	< 500	Yes	1-8	On-site	5	\$200	\$150	Yes
	500-999	Yes	1-8	On-site	5	\$250	\$175	Yes
	1000-2999	Yes	1-8	On-site	5	\$300	\$200	Yes
	3000+	Yes	1-8	On-site	5	\$0.10/ac.	\$0.07/ac.	Yes
<u>Certified Group</u>	<u>Acreage</u>	<u>Management Plan Required</u>	<u>NDA* Standards Required</u>	<u>Inspection</u>	<u>Renewal Frequency (# of yrs)</u>	<u>Application Fee</u>	<u>Renewal Fee</u>	<u>Sign Provided</u>
	< 500	Yes	1-8	On-site	5	\$300	\$200	Yes
	500-999	Yes	1-8	On-site	5	\$350	\$250	Yes
	1000-2999	Yes	1-8	On-site	5	\$400	\$300	Yes
	3000+	Yes	1-8	On-site	5	\$0.14/ac.	\$0.10/ac.	Yes

LEGACY

<u>Legacy Individual</u>	<u>Acreage</u>	<u>Management Plan Required</u>	<u>NDA* Standards Required</u>	<u>Inspection</u>	<u>Renewal Frequency (# of yrs)</u>	<u>Application Fee</u>	<u>Renewal Fee</u>	<u>Sign Provided</u>
	< 500	Yes	1-14	On-site	5	\$300	\$200	Yes
	500-999	Yes	1-14	On-site	5	\$350	\$250	Yes
	1000-2999	Yes	1-14	On-site	5	\$400	\$300	Yes
	3000+	Yes	1-14	On-site	5	\$0.14/ac.	\$0.10/ac.	Yes
<u>Legacy Group</u>	<u>Acreage</u>	<u>Management Plan Required</u>	<u>NDA* Standards Required</u>	<u>Inspection</u>	<u>Renewal Frequency (# of yrs)</u>	<u>Application Fee</u>	<u>Renewal Fee</u>	<u>Sign Provided</u>
	< 500	Yes	1-14	On-site	5	\$400	\$300	Yes
	500-999	Yes	1-14	On-site	5	\$450	\$350	Yes
	1000-2999	Yes	1-14	On-site	5	\$500	\$400	Yes
	3000+	Yes	1-14	On-site	5	\$0.17/ac.	\$0.14/ac.	Yes

<sup>3</sup>Fees include Land Certification Program application, signage, NDA membership for first time non-member applicants and entry into program; additional costs may or may not be incurred from inspection process for Certified and Legacy Lands, depending on qualified inspector chosen. Fees for properties over 10,000 acres will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis.

\*NDA Standards are defined in more detail in a separate document, as part of the application process.