

# Texas Deer Population and Management Archive

Some links to the original article may no longer be active, but the link will go to the original source where the full article may be found by searching that website. A snippet of information is saved here from copyrighted articles.

## 2023

[Density of Axis Deer in Texas: Management Implications for Native White-tailed Deer and Associated Habitats](#) Journal of Fish and Wildlife Management, 2023

...Estimated using distance sampling techniques in 2018 and 2019, average axis deer density was 19.7 (95% CI: 14.1–25.6) axis deer/km<sup>2</sup> compared with 23.0 (95% CI: 18.2–27.5) white-tailed deer/km<sup>2</sup>, and axis deer densities ranged from 16.9 to 171.0/km<sup>2</sup> among eight different land cover types in Kimble County, Texas, with a county-wide estimate of 61,078 (95% CI: 30,407–100,369) axis deer..

[South Texas deer study produces surprising results](#) June 23, 2023 Lone Star Outdoor News

... research was conducted through the Caesar Kleberg Wildlife Research Institute ...  
“Harvesting deer to increase diet quality in semiarid South Texas is seldom necessary,”  
...“There are many cases when harvesting does makes sense; but in the semiarid, highly variable environment of our study area, doe harvest is either unnecessary or detrimental in the absence of supplemental feed,” ...

[Texans spend \\$4.3 billion annually hunting white-tailed deer, Texas A&M study shows](#)

May 26, 2023 Texas, Houston Chronicle

... [A recent report by Texas A&M's Natural Resources Institute](#) estimates approximately 555,000 hunters spend nearly \$2 billion each year on white-tailed deer hunting in Texas while 200,000 landowners spend closer to \$2.5 billion...

[Wildlife researchers exploring wildlife interactions in West Texas](#) May 22, 2023 Odessa American

... These projects will provide information about how mule deer and aoudad compete for food and habitat, as well as what role aoudad play in disease transmission to desert bighorn... Aoudad share similar habitat selection and foraging behavior as mule deer ...

[Could axis deer be problem in South Texas?](#) April 13, 2023 mysoutex.com

... Texas Tech University conducted a recent survey regarding axis deer. It estimated nearly 61,000 axis deer are in Kimble County, which is northwest of San Antonio in the Texas Hill Country. There are also estimates of 30,000 more axis deer in adjacent Sutton County in and around Sonora..,

[Error in demographic ratios from aerial surveys of white-tailed deer in semi-arid rangelands](#) - The Journal of Wildlife Management, 2023

... We quantified error in juvenile:female, male:female, and young:mature male ratios from 177 helicopter surveys of white-tailed deer (*Odocoileus virginianus*) in 37 wildlife management units encompassing 3,269 km<sup>2</sup> of semi-arid grasslands and brush in South Texas, USA ... Acceptable error to reliably detect changes in demographic ratios may require greater survey effort or a different survey design for low-density populations. Furthermore, obtaining sufficient detections for acceptable error of male age structure estimates may not be feasible...

[Down, Not Out: Lower deer numbers are obvious in some parts of Texas](#) April 6, 2023

Texas, Tyler Morning Telegraph

... it is pretty easy to following the weather dots to see what has caused the herd decline, record freezing in 2021, drought and more cold before and since ...

“Populations can rebuild fairly quickly, two to five years, for areas with densities below carrying capacity. Obviously, we’d need some good rainfall years multiple years in a row, which we haven’t had anything consistent the last three to five years,” [Alan Cain, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department deer program leader] ..,

[White-tail experts say 2022-23 deer harvest was down statewide](#) February 24, 2023

Texas, The Lufkin Daily News

.... people all over who are saying they didn't see many deer, or the quality of deer they were looking for. We had a dry spring and summer last year, so antler quality was down. Plus, we had a wet fall that greened things up just before the season, along with a big acorn crop. That kept deer away from the feeders; they just didn't have to move as much. ... [Alan Cain, TPWD whitetail deer program leader] ...

[Density of Axis Deer in Texas: Implications for Management of Native White-tailed Deer and Associated Habitats](#), Texas, Journal of Fish and Wildlife Management, 2023

... Estimated using distance sampling techniques in 2018 and 2019, average axis deer density was 19.7 (95% CI: 14.1 – 25.6) axis deer/km<sup>2</sup> compared to 23.0 (95% CI: 18.2 – 27.5) white-tailed deer/km<sup>2</sup>, and axis deer densities ranged from 16.9 – 171.0 /km<sup>2</sup> among eight different land cover types in Kimble County, TX, with a county wide estimate of 61,078 (95% CI: 30,407 – 100,369) axis deer ...

## 2022

[Big Thicket National Preserve asking for help in removing exotic, non-native deer species](#) December 30, 2022 Texas, MSN.com

... The [Big Thicket National Preserve](#) is asking for the Southeast Texas community's help in removing an exotic deer species. The national preserve is allowing hunters who already have a Big Sandy Creek Unit hunting permit to dispatch any Axis deer they find...

[Deer, deer hunting has multi-billion impact on economy, jobs](#) December 27, 2022 Texas Farm Bureau

... A new report from the [Southeast Deer Partnership](#) ... in a typical year, deer hunters in the southeast spend about \$8.8 billion on deer hunting... a statewide high of \$852 million in salaries and wages in Texas...

[Late rain helped deer, but did it help their antlers?](#) November 28, 2022 Texas, The Victoria Advocate

... rains occurring in September and October really improved the habitat. Everything has greened up and the deer are finally getting enough to eat... A good acorn drop has helped as far as nourishment is concerned, but the drought during spring antler development period probably did affect the bucks...

[Axis deer most abundant exotic ungulate in Texas](#) November 25, 2022 Brownwood News

... axis deer were introduced to Texas in the early 1930s and are native to South Asia ... They are considered the most abundant exotic ungulate in Texas with an estimated 15,000 free-living individuals...

[Drought impacts deer hunting season in Texas](#) November 16, 2022 Times Record News

... good fawn crops the last couple of years so there's more bucks in those younger age classes relative to bucks in that four- to six-year-old range...

[AgriLife Extension adds wildlife specialist focused on white-tailed deer. Texas big game](#) November 10, 2022 Texas, The Marshall News Messenger

... will concentrate on the interconnections of habitat and the animals and how landowners can influence ecology to improve species productivity based on their stewardship goals...

[Whitetail preview: Texas deer hunters gearing up for new season](#) November 3, 2022 The Beaumont Enterprise

... Last year, roughly 756,000 Texas hunters shot nearly 830,000 whitetails resulting in an impressive statewide success rate of 62 percent. Among them were about 448,000 bucks and 380,000 does...

[Mule deer antler production impacted by drought](#) November 1, 2022 Texas Farm Bureau

... The lack of timely rains, and its impact on forages, has also affected the state's mule deer population over the past couple of years. "We get lower fawn crops, and so the production of the herd goes down ... hopefully we're going out of that." ...

[Range conditions may of May not require backing off harvest](#) October 28, 2022 Panola Watchman

... In Texas the annual fawn survival rate generally runs 30 to 35 percent across the state, maybe higher on highly managed properties. This year it is expected to be below 30 percent... because of brutal summer conditions...

[Questions Abound: Range Conditions May Of May Not Require Backing Off Harvest](#) October 22, 2022 Texas, Longview News-Journal

... There is little doubt that this year's fawn crop is going to be down because of brutal summer conditions... In Texas the annual fawn survival rate generally runs 30 to 35% across the state, maybe higher on highly managed properties. This year it is expected to be below 30%...

[Drought resistant](#) October 18, 2022 Texas, mysoutex.com

... "Where fires have occurred, there's been new grass and weed growth providing some much-needed nutrition and cover for deer," said Alan Cain, White-Tailed Deer Program Leader for TPWD. "Although habitat conditions have improved immensely with recent rains, the timing was a bit late to have any meaningful influence on antler quality."  
" ...

[Biologists Predict Moderate Hunting Conditions Ahead of White-Tailed Deer](#)

[Archery-Only Season Opener](#) Sept. 15, 2022 Texas, TPWD News

... "Where fires have occurred, there's been new grass and weed growth providing some much-needed nutrition and cover for deer," Cain said. "Although habitat conditions have improved immensely with recent rains, the timing was a bit late to have any meaningful influence on antler quality." ...

[Extreme drought lessens quality and quantity of white-tailed deer population](#) August 15, 2022 Texas, YAHOO!News

... While Texas has the largest deer population in the nation -- totaling around 5.4 million last year -- Cain believes the state may be on the verge of a decline this year with the lingering drought and could possibly see increased fawn mortality if the drought continues into the upcoming growing season...,

[Drought impacting deer antler quality, body weight July](#) 25, 2022 Texas, Texas Farm Bureau

... The latest deer population survey, from 2021, estimates the deer population at 5.4 million [white-tail], which is essentially unchanged from 2020. The statewide population this fall is likely to be lower than estimates due to the expectation of below-average fawn recruitment this year...

[State program offers \\$1,000 reward in killing of Texarkana doe](#) July 7, 2022, Texas, Texarkana Gazette

... The suspect shot the deer from a vehicle ... then turned the vehicle around and headed back towards Richmond Road ...

[Texas drought impacting Whitetail outlook](#) June 29, 2022 Beaumont Enterprise

... While current conditions are not yet as bad as 2011, Cain believes it is moving that way in a hurry. About 70 percent of the state is currently in extreme to severe drought and another 20 percent in drought or abnormally dry...

[Deer in Texas Are Struggling to Grow Antlers as Drought Grips State](#) June 28, 2022 Newsweek

... Forty-three percent of the state is currently facing extreme drought conditions, with 17 percent under "[exceptional drought](#)." ... There is an estimated population of around 5.4 million deer in Texas, but Cain expects a [decline](#) in the next year due to the drought resulting in reduced birth rates...,

[Why the Texas Hill Country Will Remain a Whitetail Mecca](#) June 28, 2022 North American Whitetail

... The Hill Country had nearly 50 deer per square mile. And that frankly was conservative... a deep and lengthy regional drought in the 1950s took a huge toll on all wildlife ... people just kept flooding into the Hill Country ... “Not all of the Hill Country has as many deer as it did back years ago,” ...

[Texas Drought Is a Problem for Deer Herds and Antler Growth](#) June 21, 2022 Outdoor Life

... Texas has a huge deer population, estimated last year at 5.4 million. But Cain believes a decline could be coming due to poor habitat from drought resulting in below average fawn numbers. “The statewide five-year average fawn recruitment is approximately 38 percent,” Cain says. “It would not be a surprise to see the 2022 estimate dip below 30 percent.” ..,

[Whitetail outlook: Biologist says Texas deer are in for tough times without rain](#) June 18, 2022 Athens Daily Review

... “As of early summer, the Texas deer population is facing some tough conditions throughout much of the state, and hunter expectations may be tempered a little for the 2022-23 hunting season,” [Alan] Cain said. “Unbearable drought has gripped two-thirds of the state with no immediate relief in sight..,

[Ranch owners needed for axis deer survey in Texas](#)

May 27, 2022 Farm Bureau

... Axis are socially dominant to white-tail and will displace them from high value sets, such as optimal habitat... “Axis have a really high reproductive ability,” ... In comparison, white-tailed fawn survival is heavily dependent on precipitation. ... “Axis were introduced in 1932 into a high fence property in Kerr County,” ...

[Accuracy of tooth wear for aging deer](#) May 3, 2022 Texas, Lone Star Outdoor News

... The results of tooth wear examination were correct between 43 and 51 percent of the time, but 87 percent of the estimates were within one year of the actual age... results from the labs were correct 60 to 62 percent of the time, and 93 percent were within one year...

[Changes to white-tailed, mule deer hunting regulations](#) April 20, 2022 Texas Farm Bureau

... To curb excessive mule deer buck harvest, the commission approved a proposal extending mule deer antler restrictions in an additional 21 counties in the Panhandle. Shawn Gray, TPWD mule deer and pronghorn program leader, told the commission the move follows a successful experiment that began in 2018 and 2019 in seven southwest Panhandle counties...

[Texas Parks and Wildlife Commission approves hunting regulations changes](#) April 3, 2022 Texas, Athens Daily Review

... Modify the definitions of “buck deer” and “antlerless deer.” ... Extend the general mule deer season in 15 southwestern Panhandle counties from nine to 16 days and add a special archery season...

['Don't you worry, it's only money': Two days at a Texas whitetail deer auction](#) April 3, 2022 Texas, Fort Worth Star-Telegram

... straw of semen from a buck named Perfect Dream, sold for \$2,500. A doe fawn ... sold for \$6,500. A bred doe for \$19,000 ... one doe fawn ... sold, \$42,500 ...

[Making big bucks: Inside Texas' million-dollar whitetail deer breeding industry](#) April 3, 2022 Texas, Fort Worth Star-Telegram

...In the whitetail deer breeding world, the end-of-the-line customer is a hunter, who pays to shoot whitetail bucks whose antlers and build have been perfected through generations of selective breeding... the political and monetary stakes have been heightened by ... chronic wasting disease ...

[Forest Service reduces wildfire risk, improves forest health](#) March 8, 2022 Texas, The Lufkin Daily New

... Prescribed burns benefit wildlife habitat by removing dead and dying vegetation from the understory, which improves the availability of forage and the quality of browse for

wildlife. Reducing the underbrush also improves brood and nesting habitat for turkey, quail, deer, and other wildlife species...

[Lynn Burkhead TPWD seeks public input on Grayson County rifle season](#) February 24, 2022 Herald Democrat, Herald Democrat

... Texas Parks and Wildlife Department as the Austin-based agency brings a rifle deer season proposal to Grayson County once again. In the previous attempts over the past quarter century, packed public meetings were held locally as residents generally spoke against the proposals and made it clear that a rifle season is not what they want in their backyard...

## 2021

[Deer movement rules change](#) November 19, 2021 Texas, Lone Star Outdoor News

... Mitch Lockwood, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department's Big Game Program Director, said the epidemiology suggests previous rules weren't effective in preventing the disease, given recent discoveries at breeding facilities... "We've lost 112 deer breeders because of the costs associated with these rules," said Texas Deer Association President John True. "We've dropped from 980 to 868 breeders ...

[Expect extra patrol for mule deer hunting season](#) November 19, 2021 Texas, Houston Chronicle

... mule deer season ... generally brings hunters from across the country to the south plains for the opportunity to hunt a buck... Wardens will be enforcing a minimum antler restriction in Floyd, Briscoe, Childress, Cottle, Hall, Motley and Lynn counties. A legal buck deer are ones having antler spread of 20 inches or greater...

[Deer season gets started with a bang](#) November 13, 2021 Texas, wacotrib.com

... With traditional hunting grounds turning into housing developments, people selling off their land ... an increased demand on a dwindling supply, another issue for hunters is that prices on available leases are rising ...

[Feral Hog contraceptive introduced to help curb population growth](#) October 24, 2021

Utah, KLTU

... Texas A and M AgriLife extension service is testing out a new feral hog contraceptive ... The issue is we need to target it just to feral hogs. We don't want the deer population for example for them to eat this bait and then for them to not reproduce. That would be awful...

[A Hard Life: Deer Face A Number Of Hurdles Before Reaching Maturity](#) October 22,

2021 Texas, Tyler Morning Telegraph

... fawn survival statewide this year is expected to be 45 to 50 %, a high number considering it is typically below 40 %. mild spring and summer that provided plenty of food and water ... predators can account for from 10 to 90 % of fawn loss in a year.,

[Biologists Predict an Exceptional 2021-22 General White-Tailed Deer Season](#) Oct. 20,

2021 Texas, TPWD News

The statewide white-tailed deer population is estimated to be around 5.4 million deer and while it is down slightly from previous years, fawn recruitment (fawn survival rates) predictions indicate an overall robust population increase headed into the season.... Estimated deer densities in the Post Oak Savannah ecoregion range from 32 to 89 deer per 1,000 acres...

[Biologists Say White-Tailed Deer Population Looks Strong Ahead of Archery-Only Season Opener](#) Sept. 17, 2021 Texas, TPWD News Release

AUSTIN – Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) biologists say that 2021-22 is expected to be a white-tailed deer season for the books. Last year, the overall white-tailed deer population was estimated to be 5.4 million deer. While that estimate is down from the previous two years, TPWD biologists say that if fawn recruitment predictions hold true this season, coupled with good carryover of deer from last hunting season, hunters and landowners can expect to see an increase in the overall statewide white-tailed deer population...

[Deer Outlook Positive Across Texas For Bow Season](#) September 9, 2021 Tyler Morning Telegraph

... After going through an early winter drought, followed by a record freeze, a wet spring and relatively mild summer have resulted in a boon to Texas' white-tailed deer statewide...

[The Other White Meat](#) September 8, 2021 Texas, BlueBonnetNews.com

... The Texas Game Warden Criminal Investigation Division (CID) provided Bexar County Game Wardens with information regarding an individual selling deer meat on Craigslist... the suspect admitted to attempting to sell the deer meat and gave information where the white-tailed deer had been killed. The individual was cited for selling white-tailed deer meat...

[Deer season looms, but what will it look like?](#) September 3, 2021 California, The Beaumont Enterprise

... "Landowners and hunters should expect to see an increase in the overall statewide population if fawn recruitment predictions hold true coupled with a good carryover of deer from the 2020 hunting season," Cain said...

[2021 Deer Preview](#) August 26, 2021 Texas, Athens Daily Review

... Cain says antler quality is expected to be above average for most regions. Likewise, fawn recruitment is forecast to be well above average for much of the state, possibly as high as 45-50 percent... The Edwards Plateau maintains the state's highest deer density with a population estimated at more than 2.05 million ... April and May. Big rains fell across much of the state and the native landscape blossomed ...,

[Spring rain mostly beneficial to wildlife](#) June 19, 2021 Texas, The Dallas Morning News

... Cain says spring rains are always a huge benefit to deer, mainly because the moisture fuels the growth of lush habitat to support good body conditions and fawn production and spur antler growth. "The copious amounts of rain this spring have also helped to replenish soil moisture," ... "We haven't seen spring rains like this in years," ...,

[Heavy rains could be a benefit for Texas wildlife and fisheries](#) May 26, 2021 Athens

Daily Review

... “This sort of precipitation accelerates new growth on the native plants, both forbs and shrubs preferred by deer, resulting in dramatic improvements in habitat conditions in most parts of the state,” [Alan Cain] ... any additional flooding in coming weeks could hamper fawn production ...

[TPWD Institutes Fee For Managed Lands Deer Programs](#) May 15, 2021 Texas, Tyler

Morning Telegraph

... In 1998 there were 813 tracts of land enrolled in MLDP covering about 3.1 million acres. Last year there were 6,513 properties covering almost 29 million acres, or about 17 percent of Texas ... The goal of the program was simply to give landowners and hunters wanting to intensively manage their deer herd as much leeway as possible ...

[Estimating numbers of deer on the ranch](#) May 7, 2021 Texas, Lone Star Outdoor News

... helicopter surveys excel in certain areas. “When it comes to the age structure of the deer and the buck-to-doe ratios, they are really good,” he said. “When it comes to absolute counts of the number of deer on the ranch — that’s what we’re trying to improve.” ...

[A Texas Rancher Cloned Deer For Years. Some Lawmakers Want To Legalize It](#) April

21, 2021 HuffPost

... to grow bigger game for the deep-pocketed customers willing to pay well over \$10,000 to shoot them. The proposed law, from state Rep. Matt Krause of Fort Worth, would legalize cloning ... Abraham said his is the only business in the country cloning deer — or rather, it was, until Texas officials shut him down last year...

[Confirmed cougar sighting in East Texas](#) April 8, 2021 Tyler Morning Telegraph

... “This is the first clean picture I’ve seen in over 30 years of being a veterinarian.” ... The cougar, on the right, walking up behind three deer [photo] ...

[Managed Lands Deer Program enrollment is now open for 2021-22 season](#) April 7,

2021 Texas, North Texas e-News

... Deer harvest is an important aspect of habitat management and conservation. Landowners enrolled in either the MLDP Harvest Option or Conservation Option can take advantage of extended season lengths and property-specific customized harvest opportunities...

[New hunting regulation allows dogs to track wounded deer in some East Texas counties](#)

March 26, 2021 Texas, CBS19.tv KYTX

... Remove the prohibition on trailing wounded deer with dogs in Angelina, Hardin, Nacogdoches, Orange, Shelby, and Tyler counties; In addition, allow the trailing of wounded deer to no more than two dogs on a leash in Jasper, Newton, Sabine, and San Augustine counties ...

[Forest Service reduces wildfire risk, improves forest health with controlled burns](#) March

18, 2021 Texas, North Texas e-News

... Controlled burning dramatically reduces the chances of a wildfire spreading out of control, and burning underbrush promotes new growth of tender vegetation beneficial to wildlife such as deer, turkey, and birds...

[Texas wildlife ranch cancels group hunting after losing more than 2,000 Axis deer in deep freeze](#) March 8, 2021 Texas, My San Antonio

... [Texas Canyon Ranch](#) lost more than 2,000 of its 4,000 Axis deer population ... is under a Texas Parks and Wildlife Managed Lands Deer Permits program ...

[Winter Freeze 'Crushed' Nonnative Deer](#) March 3, 2021 Texas, Texas Standard

... Axis deer are native to India, but there are at least 125,000 of them now in Texas... live on private game reserves ... “They’re from hot climates that don’t get that cold..,

[Heavy rains could be a benefit for Texas wildlife and fisheries](#) May 26, 2021 Athens Daily Review

... “This sort of precipitation accelerates new growth on the native plants, both forbs and shrubs preferred by deer, resulting in dramatic improvements in habitat conditions in most parts of the state,” [Alan Cain] ... any additional flooding in coming weeks could hamper fawn production ...

[Biologists Predict an Exceptional 2021-22 General White-Tailed Deer Season](#) Oct. 20, 2021 Texas, TPWD News

The statewide white-tailed deer population is estimated to be around 5.4 million deer and while it is down slightly from previous years, fawn recruitment (fawn survival rates) predictions indicate an overall robust population increase headed into the season.... Estimated deer densities in the Post Oak Savannah ecoregion range from 32 to 89 deer per 1,000 acres...

[Spring rain mostly beneficial to wildlife](#) June 19, 2021 Texas, The Dallas Morning News ... Cain says spring rains are always a huge benefit to deer, mainly because the moisture fuels the growth of lush habitat to support good body conditions and fawn production and spur antler growth. "The copious amounts of rain this spring have also helped to replenish soil moisture," ... "We haven't seen spring rains like this in years,"...

[2021 Deer Preview](#) August 26, 2021 Texas, Athens Daily Review ... Cain says antler quality is expected to be above average for most regions. Likewise, fawn recruitment is forecast to be well above average for much of the state, possibly as high as 45-50 percent... The Edwards Plateau maintains the state's highest deer density with a population estimated at more than 2.05 million ... April and May. Big rains fell across much of the state and the native landscape blossomed ...,

[Deer season looms, but what will it look like?](#) September 3, 2021 California, The Beaumont Enterprise

... "Landowners and hunters should expect to see an increase in the overall statewide population if fawn recruitment predictions hold true coupled with a good carryover of deer from the 2020 hunting season," Cain said...

[Deer Outlook Positive Across Texas For Bow Season](#) September 9, 2021 Tyler Morning Telegraph

.... After going through an early winter drought, followed by a record freeze, a wet spring and relatively mild summer have resulted in a boon to Texas' white-tailed deer statewide...

[A Hard Life: Deer Face A Number Of Hurdles Before Reaching Maturity](#) October 22, 2021 Texas, Tyler Morning Telegraph

... fawn survival statewide this year is expected to be 45 to 50 %, a high number considering it is typically below 40 %. mild spring and summer that provided plenty of food and water ... predators can account for from 10 to 90 % of fawn loss in a year..,

[More than two dozen native deer froze to death outside a ranch in San Antonio](#)

February 19, 2021 Texas, KIII TV.com

... The massive ice storm that hit our state has also affected wildlife ... Two dozen native and non-native deer froze to death in the arctic storm...

[Winter Freeze 'Crushed' Nonnative Deer](#) March 3, 2021 Texas, Texas Standard

... Axis deer are native to India, but there are at least 125,000 of them now in Texas... live on private game reserves ... “They’re from hot climates that don’t get that cold...

[Public help sought to report fish and wildlife impacted by winter storm in Texas](#) February 27, 2021 Texas, KLBK | KAMC | EverythingLubbock.com

... Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) is asking for the public’s help in reporting any animal mortality events they observe on their property, ranches, or in their neighborhoods through this project on the [iNaturalist website](#)...TPWD does not foresee any significant losses of white-tailed or mule deer...

[Texas wildlife ranch cancels group hunting after losing more than 2,000 Axis deer in deep freeze](#) March 8, 2021 Texas, My San Antonio

... [Texas Canyon Ranch](#) lost more than 2,000 of its 4,000 Axis deer population ... is under a Texas Parks and Wildlife Managed Lands Deer Permits program ...

[Winter Freeze 'Crushed' Nonnative Deer](#) March 3, 2021 Texas, Texas Standard

... Axis deer are native to India, but there are at least 125,000 of them now in Texas ... they don’t do well in the cold ...

[Zombies, Semen, and Big Racks: Inside The Texas Deer Breeding Industry](#) June 20, 2021 The Daily Beast

... Throughout the state there are approximately 950 deer ranches ... “Without movement like this, the disease would take maybe 10 years to spread across the state ... But because they’re being shipped all over, the disease has made its way from the western part of Texas to the eastern part in less than four months.” ... Deer breeders, on the other hand, are vehemently opposed to further regulations ...

[Axis Deer Had Overrun the Hill Country. The Winter Storm Devastated Them](#) February 28, 2021 Texas, Texas Monthly

... Introduced to Texas about eighty years ago, axis deer do not handle freezing temperatures well... About 70 percent of the species reproduce in February, so the cold snap hit when they were at their most vulnerable. Most of the axis carcasses belonged to newborn fawns and pregnant does...

[Public help sought to report fish and wildlife impacted by winter storm in Texas](#) February 27, 2021 Texas, KLBK | KAMC | EverythingLubbock.com

... Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) is asking for the public's help in reporting any animal mortality events they observe on their property, ranches, or in their neighborhoods through this project on the [iNaturalist website](#)...TPWD does not foresee any significant losses of white-tailed or mule deer.,

['It's very rare': Texas Game Wardens bust another facility for unfit deer meat. This time in Poteet](#) January 21, 2021 Texas, Houston Chronicle

... In nearly two months, the Texas Game Wardens have released information about finding spoiled deer carcasses at three processing facilities – two in North Texas and one in Poteet just south of San Antonio in Atascosa County ...

[Texas Game Wardens bust local meat processing plant, discover 80 rotten deer carcasses](#) January 13, 2021 mySanAntonio.com

... Wardens discovered the spoiled deer during a routine compliance inspection at Hooves and Horns meat processing facility in Iowa Park, according to a Tuesday [news release from Texas Parks and Wildlife Department](#)...

## 2020

[Wildlife officials confirm rare mountain lion sighting in North Texas](#) December 1, 2020 Texas, RADIO.COM

... Texas Parks and Wildlife officials have confirmed a mountain lion sighting in the state from time to time. There was one in Grayson County a couple of years ago, but this one is the first in Dallas County ...

[A Different Game: No Stranger To Texas, Elk Population Growing In West Texas](#)

November 28, 2020 Tyler Morning Telegraph

... Evidence of elk in western Texas is found in Native American petroglyphs, but there are also historical writings by explorers going back to the 1600s documenting sightings of large herds ... with settlers came unregulated hunting and loss of habitat ... The elks' range shrunk to the Guadalupe Mountains in West Texas ... the last remaining animals were gone by the late 1800s..,

[Study shows culling doesn't always produce intended results](#) November 15, 2020

Texas, Panola Watchman

... The culling of bucks has been a key component in the era of deer management in Texas... Has it made a difference? For removing deer to reduce mouths or improve sex ratios, yes. If the goal was to improve genetics, the answer according to a 13-year study of deer in the wild, the answer is no ...

[Texas Supreme Court reaffirms public own state's white-tailed deer](#) November 13, 2020

Brownwood Bulletin

... The Texas Supreme Court rejected an appeal by deer breeders challenging Texas Parks and Wildlife Department's (TPWD) Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) rules and seeking to have breeder deer in the state deemed private property...

[Doe harvest recommended this season in high-density areas of Texas](#) November 8,

2020 Houston Chronicle

... Texas Parks and Wildlife Department recommends the Texas Hill Country as an area of the state that could generally use some doe harvest. Home to approximately 2.4 million white-tailed deer, the Edwards Plateau has the highest deer density in the state... More available nutrition can help bucks reach their genetic potential with antlers and body condition...

[TPWD experts see big year for South Texas white-tails](#) November 5, 2020 Texas, Valley

morning Star

... TPWD officials say the deer population in the region is stable with most recent estimates putting the white-tailed number at an estimated 438,000... The Edwards Plateau in central Texas has the highest deer population in the state with an estimated 2.37 million deer...

[Texas deer season preview: Quality over quantity](#) November 4, 2020 Houston Chronicle  
... Studies have shown that deer hunting generates \$1.2 billion in revenue for the state's economy each year... much of the state saw timely spring and early summer rains that spurred the growth of nutrition-rich forbs and an explosion of new growth on shrubs... The Edwards Plateau population is down somewhat due to a 2019 anthrax outbreak ...

[Texas Parks and Wildlife Department Predicts Above Average Hunting Season Ahead of General Deer Season Opener](#) October 29, 2020 NBC DFW

... The Edwards Plateau in central Texas has the highest deer population in the state with an estimated 2.37 million deer ... Mild temperatures and beneficial rains this spring should warrant a good season in South Texas ... most recent estimates numbering close to 438,000 deer..

[Public ownership of Texas' white-tailed deer re-affirmed](#) October 19, 2020 Houston Chronicle

... The Texas Supreme Court recently denied review of an appeal in the case of Bailey & Peterson v. Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, affirming that the state's white-tailed deer herd, including those held by breeders, are owned by the public...

[Evaluating the Influence of Federal Prescribed Fire Regimes in East Texas on White-tailed Deer Body Condition and Antler Size](#), 2020, Proceedings of the 20th Biennial Southern Silvicultural Research Conference, TP Wall, BP Oswald, KR Kidd, RL Darville [PDF]

... Deer antler beam and inside mean spread were significantly greater at 2 years post-burn than at less than 1 year post-burn. These results indicate that frequent prescribed fire is physiologically beneficial to white-tailed deer...

[Recent Weather Sets High Expectations for Archery-Only Season Opener](#) September 29, 2020 Texas, tpwd.texas.gov

... “Recent precipitation throughout Texas has resulted in a flush of new growth on preferred native deer forages and should set the stage for good winter weed production, critical for deer late in the season,” ... TPWD biologists estimate that the state’s deer population is around 5.5 million deer, or a density of 49.25 deer per 1,000 acres...

[Statewide Outlook Good For Early Season Deer Hunting](#) September 13, 2020 Texas, Tyler Morning Telegraph

... “The spring rains helped many areas of the state, including South Texas, Edwards Plateau, and areas west, recover from very dry conditions persisting from fall and winter of 2019. Vegetation has responded positively to the spring moisture with an abundance of quality forbs and an explosion of new growth on shrubs both of which are critical for providing good deer nutrition,” ... Texas has an estimated 5.5 million white-tailed deer ...

[Texas white-tailed deer hunters can look forward to a favorable 2020-21 season](#) July 15, 2020 North Texas e-News

... TPWD biologists estimate that the state’s deer population is around 5.5 million deer, or a density of 49.25 deer per 1,000 acres... Spring rains allowed many regions of the state, including South Texas, Edwards Plateau and areas west to recover from last year’s very dry fall and winter, leading to an abundance of quality forbs and shrubs ..., [Full report below]

## **2020 Population Estimate Updated in 2021**

[Biologists Say White-Tailed Deer Population Looks Strong Ahead of Archery-Only Season Opener](#) Sept. 17, 2021 Texas, TPWD News Release

AUSTIN – Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) biologists say that 2021-22 is expected to be a white-tailed deer season for the books. Last year, the overall white-tailed deer population was **estimated to be 5.4 million deer**. While that estimate is down from the previous two years, TPWD biologists say that if fawn recruitment predictions hold true this season, coupled with good carryover of deer from last hunting season, hunters and landowners can expect to see an increase in the overall statewide white-tailed deer population.

"White-tailed deer forecasts and expectations are, in large part, driven by habitat conditions that the deer are experiencing across their range in Texas in the eight to ten months prior to the season," said Alan Cain, TPWD White-Tailed Deer Program Leader.

“Though the end of 2020 was dry, and early 2021 experienced freezing conditions that delayed green up of important browse plants, the late spring and summer rainfall acted like liquid fertilizer for forb, grass, and woody plant production and has provided a buffet of natural forages for deer.”

[Biologists Expect Above Average Deer Season](#) September 20, 2021 Texas, San Angelo LIVE!

... Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) biologists say that 2021-22 is expected to be a white-tailed deer season for the books. Last year, the overall white-tailed deer population was estimated to be 5.4 million deer...

### Estimates from 2020

[Hill Country/West Texas deer forecast](#) August 4, 2020 Wilson County News

... deer population has grown to an estimated **5.5 million deer** ... Statewide, good rains fell at the right time (April, May, June) to spur vegetation ... The Hill Country has the most whitetails in Texas, nearly 2.37 million... populations in western areas of the region are down due to an anthrax outbreak last year... The Eastern and Western Rolling Plains ... are lower due to sparse rainfall..,

[South and East Texas deer forecast](#) August 10, 2020 Victoria Advocate

... South Texas Brush Country ... The season ended very dry. Ranches with supplemental feed program fared better... estimates 438,000 deer with densities ranging from 15 deer/1,000 acres to 40/1,000. Sex ratio is about 2.2 does/buck ... East Texas has roughly 286,000 deer and densities range from 7.88 deer/1,000 acres in the southern portion to 25.25/1,000 in the center ...,

[Statewide Outlook Good For Early Season Deer Hunting](#) September 13, 2020 Texas, Tyler Morning Telegraph

... “The spring rains helped many areas of the state, including South Texas, Edwards Plateau, and areas west, recover from very dry conditions persisting from fall and winter of 2019. Vegetation has responded positively to the spring moisture with an abundance of quality forbs and an explosion of new growth on shrubs both of which are critical for providing good deer nutrition,” ... **Texas has an estimated 5.5 million white-tailed deer** ...,

[The 2020 Deer Hunting Season Forecast](#) August 12, 2020 Outdoor Life

...Estimated population: **5.5 million whitetails**, 230,000 mule deer Fall 2019-‘20 harvest: 846,330 whitetails, 15,201 mule deer ...

[Recent Weather Sets High Expectations for Archery-Only Season Opener](#) September 29, 2020 Texas, tpwd.texas.gov

... “Recent precipitation throughout Texas has resulted in a flush of new growth on preferred native deer forages and should set the stage for good winter weed production, critical for deer late in the season,” ... TPWD biologists estimate that the state’s deer population is around 5.5 million deer, or a density of 49.25 deer per 1,000 acres..,

[Texas Parks and Wildlife Department Predicts Above Average Hunting Season Ahead of General Deer Season Opener](#) October 29, 2020NBC DFW

... The Edwards Plateau in central Texas has the highest deer population in the state with an estimated 2.37 million deer ... Mild temperatures and beneficial rains this spring should warrant a good season in South Texas ... most recent estimates numbering close to 438,000 deer..,

[Texas deer season preview: Quality over quantity](#) November 4, 2020 Houston Chronicle

... Studies have shown that deer hunting generates \$1.2 billion in revenue for the state’s economy each year... much of the state saw timely spring and early summer rains that spurred the growth of nutrition-rich forbs and an explosion of new growth on shrubs... The Edwards Plateau population is down somewhat due to a 2019 anthrax outbreak ...

Texas White-tailed Deer Hunters Can Look Forward to a Favorable 2020-21 Season July 14, 2020 TPWD News Release

AUSTIN – Well distributed and timely precipitation across much of Texas in the spring, along with positive long-term growth among the state’s white-tailed deer population, has set the stage for a favorable 2020-21 hunting season. Spring rains allowed many regions of the state, including South Texas, Edwards Plateau and areas west to recover from last year’s very dry fall and winter, leading to an abundance of quality forbs and shrubs, both of which are critical for deer nutrition. These conditions have lent to a good start to antler growth and positive outlook for fawn recruitment numbers.

“With any luck we’ll receive another rain or two in July solidifying the good conditions and setting the stage for another favorable hunting season,” said Alan Cain, White-tailed Deer Program Leader at Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD).

TPWD biologists estimate that the state’s deer population is around 5.5 million deer, or a density of 49.25 deer per 1,000 acres. However, that density is not uniform across the state and those areas with better habitat tend to support higher deer populations. TPWD data suggests that the hunter success rate in 2019 was estimated to be 60% and

similar trends can be expected for the 2020-21 season. The Edwards Plateau and the Cross Timbers regions of Texas are forecast to have the highest deer populations.

"From a statewide perspective, hunters might expect to see a higher proportion of bucks in the 6.5 to 8.5-year age classes as a result of above average fawn crop in previous corresponding years while other age classes reflect a more even distribution," Cain said. "While doe harvest has been down slightly in the last couple of years, which is likely contributing to a widening ratio of does to bucks, the good news for hunters is that there should be plenty of carryover from previous years."

[TPWD experts see big year for South Texas white-tails](#) November 5, 2020 Texas, Valley morning Star

... TPWD officials say the deer population in the region is stable with most recent estimates putting the white-tailed number at an estimated 438,000... The Edwards Plateau in central Texas has the highest deer population in the state with an estimated 2.37 million deer...

[Wildlife officials confirm rare mountain lion sighting in North Texas](#) December 1, 2020 Texas, RADIO.COM

... Texas Parks and Wildlife officials have confirmed a mountain lion sighting in the state from time to time. There was one in Grayson County a couple of years ago, but this one is the first in Dallas County ...

[South and East Texas deer forecast](#) August 10, 2020 Victoria Advocate

... South Texas Brush Country ... The season ended very dry. Ranches with supplemental feed program fared better... estimates 438,000 deer with densities ranging from 15 deer/1,000 acres to 40/1,000. Sex ratio is about 2.2 does/buck ... East Texas has roughly 286,000 deer and densities range from 7.88 deer/1,000 acres in the southern portion to 25.25/1,000 in the center ...

[Hill Country/West Texas deer forecast](#) August 4, 2020 Wilson County News

... Texas white-tailed deer population has grown to an estimated 5.5 million deer ... Statewide, good rains fell at the right time (April, May, June) to spur vegetation ... The Hill Country has the most whitetails in Texas, nearly 2.37 million... populations in

western areas of the region are down due to an anthrax outbreak last year... The Eastern and Western Rolling Plains ... are lower due to sparse rainfall..,

[Experimental antler restrictions paying early dividends for Texas mule deer hunters](#) July 23, 2020 Texas, Houston Chronicle

... 20-inch minimum spread since 2018 ... “The age structure looks like it’s getting older in the harvest and the sex ratio is becoming more natural, instead of being skewed from overharvest,” ... TPWD collected data at four check stations in the Panhandle ...

[Confirmed cougar sighting in East Texas](#) April 8, 2021 Tyler Morning Telegraph  
... “This is the first clean picture I’ve seen in over 30 years of being a veterinarian.” ... The cougar, on the right, walking up behind three deer [photo] ...

[Texas white-tailed deer hunters can look forward to a favorable 2020-21 season](#) July 15, 2020 North Texas e-News

... TPWD biologists estimate that the state’s deer population is around 5.5 million deer, or a density of 49.25 deer per 1,000 acres... Spring rains allowed many regions of the state, including South Texas, Edwards Plateau and areas west to recover from last year’s very dry fall and winter, leading to an abundance of quality forbs and shrubs ...

[New fees for managed lands deer permit system \(MLDP\)](#) February 22, 2020 Texas, Austin American-Statesman

... The MLDP system grew out of complains lodged with TPWD at least as far back as the early 1980s, during discussions and plans to pass the Wildlife Conservation Act in Texas. That landmark piece of legislation allowed TPWD to set seasons and bag limits throughout the state and ended the outdated system whereby county commissioners courts could set seasons for the hunters in their county...

[Border Wall Threatens National Wildlife Refuge That's Been 40 Years In The Making](#) January 14, 2020 NPR

... "Forty years ago, there were no white-tailed deer anywhere near here ... the lower Texas-Mexico border ... Today, the white-tailed deer are all over the place. And so it's been a huge success." Fish and Wildlife told NPR that the border wall may impact 8,839 acres of native habitat on 30 separate tracts of its land... "... staff have worked on this issue for decades and decades. And it's being torn down in front of our eyes." ...

#### [The cost of management: TPWD proposes fee to underwrite MLDP program cost](#)

January 5, 2019 Texas, Tyler Morning Telegraph

... Managed Lands Deer Permit... the program has grown to more than 12,000 properties covering almost 28.5 million acres... it allows the harvest of deer without using a license tag within an individual property's quota and it offers an extended season... Based on current participation, the fee would generate about \$1.8 million...

#### [Drought-like conditions this winter are a concern for wildlife](#)

February 1, 2020 Texas, Tyler Morning Telegraph

... now about 40 percent of the state is in moderate drought conditions and just over 10 percent is already facing severe drought conditions ... a long way from October 2011 when 88 percent of the state was in an exceptional drought, a period of extended drought that almost completely took out a year-class of deer ...

#### [Texas Parks and Wildlife approves fee structure for Managed Lands Deer Program](#)

January 23, 2020 Texas, Houston Chronicle

... The harvest option is self-service and provides automated tag issuances that aren't site-specific. The conservation option, which accounts for 83 percent of enrollment, provides customized one-on-one assistance from TPWD staff and tag issuances that are tailored to each property. Conservation option participants are required to have a wildlife management plan, conduct population surveys and improve habitat...

## 2019

[TPWD seeks public input for proposed Managed Lands Deer Program fee](#) December 11, 2019 Texas, Houston Chronicle

... public comment period has opened for the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department's proposal of a fee structure for its popular Managed Lands Deer Program... historically been free of charge and offers a lengthier deer season and liberal bag limits to participants. The department intends to use the revenue from the proposed fee to bolster the group of administering biologists ...

[Proposed fee would aid Texas' popular Managed Lands Deer Program](#) November 23, 2019 Texas, Houston Chronicle

... Texas Parks and Wildlife moved closer to levying an annual fee on the highly popular program ... revenue from a future fee would be used to bolster the staff of biologists administering a program that has experienced immense growth...

[Experimental mule deer antler restrictions continue in southeast panhandle; lynn county added this season](#) November 19, 2019 Texas, myhighplains.com

... The regulations ... prohibits the harvest of any mule deer buck with a main beam outside spread of less than 20 inches in Briscoe, Childress, Cottle, Floyd, Hall, Lynn, and Motley counties... The goal of the new regulations is to improve buck age structure and sex ratios in these counties by reducing excessive hunting pressure on younger bucks...

[Wildlife officials confirm rare mountain lion sighting in North Texas](#) December 1, 2020 Texas, RADIO.COM

... Texas Parks and Wildlife officials have confirmed a mountain lion sighting in the state from time to time. There was one in Grayson County a couple of years ago, but this one is the first in Dallas County ...

[Confirmed cougar sighting in East Texas](#) April 8, 2021 Tyler Morning Telegraph

... "This is the first clean picture I've seen in over 30 years of being a veterinarian." ... The cougar, on the right, walking up behind three deer [photo] ...

[Changing times](#) April 16, 2019 Texas, Wilson County News

... The infamous drought of the '50s caused a roughly 100,000-deer die-off in the Hill Country. After that, allowing the shooting of female deer sounded outrageous..,

[Drought-Proofing Mule Deer Herds in Texas](#) March 14, 2019 Texas, Land.com

... the Lone Star State is also home to roughly 200,000 mule deer. The Trans-Pecos region supports the highest number ... what we can do to “drought-proof” these mule deer herds? The simple equation to the solution involves water, appropriate grazing practices, predator control and supplemental feed..,

[On the hunt for deer — to count](#) August 23, 2019 Texas, Austin American-Statesman

... annual census count time in Texas, when landowners and managers are heading out after dark on three nights per ranch, counting bucks and does and fawns ... the Hill Country average of one adult deer to 6-7 acres ..,

[Rains fuel boom year for Texas whitetail deer](#) July 13, 2019 Houston Chronicle

... Texas, has a bumper crop of whitetail fawns... Texas has had an unusual stretch of wet weather that began early last autumn and has persisted into summer... flourishing habitat also greatly benefited does, allowing them to maintain excellent body condition as they carried this year's fawns..,

[Texas Deer Hunters Welcome Cooler Weather for Opening Weekend](#) Oct. 29, 2019 TPWD News

AUSTIN – Deer hunters hoping for a change in the weather may be in luck for opening weekend of general deer season as weather forecasters predict cooler temperatures across the state. With an estimated 5.3 million deer in the statewide white-tailed deer population, Texas hunters heading to the field this fall are sure to fill their freezers with this season's bounty.

“Good fawn production this year should help maintain the overall population and provide an abundance of deer for hunters to pursue,” said Alan Cain, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department's white-tailed deer program leader. “We've seen a slow but steady growth in the statewide population over the last 15 years, particularly in areas such as the Hill Country, Oak Prairies and portions of the Cross Timbers. As a result of the growing population, we've expanded hunting season opportunities in the last several years, including a couple of changes to the antlerless season in 2019.”

[Expectations High for Archery-Only Hunting Season](#) September 30, 2019 Texas, frontporchnewstexas.com

..Texas boasts a robust white-tailed deer population of about 5.3 million deer which should contribute to hunter success this season. Despite the deterioration in range conditions over the last several months with the 100-degree weather and wind..,

[Whitetail leader forecasting banner hunting season this fall](#) July 31, 2019 Texas, Huntsville Item

... about 5.4 million animals, which equals about 48 deer per 1,000 acres... one deer for every 21 acres of monitored deer range... fall rains drenched much of the state and turned the landscape ripe with valuable forage that lasted well into spring with mild winter conditions... 700,000-plus whitetail hunters ...,

[Texas hunters and anglers in for big rule changes](#) August 14, 2019 Houston Chronicle

... The liberalization of antlerless deer harvest in the 41 counties comes as the deer population there has expanded steadily over the past two decades, growing almost 5 percent a year in the Blackland Prairies counties. The limited harvest of antlerless deer under previous rules resulted in a population heavily skewed to does. In the Blackland Prairies region, antlerless deer outnumber bucks almost 4 to 1 ...,

[Texas game animal populations suggest a favorable 2019 hunting season](#) August 31, 2019 wacotrib.com

...Both winter and spring provided good conditions for pregnant does throughout their gestation period, Tomecek said. Deer were showing good body conditions during and after breeding season. Despite extended dry and hot weather over the last few months ... bucks have had good conditions ...

[West Texas Deer Forecast](#) October 4, 2019 Freestone County Times

... Texas white-tailed deer population has grown to an estimated 5.4 million deer from the previous estimate of four million! Improved survey practices combined with Nature have increased the ... total... winter weeds flourished into the spring, replenishing body reserves lost through the rigorous breeding season ...,

[White-tailed Deer Management](#) October, 2019 Texas, TPWD News

... An estimated 5.3 million white-tailed deer inhabit 252 of the 254 counties in Texas ... white-tailed deer are important to the state's economy with deer hunting generating an estimated \$1.2 billion in economic output and \$15.7 billion nationwide... [Texas also has about 200,000 mule deer]

[John Jefferson: North, East and South Texas deer forecast](#) October 7, 2019 Victoria Advocate

... Highest deer densities are in areas northwest of Killeen – as high as 133 deer/1,000 acres in places... Post Oak Savannah ... A buck/doe ratio of one buck for every 4.5 does screams for increased doe harvest... South Texas ...Native habitat is excellent ..

[2019 deer forecast looking bright](#) October 22, 2019 Texas, Athens Daily Review

... Texas Parks Wildlife's latest estimates indicate there are about 5.4 million whitetails ... Mississippi's whitetail count of about 1.6 million ranks a distant second to Texas; Missouri is third with 1.4 million, according to figures presented during a Southeast Deer Study Group conference in 2018...

[General white-tailed deer hunting season opens Saturday](#) October 31, 2019 Texas, Corpus Christi Caller-Times

... "We've seen a slow but steady growth in the statewide population over the last 15 years, particularly in areas such as the Hill Country, Oak Prairies and portions of the Cross Timbers...

[Reason For The Season: Deer Harvest Important, But There Is No Set Rule On Numbers](#) November 8, 2019 Texas, Tyler Morning Telegraph

... a population of about 5.4 million and a growth rate of 3.8 percent annually, it is pretty clear that Texas has a vibrant white-tailed deer ... "There are certainly areas where the deer population could be reduced, part of the Hill Country for example, but in other areas harvest is acceptable with the deer population. Overall, I'd say we are doing good with the deer population in Texas." [Alan Cain, TPWD deer program leader] ..

[Reason For The Season: Deer Harvest Important, But There Is No Set Rule On Numbers](#) November 8, 2019 Texas, Tyler Morning Telegraph

... a population of about 5.4 million and a growth rate of 3.8 percent annually, it is pretty clear that Texas has a vibrant white-tailed deer ... "There are certainly areas where the deer population could be reduced, part of the Hill Country for example, but in other areas harvest is acceptable with the deer population. Overall, I'd say we are doing good with the deer population in Texas." [Alan Cain, TPWD deer program leader] ..

[General white-tailed deer hunting season opens Saturday](#) October 31, 2019 Texas, Corpus Christi Caller-Times

... "We've seen a slow but steady growth in the statewide population over the last 15 years, particularly in areas such as the Hill Country, Oak Prairies and portions of the Cross Timbers...

[Texas Hunters Can Expect Big Things This Deer Season](#) October 26, 2019 Tyler Morning Telegraph

... Last year Texas deer hunters took an estimated 883,000 deer statewide, down from about 918,000 the previous year... The dip in harvest numbers was completely weather related. Rainfall produced ample fall forbs to reduce deer movement and enough sloppy conditions to slow hunters down...

[2019 deer forecast looking bright](#) October 22, 2019 Texas, Athens Daily Review

... Texas Parks Wildlife's latest estimates indicate there are about 5.4 million whitetails ... Mississippi's whitetail count of about 1.6 million ranks a distant second to Texas; Missouri is third with 1.4 million, according to figures presented during a Southeast Deer Study Group conference in 2018...

[Texas Hunters Can Expect Big Things This Deer Season](#) October 26, 2019 Tyler Morning Telegraph

... Last year Texas deer hunters took an estimated 883,000 deer statewide, down from about 918,000 the previous year... The dip in harvest numbers was completely weather related. Rainfall produced ample fall forbs to reduce deer movement and enough sloppy conditions to slow hunters down...

[John Jefferson: North, East and South Texas deer forecast](#) October 7, 2019 Victoria Advocate

... Highest deer densities are in areas northwest of Killeen – as high as 133 deer/1,000 acres in places... Post Oak Savannah ... A buck/doe ratio of one buck for every 4.5 does screams for increased doe harvest... South Texas ...Native habitat is excellent ...

[White-tailed Deer Management](#) October, 2019 Texas, TPWD News

... An estimated 5.3 million white-tailed deer inhabit 252 of the 254 counties in Texas ... white-tailed deer are important to the state's economy with deer hunting generating an estimated \$1.2 billion in economic output and \$15.7 billion nationwide... [Texas also has about 200,000 mule deer]

[West Texas Deer Forecast](#) October 4, 2019 Freestone County Times

... Texas white-tailed deer population has grown to an estimated 5.4 million deer from the previous estimate of four million! Improved survey practices combined with Nature have increased the ... total... winter weeds flourished into the spring, replenishing body reserves lost through the rigorous breeding season ...

[TPWD reminds hunters about proper deer carcass disposal](#) October 1, 2019 Texas, Austin American-Statesman

... they are key players in preventing environmental contamination or minimizing the spread of diseases such as CWD ... CWD prions are found ubiquitously throughout the body of an infected deer, they are known to accumulate in the brain, spinal cord, eyes, spleen, and lymph nodes... leave all inedible parts at the site of harvest, or preferably dispose of in a landfill, or bury at site ...

[Expectations High for Archery-Only Hunting Season](#) September 30, 2019 Texas, frontporchnewstexas.com

..Texas boasts a robust white-tailed deer population of about 5.3 million deer which should contribute to hunter success this season. Despite the deterioration in range conditions over the last several months with the 100-degree weather and wind..,

[Texas game animal populations suggest a favorable 2019 hunting season](#) August 31, 2019 wacotrib.com

...Both winter and spring provided good conditions for pregnant does throughout their gestation period, Tomecek said. Deer were showing good body conditions during and after breeding season. Despite extended dry and hot weather over the last few months ... bucks have had good conditions ...

[Texas hunters and anglers in for big rule changes](#) August 14, 2019 Houston Chronicle

... The liberalization of antlerless deer harvest in the 41 counties comes as the deer population there has expanded steadily over the past two decades, growing almost 5

percent a year in the Blackland Prairies counties. The limited harvest of antlerless deer under previous rules resulted in a population heavily skewed to does. In the Blackland Prairies region, antlerless deer outnumber bucks almost 4 to 1 ..,

[Whitetail leader forecasting banner hunting season this fall](#) July 31, 2019 Texas, Huntsville Item

... about 5.4 million animals, which equals about 48 deer per 1,000 acres... one deer for every 21 acres of monitored deer range... fall rains drenched much of the state and turned the landscape ripe with valuable forage that lasted well into spring with mild winter conditions... 700,000-plus whitetail hunters ...,

[Three Big Changes That Have Altered Texas Wildlife Landscape](#) June 28, 2019 Tyler Morning Telegraph

... Prior to the 1960s, Texas had less than a million deer statewide. In 1961, the number climbed to 2 million and by 1965, it was 2.25 million, according to the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department...

[Texas wildlife managers unveil proposals for 2019-20 hunting seasons](#) January 30, 2019 Houston Chronicle

... In the Blackland Prairie region, antlerless deer outnumber bucks almost 4 to 1, and antlerless deer make up only 41 percent of the annual deer harvest... TPWD's proposal to liberalize antlerless harvest rules for those 41 counties...

[Rains fuel boom year for Texas whitetail deer](#) July 13, 2019 Houston Chronicle

... Texas, has a bumper crop of whitetail fawns... Texas has had an unusual stretch of wet weather that began early last autumn and has persisted into summer... flourishing habitat also greatly benefited does, allowing them to maintain excellent body condition as they carried this year's fawns...

[Court rules deer are wildlife](#) July 8, 2019 Texas, Victoria Advocate

... an appeal filed by two deer breeders claiming that breeder deer are, or became, private property and asking to invalidate Texas Parks and Wildlife Department rules

requiring breeders to test for chronic wasting disease... “We conclude breeder deer are public property ...

[Three Big Changes That Have Altered Texas Wildlife Landscape](#) June 28, 2019 Tyler Morning Telegraph

... Prior to the 1960s, Texas had less than a million deer statewide. In 1961, the number climbed to 2 million and by 1965, it was 2.25 million, according to the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department...

[Top ocelot researcher calls conservation strategy 'ecological fairy tale'](#) May 1, 2019 Texas, Phys.org

... Tewes argues the ocelot's best hope lies in expanding habitats on private ranches in Willacy County, where development pressure is low and where he says ranchers have a natural goal to preserve ocelot habitat, which is also ideal for lucrative quail and deer hunting leases...

[Changing times](#) April 16, 2019 Texas, Wilson County News

... The infamous drought of the '50s caused a roughly 100,000-deer die-off in the Hill Country. After that, allowing the shooting of female deer sounded outrageous...

[Texas Parks and Wildlife Approves Doe Days Expansion in Hopkins, Hunt, Delta, Wood, Rains, Franklin and Other Counties](#) April 3, 2019 Texas, frontporchnewstexas.co

... Texas Parks and Wildlife is expanding doe days in 20 counties from four to 16 days ... after several years of whitetail population growth within these ecoregions, combined with a relatively conservative doe harvest...

[Texas Legislature considers a mix of outdoors-related bills](#) March 16, 2019 Houston Chronicle

... HB 3396 introduced by Cyrier and SB 733, jointly sponsored by Sen. Charles Perry, R-Lubbock, and Sen. Pete Flores, R-Pleasanton — would allow the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department to charge a fee for participation in the agency's Managed Lands Deer Program...

[Drought-Proofing Mule Deer Herds in Texas](#) March 14, 2019 Texas, Land.com

... the Lone Star State is also home to roughly 200,000 mule deer. The Trans-Pecos region supports the highest number ... what we can do to “drought-proof” these mule deer herds? The simple equation to the solution involves water, appropriate grazing practices, predator control and supplemental feed...

[Texas Parks and Wildlife Proposes Hunting and Fishing Changes for 2019-2020](#)

February 21, 2019 News/Talk 790 KFYO... In Lynn County, a new mule deer restriction ... "An experimental 20-inch minimum antler spread restriction ... implementation and expansion of white-tailed deer “doe days,” ... Public comments concerning the proposed changes can be [made online through March 19, 2019](#) ...

## 2018

[Axis deer from India first brought to Texas in 1932](#) December 23, 2018 Texas, San Angelo Standard Times

... In 1932, the first axis deer were introduced into Texas [from India], and they flourished. It has been estimated that the current statewide population is well over 15,000 free-roaming individuals. Most ... within the confines of the Edwards Plateau ...

[Dawning of deer season brings anticipation](#) October 27, 2018 Texas, The Dallas Morning News

... nearly 45 percent of the buck harvest over the last five years were 3 1/2- to 4 1/2-year-old animals, and close to 20 percent were age 5 1/2 or older ... antler restriction regulations currently in place in 117 counties have helped to improve the buck age structure... [TPWD estimates for eastern Texas 220,000 and 284,000 over the last five years, about 2.6 million in Edward's Plateau] ...

[Deer breeding, hunting impacts Texas economy by \\$1.6 billion annually](#) November 11, 2018 The Victoria Advocate

... combining breeding and hunting, is \$1.6 billion annually, according to a study released by the Texas Deer Association. The number of permitted deer breeding facilities in the state also increased from 946 in 2006 to 1,257 in 2016...

[Fawn Time](#) July 13, 2018 Texas, KVEO-TV

... It promises to be a very good year for fawn survival in deep South Texas as ranchlands have had sufficient rainfall to provide adequate cover for the newborns to conceal themselves and plenty of vegetation for them to browse...

[Texas Deer Hunting Season Opens Saturday, Fewer Deer Likely](#) October 30, 2018 NBC DFW ·

... With plenty of vegetation, deer may not be seeking out corn feeders ... An abundance of new plant growth flooding the Texas landscape with green in the aftermath of the recent storms ...

[How Does Toxic Bait Affect Deer](#) February 2, 2018 Texas, Bowhunting

... The U.S. Food and Drug Administration does not allow feeds testing more than 20 parts per billion of aflatoxins to be fed to dairy cattle or in grain products chosen for human consumption... grains exceeding those toxicity levels can be sold as wildlife feeds ... Texas A&M researchers tested 100 samples of such feeds, they found 44 percent contained aflatoxins exceeding 20 parts per billion, and 20 percent were at 100 parts per billion and higher...

[Longer whitetail deer season in North Zone shot down](#) March 24, 2018 Texas, Chron.com

... Citing potential conflicts between quail hunters and deer hunters in some counties in the quail-rich Rolling Plains, the Commission voted unanimously to reject a proposal that would have set standardized, statewide dates for the general white-tailed deer hunting season...

[Lottery-like public program offers expanded Texas hunting opportunities](#) June 30, 2018 Texas, Chron.com

... the program offered about 4,800 permits and drew just under 50,000 applications. In 2014-15, the program shifted to a wholly online system, saving the agency more than \$100,000 in printing and postal costs ... Application fees for most of the drawings are \$3 or \$10 per person, although a handful of drawings have no application fee. In most cases, successful applicants pay a hunt fee of \$80 to \$130 ...

[Mule deer antler restriction regulation take effect this hunting season](#) September 28, 2018 Texas, Lubbock Avalanche-Journal

... new regulation that will prohibit the harvest of any mule deer buck with a main beam outside spread of less than 20 inches. The goal of the regulation is to improve buck age structure by reducing excessive hunting pressure on younger bucks...

[Mule deer easily mistaken for white-tailed cousins](#) December 30, 2018 Texas, San Angelo Standard Times

... mule deer ... As late as the 1940's ... could only be observed spottily in the counties west of the Pecos River, in three counties of the Texas Panhandle and was absent entirely from the Edwards Plateau. This decline in the population was due primarily to overharvesting and extended drought conditions...

[Pests got upper hand during Hurricane Harvey](#) July 8, 2018 Texas, Brownsville Herald

... The swarms of mosquitoes, primarily the salt marsh variety, were so thick that hundreds of white-tailed deer died from asphyxiation after breathing in thousands of mosquitoes which obstructed their respiratory passages...

[Ranchers hope to eradicate disease carrying tick from Federal Land](#) January 24, 2018 Texas, North Texas e-News

... the environmental assessment proposes the use of ivermectin-treated corn for white-tailed deer treatment. A previous study conducted by USDA found negligible effects on the environment, and the medicated corn will kill ticks on white-tailed deer, one of the three major hosts for the tick. The treatment will not only improve the health of the deer population, but will prevent the deer from spreading ticks to adjacent properties...

[Recent Rains Provide Boost for Deer, New Challenges for Bowhunters](#) September 26, 2018 Texas, El Paso Herald-Post

... exceptional rainfall in September that has created a giant food plot of native forage across the state," said Alan Cain, TPWD whitetail deer program leader... a robust white-tailed deer population of about 4.6 million ...

[Texas Crop and Weather Report](#) September 25, 2018 Texas, AgriLife Today

... Drought conditions throughout much of the state this summer likely will mean lower wildlife numbers ... deer, quail and turkey numbers would likely be affected..,

[October Deer](#) October 5, 2018 Texas, KVEO-TV

... Bountiful rains have the South Texas wildlands lush with greenery ... Fawn survival has been exceptional this year, as there was thick habitat to hide in when fawns were young, and does were able to produce plenty of milk..,

[Good year for deer, thanks to bountiful rainfall](#) October 10, 2018 Texas, Wilson County News

... Texas has nearly 4.6 million deer, dispersed over most of the state, according to Cain's TPWD surveys... the Hill Country, has the most, around 2.6 million ... Areas

around Mason, Llano, and neighboring counties have the highest density. A good fawn crop in 2015 and ... 2013 ...

[Average white-tailed deer season expected across state](#) October 24, 2018 Texas, Texas Farm Bureau

... a good mesquite bean crop and a Texas persimmon crop in the southern areas of the state may have helped deer get through some of the dry times. There's plenty of white-tailed deer to pursue across the state, Cain said, noting the state's white-tailed deer population is estimated to be around 4.6 million..,

[Promising deer season starts Saturday in Texas](#) November 2, 2018 Abilene Reporter-News

... some 900,000 deer hunters in Texas ... 61 percent of them bagged at least a deer [last year] ... Texas is home to the largest herd of white-tailed deer, around 4.6 million, up from 4.2 million last year...

[2018 Texas Deer Forecast](#) November 5, 2018 Game & Fish

... "The statewide deer population is going to be right around that 4.3 million to 4.6 million range. If you look at statewide trends, it's slowly creeping up each year," [Alan Cain, the whitetail program leader] ... "It really has just been an inconsistent year for rainfall statewide... good fawn crops in 2010 and 2013 ...,

[A rainy fall has helped the Texas deer season](#) December 6, San Antonio Express-News

... both antler development and body weights of white-tailed deer bucks and does are above average ... the deer will have plenty of forage and water going into the winter after the rut and that could set us up for a really good season next year [Alan Cain, statewide program coordinator for white-tailed deer] ..,

[Heavy rains a gain for wildlife, a short-term pain for hunters](#) January 2, 2019 Texas, Houston Chronicle

... a four-months-and-counting siege of rains ... a flush of cool-season forbs and other vegetation that deer, turkey, quail and other wildlife need to maintain and build body conditions through the rest of winter..,

[Texas' deer population would welcome good soaking](#) June 16, 2018 Houston Chronicle

... After a stretch of three — four, in some regions — consecutive years of adequate, abundant and often way-too-abundant rainfall, Texas has hit a dry spell... flooding inundated hundreds of thousands of acres of prime bottomland deer habitat .... Fawn survival in some pockets of East Texas was 25 percent or even lower ...

[Fawn Time](#) July 13, 2018 Texas, KVEO-TV

... It promises to be a very good year for fawn survival in deep South Texas as ranchlands have had sufficient rainfall to provide adequate cover for the newborns to conceal themselves and plenty of vegetation for them to browse...

[Texas eyes changes to deer hunting season](#) January 4, 2018

... considering extending the general deer season in the North Zone by an additional two weeks ... since bucks start shedding their antlers in late January and early February in Texas ... might potentially result in some hunters accidentally shooting bucks that have shed their antlers after mistaking them for does...

[Texas looking at new antler restrictions for mule deer](#) January 24, 2018 MultiBriefs Exclusive

... According to TPWD mule deer program director Shawn Gray, the mule deer herd in the southeastern portion of the Texas Panhandle is in rough shape. Specifically, the mule deer herd has far too few bucks 3.5 years of age or older and a skewed doe-to-buck ratio of around 6 to 1. TPWD thinks these problems are the result of hunters harvesting too many young bucks...

[Texas to test mule deer antler restrictions starting this fall](#) June 6, 2018 MultiBriefs Exclusive

... The overall health of the mule deer population in the Texas Panhandle has been in decline for the past few years. In an attempt to reverse this trend, the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) has instituted antler restrictions for mule deer season in six Panhandle counties starting this fall...

[TPWD seeking public input on changes to mule deer regulations](#) February 22, 2018 Texas, Amarillo.com

... would prohibit the harvest of any buck mule deer with a less than 20-inch outside spread of the main beams. The goal is to allow younger bucks to mature after an excessive harvest of mule deer bucks over the years skewed the sex ratio and age structure of the herd ...

[When Whitetail and Mule Deer Clash](#) November 16, 2018 Texas, fishgame.com

... "Where [mule deer](#) and white-tailed deer coexist, interbreeding does occur. The long-term effects are unknown, and for most areas, the extent of hybridization is not known. The highest incidence of hybridization in the Trans-Pecos ... estimated that up to 15 percent of deer may be hybrids where both species occupy the same range...

# 2017

[2017 Texas Deer Forecast](#) September 21, 2017 gameandfishmag.com

... The overall population trend remains stable in most areas of Texas ... Our deer population estimate statewide was **about 4.2 million in 2016** and that figure has been growing slightly every year. The trend is going up and has been going up for a while ...

[Biologists awaiting numbers on 10-year antler study](#) January 26, 2017 Texas, Athens Daily Review

... antler restrictions are now in effect in more than 100 East Texas counties ... plenty of hard evidence now exists to support the theory that antler restrictions have helped improved the age structure of the region's buck herd ... Biologists also believed ... that would ultimately put more fawns on the ground at close to the same time ... less the risk of losing big numbers to predation...

Antler restrictions, [ET \[East Texas\] hunters reminded of the 13-inch rule as 2017 deer season busts wide open](#) November 5, 2017 Texas, Lufkin Daily News

...Antler restrictions were first implemented as a experiment in the early 2000s in six southeast Texas counties. Since that time the regulation has been expanded to more than 100 East Texas counties... two bucks per season. One of the bucks must have an inside spread of 13 inches or more, while the second must be a spike or have at least one unbranched antler...

[Longer white-tail deer season in North Zone among rule changes being discussed](#) November 4, 2017 Texas, Chron.com

... Under the preliminary proposal, in Briscoe, Hall, Childress, Floyd, Motley, and Cottle counties, a legal mule-deer buck would be defined as one with an outside antler spread of 20 inches or more ,,The antler-restriction rule is similar to one TPWD has used to great effect to protect young whitetail bucks and improve herd structure and average age of bucks taken by hunters...

[How to Properly Cull the Herd — Part I](#) March 15, 2017 Texas, North American Whitetail Magazine

... Making bucks with an outside spread of under 14 inches off limits resulted in nearly all yearlings being protected. It also protected many 2 1/2-year-olds. Over time, the rule

increased the number of older bucks. In the quarter-century since, modified forms of this strategy have found their way into use across much of North America...

[Big Bend Mule Deer Restoration Effort Advancing](#) March 22, 2017 Texas, Texas Trophy Hunters Association

... To boost a struggling mule deer population in parts of the Big Bend region of far West Texas, wildlife personnel relocated 98 does... to the Black Gap Wildlife WMA and adjacent El Carmen Land ...

[Bowhunting Season For Deer And Turkey Starts Sept. 30](#) September 26, 2017 Texas, Patch.com

... white-tailed deer in Texas have fared well in recent years with a stable population of about 4.3 million, according to Alan Cain, TPWD whitetail deer program leader... the summer for much the state, 2017 saw dry weather patterns take hold in May and continue into late August..,

[The dos and don'ts of deer hunting season in Texas](#) October 29, 2017 Dallas News ... average to above-average numbers of deer harvested, according to Alan Cain ... habitat conditions, which were good when 2017 began. About May, the weather pattern turned dry in most of the state... Last year's estimate was 4.3 million deer ... Cain said there are similar numbers, if not more, this season..,

[Hunters Out in Force as Deer Season Begins](#) October 31, 2017 Texas, The Picayune ... According to the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, the state's estimated 4.3 million white-tailed deer are continuing to do well in most regions. "The vast majority of the state had good habitat conditions going into last winter and early spring ... The summer months brought a mix of dry conditions ...,

[Texas' deer hunting season looks inviting](#) November 2, 2017 Chron ... Texas holds an estimated 4.2 million whitetails ... as bucks age, their antlers tend to grow larger, often peaking somewhere between 5 1/2 and 6 1/2 years, then going downhill as the bucks, which seldom live to 10 years ...,

[Expect another high harvest season in Hill Country, South Texas](#) November 2, 2017 Texas, San Antonio Express-News

... "We had good weather conditions into late winter, which set the stage for a good spring with green weeds and good forage available from February to May," Cain said. "It dried up a little in July and August in parts of South Texas ...,

[Texas wildlife officials worry deadly disease could shrink deer population](#) November 24, 2017 Dallas News

... Perry wrote Senate Bill 720, which lawmakers passed during this year's legislative session, to help the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department curb chronic wasting disease ... The state had 4.3 million white-tailed deer last year, and the department estimated there would be the same amount this year..,

[Woods, Water, & Wildlife: Deer Season Happenings](#) December 14, 2017 Texas, Freestonecountytimesonline

... I contacted Alan Cain, TPWD ... expected an average year for quality of deer harvested (meaning antlers and body weights), and an above-average year for the number of deer harvested. That last part meant that Texas had plenty of deer – over four million ...,

[Central Texas could see banner year for hunting](#) October 28, 2017 Waco Tribune-Herald

... “Deer populations in Central Texas made it through last year’s mild winter in good condition, and had abundant food resources due to early spring rains,” ... area has enjoyed 3 years of above-average rainfall.

[East Texas landowner revamps property for deer, ducks and bass](#) February 15, 2017 Lone Star Outdoor News

... “There were fair numbers of deer when I bought the place ... But the quality of bucks was really bad ... quickly learned he had 10 does for every buck, and with help from biologists, permits were obtained, the doe population was reduced, and the quality of animals increased tenfold... “Now, the ratio is 1.5 does for every buck, and the average buck ranges from the high 140s to 160...

[Compressed air powers unique deer supplement system](#) September 14, 2017 Texas, San Antonio Express-News

... the feeder holds up to 650 pounds of feed and is designed to fire food out and away from the tube-shoot ... using galvanized steel and a long shoot tube, the feeder is “coon-proof, hog-proof, mud-proof, wind-proof, cattle-proof and fool-proof,”...

[Deer census a key step in permit process, population control](#) September 23, 2017 Texas, MyStatesman.com

... Our buck-doe ratio has stayed pretty much 1-1,” he says, “and we want to keep it that way. Plus we want to reduce our numbers to try to get our population closer to a

deer to 6-7 acres.” ... MLDPs [Managed Lands Deer Permits] have become a popular way to extend hunting seasons and allow landowners room to take deer when they see them ...

[Dietary Supplementation Strategies for the Captive White-tailed \(Odocoileus virginianus\) Breeding Doe](#) AM Adams - 2017

... Overall, breeding does receiving the phytogetic nutritional supplement in their diet consumed more feed, gained BW and exhibited increased RFS during the 84-day observation period. Results of these experiments indicate that nutritional supplements may improve performance in captive deer, but further research is needed to determine the most effective supplement type during different seasons and their impact on stress...

[EVEN BAMBI IS A TRADE SECRET: Eastern District Of Texas Finds That Lineage and Genetic Information of Deer Are Trade Secrets, Grants Preliminary Injunction](#) July 28, 2017 Texas, JD Supra (

... the deer farming industry generates \$3 billion per year for the U.S. economy... Companies that maintain deer registries can provide their customers information about a deer's lineage and genetic information... NADR hired DNAS to process the genetic information of various deer, perform genetic matching services, and host a database ...

[Exotics provide unlimited opportunities!](#)October 16, 2017 Texas, KENS 5 TV

... Axis deer were brought into Texas, from India in 1932. Most were kept on high fence ranches, but of course eventually some escaped. Since then they have spread throughout 45 counties ...

[Hagerman conducts aerial hog hunt](#)December 9, 2017 Texas, Sherman Denison Herald Democrat

... feral hogs are not native to North America ... oak and hickory acorns are a staple of the feral swine diet, reducing the overall availability of food for native species like wild turkeys, white-tailed deer ...

[Local geography still producing healthy deer populations](#) December 16, 2017 Texas, Waco Tribune-Herald

... Central Texas wildlife biologist Josh Sears says ... habitat in and around the Middle Bosque ... diverse terrain in close proximity to farmland encompasses a mosaic of micro-ecosystems along that drainage basin well suited for maximum growth potential ...

[Majestic felines subsist chiefly on deer, porcupines](#) October 8, 2017 Texas, San Angelo Standard-Times

... adult Mountain Lions superficially resemble the lions of the Old World, though it is more closely related to the domesticated house cat... numerous studies have shown that the vast majority of their diet (82 percent!) consists of Mule and White-tailed Deer...

[Wild Pig Numbers Exploding in Texas](#) March 23, 2017 KBTX

... "Wild pigs are the most prolific large animal that we have out on the landscape today, and they can outbreed any other native deer or exotic deer that we have out there. So they're actually driving some populations of wildlife in the opposite direction as they continue to climb." ...

## 2016

[Abilene wildlife biologist says game should look like 2015](#) September 11, 2016 Texas, ReporterNews.com

"We had an excellent whitetail fawn crop and with the spring rains are experiencing high survival rates," ... The drought of 2011 and 2012 is still having a major effect on overall quality of large bucks. Cheaper alternatives to lease hunting September 15, 2016 Texas, Huntsville Item

... I've got several friends and acquaintances who routinely plop down \$7,000 or more in annual lease dues alone... there were more than 38,000 public hunting permits sold statewide last year. The permit sales generated around \$1.8 million in revenue for deposit into the department's general fund...  
er bucks...

Antler Restrictions, [Abilene wildlife biologist says game should look like 2015](#) September 11, 2016 Texas, ReporterNews.com

"We had an excellent whitetail fawn crop and with the spring rains are experiencing high survival rates," ... The drought of 2011 and 2012 is still having a major effect on overall quality of larger bucks...

[At least no new fees await on Monday as hunting, fishing licenses go on sale](#) August 13, 2016 Texas, Dallas Morning News

... no new fees or fee increases this year... About 98 percent of Texas is private property. The wildlife belongs to all Texas citizens, but the division of land is not so equitable... The last estimate of Texas deer hunters was roughly 600,000 ...

[Cheaper alternatives to lease hunting](#) September 15, 2016 Texas, Huntsville Item

... I've got several friends and acquaintances who routinely plop down \$7,000 or more in annual lease dues alone... there were more than 38,000 public hunting permits sold statewide last year. The permit sales generated around \$1.8 million in revenue for deposit into the department's general fund...

[Collisions between cars and animals rise in Texas](#) September 15, 2016 Texas, Fort Worth Star Telegram

... State Farm reported 1.25 million crashes involving deer, elk and moose nationwide between July 1, 2014 and June 30, 2015, including 52,000 such crashes in Texas... nationally more than a third of claims related to animal collisions occur during the fall, and the number of incidents increased 2 percent in 2015 compared to the year before...

[Video](#)

[Texas drivers face increased odds of deer collisions](#) September 18, 2016 KTBS

... The odds Texas drivers will hit a deer in the coming year are 1 in 288, which is a lower risk than the rest of the nation, but 3 percent higher than last year...

[Combination food plots can attract deer year-round](#) September 5, 2016 Texas, Phys

... The combination of winter-hardy oats, iron and clay cowpeas and arrowleaf clover works well in any area that receives 35 inches or more of rainfall each year, specifically in East Texas, Higginbotham said. Cowpeas grow quickly when planted in September when moisture is available. Sprouts are an immediate attractor for deer...

# Commission Approves Changes to Deer Hunting Regulations for 2016-17

AUSTIN – The Texas Parks and Wildlife Commission adopted a suite of changes to this year's deer hunting regulations that includes expanding white-tailed deer hunting into 14

counties across the western Panhandle, and creating additional deer hunting opportunities in East Texas.

The Commission adopted the following changes to the 2016-17 Statewide Hunting Proclamation, the details of which will be incorporated into this year's Texas Parks and Wildlife Department Outdoor Annual:

- Elimination of the Antlerless and Spike-buck Control Permit due to lack of demand;
- Define “unbranched antlered deer” to clarify what constitutes a legal buck across seasons and to alleviate confusion among hunters, and replace the “Special Late Antlerless and Spike-buck Season” with a “Special Late Season” to accommodate the inclusion of “unbranched antlered deer” in the bag limit;
- Allow the take of antlerless deer without a permit on certain U.S. Forest Service Lands during youth-only seasons;
- Clarify that white-tailed antlerless deer harvest during the archery-only season does not require a permit and harvest of antlerless deer during youth seasons is restricted to persons 16 years of age and younger including on properties issued Level 1 Managed Lands Deer (MLD) Permits;
- Implement both a general and special archery-only season for white-tailed deer in Andrews, Bailey, Castro, Cochran, Gaines, Hale, Hockley, Lamb, Lubbock, Lynn, Parmer, Terry and Yoakum counties, with a bag limit of three deer (no more than one buck and no more than two antlerless), which is identical to adjoining/nearby counties that currently have a season.
- Implement both a general and special archery-only season for white-tailed deer in Winkler County, with a bag limit of three deer (no more than one buck and no more than two antlerless, with the take of antlerless deer restricted to the archery-only season or properties issued MLDP antlerless tags). The new season is identical to adjoining/nearby counties that currently have a season.
- Establish four “doe days” (time periods in when antlerless deer may be taken without a permit in parts of the state where antlerless harvest regulations are

conservative) in Bell (east of IH35), Burleson, Ellis, Falls, Freestone, Kaufman, Limestone, Milam, Navarro and Williamson (east of IH35) counties;

- Increase the number of doe days to 16 in Anderson, Brazos, Camp, Gregg, Grimes, Henderson, Lamar, Leon, Madison, Morris, Red River, Robertson and Upshur counties; and
- implement a muzzleloader-only late season in Anderson, Bell (East of IH 35), Brazos, Burleson, Comal (East of IH 35), Delta, Ellis, Fannin, Falls, Franklin, Freestone, Grimes, Hays (East of IH 35), Henderson, Hopkins, Hunt, Kaufman, Lamar, Leon, Limestone, Madison, Milam, Navarro, Rains, Red River, Robertson, Smith, Titus, Travis (East of IH 35), Van Zandt, Williamson (East of IH 35), and Wood counties.

[Commission Approves Changes to Deer Hunting Regulations for 2016-17](#) March 29, 2016 Texas, Texas Parks & Wildlife Department

The Commission adopted the following changes to the 2016-17 Statewide Hunting Proclamation, the details of which will be incorporated into this year's Texas Parks and Wildlife Department Outdoor Annual: Elimination of the Antlerless and Spike-buck Control Permit due to lack of demand; Define "unbranched antlered deer" to clarify what constitutes a legal buck across seasons ... Allow the take of antlerless deer without a permit on certain U.S. Forest Service Lands during youth-only seasons

[Commission OKs changes to deer hunting rules for 2016-17](#) August 8, 2016 Texas, San Angelo Standard-Times

... includes expanding white-tailed deer hunting into 14 counties across the western Panhandle, and creating additional deer hunting opportunities in East Texas...  
Elimination of the Antlerless and Spike-buck Control Permit because of demand ...  
Increase the number of doe days ...

[Commission OKs changes to deer hunting rules for 2016-17](#) August 8, 2016 Texas, San Angelo Standard-Times

... includes expanding white-tailed deer hunting into 14 counties across the western Panhandle, and creating additional deer hunting opportunities in East Texas...  
Elimination of the Antlerless and Spike-buck Control Permit because of demand ...  
Increase the number of doe days ...

[Elk brought back after being hunted to extinction in state](#) June 25, 2016 Texas, San Angelo Standard Times

... Historically, elk could be observed throughout the Trans-Pecos and western Panhandle regions of Texas ... hunted to extinction in this state by the turn of the 20th century... in the late 1920s, Judge J.C. Hunter transported more than 40 Elk from North Dakota and subsequently released them into the Guadalupe Mountains...

[Good acorn crop could be bad for East Texas hunters](#) November 2, 2016 Texas, AgriLife Today

... the 2011 drought resulted in extremely low fawn crops. Deer typically enter prime antler maturity at age 5, which means hunters will likely see fewer mature bucks of that year class to harvest. But antler restrictions in effect in East Texas counties have produced positive results for all hunters ...

[Hunters battle harmful exotic deer](#) February 18, 2016 Texas, Denton Record-Chronicle

... Park officials said axis deer are so common at Garner State Park and South Llano River State Park that the agency is conducting a pilot program using professional shooters to kill the spotted deer at night and sell the meat for restaurant consumption...“Our biological carrying capacity is 16 acres per deer,” [*40 deer per square mile*] ...

[Hunting follows oil industry downturn](#) December 18, 2016 Texas, Houston Chronicle

... a classic supply-demand problem has hit the hunting industry. Prices for hunts have plummeted this year. Outfitters and ranchers blame the fortunes of the downtrodden oil industry, whose spending accounts in rich years send executives and clients on corporate hunts...

[Hunting license fees can be high, but there is a cheaper alternative](#) July 31, 2016 Texas, Dallas Morning News

... A single hunting spot on a high-quality deer lease may cost \$15,000 and up. These are well-managed, well-known ranches, mostly in South Texas ... Drawn hunts are like playing the lottery except your chances of winning are much higher... public hunting program ... fees are \$3 to \$10 ...

[Hunting regulation changes proposed for area counties](#) February 26, 2015 Texas, Rress Reporter ·

... According to information from TPWD, the background behind the proposal is that the staff has received requests to open a white-tailed deer season in several counties in the western panhandle...

[Is the Whitetail Rut Happening Now? Yes, in September!](#) September 8, 2016 Texas, fishgame.com

... there were distinct rutting periods in different parts of the state... for the Gulf Prairies and Marshes. “The earliest whitetail breeding in the state occurred in this ecological region. Breeding occurred in the period August 24 to November 25... The majority (90%) of the fawns would have been born by May 10 in the northern area and by June 6 in the southern area ...

[New Kling Ranch 8-foot fence forces unnatural wildlife and foliage patterns, affects highway safety ...](#) January 8, 2016 Texas, Nueces County Record Star

... the negative impact an 8 foot fence may cause on foliage patterns of white tail deer and other South Texas game could possibly generate serious issues for all ... stopped all North/South wildlife movement along CR 2508 ...

[Partners Continue Mule Deer Restoration Effort in the Big Bend](#) March 10, 2016 Texas, Texas Parks and Wildlife

In a continued effort to boost a struggling mule deer population in parts of the Big Bend region of far West Texas, 75 female mule deer were recently relocated from Elephant Mountain Wildlife Management Area ... Partners involved in this important project include the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD), ECLCC, Borderlands Research Institute at Sul Ross State University ... [video](#)

[Sixth white-tail deer diagnosed with chronic wasting disease](#) February 5, 2016 Texas, San Antonio Express-News

... a deer raised and harvested on a ranch in Medina and Uvalde counties has tested positive for chronic wasting disease, the sixth case ... The discovery of the disease in captive-bred white-tail deer aggravated a rift between the state's 1,300 deer breeders, who hold about 160,000 deer on fenced ranches, and other outdoor enthusiasts ...

[Spring's heavy rains help, hinder wildlife in Texas](#) July 16, 2016 Texas, Houston Chronicle

... For the second consecutive year, a mild, wet winter and wet spring produced a flush of vegetation... should be an average or above-average year for fawn production. Abundant forage meant does maintained good body condition through pregnancies ... Heavy, flooding rains hit parts of Texas early in fawning season, and biologists suspect some fawns might have been lost to flooding...

[Texas adopts liberalized hunting, fishing rules for 2016-17](#) March 26, 2016 Chron.com

... Increasing deer densities and significantly skewed doe/buck ratios in the state's Post Oak Savannah region triggered state wildlife managers to recommend liberalization of

antlerless deer-harvest rules in 23 counties and portions of two others ... Under the rule change, any buck with at least one unbranched antler will be considered legal game during the antlerless/spike season...

[Texas bowhunters can expect tougher conditions this deer season](#) September 28, 2016 Chron.com

... A mild, wet winter was followed by one of wettest spring and summer Texas has seen in decades, with some stretches seeing more rain than any similar time in a century or more. That abundance of rain triggered an explosion of vegetation that provided deer with a bumper crop of forbes and browse ... "There's just an incredible amount of cover out there, " ...

[Texas Parks and Wildlife Department adds 'doe days' to allow hunters to help control sex ratio of deer populations](#) April 3, 2016 Bryan-College Station Eagle

... TPWD added four "doe days" in Burleson and Milam counties ... The harvest of antlerless deer in these counties was previously only permitted by a special permit ... "As the [deer] population grows and the sex ratio gets out of whack, we will open up doe days to help address some of those problems." ...

[Three charged with white-tailed deer importation](#) April 28, 2016 Texas, Jackson Clarion Ledger

... Durrett owns and operates a 9,000-acre enclosed ranch in Stonewall County, Texas. According to the indictment, deer were moved from Durrett's ranch to Dewayne Slade's enclosure, "...for the purpose of breeding and killing trophy white-tailed buck deer." ...

[TPWD keeps tabs on statewide deer population](#) August 6, 2016 Texas, Texas All Outdoors official logo

... a growth spurt since the 2011 drought. The upward trend shows the total population at an estimated 4 million animals. The bulk of Texas' deer are in the Edwards Plateau or

Hill Country where TPWD counts put the population at more than 2.2 million. The Cross Timbers region of Northcentral Texas has an estimated 600,000-plus deer followed by the Post Oak region with more than 400,000 and the Pineywoods with over 260,000..

[TPWD Reports Great 'Opening' to Deer Hunting Season](#) October 7, 2016

Texas Hill Country

... the whitetail deer number in Texas has grown to 4 million and continues to increase. The highest whitetail deer population is in the Texas Hill Country Edwards plateau with "2.27 million deer estimated in the area in 2015 and will most likely increase in 2016 due to a higher fawn crop," ...

[Deer season: great expectations for Texas hunters](#) November 2, 2016 Houston

Chronicle

... Texas consistently leads the nation in size of its deer herd (more than 4 million whitetails) and number of deer hunters (as many as 750,000 could go afield this year) and the number of deer taken (an average of 576,000 over the past 16 seasons) ... rain fueled a flush of vegetation across Texas, from the Panhandle to South Texas, the Trans-Pecos to the Pineywoods and all regions between ...

[TPWD proposes expansion of doe days](#) February 14, 2016 Texas, Tyler Morning

Telegraph

... The biologist said that while some individual landowners may not buy in, it is the best way for the department to meet its goals of managing the deer herd on a large scale basis. And while not every property has seen an increase in deer numbers, they are up substantially across the region. [East Texas] ...

[TPWD regs centered on Sabine River bass, East Texas deer](#) February 12, 2016 Texas,

Texas Examiner

... Due to a lack of demand, the department is seeking to eliminate the antlerless and spike-buck control permit. TPWD staffers are also proposing to create a definition of

“unbranched antlered deer” for the purpose of identifying a legal buck across seasons and to alleviate confusion among hunters ...

[Banned in Texas](#) August 12, 2016 texasstandard.org

... Wildlife is a public trust resource, meaning that wildlife generally speaking in this country and in North America are owned by the public ... Once we go down the path of legalizing the sale of venison, that’s de facto livestock ... Greg Simons, former president of the Texas Wildlife Association ...

## 2015

[2015 Trophy Deer Forecast: Texas](#) October 21, 2015 Game & Fish

... “Habitat conditions have never looked better as a result of the ubiquitous spring precipitation that blanketed the state from the Red River to the Rio Grande,” ... Cain said spring rains and overall rainfall are critical considerations when offering predictions for an upcoming hunting season... The population estimate of 3.95 million deer works out to about 40.51 deer per 1,000 acres.

[An objective look at deer hunting in Texas](#) April 20, 2015 Waxahachie Daily Light

... Deer herds across the state were all but eliminated during the first half of the past century by meat hunting and lack of laws that regulated management and harvested. In the fifties and sixties, restocking programs occurred and deer were once again reintroduced to areas where they had once thrived... Deer breeding today is all about improving the overall quality of the herd which in turn, produces bigger bucks with bigger antlers...

[Antlers just the tip of deer debate](#) March 8, 2015 Texas, Houston Chronicle

... There are now more than 1,250 breeders raising an estimated 110,000 deer in Texas, operating with permits issued by Texas Parks and Wildlife Department...

Watching from the sidelines is veterinarian Dan McBride of Burnet, 64, a founding member of the TDA, who said ... "God made the perfect wildlife animal when he made the white-tailed deer," ...

[Attorney In TPWD Lawsuit Hopes To Permanently Change State's Authority Concerning Deer](#) October 6, 2015 Texas, Texas Public Radio

... Right now in Texas, deer and all other free-roaming animals are considered common property for all Texans to enjoy and the state manages and regulates that wildlife on behalf of the people. But a [lawsuit](#) filed by two Texas deer breeders seeks to limit the Texas Parks & Wildlife's rule-making authority...

[Ballot item to ensure hunting, fishing in constitution](#) October 10, 2015 Texas, San Angelo Standard-Times

... Proposition 6 would add a constitutional right to hunt, fish and harvest wildlife — although conservation and security against hunting in populated areas would still be factors... Ashby said 18 other states have protected hunting and fishing as groups have tried to ban certain hunting and fishing...

[Banner Year for Wildlife](#) August 19, 2015 Texas, KGBT-TV

... conditions are drying out fast in the wildlands of southernmost Texas, late winter and early spring rains produced prolific native plant growth providing an abundance of food and cover for whitetail deer ...

[Beyond the water and into the brush](#) November 19, 2015 Texas, Valley morning Star

... Ranchers all over South Texas ... Since the 70's ranchers and hunting lease owners have started and installed highly successful wildlife management programs. These programs have introduced deer species from other states that are bigger and genetically superior to the local strain...

[Big deer year expected across East Texas after wet spring](#) November 1, 2015 Tyler Morning Telegraph

... removing excess deer this year will typically result in better fawn crops next year. “Every year is a year to kill does.,, They are scared they are going to decimate their deer density, but the opposite happens. By knocking down the breeding population you are going to have more groceries available, and are going to have a better fawn crop,” Cain said. [Alan Cain, the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department’s white-tailed deer program leader.]

[Big Time Texas Hunts Winners Announced](#) October 31, 2015 Gilmer Mirror

... All told, 13,478 hunters bought Big Time Texas Hunt entries during this year’s sales period... which generated \$681,407.30 in gross revenue—a seven percent increase from last year’s sales—to support wildlife research, habitat management and public hunting...

[Bullet-train backers meet resistance in rural](#) Texas April 12, 2015 Texas, Corsicana Daily Sun

... Commissioners in nine counties along the route, who've recently passed resolutions against the plan, fear being railroaded into a project that will wreck land values, ruin the deer hunting and leave taxpayers holding the bag...

[Captive Deer Hunting Operations Under Scrutiny In Rural America](#) January 22, 2015 Texas, International Business Times

Some farmers in rural America have taken to flipping their land from growing crops to breeding whitetail deer for a lucrative hunting business that some wildlife officials are cracking down on... “We feel we are approaching a \$1 billion industry,” says Chase Clark, president of the Texas Deer Association ... About half of states already prohibit deer from being sold across borders ...

[Coping with South Texas summers — How deer deal with the heat](#) April 9, 2015 Lone Star Outdoor News

... They don't have sweat glands ... They can pant, but that involves a loss of water and South Texas summers are often short on water... two main ways ... through decreased movement and the other by picking cooler spots on the landscape ...

[Deer Breeding takes the Big Country](#) September 29, 2015 Texas, Big Country Homepage

... Four years ago the ranch began a scientific breeder operation that boasts close to 200 deer. "We raise genetically superior animals with the intentions of releasing them out onto the ranch itself to bring a genetic quality up with the existing heard," said deer breeder Steve Castille...

[Deer GPS Study Shows How Whitetail Bucks Really Travel During the Rut](#) November 16, 2015 Texas, Outdoor Life Magazine

...Dr. Aaron Foley and his colleagues spent five years tagging and tracking bucks in South Texas... bucks typically followed one of three behavioral patterns ... about 60 percent ... had two or three focal areas where he would intensively search for does for 4 to 6 hours ... About 30 percent ... spent all their time intensely searching in one area...

[Deer Hunting in East Texas boosts the economy](#) December 2, 2015 Texas, KYTX

...Larry LeBeau is a wildlife biologist for Texas Parks and Wildlife. He says deer hunting has the biggest effect on the Texas economy. It's a \$2.1 billion industry ...

[Deer Season 2015: The Year to Kill Your Biggest Buck Ever](#) September 2, 2015 Texas, Field and Stream

... It started in fall 2010: An epic drought that has plagued the south central region. During 2011, 2012 and 2013 seasons, fawn recruitment was low to non-existent, there was mortality of adult deer and antler size was average at best. The landscape across

Texas, New Mexico, and Oklahoma's deer country looked like some catastrophic moonscape...

[Deer season winds down this weekend](#) January 1, 2015 Texas, Longview News-Journal  
... Texas has 256 counties and all but 18 have some type of deer season. Some are shorter, some are longer ...The Texas Parks and Wildlife Department conducts surveys and counts throughout key time periods to determine any proposals or recommendations for changes...

[Don't neglect deer feeding program](#) February 12, 2015 Texas, Longview News-Journal  
... a good basic feeding program will act as the fertilizer to help your deer and deer herd grow. Supplemental feeding coupled with planting is the best strategy ... A mineral feeding station is another good idea. Some areas may benefit from an artificial watering ...

[Exotic animals thrive on ranches in Texas, Oklahoma](#) August 10, 2015 Theadaneews  
... Some ranches are designed for tourists... there are now more barasingha (an animal from India known as a swamp deer) and scimitar-horned oryx (a North African antelope) roaming local fields than left in their native countries ...

[General deer season closes; muzzleloader season opens Monday](#) December 31, 2015 Texas, Longview News-Journal  
... The accuracy and range effectiveness has improved tremendously and these guns are no longer close range only. Although a 300-yard shot is still not advisable or ethical, a good muzzleloader is lights out in the 100-yard range...

[Grazing cattle to boost whitetail deer numbers](#) April 29, 2015 Texas, Bryan College Station Eagle Theeagle  
... Mob grazing involves moving cattle at least daily between small paddocks, sized to match the number of grazing cattle, and split by portable electric fence ... The goal is for every plant in the grazing cell to be either eaten or walked on and trampled... I can say that mob grazing of cattle has improved deer habitat," ...

[Groundbreaking Deer Research At Texas A&M Kingsville](#) August 21, 2015 Kiii3 News  
... There is a unique research program going on over at Texas A&M Kingsville. It's an experiment to see whether deer eat better and are healthier if they are raised in an air conditioned environment...

[Groundbreaking Deer Research At Texas A&M Kingsville](#) August 21, 2015 Kiii3 News  
... There is a unique research program going on over at Texas A&M Kingsville. It's an experiment to see whether deer eat better and are healthier if they are raised in an air conditioned environment...

[Harvest now to protect deer population](#) November 12, 2015 Texas, Denton Record-Chronicle  
... As the season progresses, deer become more skittish because of hunting pressure. Those who avoid doe harvesting until late in the season often fail to fulfill their management objectives. Every county that has a deer season allows some harvesting of female deer, though rules vary by county....

[Hunting in Texas: Regulations for Hunting With Dogs](#) November 12, 2015 Texas, Newsmax  
... The assistance of dogs is prohibited in the hunting of deer throughout the state of Texas. There are limited counties in which a limit of two dogs are permitted to assist in tracking a "wounded deer," ...

[Influence of white-tailed deer population density on vegetation standing crop in a semiarid environment](#) BL Crider, TE Fulbright, DG Hewitt, CA Deyoung... Texas, - The Journal of Wildlife ..., 2015...

Diet selection theory predicts that selective foraging by white-tailed deer (*Odocoileus virginianus*) may reduce palatable and nutritious plants when high-quality food resources are available or deer densities are high... Variable and limited rainfall had a

more pronounced effect on variation in vegetation standing crop than white-tailed deer foraging regardless of food resource availability or deer density. Vegetation responses were more complex than can be predicted by traditional theory on diet selection in part because of the pronounced effect of variation in rainfall on vegetation standing crop ...

[It's a banner year for wildlife after recent rains](#) July 29, 2015 Texas, Chron

... We're seeing lots of fawns," ... Many of those fawns are twins, a sign of just how good body conditions have been. Most years, a whitetail doe will have a single fawn. In particularly bad years such as during the record-breaking drought and heat of 2011, pregnant does will self-abort and bear no fawns... I wouldn't be surprised if we end up with a fawn crop of 75-80 percent on some well-managed properties ...

[Mast availability impacts wildlife](#) October 11, 2015 Texas, The Register Herald

... When deer in Texas have acorns and scrub brush, they do not have to use the fields for feeding areas. They have food and shelter in the same area... , the amount of food available each year can affect the reproductive success of numerous species which will affect population sizes in following years ...

[Moisture brings hope for deer season](#) November 6, 2015 Texas, Amarillo Globe-News

... A study by the Caesar Kleberg Wildlife Research Institute at Texas A&M-Kingsville found that spring rains explained 70 percent of the year-to-year variability in buck antler size — with wet years making a 20-inch difference in the way that bucks scored...

[Mule Deer Foundation](#) February 5, 2015 Texas, The Fort Stockton Pioneer

... The species has not adapted well to changes in its environment. As urban areas continue to spread at a fast rate and more people build homes in rural settings, mule deer and their habitat will suffer. With interstates expanding and the Texas drought, the species has not been able to adjust, making it crucial for wildlife support to be able to assist ... Emmett Burroughs ... realized that the species was taken for granted...

[Mule Deer Relocated in West Texas to Help Boost Population](#) March 26, 2015 Gilmer Mirror

... TPWD and their partners plan to translocate an additional 100 mule deer to the Black Gap WMA/ECLCC area in 2016, and will continue to monitor their movements, habitat utilization, survival, and causes of mortality through 2017...

[New trend in hunting leases](#) March 23, 2015 Texas, North Texas e-News

... in the late fifties and throughout the sixties, the idea of leasing land for hunting was still a relatively new concept ... Here is the way the new deer lease plan works ... "We have found that most families can only hunt two or three times each season," continued Walker. "Most don't have the leisure time to set up and keep feeders filled, etc... We plant the food plots and keep the feeders going ...

[One of the best deer seasons in years could be in store](#) October 31, 2015 Texas, San Angelo Standard-Times

... the 2014 statewide deer population estimate was 3.95 million deer, the highest estimated population since 2005. Statewide population trends indicate a slow but steady growth in the deer population during the last 10 years. "Although these numbers are from 2014 I would predict the deer population to be about the same if not break the 4 million deer mark for 2015 ...

[Operation Game Thief program a powerful tool for wardens](#) May 17, 2015 Texas, Chron

... The phone calls come steadily throughout the year ... Many are like the one recently made by a Montgomery County resident after finding a deer carcass dumped like so much garbage in the back of a rural subdivision ... called 800-792-4263 as has happened tens of thousands of times since the [Texas Legislature](#) in 1981 created the framework for Operation Game Thief ...

[Outlook calls for big deer when archery season opens](#) Saturday September 27, 2015

Texas, Tyler Morning Telegraph

... "Our surveys this year showed decent fawn crops. Good in some areas, but some areas in the bottoms along the rivers lost their fawn crop. Richland Creek (WMA) lost its fawn crop. They found a number of fawns drowned and dead on the area," ... He explained that the doe attempted to move fawns to safety as East Texas rivers flooded ...

[Outlook promising for Texas deer season](#) October 30, 2015 Texas, Your Houston News

... Although dry conditions returned in July and continued through late October the recent deluge of rain across the state may set the stage for an early winter weed crop and toward the mid to later periods of the hunting season ... Antler growth should be well above average ...

[Post Oak region can produce quality deer](#) April 11, 2015 Texas, Tyler Morning Telegraph

... As more hobbyist become landowners the desire to produce wildlife habitat instead of cattle pastures increases... landowners are going to have to overcome their fear of fire as a management tool as well as use of the bulldozer to thin timber and a disk to encourage native grass and weed growth...

[Proposed laws should be shot down](#) April 10, 2015 Texas, Denton Record-Chronicle

... Under HB 4064, youth hunters during the special youth-only deer season weekends would be exempt from antler restrictions. There are 117 counties with antler restrictions that define a legal buck as a buck with a minimum inside spread of 13 inches or greater. A spike buck or a buck with a spike on one side also is legal in those 117 counties...

[Proposed laws should be shot down](#) April 10, 2015 Texas, Denton Record-Chronicle

... Under HB 4064, youth hunters during the special youth-only deer season weekends would be exempt from antler restrictions. There are 117 counties with antler restrictions

that define a legal buck as a buck with a minimum inside spread of 13 inches or greater. A spike buck or a buck with a spike on one side also is legal in those 117 counties...

[Rain produces growth, boosting deer](#) November 5, 2015 Texas, Denton

Record-Chronicle

... In the Post Oak Savannah region east of Dallas ... research indicates a slow but steady deer population increase since 2008.... In the Rolling Plains north and west of Fort Worth ...deer numbers are recovering after three years of drought. Antlers should be above average ...due to abundant rainfall over much of the region this year... same story in the Piney Woods of East Texas ...

[Deer season giving hunters plenty of reasons to be thankful](#) November 25, 2015 Texas, Chron

... starting this past winter, weather finally gave the land and wildlife a break. After a moderately wet winter and spring, heavy rains, sometimes in record amounts, fell over much of Texas in late spring and early summer, fueling a flush of vegetation that fed and offered cover to deer, quail, turkey and all other wildlife...

[Recovering deer populations give healthy start to hunting season](#) December 4, 2015 Texas, Midland Reporter-Telegram

... The year's drought-busting rains have led to an increased deer population across Texas ... West Texas is home to the mule deer ... With fruitful vegetation and forage growth from the year's abundant rainfall, the animals are expected to bear a more robust body size and antler growth ...

['Wet' whitetail deer season yields mixed results](#) January 2, 2016 Texas, Chron

... With abundant forage, winter survival was higher than normal. Does produced an above-average fawn crop. The wet spring gave bucks plenty of the high-nutrient forbs and browse crucial to antler development. The result was a 2015-16 deer season that

opened with Texas' whitetail herd having grown to an estimated 3.95 million animals, the highest population in a decade...

[Break in drought could mean record deer season](#) October 5, 2016 Texas, Belton Journal ... This year in terms of rain 2016 was a record one. It was cool for half of the summer months... less stress on the deer ... Those 2011-12 years were drought years... Three years in a row we have had the rains we needed to provide food for the deer population...

[Counting down to deer season's opening day](#) October 27, 2016 Texas, Huntsville Item ... we've got more whitetails (about 4 million) than any other state and an army of deer hunters numbering around 700,000 who love to chase them ... much of the state has enjoyed back-to-back years of abundant rainfall to soak the soil and spur premium forage growth. Texas' vast deer range in excellent shape ...

[Rules Killing Deer Industry, Breeders Claim](#) October 9, 2015 Texas, Courthouse News Service .. They say their deer are usually healthier than wild deer ... Deer breeding helps prevent an imbalance in the deer population because bucks with large antler racks have historically been targeted by Texas hunters, the men say. The complaint says the central issue in the case is whether captive-bred deer are the property of the breeder or the state...

[South Texas Deer Hunters Get A Longer Shot](#) July 23, 2015 Tyler Morning Telegraph ... South Texas' 105,000 hunters get the benefit of the longer season to take advantage of a rut that doesn't kick off until about Christmas... According to TPWD's breeding chronology charts: the rut in South Texas peaks around Dec. 16 in the eastern portion of the region and Dec. 24 in the west. In comparison, the rut in the Pineywoods is about a month earlier and about two weeks earlier in the Edwards Plateau...

[Spring Rains Mean Extra Antler Growth in South Texas](#) September 21, 2015 Field and Stream

... The landscape got drier in the summer, but the plants got lots of moisture earlier in the year. Probably the best year since I've been here for big bucks...

[State eyes more liberal fishing, hunting regulations](#) January 23, 2016 Texas, Chron  
... TPWD staff recommends opening a white-tailed deer hunting season in 14 counties on the western side of the Panhandle. The proposal is triggered by an expanding whitetail population in that area ... In 23 counties... in the Post Oak Savannah ecological region ... additional days during the general deer season during which they could take antlerless (doe) whitetails ...

[Texas bowhunters getting prepared for October season](#) September 17, 2015 Tyler Morning Telegraph  
... According to Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, about 175,000 hunters use a bow or crossbow at some time during the hunting year...

[Texas deer-release policy must be re-examined](#) July 3, 2015 Texas, Houston Chronicle  
... Despite the best efforts of the Texas Park and Wildlife Department and TAHC, the current standards to safeguard against the spread of chronic wasting disease among breeder deer and wild deer are clearly not working. Unlike other states, Texas deer breeders are allowed to liberate captive-bred deer back into the wild. This flies in the face of common-sense principles of disease control...

[Texas' wild deer herd must be protected](#) October 27, 2015 Houston Chronicle  
... The threat of chronic wasting disease is real... Yet, the Texas Deer Association continues to downplay this disease ... breeders are also claiming ownership of the deer in their pens and challenging the centuries-old Public Trust Doctrine ...

[The fencing of private property: A history and look ahead at the issues at stake](#) January 19, 2015 Texas, Allen American

... About 30 years ago, the practice of construction high (game-proof) fences became popular in Texas. The reason for building these high fences was to create an environment where the overall quality of the animals could be improved... decide exactly which bucks he wished to harvest each season and assure that he had mature bucks to harvest in upcoming years...

[The Impact of Feral Hogs on Deer](#) February 25, 2015 Texas, Hogman-Outdoors

... In addition to restricting food sources, wild hogs have the potential to carry several diseases which can be threatening to deer ... Perhaps the worst threat feral hogs pose to deer comes in a threat to their young. Hogs are known for preying on fawns...

[Timely rainfall a boon to deer-hunting season](#) November 4, 2015 Texas, Chron

...rains returned to much of the state in 2014, fueling a flush of vegetation that provided deer and other wildlife with excellent habitat conditions. The state's whitetail deer population, already the largest in the nation, grew that year to an estimated 3.95 million, the highest estimated whitetail population since 2005...

[Timely rainfall a boon to deer-hunting season](#) November 5, 2015 Texas, Chron.com

... 700,000 deer hunters ... After more than a decade that saw only brief respites from drought that persistently parched all or parts of Texas, rains returned to much of the state in 2014, fueling a flush of vegetation that provided deer and other wildlife with excellent habitat conditions...

[Too dry in large parts of the state to plant supplemental food plots for deer](#) September 27, 2015 Texas, High Plains Journal

... Landowners can plant now in dry soil and hope for enough rain ... “This is not to say that white-tailed deer do not need supplemental nutrition,” Higginbotham said. “To the contrary, it’s critical, as much of the southeastern deer range, including East Texas, provides substandard nutrition for the white-tailed during the warm- and cool-season stress periods in July and August, and January and February, respectively...

[TPWD looks to revamp MLD, LAMPS programs](#) March 22, 2015 Texas, Tyler Morning Telegraph

... the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department’s Managed Lands Deer program has been a success would be a huge understatement. Involving 10,000 properties, about a third of the state’s deer habitat is enrolled in the program... “What we are talking about doing is doing away with MLDs and deer harvest assistance program (LAMPS) and going to an automated program...

[War against feral hogs rages on in Texas](#) December 30, 2015 The Miami Herald

... havoc feral hogs have wreaked in recent years on the agricultural industry by eating crops and digging ruts ... They defecate in and near the water ... many hunters only slay swine so they can focus on their real targets, deer. The hogs often get into corn feeders meant to attract the deer ...Texans need to take down about 70 percent of the state’s feral hogs just to keep the number where it is...

[Warm weather a factor in slow South Texas hunting season](#) December 18, 2015 KSAT San Antonio

... “For the wildlife itself, it’s not that good. The wildlife (are) covered in parasites, ticks, fleas, deer keds, and we need the ... cold, cold winters to kill some of those parasites to allow those animals to rest and recover without the parasites taking (away) from their body conditions,”...

[What is Our Wildlife Worth?](#) August 5, 2015 Texas, Mason County News

... a weekend hunt for a Boone and Crockett rated buck starts at \$3,000 ... These figures provide a powerful incentive for landowners to manage their lands to benefit these species...

[White-tailed deer season preview: Spring and summer rain over most of the state produced a lush growth of native food](#) October 31, 2015 Texas, Dallas News

... In the Post Oak Savannah Region just east of Dallas ... a slow but steady deer population increase since 2008... In the Rolling Plains Region north and west of Dallas ... deer numbers are recovering after three years of drought... It's the same story in the Piney Woods Region of east Texas ...

[Whitetails plentiful as hunting season begins](#) November 6, 2015 Texas, San Angelo Standard-Times

... Biologists contend that with deer numbers being the highest on record it's important that hunters pitch in and help to keep sex ratios in balance. Cain is urging hunters to harvest some antlerless deer along with bucks...

[Why can't we all get along?: Need for outdoorsmen to unite greater than ever](#) January 12, 2015 Texas, Allen American

... Land in Texas is about 97 percent privately owned and money from hunting leases help landowners make a living off their farms and ranches. I've seen many ranch owners that used to raise cattle, sheep and goats turn away from livestock and groom their lands for wildlife...

[Wildlife biologist counts antler inches instead of deer on hunt](#), mule deer January 24, 2015 Texas, Tyler Morning Telegraph

... Found across the Trans Pecos region and portions of the Panhandle, mule deer are Texas' other deer. They don't exist in nearly the numbers that white-tailed deer do, and

a conservative attitude by landowners concerning the deer has meant limited hunting options....

[Wildlife seeking high ground](#) June 2, 2015 Texas, North Texas e-News

... many whitetail fawns are a couple weeks old now and were able to follow their mothers to the safety of higher ground... Luckily for East Texas, most fawns hit the ground in early to mid May and those that were along the bigger drainages were big enough to escape the rising waters...

[Will the smartphone replace tagging deer, turkey?](#) May 18, 2015 Texas, Lone Star Outdoor News

... The day of the mobile tag isn't near, but it may be in Texas' hunters' future. Eastern turkey hunters are using a mobile app, called My Texas Hunt Harvest, this season to report the harvest to Texas Parks and Wildlife Department within 24 hours of harvest...

[With a great year expected, deer hunters ready to begin](#) November 6, 2015 Texas, Sherman Denison Herald Democrat

... With so many deer, a variety of habitat types, top-end management practices on the state's vast private lands (97 percent of Texas is behind lock-and-key), a good herd age structure and top end genetics, the deer hunting forecast for the Lone Star State is usually good... Although the (population estimate numbers) are from 2014, I would predict the deer population (in Texas) to be about the same if not break the four million deer mark for 2015...

## 2014

[2013 Firearms Deer Season Totals](#) January 10, 2014 Texas, Wayne County Journal Banner

... , the total deer harvest for the 2013 firearms deer season statewide was 157,259.

The statewide harvest was down 47,395 deer from the 2012 firearms season. ...

[2014 Texas hunt to rank high](#) December 31, 2014 San Angelo Standard-Times

... Showers that fell on West Texas ranchland ... served wildlife trying to get through a tough winter very well... TPWD wildlife biologists say that fawns born early in 2014 for the most part will survive, continue to develop, and add to the 2015-16 deer herd registry...

[A cool start to deer season, but challenges linger](#) October 29, 2014 Texas, Chron.com

... Texas' 700,000-plus deer hunters ... this past year, when almost 60 percent of Texas' deer hunters took at least one deer... "The eastern part of the Edwards Plateau saw more rain than the western part, so overall body condition and antler development look better the farther east you go," ... South Texas, which saw good spring and summer rains over much of the region and a much milder-than-normal summer ...

[Acorn crop and rainfall impact Highland Lakes deer prospects](#) October 28, 2014 Texas, The River Cities Daily Tribune

... "Some areas are seeing acorns, while in other areas, we didn't seem to get much acorn crop at all," ... "In general, conditions look to be pretty good," ... "Overall, this should be a good year," ...

[Acorns cause deer hunters to struggle early across](#) Texas December 10, 2014 Texas, Tyler Morning Telegraph

... in East Texas. "Everyone I am talking to said nothing is eating corn because the acorn crop is so heavy." The same is true in the Hill Country... the entire harvest appears to be down, and that it will be difficult to catch up before the end of the year...

[An economic impact analysis of South Texas Landowner Hunting Operation Expenses](#)

[link will download a large PDF file] Erika P. Dodd 2013 JFWM published online January 30, 2013

... Hunting is an important source of economic activity for rural South Texas... Total expenditures for the region were an estimated \$114.4 million. Landowners who

responded to our survey (n = 200) generated an estimated \$166.1 million in economic output. With a direct impact of \$108.9 million, the total value added to the South Texas economy was an estimated \$75.7 million, which supported 1,635 jobs...

[Boone & Crockett asks to be left out of high-fenced deer scoring](#) December 31, 2014

Texas, Tyler Morning Telegraph

... The Boone and Crockett Club doesn't like high fences and pen-reared deer... The organization recently passed a resolution saying it doesn't want its scoring system used to score high-fenced deer... It has never allowed deer taken behind a high fence into its book ..

[Communicating for Positive Change in the Industry](#) September 19, 2014 Texas, Texas

Deer Association

... , at the TPWD Commission's quarterly meeting, Big Game Program Director Mitch Lockwood proposed rules changes governing deer permits in compliance with the provisions of SB 820. The main purpose of the proposed changes were to consolidate TPWD's processes for refusing issuance or renewal of various deer permits and the review of those decisions...

[Corpus Christi pair plead guilty to illegal deer breeding](#) October 21, 2014 Texas, Lone

Star Outdoor News

... a decade long series of criminal and wildlife disease investigations involving a former South Texas deer breeder ended recently when a Corpus Christi area couple pleaded guilty to 50 charges of Unlawful Possession and/or Sale of Live Game Animals...

[County's first mule deer season opens Saturday](#) November 14, 2014 Texas, My

Plainview

... Hale, Castro and Lubbock counties would have their first mule deer season in modern times starting Nov. 22-30 ... Shawn Gray, of the TPWD mule deer and pronghorn program, told the Herald that he believed the mule deer populations were healthy enough and could support a buck-only season ...

[Coyote population in East Texas due to increase of pig population?](#) October 11, 2014

Tyler Morning Telegraph

... Alan Cain, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department's white-tailed deer program leader said, for example, there are individual instances where coyotes may be an issue with a deer herd, but that isn't the case across the state. "From a statewide perspective coyotes are not an issue. We have too many deer as it is... states in the Southeast that believe coyotes are impacting their deer populations, but ... the states are just now seeing coyotes for the first time...

[Deer Debate: Should breeding for big antler racks be regulated?](#) November 27, 2014

Texas, KSAT

... A new group called [Texans for Saving our Hunting Heritage](#) is calling for limits on the way Texas whitetail deer are bred for hunting... We're using extreme animal husbandry practices to create massive antlers in a factory farming-type scenario." ..

[Deer Expert Questions Success of Management](#) December 1, 2014 Texas, Texas Deer Association

... The 2013 deer hunt once again was a disappointment to many hunters across the nation, as deer numbers and habitat conditions continued to deteriorate. Since the late 1980s, Dr. James C. Kroll (aka "Dr. Deer), one of the world's top deer authorities, has warned this would happen under what has become known as Traditional Deer Management... most deer herds indeed are declining, harvest numbers are down, herd losses to diseases are up, hunters are increasingly unhappy, and habitat quality appears to be suffering as collateral damage...

[Deer hunters must heed several rules](#) October 29, 2014 Texas, San Angelo

Standard-Times

... Alan Cain, TPWD's white-tailed deer program leader, said that from 2007-2013 the fawn survival rate has been above 45 percent each of the years, resulting in an

abundance of animals. He is urging hunters to harvest not only bucks, but to thin herds of doe... bucks don't reach maturity until about 5 years old ...

[Deer hunting preview: Cooler, damper summer upgrades upcoming season to above average, according to Texas Parks and Wildlife Department](#) October 26, 2014 Texas,

Dallas News

... the upcoming white-tailed deer season should be about average. ... surveys indicate better than average (above 45 percent) fawn survival in 2007, 2010, 2012 and 2013... In 2011, Texas deer hunting generated about \$1.25 billion in retail sales, over \$135 million in state and local taxes and more than \$171 million in federal taxes while supporting 22,136 jobs. That's based on a survey by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service ...

[Deer season opens across a changing Texas landscape](#) October 31, 2014 Corpus

Christi Caller

... ranches owned by thousands of Texas Deer Association members are far better managed than habitat left to the ravages of nature, and, therefore, more likely to produce healthier deer with more impressive head gear... obvious modern management tools involves surrounding properties with tall game fences that keep desired whitetail genetics in and poor genetics out. ..

[Drought but not population density influences dietary niche breadth in white-tailed deer in a semiarid environment](#) DJ Folks, K Gann, TE Fulbright, DG Hewitt... - Ecosphere,

2014 Texas

A premise in ungulate foraging theory is that animals become less selective and expand the breadth of their dietary niche as the availability of palatable forage declines with increasing herbivore population density or drought ... For white-tailed deer, the idea that dietary niches expand in response to increasing population density is not robust across environments. In semiarid environments, variation in precipitation has a much stronger influence on dietary niche breadth and intraspecific diet overlap of deer than population density does...

[Drought opens Texas ranchers' eyes to income options](#) December 23, 2014 Texas, Macro Insider

... The fourth-generation rancher is exploring alternative incomes to ensure his enterprise can survive another hit from Mother Nature [drought], which includes leasing portion of his land for quail, deer and antelope hunting...

[Dying deer population leads to residents feeding the starving animals](#) April 30, 2014 Texas, KENS 5

... Folks in the Kentwood Manor say the situation is awful, as deer are starving and dying in yards... Many have large tumors and are grossly malnourished, their ribs bulge from their bodies... Some residents have put out troughs filled with corn trying to help

[For Texas, being green is easy on wildlife](#) June 25, 2014 Chron

... After a decade that, with the exception of a couple of brief respites, saw the state's landscape and its wildlife struggle under severe and even record-breaking drought and heat, this spring and early summer have seen conditions that bode well ... crucial nutrition for deer during the pivotal spring months when quality and quantity of forage is crucial in determining if pregnant does will deliver healthy fawns and bucks get the minerals and nutrients that play important roles in antler development...

[Funky deer hunting quest falls short - buck known for odd antlers still a mystery](#)

November 8, 2014 Texas, Dallas News

... set out on Halloween to hunt a West Texas buck dubbed Funky D. ... The idea is to kill management bucks early, before they get a chance to breed and pass along poor antler genetics. Funky's antlers, shaped the same as last year's, definitely qualify as poor genetics ...

[Game Wardens Investigate Deer Breeding Facility in Jim Wells County, Seize Animals](#)

May 6, 2014 Texas, Kiii3 News

... the 2600 acre ranch has over 40 different types of exotic animals and wildlife that are used for hunting purposes... Investigators say the facility has not met their requirements and for that reason have decided not to renew their permit, essentially shutting down the deer breeding portion of the ranch...

[Growing bigger trophies](#) October 23, 2014 Texas, Brownwood Bulletin

... Restrictions in East Texas counties are leading to better antler production... Fragmented property lines and a small deer population that allowed for only a single buck harvest per hunter in most counties . ... Prior to antler restrictions many hunters in the area would shoot any buck just to harvest a deer ... the department suggested that a buck whose antlers have a spread that grows beyond both ear tips meets the minimum width requirement ...

[Interest in deer hunting could grow](#) April 4, 2014 Texas, My Plainview

... first mule deer season in modern times this fall... “We have no idea on the exact number of mule deer in these areas,” TPWD’s Gray says, “but we believe the mule deer populations are healthy and can support a buck-only season. We know from research and experience that a limited buck-only season will have no negative impact on mule deer population growth.” ...

[Invasion of the Axis Deer](#) June 18, 2014 Texas, Texasbowhunter.com

... Originally from southern India, Nepal, and Sri Lanka, the axis deer was introduced to Texas in 1932, ideally as a game animal... They were restricted to farms and controlled hunting sites ... as often happens with animals in captivity, many axis deer eventually escaped to run wild around Texas. While the vast majority of axis deer remain in captivity, over 6,000 of them now roam freely ...

[Keep Texas Wildlife Wild](#) December 16, 2014 Texas, Gilmer Mirror

... There are less than 1,300 deer breeders in the state, and for the past decade, they have spent millions on lobbying efforts seeking more liberty with the people’s deer. Despite outcries from Texans and hunters alike, the breeders have gone largely

unopposed... Current law allows for captive-raised deer to be “hunted” just 11 days after they are liberated from captivity...

[Living the good life together: Manage rangeland for cattle and deer](#) November 30, 2014

Texas, Bryan College Station Eagle The eagle

... Cattle and deer compliment each other in native range utilization, primarily because they eat different types of plants. On an annual basis, a white-tailed deer's diet consists of 52 percent browse (woody plants), 36 percent forbs (non-woody broad-leaf plants) and 12 percent grass. The annual diet of cattle is 7 percent browse, 12 percent forbs and 81 percent grass. ...

[Longleaf Pines Flourish on an East Texas Ranch](#) July 25 2014 United States

Department of Agriculture

... In deep East Texas ... The reduced number of longleaf pines has not gone unnoticed by landowners and conservationists... Prescribed burns are a conservation practice used on longleaf pine forests. Fire reduces moisture and nutrient competition. The elimination of brush and other woody species also allows for native grasses and foraging plants to thrive. In turn, wildlife are drawn to the understory of longleaf pine forests. “We’re getting wild plums and seeing more deer. There’s something for them to eat and for the birds to nest in,” ...

[Looking Ahead, Texas Deer Herd](#) July 31, 2014 Tyler Morning Telegraph

... For parts of North Texas in the Cross Timbers region and areas east of I-35 habitat conditions in the early spring were in decent shape, and were expected to provide deer the resources they needed to stay in good shape over the summer ... South Texas, the Hill Country and lands to the west received some reasonable rains this spring giving the habitat and vegetation a much needed boost to stay green as we headed into summer...

[Low rainfall could hurt deer, turkey populations](#) April 10, 2014 Texas, San Angelo

Standard-Times

... Simons says that doe were bred up well in the early spring but it's critical for survival of fawns that there is ample forage and weeds when they hit the ground in early June... hopeful that West Texas sees some rainfall over the next 30 days... Rainfall in South Texas has been better ...

[Mule deer ... TPWD's proposed regulation changes](#) February 23, 2014 Texas,

LubbockOnline.com

... The Texas Parks and Wildlife Department is proposing expansion of mule deer hunting in several counties ... implement a nine-day general season for mule deer in Castro, Hale, Lubbock, and Lynn counties, where the season is currently closed ... Clarify rules regarding utilization of antlerless mule deer permits ... Comments may be submitted through the department's website and at upcoming public meetings scheduled around the state...

[Mule Deer Foundation builds guzzler in Big Bend region](#) April 25, 2014 Texas, Lone Star

Outdoor News

... Volunteers from the Mule Deer Foundation, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, Sul Ross University, the Texas Bighorn Society and the Dallas Safari Club worked together to build a 4,600-gallon wildlife water guzzler in the Big Bend region of Texas in March...

[New Coalition Formed to Raise Awareness of Captive Deer Breeding Industry](#)

December 8, 2014 Texas, The Business Journal

... [Texans for Saving Our Hunting Heritage](#) today announced the launch of a coalition that seeks to expose unethical practices within the deer breeding industry that threaten animal health and welfare, human health and welfare and our hunting heritage... Legalize the sale of venison, which violates the Public Trust Doctrine and can lead to

market hunting; Take authority for oversight of deer breeding away from Texas Parks & Wildlife Department and grant it to the Texas Animal Health Commission; ...

[Owner of Sandia Deer Breeding Facility Bonded Out of Jail](#) May 8, 2014 Texas, KIII TV3  
... Fred Rich, the man arrested Wednesday for allowing someone to enter a deer breeding facility and kill a 22-point buck while it was still inside a pen ... could face up to six months in jail...

[Ranchers Fed Up with Poaching](#) December 22, 2014 Texas, KRGV  
... "A deer is worth a lot of money...he really is. To me and to the man that pays me to take him hunting," ... Anyone wanting to report poaching can call 1-800-792-4263.

[Restoration of central Texas savanna and woodland: the effects of fire, deer, and invasive species on plant community trajectories](#) CM Andruk - 2014  
... deer can indirectly benefit hardwoods by reducing competition with palatable forbs (ch. 3). In general, these results show that fire suppression in central Texas oak-dominated woodlands is causing a shift not to more mesic-adapted species, as observed in the eastern US, but to *J. ashei*, which is at least as xeric-adapted as oak, a process I termed 'juniperization'.

[Role of Thermal Environment in Habitat Selection by Male White-Tailed Deer during Summer in Texas, USA](#) DW Wiemers, TE Fulbright, DB Wester, JA Ortega-S... - Wildlife Biology, 2014  
... Male white-tailed deer selected areas with taller vegetation in morning and midday activity periods but selected shorter vegetation during evening and nighttime. Forage quality was important in habitat selection in all activity periods. Male white-tailed deer did not select areas with greater concealment cover during any activity period...

[Southwest Texas deer crop expected to be great this year](#) November 9, 2014 Texas, Abilene Reporter-News

... “Though it hasn’t been a year with a lot of moisture from the beginning, when we really needed it, the moisture came, from Memorial Day on,” ... “Every hunter that comes to the region spends about \$2,000 to hunt an average of 13 days,” ...

[State aims to make managed lands program more manageable](#) November 13, 2014 Texas, Chron.com

... Texas' Managed Lands Deer Permit program has become a victim of its own success ... One problem is the explosion of program participation and the resulting overwhelming of the modest corps of state wildlife agency staffers charged with its administration and monitoring ...

[Telling a deer's age may take more than just looking at the antlers](#) November 8, 2014 Texas, Tyler Morning Telegraph ·

... use some of the basic antler characteristic like wider inside spread and more points. You can tell more about a deer’s age from that than you can from body size, neck and wrinkles ... Statewide there was a lack of a fawn crop in 2011. This has resulted in the lack of 3½-year-old bucks and does this year...

[Texas Axis Deer Hunt - Axis Deer](#) November 30, 2014 blogspot.com

... The axis deer is very prevalent in the Texas hill country ... also referred to as a chital deer from their native country of India, Which means spotted in Hindustani. They have a Tan Colored coat with white spots and they stay spotted all their life. The Spots on the adults will actually get brighter as they get older...

[Texas Crop Report](#) October 21, 2014 The State

...Southwest: The condition of wildlife and livestock was on the upswing. Quail numbers and deer antler growth looked good. However, deer body condition scores were below normal but improving...

[Texas Deer Hunting Forecast](#) October, 2014 Game and Fish

....an “average” or even “below-average” season ... The Lone Star State still has the largest whitetail population in the country ... lingering drought heading into this fall’s season didn’t lay the groundwork for as optimistic an outlook as in years past ... South Texas, the Hill Country, Panhandle and the western region of the state were not so lucky in the annual rainfall lottery...

[Texas hunters look forward another strong deer season](#) July 27, 2014 Lubbock

Avalanche-Journal

... The Lone Star State has long had the largest population of white-tailed deer in the country... “In years with poor fawn production, hunters should expect to see fewer bucks in that particular age class in each of the future years as that group matures. Looking back into the culmination of deer survey data over past years we see statewide fawn crop estimates were good in 2007, 2010, 2012 and 2013...

[Texas Parks and Wildlife Commission authorizes new Yoakum Dunes Wildlife management area in Panhandle](#) November 10, 2014 KCBD-TV

... approved acceptance of a land donation to create the new 14,037-Acre Yoakum Dunes Wildlife Management Area in Cochran, Terry and Yoakum Counties near Lubbock ... The primary impetus for the WMA is conservation of the lesser prairie chicken ... will also provide important habitat for ... mule deer....

[Texas Parks and Wildlife puts down local deer](#) March 5, 2014 The Navasota Examiner

... they euthanized about 25 of his captive deer ... TPW Public Information Officer Steve Lightfoot said the deer had to be put down because they were not properly tagged ...

test results from Texas A&M Veterinary Medical Diagnostic Laboratory in College Station came back clean ... When you kill about 25 deer to determine that they're healthy, that shows no respect for life," Pepper said...

[Texas Tech announces grant to Deer Breeder's Corp](#) January 9, 2014 Texas, Lone Star Outdoor News

... Currently, deer breeders have no antibiotics or other pharmaceuticals labeled for use in these animals, and so they use medicines developed for cattle and other animals. We hope to find healthy solutions for the deer industry." ... president of Deer Breeders Corp., said that deer breeding is an \$8 billion industry in the United States...

[The Antler Reality](#) November 25, 2014 Texas, Texas Deer Association

... One has only to look at the newsstand to see that antler size has become an integral part of our hunting heritage. Hunting magazines, antler scoring systems, big buck contests...and countless other pieces of evidence prove that antler size matters. The addition of social media to the consciousness of our society has only fueled the passion that modern hunters have for antlers... Pricing per acre on deer leases and real estate is not based on the quality of venison harvested. The monetary value of hunting can be influenced greatly by the antler quality of deer (real or perceived) on a property... The real success of deer breeding is based on two simple principles: selective breeding and increased fawn production ...

[The other deer season is open, Axis Deer](#) June 16, 2014 Texas, North Texas e-News

... whitetail deer season is not open but axis deer are plentiful in much of Texas and summer is prime time to hunt them. The Hill Country and southwest Texas has a large number of free ranging Axis and, because of stocking on low fence ranches across the state, there are pockets of free ranging axis in areas outside the Hill Country. Axis deer are very popular game animals for high fence hunting ranches across the state...

[There's no monopoly on big-antlered deer in Texas](#) December 9, 2014 Texas, Star Telegram

... The success of intensive deer management has greatly changed the landscape for hunting leases and real estate in Texas... The ability of a manager to select a pairing of a buck and doe has greatly enhanced the ability to improve antler genetics without sacrificing the health or vitality of the deer... Texas land is about 97 percent privately owned. That means conservation of wildlife habitat depends on the motivation of private landowners ...

[TPWD: Prospects good for deer season](#) October 17, 2014 Texas, Your Houston News

... Texas hunters should see deer in good condition and above average numbers of mature bucks when the general season kicks off Nov. 1 statewide... wildlife biologists use rainfall as a barometer for gauging hunting season because of the direct correlation between rainfall and impacts to habitat ... mast crops (acorns, mesquite beans, etc.) ... in good supply this year...

[Trends affect hunting participation](#) February 10, 2014 Texas, Standard-Times ... State hunting license sales have remained constant during the past three years, about a million sold each year. However, that's not keeping pace with Texas population growth ... "The universe of deer hunters is on a spiral downward ..."I've spoken with outfitters and seen other analyses that support my theory that fewer young adults are electing to join the field of deer hunters." ...

[Tyler's Hunt takes over North Texas lead](#) December 27, 2014 Texas, Tyler Morning Telegraph

... East Texas continues to lose its reputation of not being able to produce quality deer, and Smith County continues to improve as a deer-hunting location despite its increasing urbanization...

[Welcome Rains Boost the 2014 Hunting Forecast](#) September 24, 2014 Texas,  
Insurance News Net

... Biologists look at rainfall as a major predictor of the hunting season because there is a direct correlation between rainfall, habitat (the nutrition and cover that deer need) and antler quality and fawn production... Statewide population estimates for 2013 were 3.8 million white-tailed deer. Those statistics work out to about 39 deer per 1,000 acres on average...

[When hunting isn't very sporting](#) December 13, 2014 Texas, Waco Tribune-Herald

... The “hunter” flies in on his corporate jet to a Texas ranch, hops in a Jeep and drives up to a genetically engineered trophy buck, released from captivity as little as 10 days prior. The “hunter” shoots the deer, loads up the antlers, gives the meat to whoever will take it ... Hunters and Texans agree, this is not hunting...

[White-tailed deer population dynamics as influenced by deer density and nutrition in southern Texas](#) NS Cook - 2014

... My objectives were to analyze white-tailed deer population dynamics as influenced by deer density and nutrition, model the population dynamics on simulated 20.2 km<sup>2</sup> pastures in order to analyze the effects on trophy buck ... In south Texas's highly variable nutritive environment, monitoring for a decrease in mature deer body mass was the first indicator of density-dependence available to managers. Nutrition is clearly limiting in the south Texas landscape, as improving the nutritive state with enhanced nutrition resulted in improved performance in individual deer and their population dynamics...

[Whitetail deer breeding season peaks at different times across Texas](#) November 8, 2014  
Texas, Lubbock Avalanche-Journal

... In the Rolling Plains, most does were bred from Oct. 8 to Dec. 30, and study areas showed a peak date of Dec. 3 in northern stretches of the region and a peak of Nov. 20

in the south... South Texas had the latest rut with breeding dates ranging from Nov. 9 to Feb. 1 ...

## 2013

[2013-14 Texas deer season could be very memorable](#) November 1, 2013 Sherman Denison Herald Democrat

... in 2011 — when drought conditions were horrendous — deer hunting still generated about \$1.25 billion in retail sales across Texas according to published reports in the Dallas Morning News... State biologists predict that some 3.6 million whitetails will be roaming the state ... That figure is pretty close to average... This year's precipitation — including very heavy rainfall in some parts of the state over the last couple of days — has also helped set the table for future deer seasons...

[After Texas Parks & Wildlife's Slaughter of a Hunt County Deer Herd, Questions of Wildlife Ownership Abound](#) May 2, 2013, Texas, Dallas Observer

... Texas Parks and Wildlife said that the Andertons couldn't provide evidence of the state of origin for every animal, and so they all had to be wiped out to prevent the Texas incursion of a highly transmissible, neurodegenerative killer of deer known as chronic wasting disease... James and Jimmie are suing TPWD in federal court, claiming the agency violated their constitutional rights by depriving them of property -- \$700,000 of it, they claim -- without due process...

[An Economic Impact Analysis of South Texas Landowner Hunting Operation Expenses](#)

EL Dodd, FC Bryant, LA Brennan, C Gilliland Journal of Fish and Wildlife Management, 2013

... Hunting is an important source of economic activity for rural South Texas. However, little is known about the economic impacts associated with landowner expenses. Questionnaires were mailed to landowners across the South Texas region to collect

expense data related to managing hunting operations...The software IMPLAN was used to calculate the economic impact data. With a mean expense per hectare of \$168.75, total expenditures for the region were an estimated \$114.4 million. Landowners who responded to our survey (n = 200) generated an estimated \$166.1 million in economic Output. With a direct impact of \$108.9 million, the Total Value Added to the South Texas economy was an estimated \$75.7 million, which supported 1,635 jobs.

[Annual whitetail season could benefit rural Texas](#) October 23, 2013 Texas, Southwest Farm Press

... just over 3.6 million deer in Texas ... two-year drought ... [Last season] Around 309,000 bucks and nearly 266,000 does were taken by an estimated 636,000 hunters; the number of hunters was down slightly ... Last year Texas hunters achieved a deer-per-hunter ratio of 0.91 deer per hunter ...

[Behaviour and Cause-Specific Mortality of Mule Deer Fawns](#) [PDF] CA Taylor, 2013 ... Predation was the major source of neonate mortality accounting for 86.8% of deaths. Black bear were the source of highest predation on fawns (57.5%, n=19) and total mortality (49.9%), verifying our hypothesis. Coyotes (*Canis latrans*) were the second highest source of predation (36.3%, n=12) and total mortality (31.6%). The mean eight month survival estimate was 24.4%. These survival estimates were slightly higher than those from a previous investigation in the same area (Bender 2006)...

[Big Time Texas Hunts winners announced](#) November 10, 2013 North Texas e-News ... hunters bought 71,658 Big Time Texas Hunt entries during this year's sales period through the Oct. 15 deadline. This generated \$676,504 in gross revenue to support wildlife research, habitat management and public hunting....

[Changes to mule deer, pronghorn seasons](#) April 2, 2013 Texas, Lone Star Outdoor News

... A new pilot program will allow some landowners to determine their harvest quota for pronghorn in some regions... an extension to the existing mule deer managed lands deer permits (MLDP) season will be part of changes

Deer Breeding Bill, [What's On Tap in Energy and Environment at the Texas Legislature This Week](#) April 1, 2013 StateImpact Texas

... A new bill could provide Texas' deer breeders with a little more certainty when applying for breeding permits. The bill, [HB 1614](#) by [Rep. Larry Phillips](#), R-Sherman, could clarify the permitting process and state more clearly who can be denied a deer breeding permit. You can check StateImpact Texas' reporting on the companion bill in the Senate [here](#)...

[Deer Breeding Industry Looks to Lawmakers to Relax Rules](#) April 4, 2013 Texas, New York Times

... In the early 1980s, when the deer breeding industry was in its infancy in Texas, Robert Williams bought his first deer, Old Bambi, for \$250... as the Texas Deer Association — a lobbying group for deer breeders — pushes for measures to ease some regulations. The group says current oversight is constraining the industry, but environmental groups say the industry has overstepped its bounds by shifting its strategy away from conservation and toward support for the commercial hunting industry...

[Deer Demographics](#) October 3, 2013 Texas, Field and Stream

... According to the Quality Deer Management Association, 33 percent of bucks killed in 2011 were 3½ years old or older, up from 19 percent in 1999. In the best states, the percentage of mature bucks in the harvest has reached eye-popping levels: over 60 in Texas, Louisiana, and Arkansas, and 70 percent in Mississippi...

[Deer don't disappoint after hunters' early optimism](#) November 13, 2013 Texas, Houston Chronicle

... Statewide, whitetails appear to have had a good year after enduring a brutal, record-setting drought in 2011 that scorched the landscape and saw body condition and fawn production evaporate and a 2012 that was only marginally better... improved range conditions in much of the state ...

[Definitive deer study targets rural property owners](#) March 29, 2013 Texas, Southwest Farm Press

... The Texas Deer Study Group, originally known as the West Texas Deer Study Group, was formed in 1997 to serve as a forum for information exchange between deer and property managers across the state. Dr. Dale Rollins, AgriLife Extension wildlife specialist at San Angelo ... "A growing trend towards more intensive deer management, including deer breeding, illustrates some managers' goals, while others believe such intensive management diminishes the overall value of deer in the eyes of the hunter and the public,"

[Dr. James Kroll Denounces Texas Deer Bill](#) April 8, 2013 AmmoLand.com (press release)

... Kroll ...criticized House Bill 2433 and Senate Bill 1412 ... "If some organizations are so concerned about 10-Day releases, they need to step up and fund scientifically valid research. Until then, I do not think it prudent to change long-standing regulations based on anecdotal or unscientific concerns. I think this legislation is a philosophical agenda hidden behind questionable science... there is a deep philosophical divide among wildlife people on how wildlife should be managed.. "

[Entrepreneurs clone animals: Local rancher, veterinarian supplement deer herd](#) October 25, 2013 Texas, Amarillo.com

... he and his partner have cloned 168 horses and nearly 20 deer. At Abraham's sprawling 26,000-acre ranch near Canadian, his focus this time of year is cloning whitetail and mule deer... unfertilized eggs, or oocytes, are removed from wild does harvested throughout the Texas ... Then DNA from a donor doe or buck is reinjected ...

[Exotic Wildlife Association Opposes 'Anti-Deer' Bills in Texas](#) April 16, 2013 Texas, Ammoland.com

... The two bills — HB 2433 and SB 1412 — were introduced into the Texas 83rd Legislative Session by the Texas Wildlife Association and would change the so-called '10-Day Rule' on releasing breeder deer to a 60-day period. According to many wildlife biologists, moving the state's release dates to the hottest month of the year would result in the needless death of thousands of deer and fewer hunting opportunities ...

[Bill breeds dissension among deer fans](#) April 4, 2013 Texas, Corpus Christi Caller Times

... The Texas Wildlife Association, through House Bill 2433 and Senate Bill 1412, has proposed a 60-day release rule for hunting pen-raised deer. The association's leadership said this is about health and safety as well as preserving the state's hunting heritage... Currently Texas is one of three states to require a 10-day waiting period between the time a buck with full antlers is released from its pen or holding pasture and when it's available to be shot by a hunter...

[Fight Over the The Future of Texas' Deer](#) July 10, 2013 Texas, Dallas Observer

... For hours they worked the herd back and forth this way across the paddock, picking them off one by one. Most went down with a single, well-placed shot. Some took several bullets, gut shot and staggering... Deer breeders across Texas — representing an estimated billion-dollar industry — reacted with horror to the extermination of the Anderton herd. They called it a stunning display of brutality by one of the state's most powerful law enforcement agencies...

[First clone of his kind turns 10 at A&M](#) May 23, 2013 Texas, Houston Chronicle

... Keith Randall, the assistant news director for Texas A&M says that Dewey is looked after by Alice-Blue McClendon, a veterinary professor at the school. He is "spoiled rotten" according to Randall, and loves to be petted and fed, weighing all of 175 pounds. "He lives a life of luxury, he's a grandfather, and he grows huge antlers every year," says McClendon ...

[G&F Forecast: Best Places for Texas Deer Hunting in 2013](#) October, 2013

... the largest whitetail population in the country ... "I think it's been a decent spring... Our message to folks was get out and start reducing the population because of the drought... We are trying to harvest enough antlerless deer to pull our sex ratios closer than they have historically been and harvest older age-class bucks," in the Panhandle ... we basically had no whitetail fawn production in 2011 and 2012 and are missing two age-classes of deer...

[Herd Status. Deer forecast looks promising throughout state](#) October 7, 2013 Texas, VictoriaAdvocate.com ·

... According to TPWD, recent laws restricting harvest of bucks fewer than 13 inches wide is working. Cain said 59 percent of bucks checked during TPWD surveys were 3 or older, a dramatic improvement in age structure when those older age class bucks represented only 30-35 percent of the harvest before antler restrictions were implemented...

[Horse cloning experts now cloning deer](#) August 20, 2013 Texas, Connectamarillo.com

Rancher Jason Abraham and Veterinarian Gregg Veneklasen have just cloned two white tail does. The deer are from a line proven to produce large bucks ... They've also birthed a muledeer doe from a white tail doe ...

[How New Legislation Could Benefit Texas Deer Breeders](#) February 27, 2013

StateImpact Texas

...Sen. Tommy Williams, R-Woodlands, filed a bill this month, SB 820, that could overhaul some permitting for breeders... The bill provides specific instances in which revocation of a breeding permit should occur, such as debts to the state or providing misleading statements on a renewal application. The bill also allows for some leeway for breeders previously convicted of some crime involving breeding, like failing to tag a captive deer.

[Hunters have a reason for optimism](#) September 22, 2013 Texas, Houston Chronicle

This past year, an estimated 636,000 Texas deer hunters took about 546,000 whitetails, with both numbers the lowest since the 2007 deer season... Deer in most of the state will head into the season in good or at least decent body condition ... rains also helped fawn production and survival; early estimates are that fawn production was good this year, boding well for coming seasons...

[Hunting and fishing in Texas, then and now](#) November 13, 2013 Texas, San Angelo

Standard Times

... By the mid-1950's the screw worms were mostly eradicated thanks to a program of releasing sterile male flies over Texas ... areas where white-tailed deer had never been seem suddenly became overrun with the popular game animal ...

[Keith Warren Speaks Out on Texas Deer Bill](#) , March 26, 2013 Texas, Outdoor Hub

... House Bill 2433 and Senate Bill 1412 were introduced recently into the Texas 83rd Legislative Session and changes the usual September release period, which has been in effect for more than 80 years, to a release period that requires moving deer in July... Warren explains that deer are very susceptible to stress and moving the animals under conditions where there is excessive body heat ... can cause the deer to suffer myopathic conditions ...

[King Ranch loses battle to move deer fence](#) July 15, 2013 Texas, The Eagle

... Last year, apparently to avoid having prized whitetail bucks from being bagged by hunters on adjacent properties, operators of the 825,000-acre ranch decided to replace several miles of the fence with a much taller one. And when a new survey indicated the existing fence line was as much as 40 feet south of the true boundary line, the ranch took corrective action...

[Law sparks a sea change for dog runners](#) August 11, 2013 Texas, Houston Chronicle

... For generations, running deer with dogs had been a primary method of hunting deer... in the early 1980s when a Parks and Wildlife study indicated deer herds on East Texas tracts not hunted with dogs were healthier than on those where dogs were run...Next week, the TPW Commission will consider and almost certainly approve a proposal to drop the tracking dog prohibition in another 12 East Texas counties, allowing hunters there the opportunity to use the amazingly effective tracking dogs to locate deer that otherwise would have been lost and wasted...

[New rule just in time for deer bow hunting season, dog tracking](#) August 26, 2013 Texas, KETK

... What was once illegal in 12 East Texas counties has been lifted. This season you will be able to use your dog to trail a deer once it's been shot.... "There are still 10 counties in east texas where it's still illegal to trail wounded deer," ...

[Options in deer feeding](#) December 30, 2013 Texas, Killeen Daily Herald (blog)

... While corn remains the most popular whitetail deer feed, protein-supplemented pellets and soybeans are also popularly used with various feeding systems. The planting of a strategically-placed food plot (usually .5-3 acres in size) is also a popular means of feeding and nourishing a deer population. Small grains, such as oats, wheat and rye grass are most commonly used ...

[Outlook favorable for deer season](#) November 7, 2013 Texas

Bandera County Courier

...Dry conditions in 2011 resulted in a significant decline in fawn production, down to 29 percent for the statewide estimate, a 24 percent departure from the long term average. Fawn crops bounced back in 2012 at 47 percent and Cain anticipates survey results will show a higher fawn crop this year. In fact, Cain is hearing reports from landowners as well as TPWD biologists of fawn production in the 60 to 80 percent range in the Hill Country and similar reports of good fawn production in other areas of the state...

[Outlook favorable for Texas Deer season](#) October 23, 2013, Texas, The Madisonville

Meteor

... "Statewide population trends remain stable ..." says Alan Cain, TPWD whitetail deer program leader. "I would predict the statewide deer population to be close to or slightly above the long-term average and hover around that 3.6 million deer mark for 2013." Some managers provide supplemental feed to buffer against nutritional impact resulting from drought. However, research in South Texas has shown that native habitat is crucial to deer nutrition even when supplemental feed is provided...

[Outlook Favorable for Texas Deer Season](#) September 26, 2013 Big Country Homepage

... "I would predict the statewide deer population to be close to or slightly above the long-term average and hover around that 3.6 million deer mark for 2013.... the 2012 season harvest was down resulting from heavy acorn and mast crops in several regions of the state," ... Alan Cain, TPWD whitetail deer program leader... Dry conditions in 2011 resulted in a significant decline in fawn production, down to 29 percent ... Fawn crops bounced back in 2012 at 47 percent ...

[Public input sought on proposal to allow use of dogs to trail wounded deer](#) July 25, 2013

Texas, .Longview News-Journal ·

... Hunters could use dogs to trail a wounded deer in 12 counties in East Texas, a practice that has been prohibited in this area of the state since 1990 ... If you are not

able to make one of the public hearings don't sweat it. Go online and make your feelings known at [tpwd.state.tx.us](http://pwd.state.tx.us)...

[Trailing deer with dogs could be returning to East Texas](#) July 19, 2013 Texas, KETK  
... Texas Parks and Wildlife officials are discussing allowing dogs for trailing deer, this means once a deer is shot and runs off, this dog is used to track him down and find the body.

[Stars aligning for a stellar deer season](#) October 23, 2013 Texas, Houston Chronicle  
... memories of the poor 2011 season ... hunters took 546,000 whitetails, the lowest tally since the 2007 season and third-lowest harvest since 2000 ... Much of that reduced harvest was blamed on the effects of a 2012 mast crop Calkins termed "phenomenal."  
... With so much of this high-fat natural forage available, deer didn't have to move far to fill their bellies. That significantly reduced their visits to food plots and corn-spewing feeders, which a majority of Texas deer hunters employ to attract deer...

[State mulls new dog rules for trailing wounded deer](#) May 25, 2013 Texas Austin American-Statesman  
... In the late-1980s, the state banned the use of dogs to chase deer in 35 East Texas counties... Today it seems illegal dog hunting to chase and move deer around the big woods in East Texas has virtually disappeared to the point that department biologists and wardens have suggested to parks and wildlife commissioners that hunters be allowed to use trained trailing dogs under owner control to help track wounded deer in some of those counties...

[Study notes that deer mating season mostly sticking to schedule](#) November 9, 2013 Texas, Dallas Morning News  
... the rut occurs at virtually the same time every year in specific deer herds, though the peak rut varies throughout the state. Factors like hot weather, moon phases and the

physical condition of the deer had no influence on when does were bred.... A doe comes into estrus and is attractive to bucks for about five days. She may only be willing to breed during a 24-hour window in that five-day period...

[Taking Antlerless Deer Has Become More Common With Texas Hunters](#) September 14, 2013 Tyler Morning Telegraph

... It wasn't that many years ago that deer hunting meant killing a buck... Ranchers were managing deer like they did their cattle ... Then the gospel of deer management was spread to the masses, and hunters began to shoot does... Through the years hunters and most landowners have learned that an antlerless deer harvest is an important component to deer management. Herd and buck quality are both impacted positively if hunters take does in an effort to manage deer numbers ...

[Ted Nugent adds 'fever' to Texas deer hunting debate](#), fair chase April 4, 2013 Detroit Free Press

... Established nearly a century ago as a conservation measure, deer breeding has become a \$650 million business in the state, according to researchers at Texas A&M University ... Under current state law, breeders must release white-tailed deer into the wild at least 10 days before hunting season... the rules surrounding deer bred in captivity have become central to the contentious concept known as "fair chase." ...

[Ten common mistakes deer breeders make](#) January 10, 2013 Texas, Lone Star Outdoor News

... Charly Seale, executive director of the Exotic Wildlife Association, recently released a report concerning common errors made by deer breeders when dealing with their facilities and animals. Texas Parks and Wildlife intends to periodically publish common errors made by deer breeders ... 1. Not maintaining accurate, current, and complete records ... 2. Not activating transfer permits to move deer...

[Texas Deer Association Applauds New Texas Farm Bureau Position](#) December 13, 2013

OutdoorHub

... the decision by the Texas Farm Bureau to remove spring release-only language from its Texas Farm Bureau Policy Book... The current 10-Day statute in Texas has guided release dates for whitetail deer since 1933 ...

[Texas Deer Association Warns New Legislation Puts Deer at Risk](#) March 18, 2013

Texas, The Hunting Wire

... The two bills — HB 2433 and SB 1412 — were introduced into the Texas 83rd Legislative Session by the Texas Wildlife Association and call for changing the so-called '10-Day Rule' on releasing breeder deer to a 60-day period that would mandate moving deer during the hottest, deadliest time of the year...

[Texas Deer Association Welcomes Passage of 'Due Process' Bill](#) May 15, 2013

AmmoLand.com (press release)

... Under the Due Process Bill provisions, any deer breeder charged with a violation is afforded a thorough and fair review by a district judge. The bill also requires Texas Parks & Wildlife Department (TPWD) to provide written notice in the event the department seeks to depopulate some or all of a breeder's deer herd ...

[Texas deer hunting forecast remains bright heading toward new season](#) March 21, 2013

Texan Outdoors

... "I think the Hill Country had a decent harvest. I know early on acorns played a role and kept numbers down for hunters. However, that picked up like it usually does toward Thanksgiving and later into the season it again got pretty good. In the Panhandle hunters killed some good deer as they usually do. I know in the Oak Prairie, which is where the antler restrictions started, they saw a lot of deer... " ... Alan Cain, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department white-tailed deer program leader ...

[Texas deer hunting outlook brings lofty expectations during the rut](#) December 9, 2013

texanoutdoors.com

... The breeding season is at or near its peak in the most frequented whitetail hot spots in the Hill Country and Central Texas, while less-pressured areas such as the Rolling Plains just now are experiencing the high point of the rut... a three-year statewide Texas Parks and Wildlife Department study... In the Rolling Plains, most does were bred from Oct. 8 to Dec. 30, and study areas showed a peak date of Dec. 3 in northern stretches of the region and a peak of Nov. 20 in the south...

[Texas Deer Population in 2012](#) June 16, 2013 Texas, Lubbock Online

... Alan Cain, TPWD's white-tailed deer program leader, said the 2012 estimate for the Texas whitetail herd was 3.69 million animals. For the last eight years, he said, statewide fawn survival has averaged just 44 percent annually. That's nearly 800,000 animals. During the catastrophic drought of 2011, statewide fawn survival was 29 percent, but only 5 percent of the fawns survived in the Western Rolling Plains Region...

[Texas Game Populations Thriving](#) June 22, 2013 The Port Arthur News

... The 2011 estimated harvest was 574,808 white-tailed deer; 309,207 being bucks and 265,601 antlerless deer. You can compare those statistics to the 2010 season, one of Texas better seasons, when total deer harvest was estimated at 647,975 deer; ...  
... the 11-year average for annual total harvest is 574,423 deer and the lowest estimated harvest occurring during the 2007-08 was an estimated 512,852 deer...

Texas Herd Status, [Area archery enthusiasts nocked, ready for deer season](#) Friday  
September 25, 2013 Texas, Pleasanton Express

... "We have had below to average rainfall this year," Texas Parks and Wildlife Department wildlife biologist for Atascosa County Matt Reidy said. "The timing of the rainfall has been very good. We received rain in April, May, June and July, ... I think

fawn crops will be good to excellent,”... Atascosa County is under the antler restriction program ...

[The Dangers of Deer Cloning](#) September 9, 2013 Texas, Outdoor Life Magazine (blog)

A pair of Texans recently announced that they had successfully cloned a whitetail deer ... It's no secret that some antler-crazed wannabe hunters (shooters) will pay almost anything to hang a huge set of antlers on their wall. And the deer breeding community is all about giving them what they want ... Now, that 500-inch Franken-buck can be cloned and his Franken-genes spread throughout the deer farming community...

[The heat is on for wildlife in need of summer rainfall](#) July 10, 2013 Texas,

Houston Chronicle

... The link between ground cover and fawn survival is starkly illustrated by TPWD fawn crop data from 2011 and 2012. In the record-setting drought of 2011, fawn survival was estimated at 29 percent statewide. In the "wet" summer of 2012, fawn survival jumped to 47 percent. Fawn survival this year could be "about normal" if favorable habitat conditions hold through the rest of summer ...

[Traditional firearms deer season on horizon: Experts expect average yield](#) October 12,

2013 Texas, Dallas Morning News

... Variables include livestock grazing, deer management plans and supplemental feeding, or lack thereof. "Rain in a bag", as some wildlife managers call supplemental feed, negates the impact of drought. Cain said the average estimated Texas whitetail population has been 3.46 million animals each year for the eight years preceding 2013. Last year's estimate was 3.69 million, up 2.8 percent from the 2011 drought year ...

[White-tailed deer enjoying healthy Highland Lakes habitat](#) November 12, 2013 Texas,

The River Cities Sunday Tribune

... After several years of dry conditions and a drought that left deer struggling to find enough food in preparation for winter, this year's deer looked stronger and healthier. It's something hunters reported across the Highland Lakes... One of the biggest benefits of wet weather for deer is a good acorn crop...

[Who Owns the Deer in Texas?](#) July 16, 2013 Frontburner

... Right now, every deer in the state belongs to the state—to the people, as a natural resource. Which means that if the TPW ... thinks ... a deer on your property may have a disease (or that they were imported from a different state, or illegally trapped), officers can kill several dozen animals ...

[Wildlife rescuers overwhelmed in Montgomery County](#) July 16, 2013 Texas, KHOU

... The problem is the real world is encroaching on the natural world, resulting in an influx of mammals, birds and especially deer hit by cars. "We usually have a report there's a fawn by the dead mother trying to nurse," said Winkelmann. "And we get that call, and it's very hard to say no." ...

## 2012

[A better water trough for deer and other wildlife](#) October 28, 2012 Texas, Corpus Christi Caller Times

... Water held in a shallow surface tank is almost as wasteful as storing gasoline in open containers. The rate of evaporation is phenomenal ... An enclosed concrete cistern is kept full with the help of a nearby windmill. Beside the cistern is a pressure tank run by a small electric motor that pumps water through miles of PVC pipe to 18 thick-walled concrete water troughs spaced evenly throughout the property. Eight-inch thick walls keep the 40 gallons of water in each trough cool, which dramatically reduces evaporation...

[A conservation model crafted specifically for Texas](#) November 14, 2012 Austin American-Statesman

The state has provided super strong private landowner protections for management and access, and it's invented the concepts of modern deer management to control herd

numbers, enhanced habitat manipulation, supplemental feeding and management buck harvests to improve the genetic makeup of a population. Those concepts remain somewhat controversial ... "We're not discounting the North American Model," says Macy Ledbetter, a private consulting biologist who helped write the document. "It was a wonderful document when it was produced in the late 1800s..."

[A single buck from Pa. with huge rack can fetch as much as \\$1M in Texas](#) February 20, 2012

Tribune Review

"A lot of our hunters are turning into antler collectors," said biologist Bob Zaiglin of the Texas Deer Association, which represents breeders... Even though there's no shortage of deer in the Lone Star State ... some antler-crazed hunters paid more than \$10,000 to roam breeders' fenced-in farms to bag a goliath deer, records show ... in the nation's \$650 million deer breeding industry, a single buck with a mammoth rack can sell for up to \$1 million, records indicate.

[Bucking the drought: While antlers were down a bit, deer harvest was about average](#) January

19, 2012 Texas, San Antonio Express (blog)

... While the drought reduced forage, in dry years mesquites produce more beans and prickly pears put out more tunas, which helped supplement the deer diet....fawns, whose survival rate in parts of South Texas was halved to about 20 percent last year ... "A lot of those 20 percent will die in the next three to four months," [Alan Cain, Texas Parks & Wildlife Department whitetail deer program leader]

[Can hunting endangered animals save the species?](#) January 29, 2012 Texas, CBS News

The scimitar horned oryx . . . the addax . . . the dama gazelle - three elegant desert antelope ... on large grassland ranches, some exotic species that are endangered in the wild have been brought back in large numbers. But there's a catch: a percentage of the herd is hunted every year by hunters who pay big money for a big catch. The ranchers say this limited "culling" gives them the money they need to care for the animals and conserve the species. But animal rights activists don't buy that argument, claiming the hunts are "canned" and that hunting is wholly inconsistent with conservancy.

[Cherokee County man gets probation for illegally transporting deer](#) April 30, 2012

Texas, KETK

Blake Powell pleaded guilty ... negligent transportation of wildlife and was sentenced to two years probation ... also ordered to pay a fine of \$243,000 to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Lacey Act Reward Account and \$157,000 in community restitution to the Texas Parks and Wildlife Foundation... Powell owned and operated Rockin' P White Tails, a high-fence deer breeding facility in Cherokee County ... transported and possessed illegally imported live whitetail deer valued at over \$350,000...

[Controlled burns begin in area's national forests](#) February 2, 2012 Texas, Lufkin Daily News

Controlled burning dramatically reduces the chances of a wildfire spreading out of control, forestry officials said, and burning the underbrush also promotes new growth of tender vegetation that is beneficial to wildlife such as deer, turkey and birds.

[Deer 'hotspots' are problem for farmers, DNR](#) September 13, 2012 Texas, Post-Bulletin

... The land has super habitat for deer, with plenty of food, water and cover in the rugged bluffs north of Houston ... About 10 to 20 percent of the land in the bluffs has too many deer ... The DNR has ... hired a deer depredation specialist, Clint Luedtke ... mostly, Luedtke wants to help landowners find ways to shoot more deer, beginning when the bow season opens Saturday.

[Deer in spotlight: Out for the count](#) October 10, 2012 Texas, San Angelo Standard Times

... John McEachern, wildlife biologist for TPWD ... said, "We're looking at the population, the buck-to-doe ratio, and the buck quality index, mainly." ... Spotlight surveys are conducted from a vehicle at nighttime. Spotlight data is commonly more effective for estimating deer density whereas aerial surveys are usually better for analyzing herd composition and buck quality indexes. The recent drought conditions contributed to the decline in the deer population, which is about half what it was three years ago ... around San Angelo State Park ...

[Deer rut about to peak in East Texas](#) November 15, 2012 Longview News-Journal

There is a period of time when mature whitetail bucks will actively seek out females or doe deer for breeding purposes. This phase is known as "the rut." ... Deer in the southern area have an earlier peak rut date than in the north... The TP&W study shows most breeding activity happened from Oct. 21 to Jan. 5. Peak breeding dates were Nov. 22 in the northern portion and Nov. 12 in the southern part of the Piney Woods...

[Does hunting in Texas save endangered antelopes?](#) March 30, 2012 Fort Worth Star Telegram

... nearly extinct in their native habitats. But because of an unusual exemption under the U.S. Endangered Species Act, these animals are thriving, their populations reaching the thousands by being hunted legally on sprawling ranches in the United States. Texas has more than 5,000 such ranches, mostly in the Hill Country. Alongside the antelopes are exotic animals of every stripe, including zebras, African bongos, kangaroos and regal rare Pere David's deer, which are extinct in the wild.

[Drought may still take toll on habitat, wildlife](#) March 14, 2012 Texas, Houston Chronicle

This past year was brutal ... White-tailed deer in the western Edwards Plateau were especially hard hit... The result was ugly. Few does dropped fawns ... the combination of drought-scorched habitat weakening deer and an outbreak of insect-transmitted EHD (epizootic hemorrhagic disease) and bluetongue (a viral disease), which raced through the stressed population, was "Mother Nature taking a razor and just cutting,"

[Early deer season opens with promising results](#) September 30, 2012 Texas, Waco Tribune-Herald

"Most of the state has received much-needed rain to boost forage resources needed for antler development and fawn rearing," said Alan Cain, TPWD deer program leader. "Far West Texas, primarily mule deer country is still dry. I expect this to be an average to slightly above average season for antlers. South Texas, known for trophy bucks, should be in good shape as we've had rain this summer. The Texas Hill Country, known for higher deer populations, has also received good rains this summer, so hunters should expect decent antler quality and good body weights for this region."

[Looking a trophy buck in the mouth](#) [estimating age] March 8, 2012 Texas, By Paul Schattenberg

Researchers at the Texas AgriLife Research and Extension Center in Uvalde have developed a more accurate technique than traditional methods for estimating the age of white-tailed bucks ... The new technique also relies on using the animal's teeth, but involves measuring the width of the dentine — the hard tissue located under the enamel of a tooth — on a specific tooth ... During the past decade, ranch owners and operators have kept tabs on ear-tagged deer, collaborating with the center on deer-related research.

[Looking a Trophy Buck in the Mouth](#) March 14, 2012 Texas, ScienceNewsline

"The traditional method for estimating the age of white-tailed deer has been by visual, tooth-wear patterns," said [Dr. Susan Cooper, AgriLife Research associate professor] ... The new technique also relies on using the animal's teeth, but involves measuring the width of the dentine — the hard tissue located under the enamel of a tooth — on a specific tooth... Cooper said over the past 10 years the wildlife team at the Uvalde center has ear-tagged more than 2,000 wild buck fawns on South Texas ranches....

[Forecast looks good for archery season](#) September 30, 2012 Texas, LubbockOnline.com

... Last year's seasons saw more than 650,000 hunters harvest nearly 575,000 deer, according to Texas Parks & Wildlife Department estimates, which is right near the average for the past decade in each figure. The harvest actually was a decrease from the previous year when nearly 650,000 bucks and does were taken ... Alan Cain, Texas Parks & Wildlife's white-tailed deer leader ... He pegged the overall Texas whitetails at roughly 4 million ... "More people are doing a better job of managing their land. There's probably more supplemental feeding going on which helps keep them on a steady nutritional plane even during droughts ...

Granite Shoals: [Community consensus is best approach for deer](#) January 23, 2012 Texas, DailyTrib.com

... two salient points emerged: Make sure there really is a deer problem, Build community consensus before doing anything else. ... You think Texans argue about high school football? Wait until someone at City Hall says it's time to get rid of the deer.... The council should begin taking steps to form a representative wildlife committee made up of residents and city officials.

[Healthy deer with ample food supply](#) ... October 31, 2012 Texas, Houston Chronicle  
... Macy Ledbetter, a veteran private-practice wildlife biologist ... "You've got vegetation that has just exploded, oaks dropping a bumper crop of acorns, loaded persimmon trees in the Hill County. In a lot of Texas, a deer doesn't have to move very far to find plenty to eat. ... not so good for those deer hunters who just watch a corn feeder. Right now, there's almost no need for a deer to come to a feeder except out of habit," ...

[Hunting, hunters have changed over the years](#) November 5, 2012 Texas, Your Houston News

... Hunting is done from a blind, placed about 100 yards or so from a deer feeder.

Without a doubt, the success rate is better and the modern hunting equipment is a vast improvement from when I started hunting. But I believe that the new generation of hunters are missing out on some aspects of the sport. I have always thought that hunting is about getting out and learning about the game you are after...

[Illinois geneticist fined in Texas deer semen case](#) December 20, 2012 Texas, Houston Chronicle

An Illinois geneticist must pay \$30,000 and serve three years of probation for illegally obtaining valuable semen from whitetail deer in East Texas.

[Keith Warren Gets Exotic on Deer & Wildlife Stories](#) January 2, 2012 Texas, AmmoLand.com  
Eight Point Ranch is an ... exotic game ranch ... in the \$1.3 billion dollar wild game industry. Located in Elgin Texas, 45 minutes east of Austin, Eight Point Ranch was founded on the principle of quality breeding of exotics and whitetails, and owner Bobby Girling and ranch managers Lea and Robert Vawter have successfully brought together the highest quality genetics to produce maximum antler and horn production. ...[www.EightPointRanch.com](http://www.EightPointRanch.com)

[Kimble County Drought. County profiles](#) February 26, 2012 Texas, San Angelo Standard Times  
... severe water restrictions as the drought reduced surface and groundwater supplies. This also caused massive liquidation of livestock herds and affected crop and pecan production. Luckily, many deer and turkey hunters have continued to supplement feed and protein for local deer populations.

[Managed Lands Deer Permits \(MLDP\) Hunting late-season bucks](#) December 25, 2012 Texas, North Texas e-News

... Ranches willing to comply with management and harvest guidelines established by Texas Parks and Wildlife biologists are allowed to harvest deer, even bucks, through February... Does that were not bred during the primary rut often come into estrus again

in December. Doe fawns born early in the summer are often receptive to breeding a month after the primary rut ends. Competition is high for breeding rights with these does and some of the most brutal buck fights of the season often occur during late season...

[Mule deer numbers down in current drought, TPWD says](#) May 17, 2012 Texas, Alpine Avalanche

... mule deer populations are down about 40-45 percent across the Trans-Pecos region since 2009... The long-term average for fawn production is 43 percent ... in 2011, fawn production was 13 percent, the lowest since 1978 ... the overall population estimate for the Trans-Pecos region is about 139,000 mule deer ...

[Drought Hits Texas Mule Deer Population](#) May 23, 2012 Deer & Deer Hunting

... winter helicopter surveys and indicated Trans-Pecos region mule deer numbers are down 40-45 percent over the last three years....

[Not Seeing Deer This Year? Check the Oaks](#) December 12, 2012 Texas, Field and Stream (blog)

Several hunters have mentioned to me the lack of deer sightings around corn feeders this year... The likely reason for sparse buck sightings is a bumper crop of acorns ... We have live oaks, red oaks, and post oaks on our ranch, and all of them seem to be producing a bumper crop. ...

[Prospects Good for Texas Deer](#) October 23, 2012 Brownwood News

... "Despite the drought of 2011 deer appeared to come through the season in fair shape ... " said Alan Cain, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department white-tailed deer program leader... "Although we had a few dry spells during mid-summer, I'm seeing and hearing

reports of deer appearing in good body condition ... In fact, range conditions look good across most of the state ...

[Prospects Good for Texas Deer](#) October 23, 2012 Brownwood News

... “Despite the drought of 2011 deer appeared to come through the season in fair shape ... ” said Alan Cain, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department white-tailed deer program leader... “Although we had a few dry spells during mid-summer, I’m seeing and hearing reports of deer appearing in good body condition ... In fact, range conditions look good across most of the state ...

[Race to Save the Pronghorn of Far West Texas](#) April 26, 2012

StateImpact Texas

... the pronghorn is a uniquely American creature. The the fastest land mammals in the Western Hemisphere, they are the second fastest in the world after the cheetah. They evolved that way to out run a long-extinct species of North American Cheetah. ... The population in far West Texas now stands at around 4,000 animals total. Those numbers are still dropping. No one’s sure why, but a coalition of scientists, hunters, and conservationists called the “Trans-Pecos Pronghorn Working Group” have found elevated numbers of a blood parasites and a general malnutrition in the species. The extremely dry weather has also contributed. -

[Reason to cheer for deer](#) October 24, 2012 Texas, Corpus Christi Caller Times

... with today's emphasis on game management, especially involving white-tailed deer, millions of acres of wildlife habitat are better prepared to provide for healthy resident wildlife populations... More and more responsible landowners are committed to returning their properties to the way it was before the land was ravaged by livestock

grazing and invasive plants ... Texas' fawn crop was poor because of drought in 2008, 2009 and 2011. But it was exceptional in 2007 ...

[Some Common Sense Deer Management](#) October 30, 2012 Texas, BrownWoodNews.com

... According to a recent study conducted by the biologists, understanding food habits, livestock competition, stocking rates, browse lines, rotational grazing, brush control and carrying capacity is the first step in good food management practices. The diversity of vegetation on an area is the key to meeting cover and food requirements. Basic cover needs include low-growing vegetation for adequate hiding cover to protect fawns from predators in their first days, and mid-level vegetation or escape cover to provide protection from predators ...

[South Texas Rut Is Heating Up](#) December 27, 2012 Field and Stream

... ranch manager Ty Bartoskewitz reports he saw 65 deer one evening in a wheat field just before Christmas near Breckenridge in North Texas. The mob included several bucks still chasing does.... The rut is basically over in the northern half of the region, except for a few very isolated reports of a buck seen chasing a doe. Meanwhile, in the brush country of South Texas, activity levels are ramping up daily.

[Spike buck harvest issue pits biology vs. management](#) January 12, 2012 San Antonio Express (blog)

In the case of spike bucks at the Big O, if the antler on either side is not at least 6 inches long, the hunter is assessed a \$300 penalty and is prohibited from shooting a trophy deer for the rest of the season. "We had to institute some kind of control because the hunters were shooting too many immature deer," said John Oppenheimer, owner of the ranch ...

[Texas Deer abundant as hunting season opens](#) October 30, 2012 Texas, Your Houston News

“Despite the drought of 2011 deer appeared to come through the season in fair shape ... Couple the results of good management, lower harvest in 2011 and some late winter and spring precipitation and the stage is set for a good deer season in 2012... Texas, with 3.3 million white-tailed deer, boasts the largest population in the nation...

[Texas Deer Herd Improved This Year](#) October 20, 2012 San Angelo Standard Times  
Allan Cain of the Texas Parks & Wildlife Department heads up the whitetail deer program in Texas. With an estimated 3.3 million deer in the state ... The 2011 fawn crop was low statewide — a washout, according to Cain — but biologists are saying that spring rains this year assisted in overall good fawn production... Cain is urging hunters to take their allotment of antlerless deer so a balanced ratio of bucks-to-doe can be maintained...

[Texas deer hunting season forecast bright as range conditions improve](#) July 30, 2012 Examiner.com

... Alan Cain, [Texas Parks & Wildlife's](#) white-tailed deer program leader, said our state remains ahead of the pack when it comes to trophy[hunting](#). Cain said that no matter what part of Texas you call home, the effectiveness of habitat management clearly is evident.... “Our message to folks was get out and start reducing the population because of the drought, and so if they did that and knocked the numbers back and the drought knocked some numbers back, the densities are going to be a little bit lower,” ...

[Texas Deer Season 2012: Hunting Forecast](#), October 3, 2012 Outdoor Life

... Most areas experienced a low fawn crop last year as to be expected but we had very few reports of any significant adult mortality related to the drought and there are still 3.3

million deer in Texas ... The Texas Hill Country, known for higher deer populations, has also received pretty good rains ...

[Texas Deer Study Group convenes April 19-20 in Stephenville](#) March 21, 2012, AgriLife Today (blog)

... "Deer management as a profession and a practice has become increasingly contentious over the past decade with the increasing number of deer herds managed for large antlers...

Traditionalists and entrepreneurs often differ about the ethics of various intensive practices, [ Dr. Dale Rollins, originator of the deer study-group concept]

[Texas Hunting Outlook. From a Texas Deer Expert](#) September 11, 2012 Field and Stream (blog)

... my friend Ronnie Parsons. Parsons hunts whitetails in west-central Texas ... "Not seeing a lot of fawns this year, but more than last year. Last year there was almost zero fawn crop. This year is not a good fawn crop like years in the past, but better. The does with fawns appear in poor shape...

[Texas program takes a bite out of wildlife law violators](#) June 2, 2012 Fort Worth Star Telegram

Operation Game Thief, a Texas Parks and Wildlife Department program that offers monetary rewards of up to \$1,000 to persons who provide information leading to the conviction of wildlife law violators ... man told officials that he knew of ongoing deer poaching activity by several young men in the area and provided information that eventually led to the arrest of 20 people on 247 charges involving the poaching of white-tailed deer ...

[Texas' deer population remains stable with current pressure](#) October 21, 2012

TylerPaper.com

According to Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, hunters killed 575,000 white-tailed deer during the 2011-12 season. That is a dip of about 75,000 from the previous year, but on par with a 12-year average. All the while, the overall deer population has been stable or showing a slight uptick since 2005. While numbers for 2012 are still being crunched, TPWD showed an estimated deer population of about 3.3 million last year. That is the same as 2005, but in between the estimate has climbed to as high as almost 3.8 million.

[TPWD reports strong first half for deer season](#) December 1, 2012 Texas, San Angelo Standard Times

... Alan Cain, whitetail deer program leader for the TPWD, reports that first half results are been very good. "Summer and early fall rains were beneficial, and we are seeing good-bodied deer for the most part. And antler development has been better than average ... Doe and yearling deer went into this season in relatively good condition, but in order to keep this pattern going, it needs to rain,"

[Wildlife Professionals Discuss Challenges To Conservation Model](#) April 26, 2012 Texas, Livestock Weekly

... the keystone concept, is that wildlife is a public trust resource ... wildlife is owned by no one and is held by government ... a technical review committee was established by The Wildlife Society to take a hard look at the model ... likely to recommend ...the elimination of unregulated markets for wildlife... the task force is recommending the addition of an eighth principle, which says that public and private habitat conservation is essential for sustaining wildlife populations.

[Wildlife sights a natural draw](#) July 5, 2012 Texas, San Antonio Express (blog)

... Wildlife watching's economic impact was \$5.1 billion in Texas in 2006, second only to fishing at \$6.1 billion and ahead of hunting, at \$4.6 billion, according to a U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service study. There were more wildlife watchers, too, totaling some 4.2 million compared to fishing's 2.5 million and hunting's 1.1 million ... TPWD also developed a series of five driving maps ... to spotlight the best places to observe a diverse array of wildlife, from deer and pronghorn antelope to birds ...

## 2011

[A Bad Winter Ahead For Local Wildlife](#) November 4, 2011 Texas, Johnson City Record Courier, TX

"There are three elements in wildlife habitat," said Mike Krueger [district leader for the Edwards Plateau area for Texas Parks & Wildlife's wildlife division], "food, water and cover. A drought takes away all three, and when you take away the habitat, you take away the wildlife." ... "Even if the populations returns to normal reproduction next year, there will be fewer one-year-olds, and the next year the dip will be among two-year-olds, and so on until they all have died off.

[As Drought Continues. Some Texans Resort to Feeding the Wildlife](#) September 21, 2011 Earth Island Journal

...The lack of rainfall has left the region so parched that the land is close to dying. Rob and Liz have taken to feeding the wildlife just to make sure they survive. Each morning Rob hauls corn and Purina Antler Mix down to his deer feeder and checks the water tank to make sure the deer can drink. Every day they worry about water in their well. "Is today the day we are going to watch pressure drop in the well?" Rob wonders.

[Big game hunters haven't priced average Texas hunter out just yet](#) August 7, 2011, LubbockOnline.com  
It's a shame, but as more private landowners look to cash in on the big deer bonanza that exists in the Lone Star State and elsewhere, fewer affordable opportunities are available for many folks looking to pass on our outdoor traditions. ...

[Crisis means wildlife needs our assistance](#) September 19, 2011 Texas, Your Houston News, Binnie Fisher

The drought has intensified in Brazoria County and throughout Texas. I encourage all area residents to consider the deer, rabbits, racoons, squirrels, toads. lizards, butterflies, bees, birds and all wildlife in these unusual times. ...We have placed containers of water throughout our property, and I find them empty and in need of refilling almost every day....

[Deer Breeder Case Speaks To A Bigger Issue](#) June 29, 2011 Texas

Powell is the latest and largest white-tailed deer breeder in Texas to go down ... This all speaks to a bigger issue, the transition of deer hunting to nothing more than a quest for trophy antlers. Unfortunately the clock can't be turned back, but if it could Texas should have never allowed deer farming and the sale of white-tailed deer. It hasn't improved Texas' deer. It has just made it more expensive to hunt them and the tradition of what hunting was has been lost along the way.

[Deer breeder fined 1.5M for smuggling whitetails into ETX](#) September 22, 2011 Texas, KETK

...After a lengthy four year investigation a 77-year-old Cherokee County, Texas licensed deer breeder was sentenced for illegally transporting wildlife in the Eastern District of Texas and then lying about it to a US Fish and Wildlife agent ... Powell has already forfeited over 1,300 straws of frozen semen valued at approximately \$961,500.00 to U.S. Fish and Wildlife.

[Deer Drying Up Fast in Drought](#) October 13, 2011 Texas, MyFox Houston

... "Fawn survival is really low," said.[Alan Cain, of the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department] ... "(Survival is) in the single digits for some of those areas in the northeastern Panhandle."... Cain says adult deer are also struggling to survive in south Texas, where ponds have completely dried out....

[Deer falling on hard times in extended drought conditions](#) July 15, 2011 Texas, LubbockOnline.com

"With the drought, there is no feed for the mother deer. And if they can't feed, they can't produce milk. They can't feed their babies, so they are leaving them." She said, "Yesterday, we got one that's about 2 days old. It still had its umbilical cord ...fawns brought to the South Plains Wildlife Rehabilitation Center by people who picked them up from the Panhandle and Lubbock areas after their mothers abandoned them to the drought.

[Deer Smuggler Pleads Guilty](#) June 15, 2011 Texas - Lone Star Texas News

A Justice Department statement says Powell smuggled at least 37 white-tail deer to his Cherokee County farm, then falsely told a U.S. Fish and Wildlife agent that he had illegally imported fewer deer than he actually had. ...

[Deer smuggling](#) October 23, 2011 Texas, Off the Kuff, By Charles Kuffner

It was white-tailed deer, secretly brought into Texas from northern states to breed with native deer in an effort to produce trophy bucks with chandelier-sized antlers. The imports are illegal as the state tries to protect Texas deer against diseases ...Some people might find deer-breeding a strange niche, since the state's deer are so plentiful they can be nuisances, munching on gardens and straying onto roadways.

[Deer trickle into neighborhoods in search of water](#) July 12, 2011 Texas, YNN

Central Texas animals are facing tough times during the exceptional drought hitting the area... Many homeowners are seeing more deer leaving the woods and entering subdivisions in search of water.

[Dismal forecast: Deer, bird populations are being hit hard by devastating drought](#) June 26, 2011 Dallas Morning News

One of the worst droughts in Texas history is playing havoc with wildlife. Texas Parks and Wildlife biologists predict single-digit white-tailed deer fawn crops in the hardest hit areas. For the last six years, the statewide average fawn crop has been 43 percent.

[Drought is damaging Texas economy in ways that recession hasn't](#) September 21, 2011 Your Houston News

Even hunting and fishing, one of Texas' most beloved pastimes, could take a hit. Wild turkeys and deer are struggling to find water to drink and moist foliage to eat according to Kirby Brown of the Texas Wildlife Association, who reports that fawn production will be down ... hunting and fishing is a nearly \$9 billion industry in Texas according to a 2006 study.

[Drought puts wildlife in precarious position](#) May 30, 2011 Texas Population Houston Chronicle

...The days-old deer was the first of two I spotted while driving Highway 71 between La Grange and Columbus in the middle of an afternoon this past week. Many people would have been thrilled to spot the

delicate, adorable, newly minted fawns. I wasn't. .This year, because of pitiful range conditions in much of the state through late winter and spring, fewer fawns than normal will hit the ground. The world most of those fawns are entering holds much-reduced vegetative ground cover and forage. It'll be hard for their moms to find enough food to stay healthy enough to feed them. And that lack of cover makes the young deer much more vulnerable to predators....

[Drought putting intense pressure on Texas game, other wildlife](#) July 7, 2011 Texas, Fort Worth Star Telegram

In West Texas, one of the worst-hit areas, local newspapers have reported animals creeping into cities in search of insects in people's lawns and other nourishment. Wild turkeys are in trouble, Brown says. So are quail and deer. ..

[Farmers, ranchers bank on rain](#), Smaller Deer December 28, 2011 Texas, Times Record News  
"I can tell our deer [in West Texas] are starting to do a lot like the South Texas deer. They're getting smaller." In his opinion, the taking of the biggest bucks and the lack of doe hunting is hurting the quality of the area whitetail...

[Fawn survival. antler size at risk from lack of rain](#) July 28, 2011, Texas, San Antonio Express

... "What I am seeing traveling around Texas is that in much of the state, we have a very low fawn crop, so in three or four years, that's really going to hurt us with a gap in mature bucks and does," said James "Dr. Deer" Kroll, director of the Institute for White-tailed Deer Management and Research and the College of Forestry and Agriculture at Stephen F. Austin State University .... "The reason is that they've lost their fawns and they're not nursing," he said.

[Fence off deer feeders from hogs](#) December 30, 2011 Texas, Log Cabin Democrat

"Using Fences to Exclude Feral Hogs from Wildlife Feeding Stations" is a just-out publication of Texas A&M ... free online at <http://pcwp.tamu.edu/library/>. ... the simple solution is to use 60-inch livestock panels and cut them in half... Hogs can make it over a fence only a foot and a half high but not one a few inches taller. Adult deer can handle a three-foot fence with ease — but deer fawns can't. Make the fence a little lower and fawns can get over it.

[Game wardens target deer smugglers](#) October 18, 2011 Texas, Houston Chronicle

...white-tailed deer, secretly brought into Texas from northern states to breed with native deer in an effort to produce trophy bucks with chandelier-sized antlers....netting over \$2 million for hauling the undocumented 41 [deer] ...Texas game warden Capt. Greg Williford said breeders cater to high-dollar hunters who want that "trophy showpiece for their mantle."...

[Hunters urged to harvest more deer early in season](#) September 30, 2011 Texas, Longview News-Journal  
Mired in what will undoubtedly be one of the worst droughts on record ... "It doesn't take a biologist to understand that drought has serious impacts ... said Alan Cain, deer program leader with the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department. "By reducing deer numbers early on, hunters can help ensure enough groceries will be available through the winter months," Cain said. "As with many wildlife species the very young and the very old often have much more difficult times dealing with extreme weather events."

[Leschper: Pending deer legislation focuses on breeding, management issues](#) May 1, 2011 Texas Management LubbockOnline.com

Across much of Texas, \$650000 will net you the deed to at least a few hundred acres of prime **deer** hunting real estate. One whitetail buck with massive headgear, one outrageous price tag and one purpose: To breed and to grow other big **deer**. ...

[Lucrative market is luring deer smugglers](#) October 18, 2011 Texas, By chron.com Outdoors  
... The imports are illegal, as the state tries to protect Texas deer against diseases that could decimate native herds....Some people might find deer breeding a strange niche because the state's deer are so plentiful they can be nuisances, munching on gardens and straying onto roads....It's legal, as long as it involves registered, captive deer from within the state. Capturing wild deer, or importing new stock from out of state, is not. Importing out-of-state semen is allowed.

[Managed Land Deer Permits rush must slow](#) November 6, 2011 Texas, Austin  
American-Statesman

... the land covered by Managed Lands Deer Permits — about 7,400 separate properties ...  
Because the MLDP allows hunting over a five-month period, some land managers found value in selling hunts early ... What's happened is that the MLDPs have become so valuable that

landowners and managers are applying for them in record numbers ...While the department has increased or created fees for virtually every other process, permit or inspection they conduct, commissioners and staff have steadfastly refused to institute fees for MLDPs. It just doesn't make sense...

[Mess surrounding Texas deer breeding isn't getting fixed](#) June 18, 2011 Management Austin American-Statesman

East Texas deer breeder Billy Powell pleaded guilty last week to federal charges that he violated the Lacey Act by bringing at least 37 white-tailed deer into Texas from several other states. As a licensed deer breeder in Texas, Powell could have bought and sold animals through any of about 1,200 other licensed breeders in the state. There's nothing that prevents that....Why didn't he do that instead of going out of state and risking the wrath of the federal government? The answer is probably bigger deer, bigger trophies, more money.

[More Texas landowners seek permits for deer breeding](#) September 10, 2011 Texas, theeagle.com

...TIn 1995, the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department issued two deer-breeder permits. Last year, 1,341 permits were issued....In 2010, Texas breeders had 152,000 breeder deer housed in 1,200 permitted facilities.... "In 1998, there were less than five 200-inch deer in breeding pens in the state of Texas," said Chase Clark, ... More than 30 deer with antlers at least 300 inches now can be found in breeding pens across the state....

[Mule deer hunts offer more bang for your trophy buck](#) September 24, 2011 Texas, San Angelo Standard Times

...With its high fenced ranchland and deer breeding farms, Texas has become a place where trophy whitetails can be purchased (for a hefty sum) ...Mule deer in the Trans Pecos region of Texas are desert mule deer, akin to those in parts of New Mexico and Arizona....Panhandle mule deer are Rocky Mountain deer, just like those roaming the high country in New Mexico and Colorado.

[New Rules for Residents to Manage Deer Populations with Hunting, the 82nd Legislative session](#) July 10, 2011 My West Texas

Those interested in managing the mule deer population can receive permits starting Sept. 1 after a bill filed by Seliger passed... Under the law, the commission would set bag limits for each permit issued but would allow for residents to manage the population through hunting. Hunting of the species still would not be permitted in an enclosed area designed for the temporary containment of deer.

#### [New Sightability Model Improves Accuracy of Mule Deer Census](#) December 12, 2011 Texas

About 70 percent of the mule deer in Texas live in the Trans-Pecos... a trophy mule deer in the Trans-Pecos averages \$4,500 and management bucks average \$3,000 ... the mule deer population in the Panhandle has been stable to increasing the last ... TPWD intends to survey the mule deer population using a newly developed [sightability model](#) ...

Oak Dying, [Under the spreading chestnut tree](#) December 19, 2011 Texas, Weatherford Democrat ... As I watch the beautiful live oaks and the majestic red oak trees on my farm fall victim to and die from oak wilt, also an introduced fungal disease, I could just cry. These trees are hundreds of years old and their loss leaves a terrible hole in the ecosystem. In Central Texas millions of acres of live oak trees are dying from this wilt. They are replaced with ash juniper (cedar), mesquite, poverty bush, and other less desirable species. What will replace the acorns as food for the deer and wild turkey populations?

#### [Powell's grandson pleads guilty to negligent transportation of wildlife](#) December 13, 2011 Texas, Lone Star Outdoor News

Powell is the grandson of Billy Powell, also of Cherokee County, who earlier this year pleaded guilty to smuggling deer into Texas. The grandfather subsequently was sentenced to three years' probation with six months' home confinement. ... Blake Powell owned and operated the Rockin' P White Tails, a high-fence deer breeding facility in Cherokee County, prosecutors said in a news release.

#### [Relentless drought extending toll to wildlife](#) August 9, 2011 Texas, Boston Globe

With deer, the true impact may not be revealed for six years, when the low reproduction rates caused by the drought will leave an age gap between older bucks and younger deer.... he has noticed white-tailed deer that are skinnier than usual, their ribs jutting out. As a result, the mothers are producing less milk and the newest crop of fawns will be weaned at subpar weight.

[Leschper: State's severe drought conditions could have negative impact on deer ...](#) May 22, 2011 Texas Population LubbockOnline.com

Severe drought across the state has dimmed what usually is a bright outlook for quantity and quality, and adding in millions of acres scorched ... Cain pegged the overall Texas whitetail figure at between 3.7 million and 4.2 million animals... "If the drought continues through the rest of the summer we will see lower fawn recruitment this fall, deer will probably readily come to feeders as a result of less than desirable range conditions.

[TERRITORY WARS](#) May 16, 2011 Texas Population Management Amarillo.com

...There are only about 500,000 mule deer in Texas, and more than 4 million whitetails. Whitetails prefer a brush density of around 75 percent, while mule deer prefer more open rangeland with brush density at 40 percent. As the height and density of brush increases and our CRP grassland slowly becomes overgrown with mesquite and cedar trees, whitetail will migrate toward these areas and mule deer will migrate toward more open ground. The best management technique is to control brush overgrowth by clearing vegetation.

Whitetail deer and mule deer do interbreed ... Research conducted in Donley County and the Trans-Pecos area of West Texas reveal an 8 percent rate of hybridization in areas where territories overlap. Hybrids have a limited ability to successfully breed and show inconsistent coloration and horn configuration.

.

[Texan's case has shaken deer-breeding industry,](#) July 2, 2011, Fort Worth Star Telegram

Powell's guilty plea and proposed punishment have shaken the breeding industry, said Karl Kinsel, executive director of the Texas Deer Association. Powell's admitted actions, which included giving

misleading numbers of deer smuggled, violated the ...Bringing deer into Texas has been illegal since 2005, when the state closed its borders to prevent the introduction of bovine tuberculosis, which the deer could spread to both wildlife and cattle, and chronic wasting disease, which is similar to mad cow disease. Texas has never had a wasting case, but 17 states, including neighboring New Mexico, have. There is no live test for the disease.

[Texas Deer Herd Status](#) October 27, 2011 Texas, Chron.com

... We saw a really poor winter for forbs ... The drought's biggest impact on the state's deer herd has been on fawn production and survival. Many pregnant does that struggled to find forage during the crucial late-winter/early spring period miscarried. Those that did drop fawns lost many of them, some succumbing to lack of food and others falling prey to predators because the drought-blistered landscape provided little or no cover.for the two dozen or so deer-rich counties in East Texas' Pineywoods ecological area.

[Texas Study Finds Deer Density Correlated with more Birds](#), June, 2011 "Effects of deer overabundance on avian abundance, diversity, and reproductive success in Central Texas" by Jinelle H. Sperry, Ph.D.

Contrary to our predictions, there were significantly more birds ( $t = 2.86$ ,  $P < 0.01$ ; Fig 1) and bird species ( $t = 2.46$ ,  $P = 0.01$ ; Fig 1) detected per point on the BCP compared to the ranch sites.. We found that nest survival was slightly lower on the BCP [Balcones Canyonland Preserve, not deer managed, higher deer density] sites (model averaged estimate = -0.44) although the 95% confidence intervals encompassed zero (-1.10, 0.23), indicating a weak effect [not statistically significant].

[Texas: Wildlife reproduction impacted by drought](#) December 26, 2011 The Sticky Tongue Project

In a 30-mile area of the Texas Panhandle, biologists found 76 white-taileddeer — but zero babies... In South Texas, a biologist reports a lack of water on some ranches is “killing deer like flies” ... antelopes in ... northeastern Panhandle region were surveyed in June and July. Of 100 does, researchers are only seeing about 16 fawns — compared to an average of 35 during the

past five years.... In a chunk of Southeast and Central Texas, fawn crops are down to about a 27 percent reproduction rate ...

[To Rack Up Big Bucks, Some Try Deer Smuggling](#) November 12, 2011, Texas, Wall Street Journal

... An obsession with ever-larger antlers among trophy hunters ... a black market in big deer from northern states. Inseminating a doe with their genes can generate offspring with racks so elaborate they look like something that sprang from the imagination of Dr. Seuss.... achieved by breeding in captivity. These creatures don't exist in the wild—but hunters can bag them for a fee at one of Texas' high-fence ranches ... breeders can buy sperm ... one vial ... can cost as much as \$20,000 ... Texas A&M University ... estimated ... a \$650 million-a-year deer breeding industry [in the state] ...

[TP&WD setting up voluntary mule deer check stations](#) October 27, 2011 Texas, Big Bend Now, By Alberto Halpern

Texas Parks and Wildlife Department biologists are asking hunters and landowners to bring their harvested mule deer to one of the six voluntary mule deer check stations in the Trans-Pecos region Dec. 3-4 and ...

[Trends affect deer hunting](#) July 16, 2011 Texas San Angelo Standard Times

"The universe of deer hunters is on a spiral downward," he said. [Bob Hood] "I've spoken with outfitters and seen other analyses that support my theory that fewer young adults are electing to join the field of deer hunters." TPWD Executive Director Carter Smith ... "A new age of outdoors-inclined folks are joining the party. Some have never hunted or fished before, but love the outdoors, and their focus may be on other things, like biking, photography and canoeing," Smith said.

[Two Texas deer hunters indicted on federal charges](#) July 19, 2011 KWCH...were charged with taking deer across state lines from Kansas property. Two Texas hunters have been indicted on federal poaching charges Tuesday, according to the U.S. Attorney's office...The Lacey Act is a federal law that makes it illegal to knowingly transport or sell in interstate commerce any wildlife taken or possessed in violation of state law. The indictment states both men took the deer in violation of Kansas law.

[TWPD wants more research before issuing mule deer program](#) permits November 27, 2011

Texas, Lone Star Outdoor News

Trapping wild mule deer and mating them with prime breeder stock was approved this year by the Texas Legislature ...Texas Parks and Wildlife Department won't issue any permits until research has been completed on issues related to mule deer in captivity ...

[What determines timing of the rut](#) July 14, 2011 Texas, Bowhunting Magazine

The rut's trigger is photoperiod — the amount of daylight per 24 hours — or, more precisely, the change in daylight hours. Diminishing daylight in the fall triggers physiological (hormonal) changes that, in turn, result in behavioral changes in both bucks and does. Bucks become more aggressive toward one another and increasingly more attracted to members of the opposite sex. With the change in daylight and this increased attention, does eventually come into estrus and ultimately yield to their suitors.

[Wildlife face scarce food](#) July 1, 2011 Texas Population Amarillo.com

Texas Parks and Wildlife is now surveying pronghorn herds in the northwestern Panhandle, and early numbers suggest that this year's fawn numbers are about one-third of last year's count, Richardson said. Deer and pronghorn populations suffer when ..."I've also seen lots of does with single fawns instead of twins," Cearley said. "In a good year, does have twins." Poor nutrition affects does' ability to produce milk for healthy young...The shortage of healthy broadleaf weeds also causes the animals to roam for water. "Those leaves are usually about 60, 70 percent water, so that's part of deer and pronghorns' water intake,"

[Wildlife group reverses directive against feeding wild animals](#) July 31, 2011, Texas, Your Houston News  
[because of the drought]..."the food normally available to deer, birds, raccoons and other wildlife is simply not available." Meyer said traditionally nocturnal animals like foxes, skunks and raccoons are increasing their activity during daylight hours because of the food ...For assistance or information about local wildlife issues, visit Friends of Texas Wildlife at [www.ftwl.org](http://www.ftwl.org) or call 281-259-0039.

[Wildlife in Austin area hurt by drought](#) May 29, 2011 Texas Austin News

AUSTIN (KXAN) -

Wild animals like birds, racoons and deer are living in deplorable conditions because of the worsening drought in Central Texas. The period from October to the end of April has been the third driest period since 1856, according to the ...

[Wildlife management requires considerations](#) October 24, 2011 Texas, Sulphur Springs Country World News

According to Texas A&M AgriLife Extension article "Using livestock to manage wildlife habitat," cattle grazing creates open spaces for forb production, however cattle may compete with white-tailed deer...Deer primarily eat forbs. Forbs are pretty much their number-one source of feed, so we suggest that you plant high-quality forbs for them to utilize,".... Perennial forbs suggested by wildlife management experts for deer include Birdsfoot Trefoil, Cicer milkvetch, Crownvetch, Lancer Perennial Pea, Lathco Flat Pea, Lespedeza (Bi-color, Kobe, Korean, Serecia) and Sainfoin.

[Wildlife Officials Urge Deer Hunters to Manage Herds during Drought](#) September 23, 2011 Texas,

Brownwood News (blog)

... white-tailed deer in Texas are facing tough conditions heading into the fall hunting season. "It doesn't take a biologist to understand that drought has serious impacts on the ...By managing habitat properly, many ranches can moderate some of the effects of drought on antler quality. Any buck with a good set of antlers this year is one that has great potential, Cain added, especially a young buck, and hunters may consider passing up that type of deer....

"Just think if a buck can grow a good set of antlers on the native range under these conditions what he could do during a good year," he said.

[Woes could continue into deer season](#) August 10, 2011 Texas, Jacksonville Daily Progress

Deer eat acorns in the winter, but Eric Taylor, forest management specialist for Texas AgriLife Extension Service, said conditions are right for oak trees to abandon their acorn production this year because of stress....“The one thing that I think will be seen by hunters is that there may not be a very big fawn crop this year, because as doe can’t provide for their fawns, they don’t put themselves in a bind.” Price said. “You could say they abandon a fawn, but it is because they can’t produce enough milk to keep a healthy fawn.”

## 2010 and Earlier

[Deer Management 2010](#) December 9, 2010 Texas Bowhunter

By Dr. Dave Samuel

... Using a Deer Management Permit (DMP) from the state, ranchers can capture up to 20 does and place them in a breeder pen with the biggest buck they can capture (or buy or rent from a deer farm). After the does are bred, the fawns and does are released back onto the ranch proper. Thus, year after year, does are getting bred by huge bucks, and their male progeny will most likely have improved antlers. Since almost all deer hunting in Texas is on leased ranches, bigger bucks mean bigger bucks (\$)...

[Deer World](#), December, 2004 Texas, tpwmagazine.com

... From an estimated population of 232,000 in 1938, white-tailed deer now flourish. Currently, the Texas deer herd numbers about 4 million animals and holding steady ...

[State plans to euthanize large herd of white-tailed deer](#) December 3, 2010 WFAA by

DAVID SCHECHTER QUINLAN, Texas — The State of Texas is making final

preparations to destroy a Hood County herd of 75 captive **deer** on Monday. ...Officials with Texas Parks and Wildlife say it's a precaution against introducing a devastating illness into the state called chronic wasting disease, or CWD... it has never been detected in Texas' population of four to five million deer

[Who owns all deer in Texas? You may be surprised](#) December 8, 2010 WFAA by DAVID SCHECHTER HUNT COUNTY — The mass euthanization of a herd of 70 deer is raising questions about who actually owns the animals. ...if breeders can raise deer — and sell deer — how can the state come onto their private property and kill something so valuable? The answer is simple.

"All deer in the state of Texas belong to the State of Texas," explained Capt. Garry Collins, a spokesman for the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department.

While some other states permit private ownership for qualified deer breeders, Texas does not.



