



MANAGED LANDS DEER PERMITS WHITE-TAILED DEER PROGRAM INFORMATION 2015-2016

General Information

- The Managed Lands Deer Permit (MLDP) program allows landowners involved in a formal management program to have the state's most flexible seasons and increased harvest opportunities. The program is incentive based and habitat focused.
- Participation in the MLDP program requires a written Wildlife Management Plan (WMP) approved by a Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) Biologist or Technician. A TPWD Biologist or Technician, a landowner, or a landowner's designated agent may prepare the WMP. A WMP prepared by a landowner or an agent must be in a format approved by TPWD and submitted to TPWD for approval. Permits will not be issued unless the WMP has been approved.
- There are 3 levels of MLDPs (Level 1, 2, and 3). Higher levels offer additional harvest flexibility to the landowner, but also have more stringent requirements.
- There is no fee or written application, other than the WMP, for the MLDP program. Landowners and/or their designated agents should contact their local TPWD Wildlife Biologist or Technician to request permits.
- New applicants who submit all required information to the local TPWD Biologist/Technician by August 15 will have their request approved/denied before the season opens. Permit requests received after August 15 will be processed as time allows.
- Permits are issued by the TPWD Biologist/Technician, through the Texas Wildlife Information and Management System (TWIMS). Permits will be mailed out of Austin after a TPWD biologist enters or modifies a harvest recommendation in the database and those recommendations are accepted in TWIMS by the landowner or their designated agent. Therefore, proper planning is required for one to receive permits by the time they are needed. MLD participants should allow 2 weeks for delivery.
- Permits are valid only for the specific property for which they were issued.
- An approved WMP will include an annually updated harvest recommendation for does and/or bucks, dependent upon the level of participation. The annual harvest recommendation will determine the number of permits to be issued and will establish the maximum harvest for the property. If permits are issued after the beginning of deer season, all deer harvested prior to permit issuance, regardless of permit level, must be counted toward the maximum quota. Subsequent survey data may indicate a need to amend the harvest recommendation, which could result in a supplemental issuance of MLDPs.
- Each permit level requires current year deer population data. If the fall survey has not been completed, but the WMP is otherwise complete and approved, up to 30% of the anticipated number of permits may be issued before the surveys are completed. The balance of the permits will be issued after the required survey data have been submitted and reviewed.

- Once permits are issued, all deer harvested (with the exception of buck deer on Level 1 properties) on that property must be tagged with the appropriate MLDP. Completion of the hunting license log and use of a hunting license tag are not required for deer harvested under the authority of an MLDP.
- All deer harvested under the authority of an MLDP must be tagged with an MLDP immediately by the person who killed the deer, or the person who killed the deer shall immediately take the carcass by the most direct route to a tagging station (location where permits are maintained on the permitted property) where an appropriate MLDP shall be attached.
- A properly executed MLD Permit meets “proof-of-sex” requirements.
- A landowner/agent who receives MLDPs prior to the beginning of hunting season and subsequently decides not to participate in the program must return all permits prior to the opening day of the archery season. After hunting season begins, landowners are required to comply with all provisions of their approved Wildlife Management Plan.
- Providing reliable harvest data is a requirement for program participation. Complete deer harvest data must include at minimum the following: **date of harvest, sex of deer, age of deer as determined by tooth wear and replacement, field dressed body weight, number of antler points on both right and left beams, inside spread, main beam lengths, and basal circumferences.** A suggestion for individuals untrained in aging deer by the tooth wear replacement methods is to remove and label one jawbone from every deer harvested for a wildlife biologist to age at a later date. Jawbones must be labeled in such a way that the biologist can identify the deer on the data sheet (e.g., Deer #1). *For more information on the deer-aging technique, please visit:*
www.tpwd.state.tx.us/publications/pwdpubs/media/pwd_bk_w7000_0755.pdf
- A one-year suspension may be imposed for properties on which the harvest quota in a Wildlife Management Plan (WMP) is exceeded. A three-year suspension may be imposed for properties that otherwise are not in compliance with the WMP. Failure to submit complete harvest data **by April 1, 2016** will result in delayed permit issuance next year and will jeopardize continued participation in the MLDP program.

Level 1 Managed Lands Deer Permits

Level 1 MLDPs offer liberalized antlerless harvest opportunity for landowners in counties with restrictive antlerless harvest regulations. Most requests for Level 1 MLDPs are in areas where county regulations restrict antlerless harvest during all or part of the general season. No buck permits are issued under Level 1.

Level 1 MLDP Benefits:

- Completion of the hunting license log and use of a hunting license tag are not required on antlerless deer harvested under the authority of this permit; therefore, county and statewide antlerless bag limits do not apply to individual hunters. Since bucks are not included under Level 1, all bucks harvested on the property must be tagged with an appropriate hunting license tag and recorded on the hunting license log.
- Allows the harvest of antlerless deer as outlined in the WMP during any open season in the county, subject to applicable season legal means and methods.

Level 1 MLDP Requirements:

- The approved WMP must include current deer population data.
- Once MLDPs have been issued, all antlerless deer harvested must be tagged with only a Level 1 MLDP, including deer taken during an archery-only season, muzzleloader-only season, or special youth-only season (no MLDP is required for deer taken on the property under the authority of an Antlerless and Spike Deer Control Permit).
- If there are doe-days in the county, MLDPs must be used during doe-days on properties where they have been issued.
- Level 1 MLDP cooperators are required to conduct sound deer population management through the harvest of an appropriate number of antlerless deer, and report the number of bucks and does harvested while enrolled in the MLDP program.

Level 2 Managed Lands Deer Permits

Level 2 MLDPs offer additional harvest flexibility for landowners, but require active habitat and population management and apply only to white-tailed deer.

Level 2 MLDP Benefits:

- Completion of the hunting license log and use of a hunting license tag are not required on a deer harvested under the authority of this permit; therefore, county and statewide bag limits (including special antler restrictions) do not apply to individual hunters.
- Allows harvest of antlerless deer with any lawful means, including modern firearms, from October 3, 2015 through February 29, 2016.
- October 3, 2015 through November 6, 2015:
 - Spike bucks may be taken with any lawful means, including modern firearms.
 - Any other buck deer may be taken with lawful archery equipment.
- Nov 7, 2015 through February 29, 2016:
 - Any buck deer may be taken by any lawful means.
- Early youth-only season October 31 through November 1:
 - A youth hunter may take a deer by any lawful means, including modern firearm.
- Once permits have been issued, archery stamp requirements do not apply.

Level 2 MLDP Requirements:

- The approved WMP must include deer population data from the current year and the preceding year, complete deer harvest data (including age, weight, and antler data as described in the general information section) from the preceding year, and must identify at least 2 recommended habitat management practices that are being conducted or will be conducted on the property.
- Once permits have been issued, every deer (buck and antlerless) harvested on the property must be tagged with an appropriate Level 2 MLDP (no MLDP is required for deer taken on the property under the authority of an Antlerless and Spike Deer Control Permit).
- The landowner must accomplish at least 2 habitat management practices specified in the WMP within three years of initial permit issuance. The habitat management practices and harvest management must maintain the habitat in a stable or improving condition. On-site evaluations will be conducted by TPWD to assess progress.

Level 3 Managed Lands Deer Permits

Level 3 MLDPs offer maximum harvest flexibility for landowners, but require active habitat and population management and apply only to white-tailed deer.

Level 3 MLDP Benefits:

- Completion of the hunting license log and use of a hunting license tag are not required on deer harvested under the authority of this permit; therefore, county and statewide bag limits do not apply to individual hunters.
- Allows harvest of antlerless and any buck deer with any lawful means from October 3, 2015 through February 29, 2016.
- Once permits have been issued, archery stamp requirements do not apply.

Level 3 MLDP Requirements:

- The approved WMP must include deer population data from the current year and the preceding 2 years, complete deer harvest data (including age, weight, and antler data as described in the general information section) from the 2 preceding years, and must identify at least 4 recommended habitat management practices that are being conducted or will be conducted on the property.
- Once permits have been issued, every deer (buck and antlerless) harvested on the property must be tagged with an appropriate Level 3 MLDP (no MLDP is required for deer taken on the property under the authority of an Antlerless and Spike Deer Control Permit).
- The landowner must accomplish at least 4 habitat management practices specified in the WMP within three years of initial permit issuance. The habitat management practices and harvest management must maintain the habitat in an acceptable or improving condition. On-site evaluations will be conducted by TPWD to assess progress.

For Additional Information

For additional information on Wildlife Management Plans and/or Managed Lands Deer Permits please contact the nearest TPWD Wildlife Biologist or Technician through the following web page:

www.tpwd.state.tx.us/landwater/land/habitats/