



Deer Management Permit Program Information

The following information is a summary of Texas Parks and Wildlife code and regulations concerning the Deer Management Permit. Complete information is contained in Texas Parks and Wildlife code (Chapter 43, Subchapter R) and regulations (31 TAC §65.131 - §65.138).

General Information

- The Deer Management Permit (DMP) authorizes **owners of high-fenced properties** to temporarily detain white-tailed deer in breeding pens located on the property for the purpose of natural breeding. Deer may not be detained for purposes that do not include natural breeding (i.e. "soft release" of bred TTT deer).
- All facilities must be completed prior to submitting the application and deer management plan in [Texas Wildlife Information Management Service](#) (TWIMS) for review and approval by the local biologist. The application and deer management plan must be approved in TWIMS by an authorized Wildlife Division Biologist or Technician.
- Participation in the DMP program requires a DMP application and associated Deer Management Plan to be completed electronically on the [Texas Wildlife Information Management Service](#) (TWIMS). The Deer Management Plan provides the details of the proposed breeding operation. Only DMP applications submitted through TWIMS will be accepted.
- There is a **non-refundable** application processing fee of \$1000. Applications for a Deer Management Permit must be made in consultation with an authorized TPWD Wildlife Division Biologist/Technician. Applicants are encouraged to complete the permit application in TWIMS several weeks prior to the ecoregion trapping deadline (see Table 2) to allow adequate time for permit approval and issuance.
- Breeding pens must be between five and 100 acres in size and contain 50,000 square feet of natural vegetative cover. There may be multiple breeding pens on a property.
- Breeding pens less than five acres in size or with less than 50,000 square feet of natural vegetative cover are "grandfathered" provided the pen was authorized as of August 31, 2010 and was included in the permittee's DMP application for the 2011 permit year. And, the property for which the DMP is sought is owned by 1) the same person who owned the property as of September 1, 2011, or 2) a spouse or child (including a legal entity through which a spouse or child has an ownership interest in the property) of the person who owned the property as of September 1, 2011, if the spouse or child obtained their ownership interest in the property by inheritance, will, intestate succession, gift, transfer, or sale from the person who owned the property as of September 1, 2011.
- Up to 20 does and one buck may be detained in each breeding pen. The following types of deer may be placed into the breeding pen: (1) wild deer captured on the high-fenced property, (2) wild unbred deer transported under a valid TTT permit from an approved ranch, (3) buck and/or doe deer purchased from a permitted Deer Breeder facility that will be liberated on the property after breeding, and (4) buck deer from a permitted Deer Breeder facility that will be temporarily placed into the pen for breeding and subsequently returned to the Deer Breeder.
- Wild unbred deer from the high-fenced property may be trapped and placed in the breeding facility between September 1 and December 14 depending on ecoregion (see Table 2).
- Deer may be transported from another ranch directly into DMP pens with a valid TTT permit between October 1 and December 14 depending on ecoregion (see Table 2).
- A buck deer that dies in a DMP pen after being lawfully introduced may be replaced no later than January 31 of the current permit year. Before the buck may be replaced the DMP permittee or designated agent must notify the Department electronically on the [Texas Wildlife Information Management Service](#) (TWIMS) of the death of the buck and acknowledge whether the buck will be replaced.
- To facilitate release, a minimum of 20 feet of fence or gate must be removed and all supplemental food and water must be removed from the pen for at least **30 days**. Pens may contain multiple openings to meet this 20-ft requirement; however, no such opening may be less than 10 feet in width. Each gate or fence opening to facilitate release of deer from the DMP pen must open directly to the pasture from which they were captured (except for deer that entered the DMP facility via TTT permit) and not through another pen. Deer that entered the DMP facility via TTT must be released directly to the release site indicated on the TTT Release Site form, and not through

another pen. All deer shall be released on or before the release date specified for the facility by the Department and deer must be released no later than 45 days prior to the trapping deadline of the subsequent DMP trapping season.

- The DMP permittee or designated agent shall notify the Department of the release date of deer from DMP pen(s) no later than 48 hours following the release of deer. Notification of release shall be completed electronically on the [Texas Wildlife Information Management Service](#) (TWIMS).
- The DMP permit shall expire when any deer are released from any DMP pen(s) for which the permit is issued.
- All mortalities must be kept in an edible condition and donated to a charitable institution.
- Accurate records documenting the number and origin of deer in breeding pens must be maintained by the permittee. Deer Management Plan facilities and records may be inspected by authorized TPWD employees at any time and without warrant.
- Violations of Deer Management Permit code, regulations, and/or permit conditions constitute Class C Parks and Wildlife Code misdemeanors. The killing or allowing the killing of deer in a breeding pen constitutes a Class A Parks and Wildlife Code misdemeanor.
- The Department may refuse to issue a permit or permit renewal to any person who within five years of applying for a permit has been convicted of or received deferred adjudication for a violation of Parks and Wildlife Code, Chapter 43, Subchapters C, E, L, or R; a violation of Parks and Wildlife Code that is a Class A misdemeanor, a Class B misdemeanor, or felony; or a violation of Parks and Wildlife Code §63.002.

Table 1. County names and designated ecoregions.

| County | Ecoregion | County | Ecoregion |
|---------------|-----------------------------------|---------------|-----------------------------------|
| Anderson | Post Oak Savannah | Colorado | Post Oak Savannah |
| Andrews | High Plains | Comal | Edwards Plateau |
| Angelina | Pineywoods | Comanche | Cross Timbers and Prairies |
| Aransas | Gulf Prairies and Marshes | Concho | Edwards Plateau |
| Archer | Rolling Plains | Cooke | Cross Timbers and Prairies |
| Armstrong | Rolling Plains | Coryell | Cross Timbers and Prairies |
| Atascosa | South Texas Plains | Cottle | Rolling Plains |
| Austin | Post Oak Savannah | Crane | Trans Pecos, Mountains and Basins |
| Bailey | High Plains | Crockett | Edwards Plateau |
| Bandera | Edwards Plateau | Crosby | High Plains |
| Bastrop | Post Oak Savannah | Culberson | Trans Pecos, Mountains and Basins |
| Baylor | Rolling Plains | Dallam | High Plains |
| Bee | South Texas Plains | Dallas | Blackland Prairies |
| Bell | Cross Timbers and Prairies | Dawson | High Plains |
| Bexar | Edwards Plateau | Deaf Smith | High Plains |
| Blanco | Edwards Plateau | Delta | Blackland Prairies |
| Borden | Rolling Plains | Denton | Cross Timbers and Prairies |
| Bosque | Cross Timbers and Prairies | DeWitt | South Texas Plains |
| Bowie | Post Oak Savannah | Dickens | Rolling Plains |
| Brazoria | Gulf Prairies and Marshes | Dimmit | South Texas Plains |
| Brazos | Post Oak Savannah | Donley | Rolling Plains |
| Brewster | Trans Pecos, Mountains and Basins | Duval | South Texas Plains |
| Briscoe | Rolling Plains | Eastland | Cross Timbers and Prairies |
| Brooks | South Texas Plains | Ector | High Plains |
| Brown | Cross Timbers and Prairies | Edwards | Edwards Plateau |
| Burleson | Post Oak Savannah | Ellis | Blackland Prairies |
| Burnet | Edwards Plateau | El Paso | Trans Pecos, Mountains and Basins |
| Caldwell | Post Oak Savannah | Erath | Cross Timbers and Prairies |
| Calhoun | Gulf Prairies and Marshes | Falls | Blackland Prairies |
| Callahan | Rolling Plains | Fannin | Post Oak Savannah |
| Cameron | South Texas Plains | Fayette | Post Oak Savannah |
| Camp | Pineywoods | Fisher | Rolling Plains |
| Carson | High Plains | Floyd | High Plains |
| Cass | Pineywoods | Foard | Rolling Plains |
| Castro | High Plains | Fort Bend | Gulf Prairies and Marshes |
| Chambers | Gulf Prairies and Marshes | Franklin | Post Oak Savannah |
| Cherokee | Pineywoods | Freestone | Post Oak Savannah |
| Childress | Rolling Plains | Frio | South Texas Plains |
| Clay | Cross Timbers and Prairies | Gaines | High Plains |
| Cochran | High Plains | Galveston | Gulf Prairies and Marshes |
| Coke | Edwards Plateau | Garza | Rolling Plains |
| Coleman | Rolling Plains | Gillespie | Edwards Plateau |
| Collin | Blackland Prairies | Glasscock | Edwards Plateau |
| Collingsworth | Rolling Plains | Goliad | South Texas Plains |

Table 1. County names and designated ecoregions (Continued).

| County | Ecoregion | County | Ecoregion |
|---------------|-----------------------------------|---------------|-----------------------------------|
| Gonzales | Post Oak Savannah | Kerr | Edwards Plateau |
| Gray | Rolling Plains | Kimble | Edwards Plateau |
| Grayson | Blackland Prairies | King | Rolling Plains |
| Gregg | Pineywoods | Kinney | South Texas Plains |
| Grimes | Post Oak Savannah | Kleberg | South Texas Plains |
| Guadalupe | Post Oak Savannah | Knox | Rolling Plains |
| Hale | High Plains | Lamar | Post Oak Savannah |
| Hall | Rolling Plains | Lamb | High Plains |
| Hamilton | Cross Timbers and Prairies | Lampasas | Edwards Plateau |
| Hansford | High Plains | La Salle | South Texas Plains |
| Hardeman | Rolling Plains | Lavaca | Post Oak Savannah |
| Hardin | Pineywoods | Lee | Post Oak Savannah |
| Harris | Pineywoods | Leon | Post Oak Savannah |
| Harrison | Pineywoods | Liberty | Pineywoods |
| Hartley | High Plains | Limestone | Post Oak Savannah |
| Haskell | Rolling Plains | Lipscomb | Rolling Plains |
| Hays | Edwards Plateau | Live Oak | South Texas Plains |
| Hemphill | Rolling Plains | Llano | Edwards Plateau |
| Henderson | Post Oak Savannah | Loving | Trans Pecos, Mountains and Basins |
| Hidalgo | South Texas Plains | Lubbock | High Plains |
| Hill | Blackland Prairies | Lynn | High Plains |
| Hockley | High Plains | Madison | Post Oak Savannah |
| Hood | Cross Timbers and Prairies | Marion | Pineywoods |
| Hopkins | Blackland Prairies | Martin | High Plains |
| Houston | Pineywoods | Mason | Edwards Plateau |
| Howard | Rolling Plains | Matagorda | Gulf Prairies and Marshes |
| Hudspeth | Trans Pecos, Mountains and Basins | Maverick | South Texas Plains |
| Hunt | Blackland Prairies | McCulloch | Edwards Plateau |
| Hutchinson | Rolling Plains | McLennan | Blackland Prairies |
| Irion | Edwards Plateau | McMullen | South Texas Plains |
| Jack | Cross Timbers and Prairies | Medina | South Texas Plains |
| Jackson | Gulf Prairies and Marshes | Menard | Edwards Plateau |
| Jasper | Pineywoods | Midland | High Plains |
| Jeff Davis | Trans Pecos, Mountains and Basins | Milam | Post Oak Savannah |
| Jefferson | Gulf Prairies and Marshes | Mills | Edwards Plateau |
| Jim Hogg | South Texas Plains | Mitchell | Rolling Plains |
| Jim Wells | South Texas Plains | Montague | Cross Timbers and Prairies |
| Johnson | Cross Timbers and Prairies | Montgomery | Pineywoods |
| Jones | Rolling Plains | Moore | High Plains |
| Karnes | South Texas Plains | Morris | Pineywoods |
| Kaufman | Blackland Prairies | Motley | Rolling Plains |
| Kendall | Edwards Plateau | Nacogdoches | Pineywoods |
| Kenedy | South Texas Plains | Navarro | Post Oak Savannah |
| Kent | Rolling Plains | Newton | Pineywoods |

Table 1. County names and designated ecoregions (Continued).

| County | Ecoregion | County | Ecoregion |
|---------------|-----------------------------------|---------------|-----------------------------------|
| Nolan | Edwards Plateau | Sterling | Edwards Plateau |
| Nueces | Gulf Prairies and Marshes | Stonewall | Rolling Plains |
| Ochiltree | Rolling Plains | Sutton | Edwards Plateau |
| Oldham | Rolling Plains | Swisher | High Plains |
| Orange | Gulf Prairies and Marshes | Tarrant | Cross Timbers and Prairies |
| Palo Pinto | Cross Timbers and Prairies | Taylor | Edwards Plateau |
| Panola | Pineywoods | Terrell | Edwards Plateau |
| Parker | Cross Timbers and Prairies | Terry | High Plains |
| Parmer | High Plains | Throckmorton | Rolling Plains |
| Pecos | Trans Pecos, Mountains and Basins | Titus | Post Oak Savannah |
| Polk | Pineywoods | Tom Green | Edwards Plateau |
| Potter | Rolling Plains | Travis | Edwards Plateau |
| Presidio | Trans Pecos, Mountains and Basins | Trinity | Pineywoods |
| Rains | Blackland Prairies | Tyler | Pineywoods |
| Randall | High Plains | Upshur | Pineywoods |
| Reagan | Edwards Plateau | Upton | Edwards Plateau |
| Real | Edwards Plateau | Uvalde | South Texas Plains |
| Red River | Post Oak Savannah | Val Verde | Edwards Plateau |
| Reeves | Trans Pecos, Mountains and Basins | Van Zandt | Blackland Prairies |
| Refugio | Gulf Prairies and Marshes | Victoria | Gulf Prairies and Marshes |
| Roberts | Rolling Plains | Walker | Pineywoods |
| Robertson | Post Oak Savannah | Waller | Post Oak Savannah |
| Rockwall | Blackland Prairies | Ward | Trans Pecos, Mountains and Basins |
| Runnels | Rolling Plains | Washington | Post Oak Savannah |
| Rusk | Pineywoods | Webb | South Texas Plains |
| Sabine | Pineywoods | Wharton | Gulf Prairies and Marshes |
| San Augustine | Pineywoods | Wheeler | Rolling Plains |
| San Jacinto | Pineywoods | Wichita | Rolling Plains |
| San Patricio | Gulf Prairies and Marshes | Wilbarger | Rolling Plains |
| San Saba | Edwards Plateau | Willacy | South Texas Plains |
| Schleicher | Edwards Plateau | Williamson | Cross Timbers and Prairies |
| Scurry | Rolling Plains | Wilson | South Texas Plains |
| Shackelford | Rolling Plains | Winkler | Trans Pecos, Mountains and Basins |
| Shelby | Pineywoods | Wise | Cross Timbers and Prairies |
| Sherman | High Plains | Wood | Post Oak Savannah |
| Smith | Post Oak Savannah | Yoakum | High Plains |
| Somervell | Cross Timbers and Prairies | Young | Cross Timbers and Prairies |
| Starr | South Texas Plains | Zapata | South Texas Plains |
| Stephens | Cross Timbers and Prairies | Zavala | South Texas Plains |

Table 2. DMP Trapping Deadlines by Ecoregion (based on TPWD breeding chronology data (1991-94)).

| Ecoregion | Trapping Deadline |
|----------------------------------|--------------------------|
| Cross Timbers and Prairies | November 05 |
| Edwards Plateau | November 16 |
| Gulf Prairies and Marshes | October 21 |
| Pineywoods | November 11 |
| Post Oak Savannah | October 27 |
| Rolling Plains | November 25 |
| South Texas Plains | December 14 |
| Trans Pecos Mountains and Basins | November 28 |