



Antlerless and Spike-Buck Deer Control Permits Program Information 2007-2008

The following information is a summary of Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) regulations concerning Antlerless and Spike-buck Deer Control Permits and Wildlife Management Plans. Complete information is contained in Texas Parks & Wildlife regulations (31 TAC §65.25 and §65.27).

General Information

- Antlerless and Spike-buck deer Control Permits (ADCP) program provides landowners an additional mechanism to control overpopulation of white-tailed deer on their property. Control Permits may not be issued for the sole purpose of maintaining sex ratios.
- Participation in the ADCP program requires a written Wildlife Management Plan (WMP) that specifies a harvest quota of more than 20 antlerless deer. The WMP must be in a format approved by TPWD, submitted to TPWD, and approved by an authorized Wildlife Division Biologist or Technician. Permits will not be issued unless the WMP has been approved.
- In addition to an approved WMP, applicants must complete and submit a written application form. **The application must be approved and signed, prior to submission**, by an authorized Wildlife Division Biologist or Technician. **There is an application processing fee of \$360.00.**
- Applicants must submit, with their application, a list of hunters (designated harvesters) who will be authorized to use the control permits. The designated harvester list must include each hunter's name, telephone number, driver's license number and current hunting license number. The hunting license number is not required at time of application but each harvester MUST obtain a current, valid Texas hunting license prior to harvesting deer. The number of designated harvesters may not exceed one-tenth the total number of deer recommended for harvest in the approved WMP. Designated harvesters **may not** be added after permits have been issued.
- Deer may be killed under an ADCP by (1) named Designated Harvesters, and (2) youth, age 16 and under, who possess a valid Texas Hunting License. Youth do not need to be named on the Designated Harvester List.
- **The application deadline for ADCP issuance is December 10.**
- Permits are valid only for the specific property for which they were issued. A single property specified on the permit application must be contiguous, but may be subdivided into multiple high-fenced and/or low-fenced pastures. If the permits are used in multiple pastures, harvest should be allocated based on the approved WMP.
- Each antlerless or spike buck harvested under the authority of an ADCP must be immediately tagged with an ADCP tag. Deer harvested with ADCPs should not be tagged with the harvester's hunting license tag and are not part of the hunter's annual bag limit. If a property has been issued both ADCPs and Managed Land Deer Permits (MLDPs), deer harvested under the authority of ADCPs should not be tagged with an MLDP tag. On properties with both ADCPs and MLDPs, the cumulative harvest under both permits may not exceed the harvest quota established in the approved WMP. Under the authority of an ADCP, a designated harvester may not take more than 300 deer.
- Tags may be used on either antlerless or spike-buck deer (up to the harvest quota established in the approved WMP). A spike-buck is defined as a buck with no antler having a fork or branching point.
- Deer harvested under ADCPs must be kept in an edible condition. TPWD recommends donation of excess carcasses to charitable organizations such as Hunters for the Hungry.
- **Deer may be harvested under the authority of ADCPs from September 01 through February 29.** Deer may be harvested using any lawful means and only during lawful shooting hours.
- The sex and date of kill for each deer harvested under the authority of an ADCP must be recorded. **A report form (provided by TPWD) must be submitted to TPWD no later than March 14.**

Wildlife Management Plan (WMP)

A Wildlife Management Plan (WMP) is a written document that guides wildlife and habitat management on a specific property. It documents the habitat and harvest history of the land and is the basis for TPWD permitting program. A thorough WMP will address the needs of all wildlife species, however, only deer and deer habitat information is required for the Antlerless and Spike-buck Deer Control Permits (ADCP) program.

- A Wildlife Management Plan is required for Antlerless and Spike-buck Deer Control Permits.
- A WMP may be prepared by the landowner, the landowner's agent, a private consulting wildlife biologist, or a TPWD Wildlife Division Biologist or Technician.
- **A WMP must be approved by an authorized TPWD Wildlife Division Biologist or Technician prior to issuance of ADCPs.**

The format of a WMP may vary, depending upon the region of the state where the property is located, the individual who prepared the plan, and the landowner's management goals, but probably will contain:

- Measurements of density, production, and sex composition of the deer population.
- Harvest data, including sex, age, weight and antler dimensions of each harvested deer.
- An evaluation and appraisal of habitats significant to deer.
- Descriptions of land management practices presently being employed.
- Recommendation for enhancing wildlife habitat.
- Population goals and recommended harvest levels.

For issuance of Antlerless and Spike-buck Deer Control Permits, the WMP must specify the number of both spike-buck and antlerless deer to be harvested.

Wildlife Management Plans are confidential documents and are not subject to Open Records Act requests.

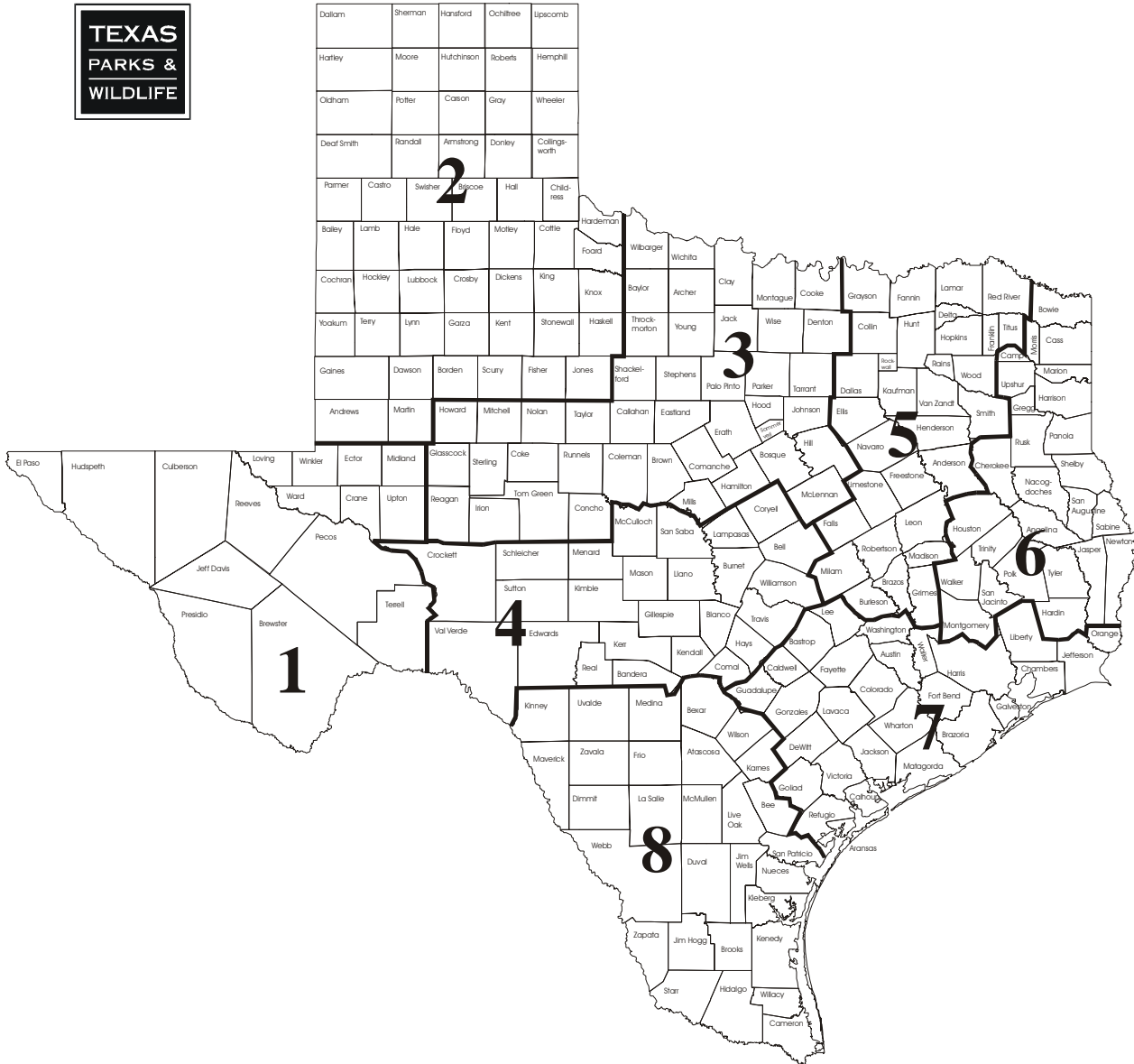
ADCP Application Process

- Wildlife Management Plan must be approved by an authorized TPWD Wildlife Division Biologist or Technician.
- Complete the ADCP application and Designated Harvester list.
- Application must be approved by authorized TPWD Wildlife Division Biologist or Technician.
- Do not send a copy of your WMP with the application.
- **Application deadline is December 10.**
- **Mail approved application, Designated Harvester list, and check or money order for \$360.00** (made payable to Texas Parks & Wildlife Department) to:

**Texas Parks and Wildlife Department
Wildlife Division – Wildlife Permits Office
4200 Smith School Road
Austin, Texas 78744-3291**

For additional information on Antlerless and Spike-buck Deer Control Permits, contact TPWD Headquarters at 1-800-792-1112 or 1-512-389-4491. **For additional information** on Wildlife Management Plans, please contact the Wildlife Division District Leader for your county. District leader contact information is attached.

Wildlife Division Districts and District Leaders



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