

Is my place something that TPWD would be interested in leasing?

TPWD does not sign up all property offered for lease. When evaluating potential lease sites, TPWD biologists and game wardens look for areas generally 100+ acres in size where hunting is legal. Food, water and available cover for wildlife and distance to a population center are all considered. Ideal lease sites have a food source (such as a sunflowers, croton, grain crops or recently fallowed fields) surrounded by rangeland. Planting, harvesting and post-harvest cultivation decisions have a major impact on the value of the land as a public hunting lease.



How can I contact TPWD about the Short-Term Hunting Lease program?

Contact Texas Parks and Wildlife Department by:

- Calling (800) 792-1112, menu 5, selection 1 or at (512) 389-4505.
- E-mail us at hunt@tpwd.state.tx.us
- Consult your local wildlife biologist or game warden.



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Potential Income

For Texas Landowners: Public Hunting Leases



In 1994, the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) began a pilot program to benefit both hunters and agricultural producers in Texas. This program sought to lease private lands during the dove season for use by purchasers of the TPWD Annual Public Hunting (APH) Permit. Since that first year, the program has found ready acceptance from both hunters and participating landowners. The program has expanded to all areas of the state and to other game species. TPWD offers single year and multiple year leases. We are always looking for good lease opportunities.

What is a Short-Term Hunting Land Lease?

A short-term hunting land lease is a contract between TPWD and a private landowner. The landowner agrees to let APH Permit holders hunt game birds and small game animals as specified in the lease contract on their property for a specified period of time. TPWD pays the landowner for this access and agrees to post signs on the boundary, designated roads and parking areas, restricted areas or other areas identified in the lease agreement.

Who can hunt on Short-Term Hunting Lease lands?

Only those hunters who purchase the APH Permit (approximately 38,000 are sold annually statewide) from TPWD are allowed to hunt. TPWD biologists or game wardens periodically monitor the hunting area and are available to hunters and landowners.



What are my liability risks?

Recently, the Texas Legislature enacted statutes that offer additional liability protection to landowners that lease recreational (including hunting) rights. If the total income derived from all recreational activity does not exceed 20 times the annual ad valorem taxes assessed on the property for the previous year, the landowner's liability is very limited.

How much does TPWD pay for these leases?

Payments vary widely depending upon things such as location, size, habitat quality, game species and hunt dates provided. Currently, lease prices range from about \$2 to \$6 per acre.



Areas with high quality habitat and those within close proximity to population centers receive the best price.

What is the length of the hunt period and leases?

TPWD is interested in obtaining short-term leases for dove hunting during the first split of the season, second split or season long. TPWD is also interested in obtaining short-term leases for additional species of small game during other time periods. TPWD signs single or multi-year leases for areas offering good hunting opportunity. The deadline for lease agreements is early June.

What species may be hunted?

Primarily dove; however, TPWD is interested in leasing short-term opportunities for waterfowl (ducks and geese), pheasants, quail, squirrel and rabbits.