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If you live to hunt or fish, show off your passion for the outdoors with a white-tailed deer or largemouth bass license plate.

Each plate costs just \$30, and \$22 goes directly to support big game hunting or bass fishing in Texas. To order your plate today, visit www.conservationplate.org/buy

Texas Parks & Wildlife Expo suspended

Texas Parks and Wildlife Department regrets having to suspend this popular event for at least 2009 and 2010 because of a sponsorship revenue decline related to the economic recession and increased operational costs. TPWD will instead expand efforts to support similar events around the state. "This was a painful decision, but after looking hard at the financial realities and seeking creative ways to keep the event going, we finally concluded the economic recession is affecting sponsor support to the extent that it is not viable to stage Expo," said Carter Smith, TPWD executive director.

2009-2010 Hunting Seasons Calendar

Cut out on dotted line, fold in half, laminate and carry for convenience. Folding in half again will make it wallet size.

Proposed 2009-2010 Hunting Seasons

Alligator	22 core counties (by permit only) Remainder of the state	Sept. 10-30 Apr. 1-Jan. 30
Pronghorn Antelope	by permit only	Oct. 3-11
Dove (Please report leg bands to 1-800-327-BAND) see Important Notice	North Zone and Central Zone	Sept. 1-Oct. 25, Dec. 26-Jan. 9
	South Zone	Sept. 18-Nov. 3, Dec. 26-Jan. 17
	Special White-winged Dove Zone	Sept. 5, 6, 12, 13, Sept. 18-Nov. 3, Dec. 26-Jan. 13
Early Teal-Only	Statewide see Important Notice	Sept. 12-27
White-tailed deer	Archery General: * Special Youth Season	Oct. 3-Nov. 6 Oct. 31-Nov. 1, Jan. 4-17
	North Texas (206 counties) South Texas (30 counties) Late Antlerless and Spike Edwards Plateau (39 counties) South Texas (30 counties) Muzzleloader (57 counties)	Nov. 7-Jan. 3 Nov. 7-Jan. 17
Mule deer	Archery General: Panhandle (38 counties) SW Panhandle (10 counties) Trans-Pecos (19 counties)	Jan. 4-17 Jan. 18-31 Jan. 4-17 Oct. 3-Nov. 6 Nov. 21-Dec. 6 Nov. 21-29 Nov. 28-Dec. 13
Javelina	(43 counties) (50 counties)	Oct. 1-Feb. 28 Sept. 1-Aug. 31
Squirrel	** Special Youth Season East Texas (51 counties)	Sept. 26-27 Oct. 1-Feb. 7, May 1-31
	Other Open counties (see County Listings in current Outdoor Annual)	Sept. 1-Aug. 31

Lesser Prairie Chicken	There is no open season for Lesser Prairie Chicken
Pheasant	Chambers, Jefferson and Liberty counties Panhandle (37 counties) Statewide
	Oct. 31-Feb. 28 Dec. 5-Jan. 3 Oct. 31-Feb. 28
Quail	Statewide
Rio Grande Turkey	Archery Fall Season: * Special Youth Season
	Oct. 31-Nov. 1, Jan. 16-17 Nov. 7-Jan. 3 Nov. 7-Jan. 17
	North Zone (122 counties) South Zone (26 counties) Brooks, Kenedy, Kleberg and Willacy counties
	Nov. 7-Feb. 28
	Spring Season: North Zone (NZ) (101 counties) * Special Youth Season NZ
	Apr. 3-May 16 Mar. 27-28, May 22-23 Mar. 20-May 2
	South Zone (SZ) (54 counties) * Special Youth Season SZ
	Mar. 13-14, May 8-9 Apr. 1-30
	1-Turkey Bag Limits (11 counties)
+Eastern Turkey	Spring Season Only East Texas (43 counties)
	Apr. 1-30
Chachalaca	Cameron, Hidalgo, Starr and Willacy counties
	Oct. 31-Feb. 28
Rabbits and Hares	No closed season.

* In all counties that have an open season for those species.
** In all counties that have a Oct. 1-Feb. 7 and May 1-31 Open Squirrel Season.
+ Rio Grande and Eastern Turkey may be hunted in these counties.

Important Notice: Texas dove and early teal season dates are tentative pending federal approval. For final dove seasons, check the Texas Outdoor Annual when it comes out in July. September Teal Season will be set in mid-July and will be posted on the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department Web site soon after.

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TEXAS PARKS AND WILDLIFE DEPARTMENT MISSION STATEMENT
"To manage and conserve the natural and cultural resources of Texas and to provide hunting, fishing and outdoor recreation opportunities for the use and enjoyment of present and future generations."

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FOR MORE INFORMATION
All inquiries: Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, 4200 Smith School Rd., Austin, TX 78744, telephone (800) 792-1112 toll free, or (512) 389-4800 or visit our Web site for detailed information about TPWD programs:
www.tpwd.state.tx.us

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Thanks are due to Toyota for providing funding to print this free customer newsletter. Since 2002 Toyota has provided critical funding for TPWD programs, including Texas Outdoor Family, Archery in the Schools, Youth Shooting Sports, the Texas State Park Guide, park maps, hunting and fishing bag limit cards and the Life's Better Outside® campaign. Since 2007, Toyota has also been title sponsor of the Toyota Texas Bass Classic, an annual event that provides hundreds of thousands of dollars in proceeds to enhance public stocking of fish and fisheries management. Their long-standing and generous support provides much-needed dollars to accomplish the mission of keeping Texas a great place to hunt, fish and enjoy the outdoors.



From bagging blue-winged teal in the marshes to stalking majestic bighorn sheep in West Texas crags, from chasing whitewings in the Rio Grande Valley to flushing Panhandle pheasants, Texas sporting enthusiasts enjoy an enormous variety of hunting opportunities.

By buying a Super Combo license, hunters pay one price to pursue any legal game in a state with a wide variety of habitat and species diversity. With more than 3 million huntable animals, Texas hosts the largest white-tailed deer herd in the nation. Hunters may also hunt mule deer, javelina, wild hogs, pronghorn, alligators and exotic animals from around the world. Bird and small-game enthusiasts may chase ducks and geese, three quail species, woodcock, sandhill cranes, two turkey species, squirrels, rabbits and other birds or animals.

"Texas has wilder bobwhite quail than any other state and several wildlife management areas where people can hunt them," said Jason Hardin, a TPWD bird specialist.

"With so many species and long seasons, sportsmen can enjoy many days afield pursuing all kinds of game."

Anglers also enjoy Super Combo privileges to catch redfish in coastal flats, rainbow trout in cold rivers, bass in reservoirs and many other species.

"The Super Combo license allows people to experience many types of opportunities," said Mitch Lockwood, the TPWD white-tailed deer expert. "I buy a Super Combo every year. It's very convenient. If I get a chance to do something I normally wouldn't do, I don't have to worry about whether I have the right licenses or not."

After buying a Super Combo license, you need only buy a federal migratory bird stamp if you want to hunt waterfowl. If you want to hunt on public lands, you can also buy an Annual Public Hunting Permit, which grants access to more than 1.2 million acres.

For more information, call (800) 792-1112 or visit www.tpwd.state.tx.us/licenses.



Renew your Super Combo August 15!

Purchase licenses online at: www.tpwd.state.tx.us/licenses

Science and Research: Your Super Combo dollars at work

How many bighorn sheep can be found in the mountain ranges of far West Texas? What was the impact from the drought of 2008 on bobwhite quail and wild turkey populations? How did Hurricane Ike affect the oyster beds in Galveston Bay? How are spotted sea trout populations responding to the five fish bag limit in the Lower Laguna Madre? Why do alligator gar populations need greater protection in our state's rivers?

These, and many other natural resource related questions, are part of the Department's annual scientific research and monitoring initiatives around the state. Funded in large part by dollars invested from the sale of hunting and fishing licenses and equipment, this research forms the basis for not only the fisheries and wildlife regulations set by the Department, but also for the conservation actions we take in the water and on the land. Without your financial support as anglers and hunters, this simply would not be possible.

It is important to recognize that the conservation of our fish and wildlife involves a somewhat delicate balancing act between an array of social, cultural, economic, and political factors. But, at the very core, is, and must be, science and science-based action. Our team of professional fisheries and wildlife biologists and technicians take great pride in their commitment to, and reliance upon, science to help guide their recommendations and decisions. As such, we are continually investing in additional research and monitoring to help ensure we make the best possible decisions on behalf of the public resources we are entrusted with managing.

For example, our Inland Fisheries staff has worked for the last five years to study golden algae, a significant threat impacting fish production in certain hatcheries around the state. As one fisheries biologist put it well, "You can't raise fish in toxic water." Although a "cure" has not yet been found yet, I am confident it one day will.

Along the coast, our fisheries biologists have collected a standardized set of physical and biological data for the past 25 years that is the envy of other fisheries departments across the country. This data set has been invaluable as we set harvest and population level goals for redfish and flounder. So, too, have the results from our annual big-game surveys that enable our biologists to ensure that our pronghorn antelope, mule deer, and white-tailed deer flourish for hunters to enjoy and pursue.

Please know, your Super Combo license dollars make all that possible. We don't take those investments lightly and appreciate your confidence as hunters and anglers in the conservation work we do day in and day out.

Thank you for your support of the future of Texas' natural resources. I hope you will have ample time in the great outdoors this year to enjoy the fruits of your investments in the lands, waters, fish and wildlife that make Texas so special.

Carter P. Smith, TPWD Executive Director



Toyota Texas Bass Classic raises money for fishing programs

Dubbed the "World Series of Bass Fishing," the Toyota Texas Bass Classic (TTBC) pits the top 60 professional anglers in a showdown Oct. 16-18 on Lake Conroe near Montgomery.

"It's the best of the best from both the B.A.S.S. and FLW circuits, each of which have their respective championships, competing on one playing field," explained Lenny Francoeur, the TTBC tournament director.

Judges riding with each angler will measure and weigh the fish before releasing them. Each angler may only bring one bass to the scales, but can also count the four biggest fish released that day. A portion of the proceeds also benefits TPWD outdoor recreation programs.

Spectators may enjoy live entertainment from top artists, interactive educational displays, youth activities, instructional fishing clinics and exhibits from many sporting companies. "This tournament represents a great opportunity for our department to promote a conservation-minded approach to fishing and showcase a new catch, weigh and immediately release format to a national audience," said Dave Terre, a TPWD spokesman. "The last two TTBC events raised a total of \$500,000 for Texas fishing programs. We used that money to purchase fish for stocking Neighborhood Fishin' lakes which give urban families the opportunity to bring their kids to a lake near their home where they can enjoy fishing together."

For more information, visit: www.toyotatexasbassclassic.com

New harvest regs aimed at improving deer age structure and flounder populations

The Texas Parks and Wildlife Commission this year expanded whitetail antler restrictions from 61 to 113 counties. Other changes will increase antlerless deer harvests, buck limits and season lengths, plus create more youth and muzzleloading opportunities in certain areas.

"In the 2008-09 season, those 61 counties enrolled in our antler restriction regulation program were the ones reporting above-average antler quality simply because the number of mature bucks has increased in those populations," explained Mitch Lockwood, TPWD white-tail program leader in Kerrville.

In certain areas, hunters may shoot bucks with a minimum "inside spread." Hunters can also harvest deer with unbranched antlers on at least one side to cull inferior deer and allow more bucks to reach their full potential.

"The ear tips are a good ruler," Lockwood said. "If a deer's inside spread is wider than the tips of its ears when he's in an alert position, he's going to make 13 inches or better. The other part of that regulation is just as critical. Like a slot limit in fishing, it allows sportsmen to take off the bottom and top."

For anglers, the recreational flounder daily creel drops to five because the flounder population declined by 50 percent since the 1980s. Rod and reel anglers may only keep two flounder per day during November. The commission also approved the first restrictions on alligator gar, allowing anglers to keep only one fish per day among other changes.

For specific regulations, see the TPWD Web site at www.tpwd.state.tx.us/huntwild or call (800) 792-1112.

Opportunities abound for Texas hunters on a budget

Texas hunters should enjoy ample opportunities to pursue their favorite quarry this fall without breaking the bank – even if they don't own a huge ranch or pay for an expensive lease.

By paying \$48 for an Annual Public Hunting Permit, hunters can hunt on more than 1.1 million acres of state lands. Permit holders may also take youth hunters on these lands free of charge, though a youth hunting license is required.

"TPWD administers a fairly comprehensive public hunting program," said Kelly Edmiston of the Wildlife Division. "It offers the opportunity to participate in numerous low-cost, family-oriented hunts for a multitude of species. Sportsmen may also hunt on almost half a million acres of federal lands in the state through this program."

The TPWD Annual Public Hunting Permit does not grant access to all federal lands, but it does entitle hunters to hunt on many national forests and grasslands in Texas, as well as state-leased private dove fields. Each year, TPWD uses proceeds from the sale of the permits to lease private lands around the state.

"During the 2008-09 season, the department leased 141 dove fields that comprised more than 50,000 acres," Edmiston said. "About 74 percent of those units and 69 percent of the acreage were within 100 miles of Austin, Houston, San Antonio or the Dallas-Fort Worth area."

In addition, hunters can apply for about 5,000 lottery hunt permits for mule deer, whitetail, pronghorn, feral hog, javelina, turkey, alligator and exotic animals.

For more information on public hunting, call (512) 389-4505 or visit: www.tpwd.state.tx.us/huntwild



Hunt and Fish Forever - for FREE!

Drawings will be held December 15, 2009 and June 6, 2010.

Enter for a chance to win a Lifetime Super Combo License, giving you the right to hunt and fish in Texas without ever having to buy another license or stamp! Visit www.tpwd.state.tx.us/lifetime for more information or to enter.

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LIFETIME LICENSE
DRAWING

Entries can be purchased online or at any license retailer. Winners can keep the license or give it as a gift to family or friends in Texas. Only Texas residents are eligible to win.