



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; §65.96; §65.100).

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 or breeder deer).
- All facilities must be completed prior to submitting the application and deer management plan in [Texas Wildlife Information Management Service](#) (TWIMS). Inspection of a DMP facility may be conducted by TPWD Law Enforcement or Wildlife Division staff but is not required prior to submission of the application. 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. Please, note that a different DMP permit application is required for each high-fenced pasture/property that DMP pen(s) are to be located in, even if those multiple high-fenced pastures are part of a single property.
- A CWD epidemiologically-linked release site may not apply for a DMP permit or conduct DMP activities.
- There is a **non-refundable** application processing fee of \$1000. An authorized TPWD Wildlife Division Biologist/Technician must approve the initial online application form before the application can be reviewed for final approval by the Wildlife Permits Office. Applicants are encouraged to complete the permit application in TWIMS several weeks prior to their planned trapping date(s); please reference Table 2 of this document to determine the specific trapping deadlines by ecoregion. No trapping or transfer of deer may take place after the ecoregion deadline.
- Breeding pens must be between 5 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 or high-fenced pasture that the DMP pen is located within,
 - (2) wild unbred deer transported under a valid TTT permit from an approved ranch,
 - (3) buck and/or unbred doe deer purchased from a permitted Deer Breeder.
 - Breeder deer from a breeder facility epidemiologically connected to a deer infected with CWD or a trace-out release site may not be transferred to a DMP pen.
 - All deer transferred from a permitted Deer Breeder facility must be released on the property where the DMP pen is located after breeding. No deer may be returned to a permitted Deer Breeder facility.

- Wild unbred deer from the high-fenced property may be trapped and placed in the breeding facility with a valid DMP permit between September 1 and December 14 depending on the ecoregion (see Table 2).
- Wild 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); breeder deer from a permitted Deer Breeder facility that is Movement Qualified (MQ) may be transferred between September 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 consecutive 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 the 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 or from a deer breeder facility) 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). Failure to report the release within the required timeline may result in citations that could prevent the issuance of a DMP permit for three years.
- The DMP permit shall expire when any deer are released from any DMP pen(s) for which the permit is issued.
- All mortalities that occur within a permitted DMP pen 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 a warrant.
- Violations of Deer Management Permit code, regulations, and/or permit conditions constitute a Class C Parks and Wildlife Code misdemeanor. 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.
- Any questions can be directed towards the Wildlife Permits Office at (512) 389-4585; deer.breeder@tpwd.texas.gov.

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

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	Release Deadline
Cross Timbers and Prairies	November 5	September 21
Edwards Plateau	November 16	October 2
Gulf Prairies and Marshes	October 21	September 6
Pineywoods	November 11	September 27
Post Oak Savannah	October 27	September 12
Rolling Plains	November 25	October 11
South Texas Plains	December 14	October 30
Trans Pecos	November 28	October 14
Blackland Prairies	October 27	September 12
High Plains	November 25	October 11