

TPWD- “Doe Days” Scoping Meeting

Jan. 10, 2018

TPWD Sets Public Meetings in Lockhart, Bastrop to Scope Possible Deer Season Modifications

AUSTIN – The Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) is considering implementing a four-day antlerless deer season in 21 counties in south central Texas. Wildlife officials will present the suggested changes during upcoming scoping meetings in Lockhart and Bastrop.

The public is invited to attend and provide input on the potential regulation changes at these meetings:

Bastrop -- Tuesday, Jan. 15, 7 p.m. in the Bastrop County Commissioner’s Courtroom (2nd floor), 804 Pecan St.

Lockhart -- Thursday, Jan. 17, 7 p.m. in the Caldwell County Scott Annex Building, 1402 Blackjack St., Suite C.

Counties being considered by this potential regulation proposal include: Austin, Bastrop, Caldwell, Colorado, Dewitt, Fayette, Gonzales, Guadalupe, Karnes, Lavaca, Lee, Waller, Washington, and Wilson. In addition to these counties, Goliad, Jackson, Victoria, and Wharton counties north of U.S. Highway 59 and Comal, Hays, and Travis east of IH-35 would also be impacted. The regulation change, if approved by the Texas Parks and Wildlife Commission at its March public hearing, would take affect this fall on Thursday, Thanksgiving Day, and finish the Sunday after Thanksgiving. The bag limits would remain at 2 antlerless deer (like it currently is for archery season).

Additional opportunities for public input will be made available prior to consideration for adoption by the commission.

The proposed change would provide opportunities for hunters on properties that do not participate in TPWD’s Managed Lands Deer (MLD) program to have 4 days to harvest an antlerless deer. On properties that have been issued MLD permits, hunters are restricted to the number of antlerless MLD tags issued *for that property including during the 4-day doe season and would not be able to harvest ‘additional’ antlerless deer using hunting license tags.*

One potential requirement would be the mandatory reporting of antlerless deer harvested during this 4-day antlerless season. This would give TPWD good data on how many antlerless deer were being harvested outside the MLD program, and allow for better monitoring of the population. Since annual harvest reporting is already required for MLD cooperators, the proposed mandatory reporting of antlerless deer would extend to all antlerless deer harvested and tagged with a hunting license tag.