

1. Does your agency give landowners big game permits or vouchers that they can use or sell to compensate landowners or offset crop damage? If so, are the permits for antlerless animals, bucks/bulls, or both? Please explain the details of these permits or vouchers?

- NO... however...
- TPWD may issue a depredation permit to landowners or other individuals who have evidence clearly showing damage to a commercial agriculture, horticultural or aquiculture crop or where there is a threat to public safety.
 - The permittee cannot sell the tags associated with the depredation permit to make up for lost revenue resulting from any crop damage.
 - Permit is only valid for the crop(s) and acreage specified on the permit. Permit must specify time during which permit is valid (i.e. only when crop is growing or has been planted, permit not valid after harvest, etc.)
 - A depredation permit authorizes the killing of protected wildlife identified on the permit at any time during the period of validity of the permit, irrespective of open seasons and lawful shooting hours
 - The Department may specify the number and sex of animal to be taken under the depredation permit. In most instances the sex of animal to be taken is not specified in the permit, allowing for the take of males or females.
 - The depredation permit requires the permittee to list designated harvesters on the permit and only they make take the depredating big game species.
 - Carcasses must be donated to a charitable institution, a hospital, a needy person, or any other appropriate recipient.
 - Antlers or horns must be immediately removed at a point within 2 inches of the skull and destroyed by cutting at the approximate midpoint of the main beam or horn.
 - The depredation permittee may not keep or sell any part of the wildlife taken under a depredation permit. The permit will specify the

Threats to Public Safety or Damage by Wildlife Sec. 43.51 Texas Administrative Code
<https://statutes.capitol.texas.gov/Docs/PW/htm/PW.43.htm#43.151>

2. Are landowners allowed to remove big game animals depredating on private lands in an effort to protect their agricultural resources? If so, under what circumstances?

- No, unless they obtain a valid depredation permit issued by TPWD. See general depredation permit conditions listed under question 1 for more details.
<https://tpwd.texas.gov/huntwild/apps/>

3. Does your agency call depredation hunts to target populations on private lands?

- No.

similar program that promotes hunting on private property?

Approximately 97% of Texas is under private lands ownership and the majority of hunting occurs on private lands. Hunters possessing a valid Texas hunting license may not exceed the number of white-tailed / mule deer, turkey, or javelina specified in the bag limit for the county they are hunting. Hunters may hunt in multiple counties but cannot harvest more than the maximum number of tags available on their hunting license (5 white-tailed deer tags, 2 mule deer tags, 4 turkeys, and 2 javelina) and bag limit for the county.

TPWD offers several voluntary programs that include a tag issuance for harvest of white-tailed, mule deer, or pronghorn depending on the permit program. Tag issuance is specific to the tract of land for which the tags are issued and may not be used on any other property. Landowners may sell hunting access on their ranches enrolled in these programs. Hunters on properties enrolled in these programs must use tags issued under these programs when tagging harvested game on these private lands. Tag or permit programs include:

- **Managed Lands Deer Program (MLDP)** - TPWD developed the MLDP to foster and support sound management and stewardship and wildlife habitats on private lands. Deer harvest is an important aspect of habitat management and conservation. Landowners enrolled in the voluntary MLDP can take advantage of extended hunting season lengths and liberalized harvest bag limits. Harvest recommendations are created for each enrolled property and tags issued to the landowner. Hunters must tag harvested deer with MLDP tags rather than a tag from their hunting license.
- **Antlerless Mule Deer Permits (AMD)** - AMD Permits are issued to landowners in areas with mule deer populations that can support antlerless harvest or that require intensive herd management to maintain or reduce mule deer numbers to minimize habitat degradation. Hunters on these properties must utilize the AMD tag rather than a tag from their hunting license. Total antlerless mule deer harvest must not exceed the number of AMD tags issued for the property.
- **Pronghorn Permits** – TPWD issues pronghorn permits to private landowners. Landowners in turn may sell hunting access on their property for which the tag was issued. Tags are specific to the tract of land for which they are issued and harvest on that tract of land may not exceed the number of tags issued.

5. What type of landowner incentive programs does your agency have that promotes wildlife and allows public hunters on private property (e.g., ranching for wildlife in CO or programs where landowners financially benefit from big game)?

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Although not required to allow the public on their property

- TPWD does offer a Trap, Transport, and Transplant (TTT) permit that cities, POAs, or other political subdivisions may apply for as one tool to help address over-abundant deer problems. A TTT permit allows the permittee to trap and relocate deer to a release site with suitable habitat to support those additional deer. The trap site must provide 15 not detected CWD tests as part of the permit requirements in order to be able to relocate deer. Deer cannot be sold or otherwise exchanged for anything of value; however, the cost to trap and relocate the deer may be paid entirely by the trap site, release site, or shared between both. <https://tpwd.texas.gov/huntwild/apps/>
- TPWD offers a Trap Transport, and Process (TTP) permit that cities, POAs, or other political subdivisions may apply for as another tool to address the over-abundant deer problems. A TTP permit allows the permittee to trap and euthanize deer and donate the meat to a charitable organization approved by TPWD. Deer are generally captured via drop nets or corral traps and transported to a processor to be euthanized at that facility. The permittee is responsible for all expenses associated with the trapping, processing and donation. <https://tpwd.texas.gov/huntwild/apps/>

9. What other programs does your agency have in place to promote tolerance of big game on private lands?

TPWD does not have specific programs intended to promote tolerance of big game species in Texas. The revenue generated through hunting on private lands is the best incentive to promote and encourage tolerance and acceptance of big game species on private lands.

10. Does your agency respond to all wildlife conflict calls or is it limited to specific species or guilds of species?

- TPWD staff (Wildlife Division and/or Law Enforcement) respond to calls as appropriate. Most wildlife conflict calls are resolved over the phone as staff provide recommendations to resolve the issue or explain that the animal is in its natural habitat and behaving in a normal manner. Staff may respond in person if necessary.

- No hunting license is required to hunt depredating coyotes on private property with landowner authorization.

11. What program(s) in your agency provide response to negative wildlife interaction (wildlife conflict) complaints and depredation. If the responsibility is split or shared between programs (i.e. Wildlife Program/Enforcement Program) or contracted or referred to another agency or private party, please describe how the work is assigned or shared. (e.g. by species, commercial agriculture versus residential, public safety versus property damage, etc.)

- Depredation permits are issued and administered through our Wildlife Division wildlife permits program and field inspection are conducted by district wildlife biologist. Law Enforcement will check depredation permittees as necessary to ensure compliance with the permit and permit conditions.

12. Please describe what funding sources support wildlife conflict response and depredation payments if applicable in your agency. Please include specifics regarding where the funding comes from for expenses such as staff and equipment, commercial crop loss compensation, livestock predation compensation, non-lethal deterrent programs, outreach and education, or any other services or materials provided in response to wildlife conflict issues.

- TPWD does not pay damages for depredation to commercial agricultural crops. Depredation permits are funded by state revenue from hunting license sales and the small administrative fee charged to the permittee for the depredation permit. No federal funding (PR revenue) is used to support the depredation permit or staff time involved with depredation permits.