TEXAS DEER MANAGEMENT CALENDAR

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Description of Management Activities

January – Monitor hunters to insure recordkeeping compliance. Summarize harvest records from previous season; analyze and compare with defined goals; conduct post-season deer survey if desired; forward hunting lease license record book to TPWD; supply supplemental feed for energy if intensive management is practiced; conduct prescribed burns.

February – Continue to summarize harvest records and compare to goals; conduct browse surveys; continue to conduct prescribed burns; top dress small grain food plots with nitrogen fertilizer; send short newsletter to hunters describing previous season; continue to supply supplemental feed for energy if intensive management is practiced; disc strips to encourage forbs (weed) production; forward hunting lease license record book if not done in January.
March — Conduct browse surveys prior to spring green-up; supplementally feed energy source prior to spring green-up if intensive management is practiced; continue to disc to promote weed growth; send newsletter to hunters if not done in February; begin advertising lease openings.

April — Continue to advertise lease openings; soil test if warm season food plots are planned; order necessary seed and fertilizer; begin billing hunters for lease down payments.

May — Continue to advertise lease openings; begin to establish 1 to 3 percent of land base in warm season food plots; spot fertilize selected areas of rangeland/forestland if appropriate; complete billing and collection of down payments.

June — Continue to advertise lease openings; continue to establish warm season food plots; continue to spot fertilize if appropriate.

July — Continue to advertise lease openings; begin repair and construction of blinds, hunting vehicles and roads; begin recording incidental observations of deer.

August — Continue to repair vehicles and roads and construct or repair blinds; initiate supplemental feeding of protein and/or energy source as conditions dictate; order seed if cool season food plots are planned; continue to record incidental observations of deer; initiate deer survey activities.

September — Continue supplemental feeding of protein and/or energy source as needed; continue to record incidental observations of deer; check and supply feeders; continue deer survey activities; send game forecast newsletter if survey information is available to formulate harvest recommendations; establish cool season food plots (1 to 3 percent of land base); prepare for bow hunters.

October — Continue to record incidental observations of deer; continue survey activities; formulate harvest recommendations and send game forecast newsletter to hunters if not completed in September; continue to establish cool season food plots; collect balance of lease fees from bow hunters; check on bow hunters as needed to insure harvest record compliance; continue to check and supply feeders as needed.

November — Obtain balance of lease fee from gun hunters; provide brief orientation for hunters, to include game management plan; continue recording incidental observations; provide hunters with harvest record forms and check for compliance; photograph all bucks taken.

December — Monitor hunters to insure recordkeeping compliance; make note of specific problems in need of correction by next season.