

Mule Deer, Squirrel Seasons Top Suite of Proposed Hunting Regulation Changes

Written by Texas Outdoors
Sunday, 16 March 2014 12:10

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AUSTIN – The Texas Parks and Wildlife Department is proposing expansion of mule deer hunting in several counties and extending squirrel season into February across parts of East Texas.

TPWD staff presented proposed amendments to the 2014-15 Statewide Hunting Proclamation to the Texas Parks and Wildlife Commission. The recommended changes include:

- Implement an archery-only open season and 16-day general season for mule deer in Knox County, where the season is currently closed;
- Implement a nine-day general season for mule deer in Castro, Hale, Lubbock, and Lynn counties, where the season is currently closed;
- Clarify rules regarding utilization of antlerless mule deer permits;
- Shorten the current year-round open season for desert bighorn sheep by one month and eliminate the requirement of a landowner affidavit for skulls and horns found in the wild;
- Extend squirrel season in 51 East Texas counties;
- Eliminate bag and possession limits for squirrel in 12 counties in the Blacklands Prairie;
- Allow the take of squirrel by means of air rifles meeting minimum standards;
- Implement rules allowing use of mobile technology by hunters to check harvested Eastern turkeys;
- Clarify rules governing possession of firearms while hunting deer or turkey during an open archery season;

Proposed changes can be found in the Feb. 21 edition of the [Texas Register](#) and on the [TPWD website](#)

Comments on the proposed rules may be submitted by phone or e-mail to Robert Macdonald (512) 389-4775; e-mail: robert.macdonald@tpwd.texas.gov, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, 4200 Smith School Road, Austin, Texas 78744. Comments may also be submitted through the department's Internet web site after February 21 and at the following upcoming public meetings scheduled around the state.

TPWD Public Hearing Schedule

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All meetings set for 7 p.m.	Alpine	March 10	Sul Ross, Range A
Sulphur Springs	March 10	Hopkins Co. Courthouse, 118 Church St.	
New Braunfels	March 10	WORD Offices, 1928 FM 2673, Canyon Lake	
Port Arthur	March 11	Holiday Inn, Neches Room, 2929 Jimmy Johnson	
Dickinson	March 11	Doyle Convention Center, Williams Goyens Room	
Van Horn	March 12	El Capitan Hotel Conference Room, 100 East Bro	
Marshall	March 12	Marshall Lions Community Center, 1201 Louisiana	
Zapata	March 12	Zapata County Technical and Advance Education	
Port Lavaca	March 12	Bauer Exhibit Building, 186 CR 101	
San Antonio	March 13	Bass Pro@ 17907 IH-10 West	
Rockport	March 13	Aransas County Courthouse, 301 N. Live Oak	
Lubbock	March 17	Texas Agrilife Research and Extension Center, 11	
Nacogdoches	March 17	Nacogdoches County Courthouse Annex, 203 We	
Dallas-Fort Worth	March 17	Cabela's, 1 Cabelas Dr., Allen	
Palestine	March 17	Ben E. Keith Building, 2019 W. Oak Street	
Huntsville	March 19	Walker County Storm Shelter, 455 Highway 75 N	
Port Isabel	March 19	Port Isabel Community Center, 213 Yturria	
Amarillo	March 19	Texas AgriLife Extension Center, 6500 Amarillo Bl	
Corpus Christi	March 20	Del Mar College Center for Economic Developmen	
Center	March 20	Fannie Brown Booth Library, Redditt Room, 619 T	
Houston	March 20	Sheldon Lake State Park, 15315 Beaumont Hwy	
Austin	March 20	Austin TPWD HQ Commission Hearing Room, 420	