



# PINEYWOODS POST

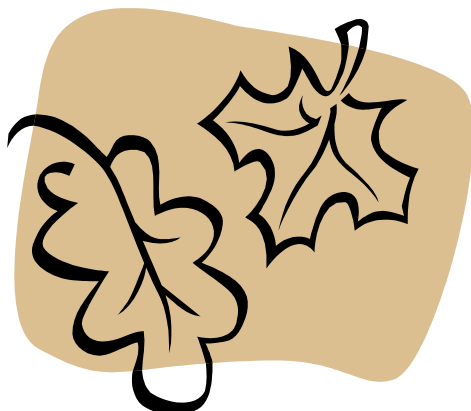
*A publication of the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department  
for landowners and outdoor enthusiasts of the Pineywoods.*

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We now return to your regularly scheduled program, well, sort of.....

Sometimes in our busy schedules the things we want to do are often put aside for things we have to do. Such is the case with the Pineywoods Post or lack thereof for the last couple of issues. In an effort to bring you the Pineywoods Post in a timely manner while still keeping up with our busy work loads we are revising the schedule to include three issues per year coming out (hopefully) in October, February, and June. Also of note, my partner Penny Wilkerson will be taking a well deserved break from editing and our biologist in Polk county Chris Gregory will be coming on board.



## **Quotable Quote**

**“We will be known forever by the tracks we leave behind.”**

**Dakota Indian Proverb**

# Conservation Spotlight

## Drought Effects on Wildlife

### Tales of Drought, Fires, and Survival

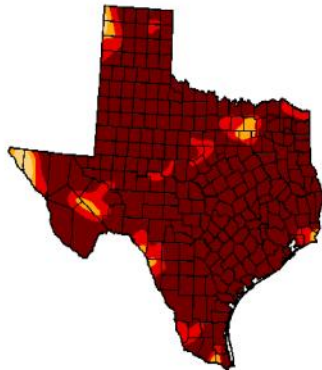
By Bob Baker TPWD Biologist Jasper, TX.

## U.S. Drought Monitor

October 4, 2011  
Valid 7 a.m. EST

Texas

	Drought Conditions (Percent Area)					
	None	D0-D4	D1-D4	D2-D4	D3-D4	D4
Current	0.00	100.00	100.00	99.16	96.99	87.99
Last Week (09/27/2011 map)	0.00	100.00	100.00	99.16	96.85	85.75
3 Months Ago (07/05/2011 map)	2.41	97.59	95.73	94.39	90.21	71.30
Start of Calendar Year (12/28/2010 map)	7.89	92.11	89.43	37.46	9.59	0.00
Start of Water Year (09/27/2011 map)	0.00	100.00	100.00	99.16	96.85	85.75
One Year Ago (09/28/2010 map)	75.57	24.43	2.43	0.99	0.00	0.00



#### Intensity



The Drought Monitor focuses on broad-scale conditions. Local conditions may vary. See accompanying text summary for forecast statements.



Released Thursday, October 6, 2011

<http://droughtmonitor.unl.edu>

It was so dry they had to close two lanes at the swimming pool (in some cases the whole pool). Last year (2011) was a strange year for weather in Texas as the whole state endured one of the worst droughts on record. Most of the state was under exceptional (the worst category) drought conditions. This caused many effects on wildlife and their habitat. East Texas did not escape these conditions and the habitat is still recovering this year.

Dry and dead vegetation combined with 100 degree temperatures led to one of the worst wildfire years on record. Fires burned many thousands of acres in Texas most notably the Bastrop Fire. Some of these fires were very destructive and caused massive damage while other fires were less intensive and actually helped the habitat. Areas with a dense canopy cover and thick vegetation benefited from those fires that burned with less intensity. When the rains returned this spring, these newly created openings were very green and covered with fresh new growth of grasses, forbs and shrubs that was utilized by many animals. This new growth is excellent habitat for wildlife. Getting off subject for a minute, those landowners that use prescribed fire on a regular basis came through the wildfires much better than those that did not. A good example is the Angelina National Forest near Lake Sam Rayburn where a large fire burned 5,000 + acres on the National Forest and the area around it. The National For-

est, which is burned on a regular rotation, lost some trees but came through in much better shape than the surrounding area. The surrounding area (which had never under gone prescribed burning) suffered an intense fire that left only black sticks where trees once were.

Lakes and ponds were at record low levels last year. Fish populations were affected through increased harvest, low oxygen levels, increased water temperature, and increased turbidity to name a few. Some impacts were very easy to see such as deer chang-

ing movement patterns to reach water or ducks needing open water for foraging. There were also many subtle changes in the habitat due to the drought including changes in plant composition, the decreased cooling effect of wind blowing over water, more exposure to predators while traveling to water, and increased energy cost to get to water. The net result was wildlife moving in different patterns or moving to utilize a different area all together. This year it seems that wildlife has resumed more normal patterns with ponds and lakes filling back up.

Many trees were under stress from lack of water, and some even died. Many more trees died from disease and insects that attacked the weakened trees. On a more wildlife related note, oak and other hardwood trees came on late with a good mast crop that lasted through the start of 2012. Without the rain, acorns did not spoil and provided an excellent food source for the wildlife. This is much longer than normal and wildlife such as deer, wood ducks, squirrels, turkeys, and hogs took advantage of this food source. The dead and dying trees will provide good foraging habitat for insect eating birds (especially woodpeckers) and shelter for cavity nesting birds and mammals until they fall. Once on the ground, decaying wood serves as good habitat for bugs, amphibians, reptiles and all animals that feed on them.

People generally want to know about game animals when they ask how wildlife was affected. In this article several game animals will be looked at, but all wildlife was affected by the drought.

Squirrels were probably one of the least affected game animals. They came through in pretty good shape due to the good mast crop. Squirrels can produce two litters of young per year and had plenty of cover due to dead and dying trees. This year the population should be in good shape.

White-tailed deer did not suffer any detectable die-offs, but fawn

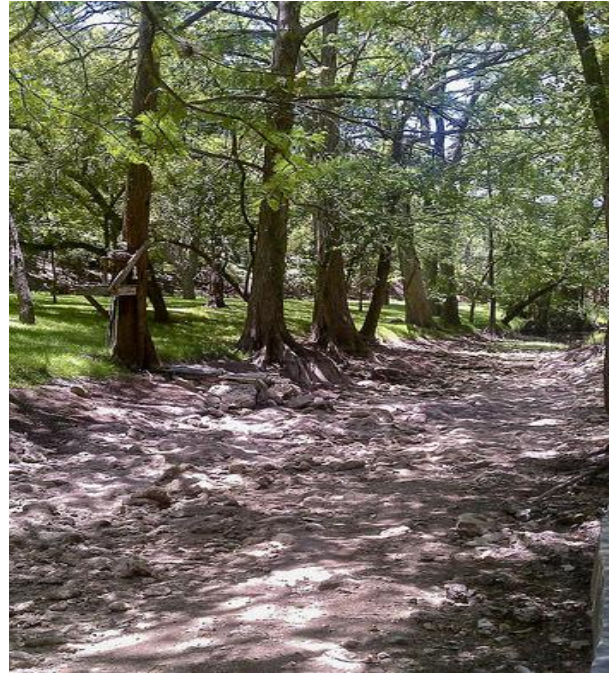


# Drought Effects Cont.....

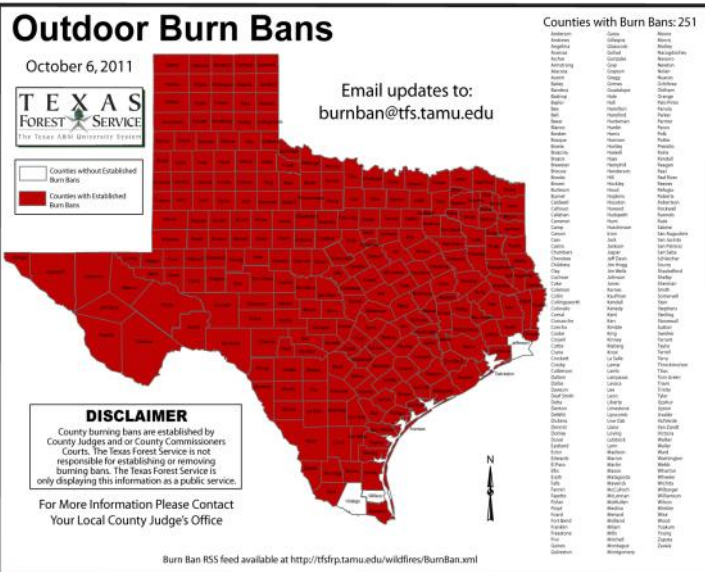
White-tailed deer did not suffer any detectable die-offs, but fawn production dropped way down last year. This will play a role down the road as ‘the class of 2011’ will have few members to contribute to fawn production possibly contributing to slightly less overall production. Timely rains have greatly improved habitat conditions and this year’s fawn crop appears to be much better. Antler production is hard to judge since antler measurements taken on TPWD harvest surveys were not down significantly from previous years. This year could be different if the bucks were forced to use their fat reserves for antler production and have not had time enough to replenish these reserves. Body condition should be good this year as there appears to be plenty of food and the habitat is generally in fair condition.

condition.

Hind sight is always 20/20 and looking back on last year, the effects on wildlife are easy to identify. Those effects were shaped by fire, shrinking standing water, and stress on the plant life. The long term effects of the drought looking forward are hard to predict. This year should be interesting to see how all of the pieces come together and how the wildlife and habitat reacts. Take some time to spend outdoors and see the recovery first hand. Life is more fun outdoors.

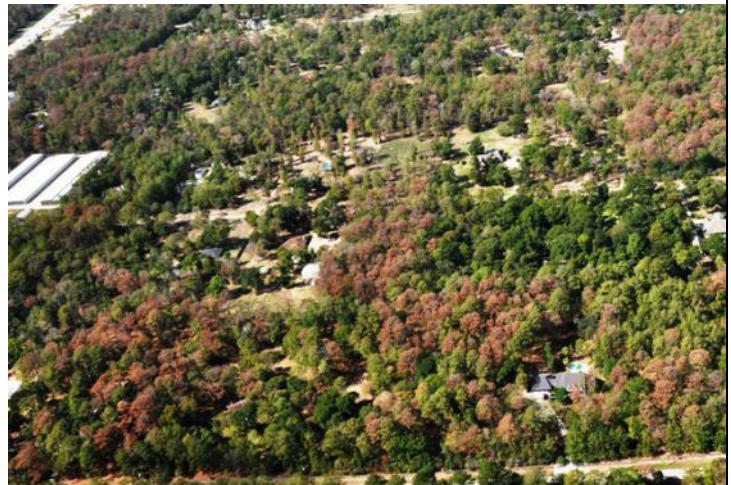


This stream completely dried up in the 2011 Drought



Turkey and quail suffered due to a shortage of critical habitat types (nesting and brooding) which are characterized by open areas with a large component of bunch grasses. Overgrazing, wildfires, and lack of rainfall negatively impacted the amount of these critical habitat types. High temperatures early in the year could have played a role in decreased nesting. When the temperatures get too hot and dry turkeys, quail, and other ground nesting birds generally reduce nesting attempts or quit nesting all together.

Waterfowl was impacted by obvious reasons. Lack of water resulted in very little suitable habitat in the South. Hunting was hit or miss due to spotty presence of birds and when birds were present it was often tough to get to the habitat. On the breeding grounds in the North, plentiful rains and good nesting habitat resulted in increased population size from the 2010 estimates for most species. The only species that appeared to be down last year was pintails. This year (2012) however may be a different story. The South is getting some much needed rain and the North is not getting enough rain for the breeding grounds to be in good



Texas Forest Service estimates that 301 million trees were lost in the drought

# BIOLOGIST BIO

## Chris Gregory~

Raised near the then small Central Texas town of Copperas Cove, Chris Gregory inherited a lifelong interest in wildlife and nature from his parents that was nurtured through hunting and fishing trips with family and friends. During his college years at Texas Tech University, Chris worked as an intern for wildlife researchers on antelope, waterfowl and mule deer projects. Graduating in 1984 with a B.S. degree in Wildlife Management and again in 1985 with a B.S. degree in Range Management, short term positions followed in Utah and Texas.

Chris hired on with the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department as a wildlife technician in Livingston in 1989 and then as a Wildlife Biologist a few years later. Throughout his career in Southeast Texas, Chris has enjoyed working with the diversity of wildlife, landowners, hunters, nature lovers and special characters of the area. He advises students aspiring for a career in wildlife to gain as much relevant work experience as possible through internships, seasonal jobs and volunteer work. 'Learning by doing' as well as the mentoring received from resource professionals on these temporary jobs can provide the skills and background needed to land that first professional position. Almost everyone in this profession has made personal sacrifices along their career path and worked long hours with low pay on various wildlife projects in order to get their foot in the door. The end reward is not a big pot of gold, but an ongoing learning career where you look forward to Monday morning.

Chris and his wife Donna have been married 30 years, have four grown children and three grandchildren. When not on the job, Chris enjoys spending family time outdoors, hunting, fishing and working on various do-it-yourself projects. Contact Chris at (936) 327-8487, by email at [chris.gregory@tpwd.state.tx.us](mailto:chris.gregory@tpwd.state.tx.us) or by mail at P.O. Box 868, Livingston, Texas 77351.





# Critter Corner

## American Woodcock

(*Scolopax minor*)

By Dan Jones TPWD Wildlife Biologist Huntsville, TX.



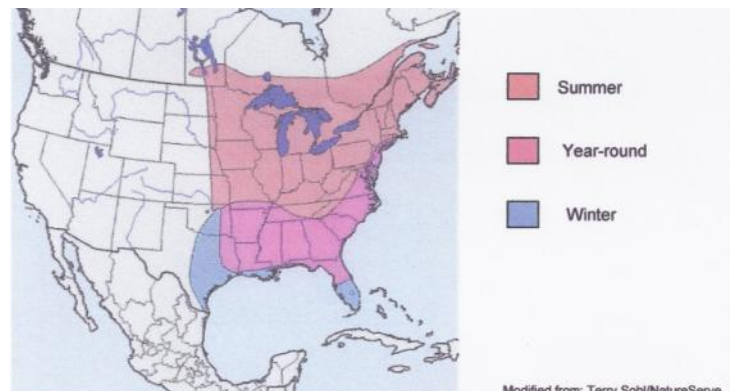
Photo by Laura Erickson

If you are out for a ramble this year after a few frosts have cooled off the Pineywoods, you may be surprised by the sudden and explosive flush of a solitary and secretive brown and buff-colored bird rocketing off from the forest floor. The twittering wingbeats and erratic flight through the midstory are additional cues that you've come upon an American Woodcock, or as it is regionally known in east Texas; a timberdoodle. Unique in several respects, this is the only species of woodcock in North America, and our only shorebird that is exclusively associated with forested regions. The range of the American Woodcock is limited to eastern North America and the southern portions of eastern Canadian provinces. The species is weakly migratory with local birds moving southward during autumn in response to food availability. Snow cover and ground frost seasonally influence its northern distribution, which may limit foraging. Here in east Texas, the species is generally a winter resident only and may move south into coastal marshes and prairies during periods of harsh weather.

This plump upland shorebird is about 25% larger than our Northern Bobwhite, with a long bill, and relatively large eyes set back on the sides of the large head. The plumage on the wings and back is mottled shades of brown, buff, and gray that blends almost perfectly with the fallen leaves and pine straw of its preferred habitats. The size and location of the eyes allow this ground-dwelling bird to see both forward and rearward, and

result in a unique avian morphology in which the ear is located below, and slightly forward of the eye. To accommodate this eye location and size, the brain is inverted relative to other bird species. The bill is richly supplied with nerves and blood vessels, which allows it to detect minute belowground vibrations while probing for soil invertebrates, which are its primary food source. The distal portion of the upper mandible is flexible, allowing it to open while submerged in the soil to capture and extract prey items.

Habitat is generally forests interspersed with mixed openings that provide foraging, escape, roosting, and breeding display areas. Preferred foraging areas are based on vegetation structure rather than specific plant species assemblages, and include young hardwood or mixed forests with a dense shrub canopy cover of 75-90%. The range of habitats is fairly wide, however, and includes bottomland hardwoods through upland pine/hardwood and longleaf savanna, as long as soil moisture is conducive to production of soil invertebrates. Open areas with low ground cover are utilized for night roosts and are provided by natural forest openings, old agricultural fields, edges of meadows, and similar habitats. During early January through February in eastern Texas, selected large openings are the site of one of the most unusual breeding displays in the avian world. Male woodcocks establish small, temporary territories and display twice a day; at dawn and again at dusk. These solitary displays begin with the male strutting and giving a rasping "peent" call, similar to that of the Common Nighthawk. The male will then begin a gradual ascent flight that is silent at first, but gradually includes increasingly loud wing-twittering resulting from air-flow over and through the three narrow outer primary wing feathers. The intensity and volume of twittering increases with



# Critter Corner

looping spirals as the bird climbs steeply to an apex of up to 100 feet, and then descends dramatically in a looping, banking dive that becomes silent toward the conclusion. Upon alighting, the male will resume strutting and peenting for a short time. The duration of each display is 20-30 minutes, with the aerial component lasting 1-2 minutes. There may be up to six individual displays by each male during each dawn or dusk period.

Breeding displays by males occur not only during courtship, but also throughout the incubation and brooding periods, which are the sole responsibility of the female. Males are polygamous and may mate with several females in several different areas during their migration movements. The nest is typically an unlined shallow depression with a clutch of four eggs. Incubation is by the female only, with the chicks hatching at 20-21 days. Young can fly well at 20-25 days after hatching. Terrestrial invertebrates, especially earthworms, are the primary food items across this woodcock's range. This is what ties them so closely to the moist woodland and forest habitats that contain decomposing leaf litter that supports earthworms, snails, centipedes, ants, and beetles. These birds consume up to 77% of their body weight in prey per day, and do not need to drink due to the high water content of their prey.

Successful woodcock hunting involves scouting potential sites for sizeable areas of suitable habitat, as described earlier, and a willingness to navigate dense thickets of vines or brush often found there. Again, an open ground cover that the birds are able to walk through while foraging and soil conditions conducive to earthworm and similar prey are necessary for an area to hold birds. Due to dense cover and the chameleon-like camouflage of this species, most hunters utilize dogs, either pointers or flushers, to scent the birds. A double gun choked with modified/improved barrels and 7 ½ or 8 shot is an ideal tool for this work, as most shots will be less than 30 yards at a target buzzing erratically through thick cover. The reward of woodcock breasts sautéed in butter and onions complemented by wild rice at the end of the day is well worth the effort expended to bag these challenging and tasty game birds.

Numerous public hunting areas in east Texas have potential for sportsmen pursuing woodcock. These include the four National Forests and 10 TPWD Wildlife Management Areas in the Pineywoods. The daily bag limit is three birds, with a possession limit of six. The regular season for woodcock is December 18, 2012 through January 31, 2013, which overlaps with a special falconry season from January 28 through February 11, 2013. Hunters should refer to the current TPWD Outdoor Annual and Public Hunting Lands booklet for additional information.

Even though this species is a well-studied and popular game bird,

there are gaps in the knowledge concerning its abundance, long-term population trends, and management techniques. Population surveys are difficult and are conducted only in the northern portions of its range. A general range-wide decline over the past several decades has been detected, primarily due to changing land use including draining of wetlands, loss of bottomland hardwood habitat, and large-scale fire events. It does; however, appear to respond favorably to even-aged forest management as practiced widely across the southern U.S. Continuing management-oriented research and Texas Parks and Wildlife's participation in the USFWS American Woodcock Management Plan will contribute to increased knowledge of this interesting and challenging upland game bird in our state.



*"The nation behaves well if it treats the natural resources as assets which it must turn over to the next generation increased, and not impaired in value" - Theodore Roosevelt*



# Outdoor Snapshots

## It's all about the kids!



Young hunter Evan Curry proudly displays the morning's harvest from a duck hunt on Caddo Lake with his Uncle



This young hunter from Smith County proudly displays his first squirrel bagged on a hunt in Nacogdoches with his Granddad. Congratulations Sam!



This young fisher lady from Panola county shows off her morning's catch bagged on a family pond. The smile says it all.



This Nacogdoches hunter takes time out to pose with the gator he helped his dad harvest on a father/son hunt down on the coast.

Send us your photos! Send us your wildlife, nature, hunter harvest, or interesting trail cam pictures. To submit your photo for consideration send an email to [Rusty.Wood@TPWD.State.TX.US](mailto:Rusty.Wood@TPWD.State.TX.US) and tell us who took it, where, and when.

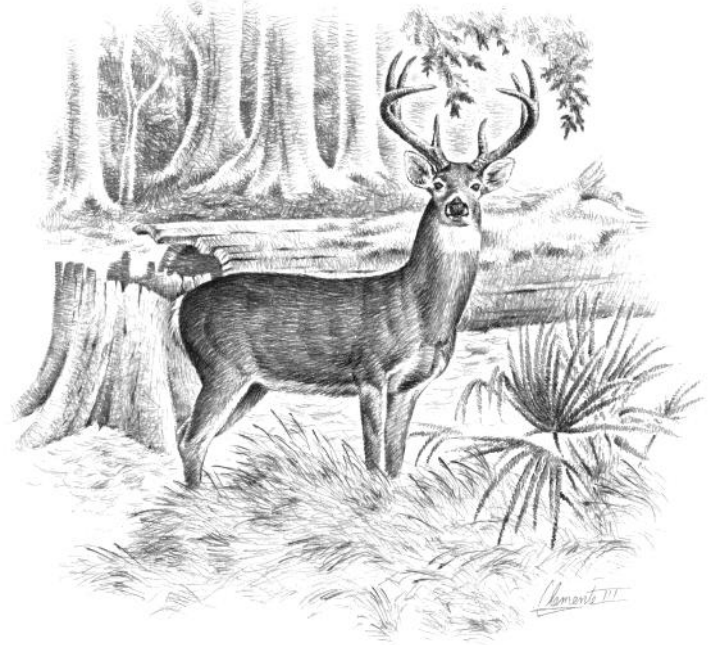
# Habitat Helper

## Browse Surveys Help Biologist Read the Land

By Charlie Muller TPWD Biologist Longview, TX.

White-tailed deer (*Odocoileus virginianus*) are the most sought after big game animal in Texas. That is why more time and money is spent annually by hunters to manage and provide supplemental food for deer than any other game animal. Many hunters plant seasonal food plots and maintain a deer feeder filled with corn or protein pellets in an effort to boost the nutritional intake of their deer. Deer will benefit from these supplemental food sources but it is important for hunters to realize that deer need to have adequate natural foods to keep them healthy. A large portion of the natural plant foods deer eat consist of small tender annual plants we call forbs. Like all annual plants, forb growth is rainfall dependent and may not be consistently available due to effects of droughty periods. Another type of the natural foods deer eat includes woody stemmed plants such as shrubs, young trees and vines which are collectively called browse plants.

Browse plants provide the bulk of a deer's diet throughout most of the year. Deer feed on the tender and nutritious stem tips of these plants as they move about. Browse plants have different levels of palatability for deer. That is, there are some that they prefer to eat over others. Browse plants are divided into three categories: first choice, second choice and third choice. The highly palatable plants are considered to be first choice browse plants. These plants receive the highest level of utilization by deer than any of the other plants. A few of the first choice plants are Japanese honeysuckle, rattan vine, green-briar, Carolina jessamine and dewberry. The next tier of palatable plants are considered to be second choice browse plants. This would include plants such as elm, water oak, red maple, dogwood, yaupon and beautyberry. Second choice browse plants are generally found in higher abundance than the first choice browse plants. The least palatable browse plants are considered to be third choice browse plants. These include plants such as sweetgum, hickory, post oak, red oak, white oak, southern waxmyrtle, holly, pine and blueberry. These plants are generally found to be the most abundant plants in the pineywoods ecosystem. The most important aspect to managing white-tailed deer is to properly manage their habitat. Balancing deer numbers with available food supplies in the habitat may be one of the more challenging components of deer management. You may have heard the term "carrying capacity" mentioned before. This is the number of healthy deer that a certain habitat has the ability to support. Determining carrying capacity is very difficult, but we do know that if there are more deer than the habitat can support then both are going to be negatively affected. There are several accepted techniques for estimating deer numbers that will tell us about how many deer there are on the property. The quality of the habitat is not calculated into the equation. Poor or marginal habitat cannot support a moderate to high deer density. Even if a deer herd is lightly stocked there could more



deer than the habitat can support. The habitat must be evaluated to determine if the deer density is too high.

How do we evaluate habitat? WE READ IT! That's right. The browse plants that deer eat can be read by an individual with proper training. In the 1950's, a well renowned wildlife biologist with the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) from East Texas named Dan Lay embarked on a research project to figure out a way to evaluate feeding pressure on deer habitats. Mr. Lay determined the classification of woody stemmed browse plants into the first, second and third choice browse plant categories. He also developed a method to determine the deer density of a habitat by reading the browse plants. Stem tips from each species of plant within a 1/10 acre plot are counted and the number of tips that a deer had fed on are noted. One can then determine the percentage of utilization for each plant species in the different palatability categories. Utilization of each palatability category is calculated into a real number that represents the percentage of utilization. These numbers are compared to a "stocking intensity" table developed by Mr. Lay. The stocking intensity table allows you to rate each palatability category as light, moderate or heavy stocking.

In the late 1980's, noted TPWD wildlife biologist Jim Yantis modified Lay's browse survey method. The Yantis version is similar in that the stem tips were counted and those that were bitten were noted and used to calculate a percentage of utilization. Rather than surveying 1/10<sup>th</sup> acre plots, randomly selected



search areas are used and can encompass an acre or more in size. Within each search area 100 stems from each plant species represented in the search area is counted. Each 100 stems counted is considered to be an "encounter". Most properties require taking 30 to 50 encounters from 5 to 7 search areas. The percent utilization of all plants surveyed from each palatability category is then calculated. As with the Lay method, results are then compared to a stocking intensity table to determine browsing levels for each palatability category.

Every year TPWD wildlife biologists trek out to properties that are being managed under the Managed Lands Deer Permit (MLDP) program to conduct deer browse surveys. A survey is conducted on MLDP properties periodically (usually once every 3 years) to monitor habitat conditions. If browse surveys indicate a heavy stocking of deer on a property even though deer census surveys indicate light to moderate stocking then recommendations can be modified. The bottom line with managing deer and their habitat is to make sure that there is a proper balance that will allow for each one to reach its potential development.

## Important News

### **Chronic Wasting Disease Detected in Far West Texas**

AUSTIN -- Samples from two mule deer recently taken in far West Texas have been confirmed positive for Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD). These are the first cases of CWD detected in Texas deer. Wildlife officials believe the event is currently isolated in a remote part of the state near the New Mexico border.

The Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) and the Texas Animal Health Commission (TAHC) implemented regionally-focused deer sample collection efforts after the disease was detected in the Hueco Mountains of New Mexico during the 2011-12 hunting season. With the assistance of cooperating landowners, TPWD, TAHC, and USDA-APHIS-Wildlife Services biologists and veterinarians collected samples from 31 mule deer as part of a strategic CWD surveillance plan designed to determine the geographic extent of New Mexico's findings. Both infected deer were taken from the Hueco Mountains of northern El Paso and Hudspeth counties.

CWD is a member of the group of diseases called transmissible spongiform encephalopathies (TSEs). Other diseases in this

group include scrapie in sheep, bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE or mad cow disease) in cattle, and Cruetzfeldt-Jakob disease in humans. CWD among cervids is a progressive, fatal disease that commonly results in altered behavior as a result of microscopic changes made to the brain of affected animals. An animal may carry the disease for years without outward indication, but in the latter stages, signs may include listlessness, lowering of the head, weight loss, repetitive walking in set patterns, and a lack of responsiveness. CWD is not known to affect humans.

Tissue samples were initially tested by the Texas Veterinary Medical Diagnostic Laboratory in College Station, with confirmation by the National Veterinary Services Laboratory in Ames, Iowa.

"Now that we have detected CWD in Texas, our primary objective is to contain this disease," said Carter Smith, TPWD Executive Director. "Working collaboratively with experts in the field we have developed protocols to address CWD and implementation is already under way."

There is no vaccine or cure for CWD, but steps have been taken to minimize the risk of the disease spreading from beyond the area where it currently exists. For example, human-induced movements of wild or captive deer, elk, or other susceptible species will be restricted and mandatory hunter check stations will be established.

"This is obviously an unfortunate and rather significant development," said TPWD Commission Chairman, T. Dan Friedkin. "We take the presence of this disease very seriously and have a plan of action to deal with it. The Department will do whatever is prudent and reasonable to protect the state's deer resources and our hunting heritage."

Although wildlife officials cannot say how long the disease has been present in Texas or if it occurs in other areas of the state, they have had an active CWD surveillance program for more than a decade.

"We have tested more than 26,500 wild deer in Texas since 2002, and the captive-deer

## CWD Continued

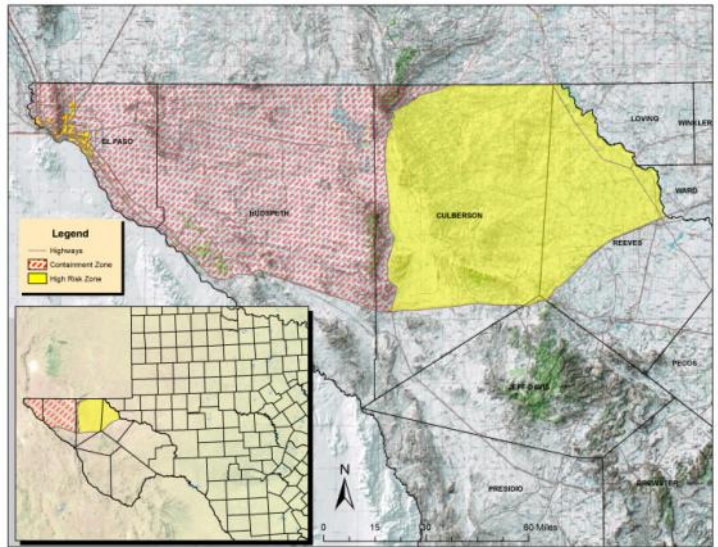
industry has submitted more than 7,400 CWD test results as well," said Mitch Lockwood, Big Game Program Director with TPWD. "But that part of West Texas is the toughest place to conduct an adequate CWD surveillance program because so few deer are harvested out there each hunting season. Thanks to the cooperation and active participation of several landowners, we were able to begin getting an idea of the prevalence and geographic distribution of the disease without needing to remove many deer."

The TAHC regulates cervid species not indigenous to Texas such as elk, red deer, and sika deer. TAHC oversees a voluntary CWD herd monitoring status program with the intent to facilitate trade and marketability for interested cervid producers in Texas. Cervid herds under either TPWD or TAHC authority may participate in the commission's monitored CWD program. The basis of the program is that enrolled cervid producers must provide an annual herd inventory, and ensure that all mortalities during the previous year were tested for CWD and the disease was not detected.

Wildlife biologists, hunters, and landowners would certainly have preferred for Texas mule deer populations to have not been dealt this challenge, but TPWD and TAHC have developed a CWD Management Plan that includes management practices intended to contain the disease. The management plan includes input from the CWD Task Force, which is comprised of deer and elk producers, wildlife biologists, veterinarians and other animal-health experts from TPWD, Texas Animal Health Commission, Department of State Health Services, Texas A&M College of Veterinary Medicine, and USDA.

The disease was first recognized in 1967 in captive mule deer in Colorado. CWD has also been documented in captive and/or free-ranging deer in 19 states and 2 Canadian provinces, including neighboring New Mexico. "We know that elk in southern New Mexico are also infected with CWD," said Dr. Dee Ellis, State Veterinarian and TAHC Executive Director. "It will take a cooperative effort between hunters, the cervid industry, and state/federal animal health and wildlife agencies to ensure we keep this disease confined to southern New Mexico and far West Texas. I am confident however that

will be able to do that, and thus protect the rest of the Texas cervid industry."



**Figure 4.** The recommended CWD Containment Zone (CZ) and High Risk Zone (HRZ), June 2012.

Map above from the TPWD CWD Management Plan. More information on CWD can be found on TPWD's website,

<http://www.tpwd.state.tx.us/cwd> or at the Chronic Wasting Disease Alliance website, <http://www.cwd-info.org>.

More information about the TAHC CWD herd monitoring status program may be found at [http://tahc.state.tx.us/animal\\_health/cwd/cwd.html](http://tahc.state.tx.us/animal_health/cwd/cwd.html).

## Great News



The Pineywoods Post is now available online! If you missed one of the previous editions or just want to revisit some of the great information from a past article you can look them up online. From the Texas Parks and Wildlife home page scroll down the grey portion near the bottom of the page →click on publications→Newsletters→Pineywoods Post. From there you can access all of the previous editions.



# WINTER 2012-2013



## November      December      January

TPWD Biologists	MLDP Coopera-	TPWD Biologists	MLDP Coopera-	TPWD Biologists @	MLDP Coopera-
Collect White-tailed Deer Age, Weight and Antler (AWA) data from harvested deer	Collect jawbones and harvest records for all MLDP deer harvested	Continue collecting AWA data & Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) samples	North Zone Duck Season (II) begins Dec 8– Jan 27	Continue collecting AWA data & CWD samples	End of General White-tailed deer rifle season Jan 6, 2013
Offer outreach programs to schools and groups	MLDP cooperators take deer observation records	Attend training and meetings for professional development	North & Central Dove Zone Season (II) begins Dec 22 – Jan 6	Monitor MLDP cooperator habitat through browse sampling	White-tailed deer muzzleloader seasons January 7 – 20, 2013
White-tailed Deer Gun Season Nov 3, 12 - Jan 6, 2013	North Zone Duck begins Nov 3-25	Conduct white-tailed deer and feral hog hunts on State Parks and Wildlife Management Areas	<b>Happy Holidays</b>		End of North Zone Duck Season (II) Jan 27, 2013 

Executive Director  
Carter P. Smith

Editors, *Pineywoods Post*  
Chris Gregory  
Rusty Wood



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TEXAS PARKS AND WILDLIFE DEPARTMENT  
MISSION STATEMENT

*“To manage and conserve the natural and cultural resources of Texas and to provide hunting, fishing and outdoor recreation opportunities for the use and enjoyment of present and future generations.”*

FOR MORE INFORMATION

All inquiries: Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, 4200 Smith School Rd., Austin, TX 78744, telephone (800) 792-1112 toll free, or (512) 389-4800 or visit our web site for detailed information about TPWD programs:

[www.tpwd.state.tx.us](http://www.tpwd.state.tx.us)

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