



Managed Lands Deer Program (MLDP) Rule Changes

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Understanding the MLD Program

- MLDP is a volunteer program through Texas Parks & Wildlife (TPWD)
- Intended to support proper stewardship on private lands in Texas
- Wildlife and habitat management, not specifically deer management
- Allows extended hunting season lengths and more harvest opportunities



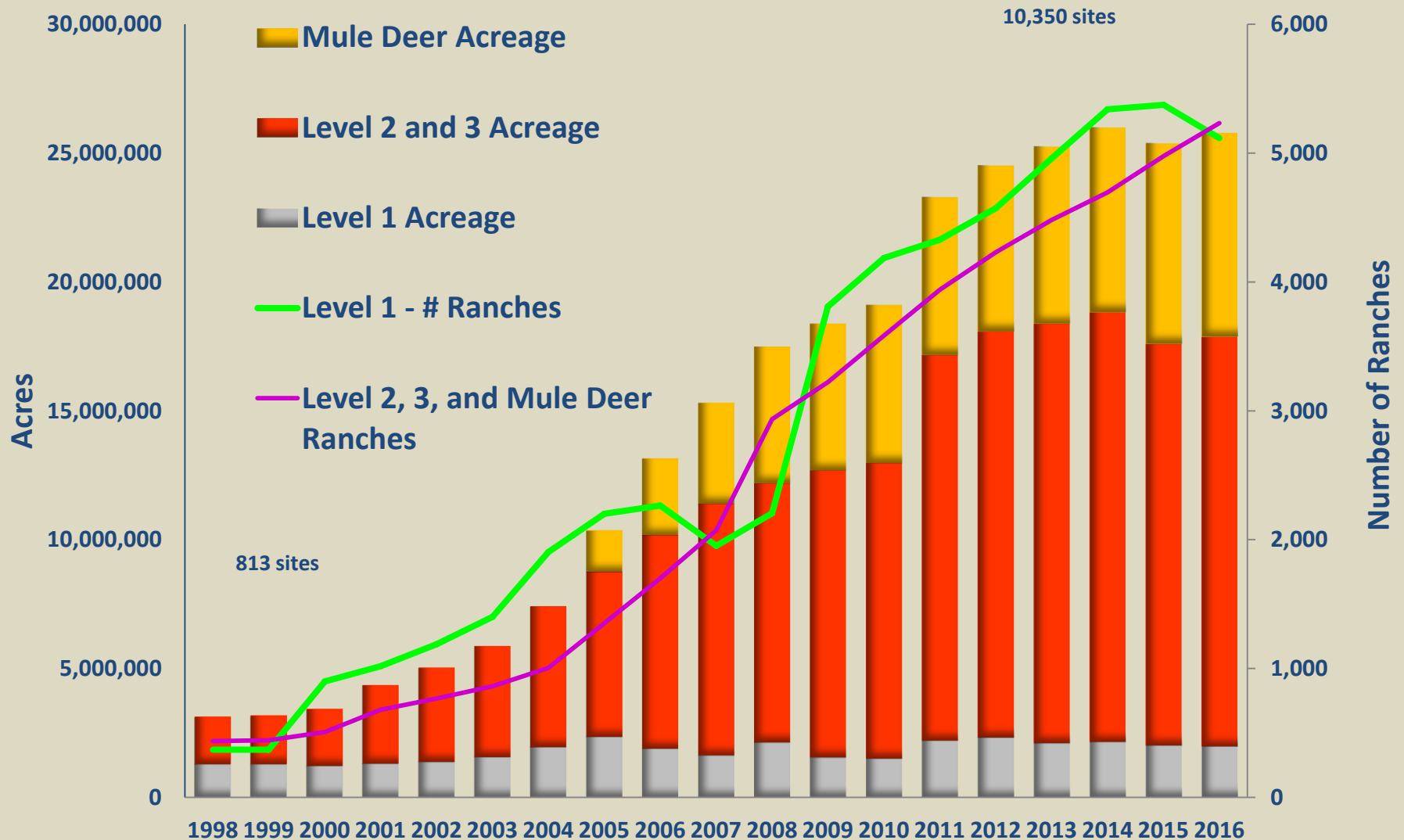
Former MLDP System

- Levels I, II and III, each with different requirements and season lengths
- Required hands-on approach with landowner, agent & TPWD biologist
- TWIMS (Texas Wildlife Information Management Services)
- Very popular and growing steadily

Why is change needed?

- Huge growth in MLDP participation since 1998
- TPWD capacity challenged to keep up with high demand
- Program in need of streamlining and stabilization
- Deer numbers still high – need for liberalized harvest in some ecoregions

MLDP Growth 1998-2016*



*Source TPWD, Alan Cain – White-tailed Deer Program Leader

MLDP Changes

- Changes adopted by TPWD Commission in August 2015
- Old programs consolidated
 - MLDP Levels I-III
 - Mule Deer MLDP
 - LAMPS
- TWIMS changed to Land Management Assistance (LMA) website
- New MLD Program – two “options”
 - **Harvest option**
 - **Conservation option**

Harvest Option

Harvest Option

- Automated option – “do-it-yourself”
 - Provides deer harvest recommendations
 - General deer tag issuance, based on property size and ecoregion
 - General guidance on habitat management
 - White-tailed deer ONLY
- Does NOT require:
 - Wildlife management plan or habitat management practices
 - Deer surveys / deer population data
 - Interaction with TPWD biologist
- Enrollment deadline – September 1st

Harvest Option

- 2017 Season Dates
 - **Antlerless**
 - September 30, 2017 – February 28, 2018
 - **Bucks**
 - September 30, 2017 – November 3, 2017
 - Bucks with at least one unbranched antler may be taken with any lawful means, including modern firearms
 - Any other buck – lawful archery equipment
 - November 4, 2017 – February 28, 2018
 - Any buck may be taken through any legal means

Conservation Option

Conservation Option

- Site-specific option
 - More attractive option to landowners seeking customizable recommendations and harvests
 - More advanced technical guidance and assistance from TPWD
 - Number of tags issued are based on deer surveys / population data
 - Comparable to Level III MLDP
 - Allows for Mule Deer harvest
- Enrollment deadline of June 15th

Conservation Option

- Entry Requirements
 - TPWD-approved Wildlife Management Plan (WMP)
 - Two preceding years:
 - Deer population data
 - Harvest data
 - At least two habitat management activities
- Continued Participation Requirements
 - Current year deer population data
 - Harvest report
 - Three annual habitat management practices
 - Supplemental Food no longer considered habitat management activity
 - TPWD site inspection

Conservation Option

- Wildlife Management Associations (WMAs)
 - Single WMP
 - Tags issued to each individual property
 - All members must report (April 1 deadline)
- Aggregate Properties (contiguous / low fence only)
 - Single WMP
 - Must meet MLDP requirements as a whole
 - Single point of contact must be designated for aggregate acreage

Conservation Option

- 2017 Season Dates
 - White-tailed Deer
 - September 30, 2017 – February 28, 2018
 - Mule Deer
 - September 30, 2017 – November 3, 2017
 - Antlerless and buck – lawful archery equipment only
 - November 4, 2017 – February 28, 2018
 - Antlerless and buck by any legal means

General MLDP Requirements

- Enrollment / Account Creation
 - Required by each applicant
 - Must be completed through online system – LMA
 - Email address required for landowner and designated agents
 - Requires property boundary

General MLDP Requirements

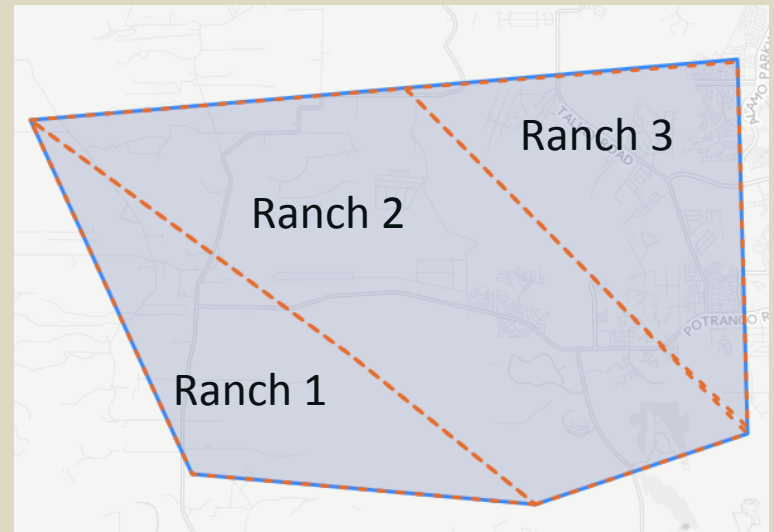
- Tag Information
 - Required to print your own tags
 - Hunter must keep tag in legible condition
 - MLDP tags only valid for specific tract of land for which they are issued and type of deer
 - Hunting license tags cannot be used on deer for which MLDP tags are issued

General MLDP Requirements

- Harvest Logs
 - Logs must be maintained and reported
 - Hunters required to enter harvest in log on same day of kill
 - Harvest log must be maintained until last day of tag validity
- Reporting
 - Number of bucks and antlerless deer harvested (both HO and CO)
 - Habitat management practices implemented (CO only)
 - April 1st deadline
 - **Must** be completed in LMA online system
 - Failure to report will result in removal of MLDP

General MLDP Requirements

- Aggregate Properties
 - Multiple landowners may combine **contiguous low-fenced tracts** of lands to create an aggregate acreage for MLDP enrollment
 - Available for both Harvest or Conservation Options
 - Tags may be used on any or all tracts of land in the aggregate



General MLDP Requirements

- Expected roll out of the new LMA system on July 1, 2017



How can Plateau help?

- Designated Agent
 - Coordination with landowner, ranch manager, TPWD biologist
- Technical Assistance and Implementation
 - On-site habitat assessments and consultation
 - Preparation of Wildlife Management Plans
 - Conduct deer sampling
 - Traditional spotlight survey
 - Remote camera survey
 - Incidental observations
 - Assist with submittal of harvest data



- Private company, est. 1997
- Founders helped establish WMV law
- Central Texas based
- Serving Texas landowners
- Staff wildlife biologists
- Trained, dedicated field technicians
- Registered property tax consultants

Plateau Land & Wildlife

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Thank you!

Plateau Land & Wildlife Management

Working with you to protect and enhance your land!



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Acknowledgments to:

Alan Cain, White-tailed

Deer Program Leader, TPWD

