

MLDP Participants:

On March 3rd you should have received a TWIMS-generated e-mail (see below) reminding you to enter deer harvest numbers and habitat management practices, as well as new MLDP program guidance (see attachment).

Beginning this year multiple levels of MLDP are a thing of the past. Moving forward there are now 2 enrollment options: **Conservation Option** and **Harvest Option**.

Many of you have reviewed the information and are current on your harvest data and management practice entry. For those who haven't yet completed these tasks I am providing the information below to help you understand and navigate the information reporting requirements.

CONSERVATION OPTION

Please take a look at the MLDP Conservation Option information in the attachment. I believe this will look familiar to you as a past Level 2 or 3 MLDP participant. The Conservation Option is for cooperators who value site-specific technical guidance provided by their TPWD Wildlife Biologist, are willing to collect some survey and harvest data and want to do some basic level of habitat management. The Conservation Option maintains the ranch-specific service that you have been receiving from TPWD. Application will be required this year for Conservation Option and will most likely be open for enrollment May 15-June 15. Conservation Option participants will be auto-enrolled thereafter, as long as they are completing deer surveys, and are current on harvest data and management practice entries.

To be eligible for the Conservation Option of MLDP this year please insure that you complete the following:

- ✓ Enter this past season's (2016-17) deer harvest numbers for your property in TWIMS ([Log in - TWIMS](#)) **prior to April 1, 2017**. Here is how you complete this:
 - Select the "harvest data" link, then select the harvest "summary" link.
 - Enter the number of MLDP permits placed on antlerless deer and bucks last season.
 - Click on the "Summary data complete for season" button at the bottom of the page. You are finished.

- ✓ Make sure you have entered habitat management practices implemented for the past 2 seasons in TWIMS ([Log in - TWIMS](#)) **prior to April 1, 2017**. This includes practices in 2015-16 and last season (2016-17). Here is how you complete this:
 - Select the "site" link, then select your property.

- Scroll down to the bottom of the page and select “Go to habitat management practices.”
 - Select the correct year/season, and the “new habitat management practices” button. On this page you will select and complete the individual practice categories by selecting “show/hide” to the right of each practice.
 - Please don’t forget to select “**save**” after you complete entries for each practice, and be sure to select “**submit**” at the bottom of the page when finished entering all practices for the year.
- ✓ Collect and provide deer survey data in August-September, as usual.
- ✓ Complete and report at least 3 habitat management practices, excluding supplemental feeding) prior to April 1, 2018.

HARVEST OPTION

Please see the Harvest Option details in the attachment. The Harvest Option is a new option created for those who do not wish to operate under a wildlife management plan, collect deer population data or implement/report habitat management practices. Permits are provided, but issuance is based on a harvest recommendation derived from Deer Management Unit (think regional) population estimates, rather than ranch-specific deer data. Harvest Option participants receive an extended season to harvest deer, but can only remove antlerless deer and unbranched antlered bucks with a rifle in October. The only data reporting requirement in TWIMS will be the number of deer harvested annually. The annual deadline for applying for Harvest Option is September 1. If you are considering this option please give me a call so we can discuss the potential benefits and drawbacks for your situation.

If you have any questions about either option or need help navigating TWIMS please contact me prior to April 1st. I look forward to continuing my service to you and your land.

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From: Texas Parks and Wildlife Department [<mailto:tpwd@service.govdelivery.com>]
Sent: Friday, March 03, 2017 4:37 PM
Subject: MLDP Update and Information

Dear Managed Lands Deer Program (MLDP) Participant,

The 2016-17 MLDP hunting season ended February 28, 2017. If you have not already done so, please submit your harvest summary through your TWIMS account by April 1, 2017. If you have conducted any habitat management practices over the past season, consider entering that information through your TWIMS account as well. Once your harvest summary is completed (you may have already done this), you are done with the 2016-17 MLDP season harvest reporting requirements.

Please note substantial changes to the MLD Program take effect next season. The attached document provides a detailed description and requirements of the new MLD Program. MLDP participants are strongly encouraged to read and become familiar with the new MLDP rules. Participants should make note of the important deadlines to apply for the MLDP option of your choice. Additional information regarding the new TWIMS Private Lands Assistance online application will be sent out as we approach the launch date for the new system, which is expected in mid-May, 2017. Should you have any additional questions regarding the MLD Program, please contact your local biologist.

Sincerely,

Alan Cain
White-tailed Deer Program Leader