



Texas Agricultural Extension Service

Understanding Your Local Economy: Distribution of Shooting Preserve Acreage

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Landowners

Nearly all of our land (97 percent) in Texas is privately owned. Fee-access recreation, especially the leasing of hunting rights, on Texas farm and ranch land has become big business. Although exact figures are not available, calculations show that over \$100 million is spent annually on leases to access wildlife for hunting purposes. Revenue from hunting lease activity challenges some traditional agricultural activities in total cash receipts for the state. In 1982, for example, total receipts for sheep, lambs, wool, hogs and pigs was under \$200 million. This approaches the estimate of the total annual value of wildlife in Texas of \$100-350 million. In addition, wildlife and hunting leases have been estimated to contribute an average of \$55 per acre to deer range land values. That amounts to \$4.2 billion across the state.

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Rural Communities

Rural communities also benefit from fee access activities. Although there is little data to measure the direct effects, increases in retail trade and elevated levels of lodging activity during hunting season are well accepted. Extension is currently studying hunting lease activity in selected Texas counties. This research will identify potential areas for expansion of fee-access activity to benefit both landowners and rural community business owners.

Hunting Preserve Acreage

Texas landowners who lease land for recreational access in the form of hunting are required by law to purchase a Shooting Preserve Per-

mit and register the number of acres in the preserve with the Texas Department of Parks and Wildlife. While it is suspected that undercounting occurs, it is assumed that any undercounting is not geographically specific and the relative amount of leasing activity by county across the state is reliable. These acreage figures represent land in hunting preserves for all legal species.

Statewide Activity

For the 1986-87 hunting season, a total of 32.6 million acres were included in licensed shooting preserves in Texas. Of this acreage, 4.6 percent, or roughly 1.5 million acres, was in small license leases of less than 500 acres each. Just under 5.4 percent of the total preserve acreage was recorded in medium-sized leases of 500 to 999 acres. The vast majority of hunting preserves land were in the large license category, which are comprised of 1,000 or more acres each. Ninety percent of the total or nearly 29.4 million acres were in this category.

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There was a wide range of total shooting preserve acreage per county. The mean (simple average) for the state was 139,426 acres. However, the median (the point below which 50 percent of the counties lie) was 47,157 acres per county. Eleven counties reported zero acreage and seven counties had over 1 million acres in hunting preserves.

County Distribution

The following table displays the total acres in hunting preserve lease permits for the 1986-87 hunting year by county in alphabetical order.

*Extension community development specialist, Texas Agricultural Extension Service.

Total Hunting Preserve Acreage by County*

ANDERSON	51532	GILLESPIE	375209	MOORE	8020
ANDREWS	90740	GLASSCOCK	35100	MORRIS	68651
ANGELINA	826676	GOLIAD	59553	MOTLEY	20164
ARANSAS	1800	GONZALES	46819	NACOGDOCHES	89323
ARCHER	143347	GRAY	1790	NAVARRO	5814
ARMSTRONG	84170	GRAYSON	499	NEWTON	92458
ATASCOSA	139213	GREGG	1150	NOLAN	70590
AUSTIN	12554	GRIMES	35990	NUECES	10125
BAILEY	15670	GUADALUPE	25426	OCHILTREE	2000
BANDERA	178931	HALE	26329	OLDHAM	106810
BASTROP	19699	HALL	1410	ORANGE	61000
BAYLOR	20384	HAMILTON	95706	PALO PINTO	374454
BEE	77544	HANSFORD	3000	PANOLA	50051
BELL	19403	HARDEMAN	10816	PARKER	21863
BEXAR	103615	HARDIN	129718	PARMER	19800
BLANCO	202675	HARRIS	72479	PECOS	828021
BORDEN	15462	HARRISON	47496	POLK	341344
BOSQUE	119425	HARTLEY	37550	POTTER	78000
BOWIE	25132	HASKELL	26805	PRESIDIO	1408287
BRAZORIA	56612	HAYS	57537	RAINS	0
BRAZOS	44461	HEMPHILL	7240	RANDALL	18869
BREWSTER	1868545	HENDERSON	19785	REAGAN	100459
BRISCOE	127172	HIDALGO	50136	REAL	207476
BROOKS	409019	HILL	11640	RED RIVER	101379
BROWN	124404	HOCKLEY	0	REEVES	6756
BURLESON	29326	HOOD	30223	REFUGIO	48170
BURNET	218901	HOPKINS	27430	ROBERTS	3925
CALDWELL	8854	HOUSTON	59791	ROBERTSON	39473
CALHOUN	12410	HOWARD	11690	ROCKWALL	1500
CALLAHAN	43771	HUDSPETH	842165	RUNNELS	48099
CAMERON	7123	HUNT	1263	RUSK	31856
CAMP	1948	HUTCHINSON	22010	SABINE	11131
CARSON	0	IRION	373293	SAN AUGUSTINE	42014
CASS	69554	JACK	107390	SAN JACINTO	45979
CASTRO	58782	JACKSON	48186	SAN PATRICIO	3175
CHAMBERS	68775	JASPER	204157	SAN SABA	373008
CHEROKEE	103366	JEFF DAVIS	914468	SCHLEICHER	391656
CHILDRESS	26817	JEFFERSON	60824	SCURRY	3000
CLAY	38447	JIM HOGG	324420	SHACKELFORD	177265
COCHRAN	0	JIM WELLS	41329	SHELBY	27417
COKE	183749	JOHNSON	12925	SHERMAN	6787
COLEMAN	121498	JONES	0	SMITH	7707
COLLIN	0	KARNES	20856	SOMERVELL	5223
COLLINGSWORTH	4290	KAUFMAN	50	STARR	78988
COLORADO	81170	KENDALL	159745	STEPHENS	160046
COMAL	81536	KENEDY	303498	STERLING	108306
COMANCHE	82928	KENT	17240	STONEWALL	2140
CONCHO	95787	KERR	393760	SUTTON	673492
COOKE	6667	KIMBLE	577316	SWISHER	18517
CORYELL	86927	KING	60540	TARRANT	11660
COTTLE	35809	KINNEY	415253	TAYLOR	67622
CRANE	136000	KLEBERG	33667	TERRELL	598151
CROCKETT	1063917	KNOX	59020	TERRY	0
CROSBY	8320	LA SALLE	348636	THROCKMORTON	129331
CULBERSON	675810	LAMAR	9371	TITUS	5975
DALLAM	48352	LAMB	7645	TOM GREEN	305941
DALLAS	1504	LAMPASAS	176770	TRAVIS	54280
DAWSON	30	LAVACA	77388	TRINITY	129951
DE WITT	95468	LEE	9571	TYLER	337320
DEAF SMITH	16252	LEON	80126	UPSHER	11194
DELTA	510	LIBERTY	255438	UPTON	37880
DENTON	10450	LIMESTONE	7585	UVALDE	387487
DICKENS	54163	LIPSCOMB	480	VAL VERDE	1164809
DIMMIT	324958	LIVE OAK	107466	VAN ZANDT	600
DONLEY	92955	LLANO	463887	VICTORIA	96892
DUVAL	305991	LOVING	0	WALKER	41322
EASTLAND	50155	LUBBOCK	14960	WALLER	32447
ECTOR	1319	LYNN	610	WARD	224000
EDWARDS	710015	MADISON	477459	WASHINGTON	4807
EL PASO	4480	MARION	50979	WEBB	1072012
ELLIS	2625	MARTIN	393809	WHARTON	113907
ERATH	111619	MASON	299325	WHEELER	8546
FALLS	481	MATAGORDA	3195	WICHITA	9506
FANNIN	9780	MAVERICK	242290	WILBARGER	960
FAYETTE	7104	MCCULLOCH	27769	WILLACY	36325
FISHER	17600	MCLENNAN	57333	WILLIAMSON	33139
FLOYD	7100	MCMULLEN	2560	WILSON	15724
FOARD	67860	MEDINA	267513	WINKLER	0
FORT BEND	23625	MENARD	295142	WISE	2781
FREESTONE	63060	MIDLAND	1440	WOOD	5922
FRIO	149803	MILAM	15887	YOAKUM	0
GAINES	0	MILLS	123312	YOUNG	103770
GALVESTON	20000	MITCHELL	149537	ZAPATA	180862
GARZA	27359	MONTAGUE	14821	ZAVALA	264777
		MONTGOMERY	119867		
				TEXAS	32650872

*Data: Texas Department of Parks and Wildlife.

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