

DEER POPULATION SUMMARY

Ranch: Garden Ridge

Survey Technique: Spotlight & Herd Comp

County: Comal

Year: 2019

Survey Route/Pasture	Date	Deer Observed					Acres Sampled	Acres Per Deer	Deer Per 1,000 Ac.
		Bucks	Does	Fawns	Undet	Total			
Survey Route Day 1	8.21.2019	9	45	21	1	76	198	2.61	383.1
Survey Route Day 2	9.3.2019	6	33	16		55	198	3.60	277.8
Survey Route Day 3	9.12.2019	13	37	17	1	68	198	2.91	343.6
Survey Totals		28	115	54	2	199	594	2.98	335.6
Incidental Observations									
Combined Totals		28	115	54		197			

Ranch Size (ac.): 2,780

Harvest Recommendation

Acres/Deer: 2.98

Does/Buck: 4.11

Fawns/Doe: 0.47

Antlered Bucks: Recommend removing 50 antlered deer including a majority of small spiked bucks

Composition -

Bucks: 14.2%

Does: 58.4%

Fawns: 27.4%

Antlerless Deer: Recommend starting with a removal of 150 antlerless deer; but to make a significant decrease, consider 250 antlerless, otherwise the population estimate going into fall 2020 will likely reflect a similar number to this year's estimate, or actually grow thus there would be no net Fall 2019 and Fall 2020.

Deer/1,000Ac: 335.02

Adult/1,000Ac: 243.18

Acres/Adult: 4.11

Estimated Population -

Bucks: 132

Does: 543

Fawns: 256

Total: 931

Remarks: This number reflects a significant estimate decrease from 2019, however this estimate still represents a deer population that does not have adequate habitat to sustain a healthy deer population based on acres per deer. Another significant harvest of deer through TTP and/or TTT will be required to continue to drop the population to more sustainable number in the long-term.

DEER HARVEST RECOMMENDATION

Ranch: Garden Ridge County: Comal Year: 2019

Objective & Goals: The objective should be to reduce deer numbers to a number to reverses the degredation of existing habitat within Garden Ridge including resident plantings. Goals could include achieving a balance of does to bucks of 1.5 to 1 to 2 to 1 (the recommendation below does not achieve that); as well as increasing the acres per deer upwards toward 10-12 acres per deer.

Ranch Size: 2,780 acres

Estimated Deer Population:	Bucks	132
	Does	543
	Fawns	<u>256</u>
	Total	931

1. Recommended Population Harvest
 931 Total Deer X .22 Kill Rate = 200 Deer Harvest Quota

2. Recommended Buck Harvest
 132 Total Bucks X .38 Kill Rate = 50 Buck Harvest Quota

3. Recommended Doe or Antlerless Deer Harvest
 200 Recommended Deer Harvest Quota
-50 Recommended Buck Harvest Quota
 150 Recommended Doe Or Antlerless Deer Harvest Quota

28% Of The Does Recommended To Be Harvested

4. Recommended Spike Buck Harvest
 50 Buck Harvest X .50 Spike Kill Rate = 25 Spike Buck Quota

5. Potential Effect of The Harvest

	Bucks	Does	Fawns
Census	132	543	256
Rec. Har.	-50	-150	
	82	393	
Yearlings	128	128	
Carryover	210	521	

Estimated Winter Density	3.80 acres/deer
Estimated Winter Sex Ratio	2.48 does/buck

Remarks: In winter 2018-19 approximately 120 deer were removed through TPWD TTP permit. The current estimation is significantly lower than last year's estimate of 1,300+, a possible reflection of the TTP permit work as well as new develop within the community. Removing 149 deer this year, outlined above will still result in a doe:buck ratio that is higher than recommended, but more challenging is the still few acres per deer of 3.55. If you follow this recommendation the largest problem will be that you will not decrease your population going into next fall, when factoring in recruitment in 2020, actually increasing the current estimate by 5 deer based on our estimator. Increasing the harvest by 100 additional does would result in a 2020 fall estimate of approx. 800 deer.