

ECONOMIC VALUES OF WHITE-TAILED DEER IN TEXAS

2022 SURVEY: PART II

OVERVIEW

The contributions of hunting are important to the state's economy. Recent emergence of chronic wasting disease (CWD) may threaten the health and sustainability of white-tailed deer (*Odocoileus virginianus*) populations and impact important sectors of our state's economy (Figure 1).

Understanding the economic opportunity costs and impacts to deer hunting is important to better inform state decisions regarding CWD management and control.

With support from Texas Parks and Wildlife Department staff, we conducted a web-based survey of a random sample of 100,000 Texas hunting license holders for the 2022-23 hunting season. Participants took either a hunter-focused or landowner-focused survey resulting in a total of 9,079 unique responses. The following provides a snapshot of survey results, describing white-tailed deer hunter and landowner financial contributions to the state's economy.

DID YOU KNOW?

BETWEEN 2015 - 2022
CWD was detected in wild deer in 7 counties in Texas and 16 captive breeding facilities, with an additional 94 counties exposed.

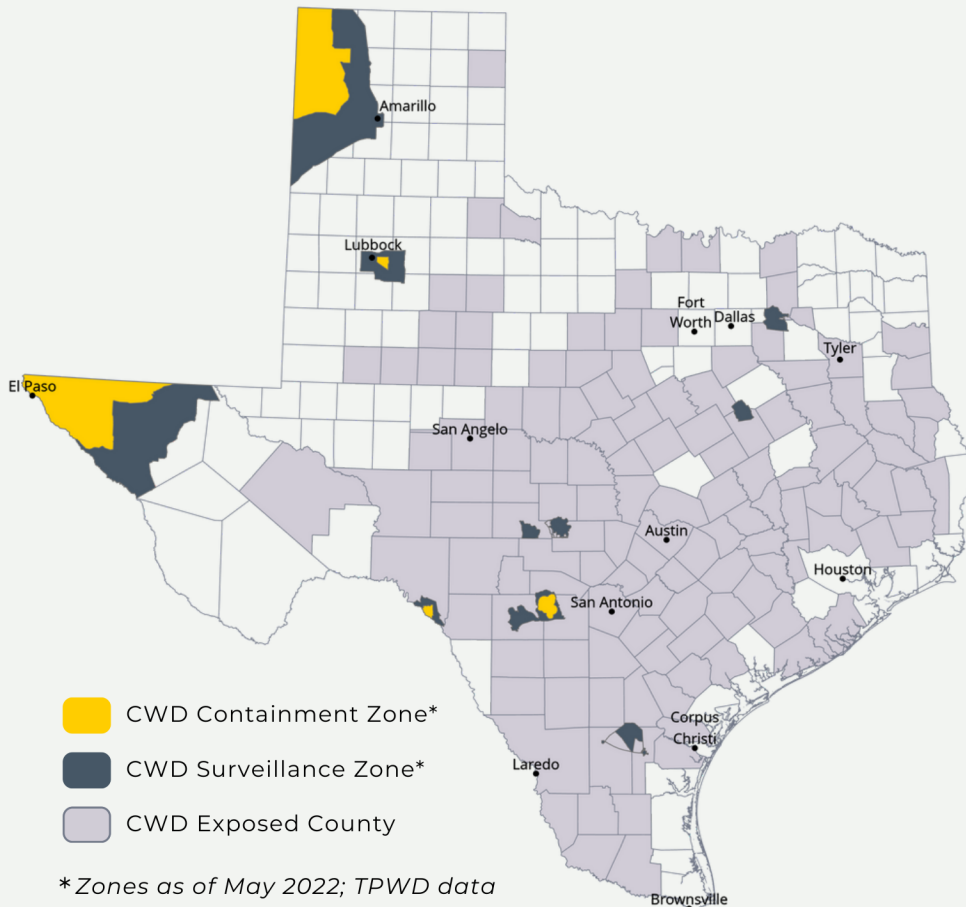
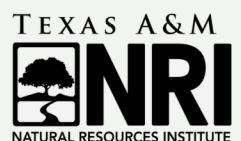


Figure 1. Texas Parks and Wildlife Department chronic wasting disease zones and counties that have received deer from chronic wasting disease-positive breeding facilities.



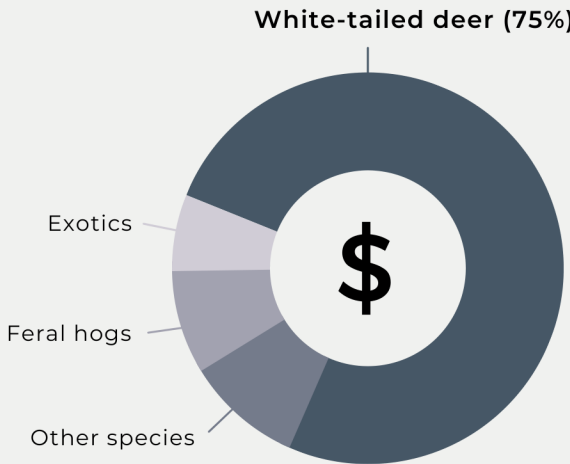
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REPORT SUMMARY

SURVEY RESULTS

Species that bring the most annual income for landowners

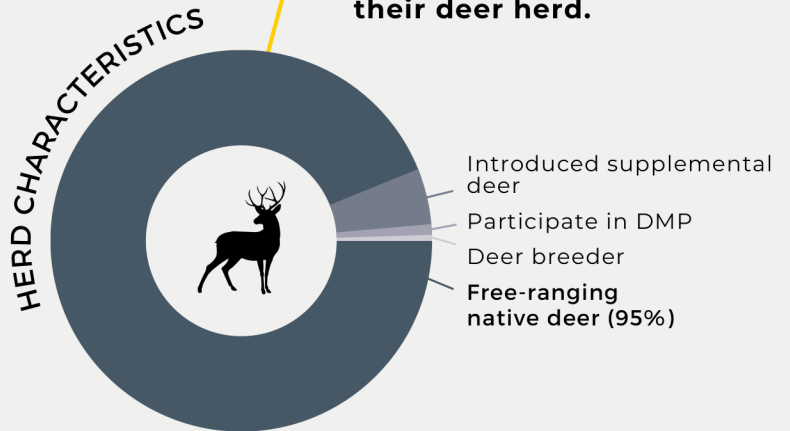


White-tailed deer are the primary income-generating species for landowners surveyed resulting in leasing opportunities and local full-time and part-time employment.

\$6,126/YR AVERAGE DEER HUNTER ECONOMIC IMPACT

The majority of hunters travel from urban centers to rural locations to hunt, distributing the economic benefits throughout the state, especially rural areas.

The majority of landowners surveyed do not supplement their deer herd.



KEY TAKEAWAY



Based on survey data, our economic contribution analysis indicated that white-tailed deer hunters and supporting landowners contribute **\$9.6B annually to the Texas economy.**

Potential implications are significant if hunter participation declines due to increased prevalence of CWD across the state.



Visit our full report

to learn more about our survey and results evaluating the economic values of white-tailed deer hunting.

tx.ag/WTDreport2