

Mesquite Grove Ranch

Deer Hunting Management Program Revision

Effective Deer Season 2013 - 2014

The goal here at Mesquite Grove Ranch is to continually monitor the deer herd as it relates to range conditions, rainfall, fires, and habitat in general. We strive to produce and provide to you, our hunters, the best combination of deer herd numbers and quality of trophy animals that is within our ability to manipulate. Sometimes the weather does not cooperate. Our fawn production and survival rate were good this past season - up from a dismal approximate 11% survival rate from the preceding year. During that year of low fawn survival we also lost a large segment of our older doe herd that were trying to nurse fawns during the harshest drought experienced in memorable history. Fortunately our herd was replenished by young does this past year so the herd numbers and doe to buck ratio is healthy and performing well under the circumstances of the continued dry weather conditions.

All that being said, we are looking for better ways to manage our herd and provide better hunting opportunities for you. Mesquite Grove Ranch is applying to elevate our MLD Program and move it from a "Level 2" Classification to a "Level 3" Classification. The plan is to tweak the Level 3 guidelines to a version that will improve the range conditions and the current deer herd.

The MLD Level 3 permit has been approved for 2013-2014. The Mesquite Grove Ranch harvest plan is shown in the following table:

Mesquite Grove Management Plan Under MLD Level 3

	Early Season	Regular Season	Late Season
Antlerless or Doe	9/29/2013 – 11/1/2013	NO	NO
Spike Bucks	9/29/2013 – 11/1/2013	11/2/2013 – 1/5/2013	NO
Management Bucks	9/29/2013 – 11/1/2013	11/2/2013 – 1/5/2013	NO
Trophy Bucks	NO	11/2/2013 – 1/5/2013	NO

TBD- To be determined YES- harvest by any legal means, including modern firearms

Clarifications and Definitions:

- **Early Season:** September 29, 2013 to November 1, 2013
- **Regular Season:** November 2, 2013 to January 5, 2014
- **Late Season:** January 6, 2014 to February 28, 2014

➤ **Antlerless / Doe:**• The decision to harvest doe will be made annually and will be announced prior to the beginning of Early Season hunting.

- If it is deemed prudent to shoot does in a given year, typically a predetermined number of does will be shot in the Early Season Only. The purpose here is to get any excess does out of the herd before the rut / breeding season begins. This is intended to reduce the stress, wear & tear on the trophy class herd bucks.

➤ **Spike Buck:**

- The definition of a "spike buck" shall mean any buck deer that is 2 ½ years and older and have non branched antlers. This is not to be confused with a "nubbin buck" which is a young first year, antlered yearling buck.

➤ **Management Buck:**

- Definition, "Any buck deer that is 3 years of age or older and has a rack with 8 or less points and/or displays undesirable characteristics."
- Care should be taken to ensure that points have not been broken off before characterizing any buck as a management buck.
- NOTE: THE GOAL IS TO SHOOT ALL OR MOST MANAGEMENT BUCKS IN THE EARLY SEASON SO AS TO REMOVE THEM AND THEIR GENE POOL FROM THE HERD.

➤ **Trophy Buck:**

- Definition: Any buck that is 5 years of age or greater and displays 9 or more points and carries good overall characteristics.

The purpose of these changes is to remove the "non-desirable" deer from the herd before the breeding season begins. This practice will remove those animals and their traits from our herd before they breed another generation of their kind back into the herd. The rules and guidelines may change from time to time as deemed necessary.

We look forward to working closely together with you on this ongoing quest to produce better and better deer for your hunting pleasure. These new guidelines should go a long way toward helping achieve a deer herd that will be pleasing and rewarding for everyone involved.

Sincerely,

Mesquite Grove Ranch