

WHITE-TAILED DEER - DAYLIGHT HERD COMPOSITION OBSERVATIONS

RANCH:

OBSERVER:

COUNTY:

BUCKS OBSERVED						Does	Fawns
DATE	2-3 Points	4-5 Points	6-7 Points	8+ Points	Total Bucks		
PLEASE ADD UP							

% By Number of Points				
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Does per Buck Ratio (total adult does divided by total bucks):
Fawn per Doe Ratio (total fawns divided by total adult does):

Instructions for collecting daylight herd composition survey data on white-tailed deer.

1. Data can be collected while sitting in a deer blind, other fixed position or while driving the property.
2. The best time to observe deer is early morning or late evening, but record deer seen at any time.
3. Use binoculars and/or a spotting scope. Attempt to ID at least 100 deer during the survey season.
4. Record observed deer as bucks, does or fawns. If you are unsure of sex or age, do not guess!
5. Guessing will skew survey data. Without accurate data, population estimates will be wrong.
6. Attempt to cover all parts of the ranch and mix it up. Record every deer that you can identify.
7. Game cameras can be used to collect daylight herd composition data. However, do not place cameras out around feeders. Feeders, especially free-choice feeders, attract more bucks. This is great for seeing bucks but will not help you estimate the buck to doe ratio or fawn production. To collect the best possible daylight data using cameras, place them around water sources or along trails located away from feeders. Use at least a 5-minute delay between photos so that you do not have numerous photos of the same deer.
8. Daylight observations can be collected along a spotlight survey route during the day, but do not conduct daylight surveys the evening before a spotlight survey is scheduled. The activity could impact the spotlight survey.
9. Return by email with your spotlight survey data.
10. Call if you have any questions!

Tessa Boucher
Wildlife Biologist - Mills & Hamilton County
Texas Parks & Wildlife Department
(830)928-9048
P.O. Box 4
Goldthwaite, Tx 76844
tessa.boucher@tpwd.texas.gov