

ORWMA

Oakridge Ranch Guidelines

For

Hunting on Ranch

September 1, 2014

Oakridge

Ranch

Wildlife

Management

Association

Oakridge Ranch Wildlife Management Association

September 1, 2014

Goals and Objectives:

Improve Whitetail deer herd health by controlling number of deer in herd.
Improve antler development and deer weight.
Prevent deer from becoming a nuisance.
Provide for recreational viewing and photographic opportunities.
Provide a habitat that encourages natural Whitetail deer.
Safely enjoy the fellowship of hunting and nature study.
Preserve Oakridge Ranch's "naturalness."

Oakridge Ranch Wildlife Management Guidelines:

1. Observe Safety Rules and Guidelines at all times. We must harvest with a SAFE deer season!
2. Field dress and take all harvested deer to an ORWMA check in station for weighing, jawbone removal, aging and B&C Scoring.
3. Colorado County special rules for buck harvest apply. Spikes and 13" inside spreads are required for bucks to be legal. Big bucks will improve our genetics, so take trophies only.
4. Doe permits will only be issued to members of the Oakridge Ranch Wildlife Management Association.
 - Priority will be given to those who used their 2013 Doe Permit
 - \$10 participation fee will be collected.
 - More than one permit allowed depending on availability.
 - ***Not checking in all deer may limit next season's issuance of permits.***
5. Poachers will be reported to the Game Warden as soon as possible. Hunting off your property or a guest without identification could cause reporting to GW. Registering of guests with ORWMA may prevent embarrassment to your guest. Questionable shooting practices along property lines or across property lines could result in a call to the Game Warden.
6. Property Owners should limit the number of guest hunters on their property and self-limit the number of deer taken on their property. Leasing property to hunters is prohibited and a member will be removed from ORWMA's membership.

Safety Guidelines:

- With our small acreage lots, the danger of a bullet traveling from one property into another is high.
- Not all owners will be hunting. Some will be out to enjoy a quiet weekend, so we must respect their activities and provide for their safety during the harvest.
- Everyone that fires a firearm on their property **MUST** be aware of where they are shooting at all times and where the bullet will end up.

To provide for everyone's safety, we suggest the following guidelines be followed:

1. **ENSURE** that any bullet fired on your property will not travel **OFF of your property**. This can be accomplished by using tree stands or elevated blinds where the hunter will be shooting towards the ground or by shooting into a natural backstop like a hill, mound of dirt or into a creek bottom. If a bullet lands on a neighbor's property, safety is at risk and you might be arrested.

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2. **BE SURE OF YOUR TARGET AND WHAT IS IN FRONT OF AND BEYOND YOUR TARGET.** Before you pull the trigger you **MUST** properly identify what you are going to shoot. Your target needs to be fully visible and in good light. Know what is in front of and behind your target.
3. Never shoot at flat, hard surfaces, such as water, rocks or steel because bullets can ricochet.
4. A good courtesy is to notify adjoining property owners prior to hunting.
5. A good practice would be to post red flags at your road entrance or the corners of your property to notify visitors that you are on your property hunting today.
6. Do not hunt down the property lines between lots.
7. It is against the law to shoot into property you don't own or have rights to.
8. Unload firearms when traveling to and from your shooting area.
9. It is against the law to go onto someone else's property to retrieve any fallen or wounded animals without prior written permission.

NOTE: Law can hold any property owner accountable for the actions of guests on their property.

Reporting Requirements:

It is a requirement that all measurements be taken. The measurement process is exact as the data is used to assess the deer herd's health and population. If the measurements are not taken correctly, the data is of no use. ORWMA data is entered into the Texas State database. **To continue as a Level 1 Managed Land for Deer Wildlife Association and receive Antlerless Deer Permits, we must accurately and correctly report ALL season deer kills.**

- Your kill must be field dressed and taken to a checker to ensure the data is correctly reported.
- **ORWMA** will schedule checkers on duty and have a list posted at North and South Bulletin boards. The required information is age, weight, points, beam length, base measurement and antler spread, Boone and Crockett will be used this season. Jawbones may be removed from all deer and tagged with the Section/Lot taken from, hunter name and permit. These measurements are consistent with those being recorded by other co-ops in Colorado County Texas. The weight is taken after the deer has been field dressed, with head still attached. A scale is required.
- **ORWMA** has purchased equipment for taking these measurements. The age must be determined as described in the measurement guide provided by the TPWD. Each of our checkers has attended a training course and knows how to properly take and record the data.

Summary: Hunting is a privilege for Oakridge Ranch hunters because a number of property owners do not hunt and some are even very opposed to hunting, but they also recognize the need to manage the Whitetail herd. Not respecting these non-hunting owners by reckless shooting or not observing safe hunting practices could lead to less hunting and more expensive deer herd management practices. Every hunter will have an impact on this issue.

Have a good and safe hunting season! Observe all Texas hunting laws! Report all deer harvested!