Evaluating Landowner Services Provided by Texas Parks and Wildlife Department

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Thanks to the 2008 TPWD Natural Leaders team for their work in developing this survey. Members included:

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Problem Definition

- Changing demographics necessitate a better understanding of how the current services meet the needs of landowners.
- Limited staff and financial resources require a focused approach to providing services that result in on the ground conservation.
- Evaluating the level of satisfaction for services currently provided will help TPWD better meet the needs and expectations of landowners.
Objectives

- Assess land ownership attributes (tenure, reasons for owning land)
- TPWD services used and the level of satisfaction with those services (advice, planning, permits)
- Implementation of TPWD recommendations (extent, barriers)
Survey Design and Methods

- All active cooperators in TWIMS database
- 5,289 total surveys mailed
- 45% response rate
- Dillman method – 3 mailings with post card reminder
Who Responded?

- Majority were landowners
- Half had owned land for 12 years or less
- Majority (67%) don’t live on the land being managed
- Majority had received assistance for 5 years or less (90% for 14 years or less)
Average Land Size per Respondent

- 13,068
- 4,445
- 2,257
- 2,852
- 7,077
- 820
- 4,477
- 25,746
Reasons for Owning Land

- Non-revenue hunting: 60%
- Weekend retreat: 50%
- Non-hunting recreation: 40%
- Agriculture: 30%
- Revenue hunting: 20%
- Retirement: 10%
- Inherited: 0%
Reasons for Owning Land

Less than 10% of respondents:

- Timber
- Investment
- Future development
- Other
Species of Interest

- **Very Interested**
- **Interested**
- **Not Interested**
Planning and Technical Guidance

Wildlife Mgmt. Plan
- Very Important: 80%
- Somewhat Important: 10%
- Unimportant: 10%

Habitat Mgmt.
- Very Important: 80%
- Somewhat Important: 10%
- Unimportant: 10%

Deer Harvest
- Very Important: 80%
- Somewhat Important: 10%
- Unimportant: 10%
Use and Familiarity

- MLDP
- TTT
- TTP
- Deer Breeder
- DMP
- ADCP
- LAMPS

Note: The blue bars indicate that the tool is not used or not familiar.
Level of Satisfaction

- MLDP
- TTT
- TTP
- Deer Breeder
- DMP
- ADCP
- LAMPS

Very satisfied
Somewhat satisfied
Implementation of Practices

- 48% fully implemented recommended practices
- 44% implemented at least some
- Only 2% either have not or do not intend to implement recommended practices
Barriers to Implementation

- Other
- Weather
- No barriers
- Lack of financial resources
- Lack of time
- Lack of TPWD time
- Lack of skills or contractor
- No recommendations
- Disagree with recommendations
Changed Goals?

- The majority of landowners report their management goals have not changed.
- 19% report their goals have evolved as a result of their involvement with the program.
Were Needs Met Effectively?

- 96% of respondents reported that their needs were acceptably met by the assistance from TPWD
- 63% agreed that the assistance they received met their needs “Very well”
Satisfaction with Assistance

• 98% of respondents were satisfied with the services they received

• 17% were satisfied but would welcome more one-on-one assistance

• 8% were satisfied but would welcome more follow up assistance
Other Providers of Services

- NRCS
- Texas Agrilife
- Private
- Texas Dept. of Ag.
- NGO
- Other
- USFWS
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