



October 1, 2004

## Hunting in Texas

AUSTIN – With the fall hunting season around the corner, the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) is featuring the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department's Conservation Hunt Texas specialty license plate this month. A portion of the proceeds from the sale of this license plate goes to the Texas Parks and Wildlife capital account, which benefits big game conservation in Texas. The license plate design features a white-tailed buck on the left against a white background with the words "Hunt Texas" running across the bottom.

Hunting is an exciting family recreational activity and an important part of the Texas economy. With more than 913,000 hunters, Texas ranks second in the nation for number of people engaged in hunting. At last count, Texans spent 1.3 billion dollars per year hunting in our state. Texas hunters spent more than 17 million days last year at this popular sport.

Hunting also plays an integral role in the management of Texas wildlife populations. Since the 1930's, hunters have funded the bulk of wildlife conservation efforts in Texas through the Wildlife Restoration Program, and continue to do so today. Starting this fall, Texans can buy State hunting or fishing licenses over the Internet at <http://www.tpwd.state.tx.us/> for the first time.

The Hunt Texas license plates are available to motorists for a \$30 annual fee, plus \$40 if personalized, in addition to regular vehicle registration fees. For each plate sold, a \$22 fee is deposited into the Texas Parks and Wildlife Capital Fund, benefiting big game conservation in Texas. The remaining \$8 defrays administrative costs. There are currently about 4,065 vehicles registered in Texas with these plates.

Applications for the Hunt Texas specialty plates are available at county tax offices, on TxDOT's web site ([www.dot.state.tx.us](http://www.dot.state.tx.us)), by calling the TxDOT Help Desk at (512) 465-7611, or TxDOT's Fax-On-Demand forms line at (888) 232-7033. Customers requesting orders for specialty license plates through the fax service should enter the code 0999 to receive the form for the license plate they are ordering.

TxDOT started its specialty license plate program in 1965. Today, there is a wide variety of different plate designs, many of them benefiting a particular group, organization, college or university. Since 1994, more than \$10 million has been raised for sponsoring organizations, colleges or universities.

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For more information, call Darah Waldrip in TxDOT Vehicle Titles and Registration Division, (512) 302-2076. For a view of the plate and ordering information go to [www.dot.state.tx.us/vtr/spplates/allplates.htm](http://www.dot.state.tx.us/vtr/spplates/allplates.htm).

