

Nice Elk! Bill Rannebarger of Wylie, Texas, harvested this huge 6x7 Elk on the Clear Creek Ranch on October 13, 2014. Elk seem to be doing well in Central and West Texas and are becoming an important part of many hunting operations. Some outfitters in Colorado, Utah, New Mexico and other traditional areas are not particularly happy about Texas game ranch Elk. Texas has no closed season and no permit required to harvest one. I do understand the allure of a pack-in, horseback, camp out 4 to 6 day freezing cold, thin air adventure, but us old guys enjoy a nice chef cooked meal, sleep on a nice comfortable bed, warm ride in the truck to the blinds and a guide to field dress the elk before he picks it up with the tractor to carefully place it on the flatbed trailer for the trip to the processor. Adventures in the mountains are for the young guys. - Johnny Kirby



Texas Wildlife Association developing Legislative Agenda

Texas Wildlife Association (TWA), a statewide organization consisting of almost 7,000 members, is actively developing its legislative agenda as the 84th Texas Legislature approaches in January 2015. "Our organization's leadership and committees have spent considerable time and energy over the last several months vetting various issues that we believe deserve legislative attention. Because public policy issues are a significant focus for TWA members, we have increased our governmental affairs capacity by adding personnel to our advocacy support team," said TWA Chief Executive Officer, David Yeates. TWA engages in a broad range of land, water, and wildlife issues. "The diversity of issues that TWA addresses is often times challenging and complex. However, the ambitious advocacy approach

reflects the strength of our organization," said TWA President, Greg Simons. The broad range of issues that TWA addresses is important as each one has the potential to have a tremendous impact on the members of TWA. "We have a history of serving as an advocacy leader for landowners, hunters, and other wildlife enthusiasts, even when the issues are complex or controversial," said Simons.

Below is a list of key issues that TWA will directly address through legislation and/or will continue to closely monitor prior to and during session.

Eminent Domain and Condemnation- Eminent domain is tilted in favor of the condemning entity, leaving private landowners with minimal latitude in negotiating a fair agreement that properly protects their important property assets. TWA will seek or support legislation that provides

landowners with important provisions that are lacking under current statutory law.

Hunters' Right to Know- TWA will pursue legislation that provides improved animal identification requirements on white-tailed deer and mule deer that are released from breeder pens. TWA maintains the position that a hunter has the

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