

White-tailed Deer Range and High Fences

By Buck Manager

They have become a part of the Texas landscape. Landowners that have them claim that they are critical for white-tailed deer management. Those that don't either dislike them or simply can not afford them. Some people, hunters included, hate them. Hard working men make a living building them. "They" are high fences, often referred to as game fences. Like it or not, it seems high fences are here to stay, but a question that has undoubtedly crossed the minds of many deer hunters is, "What impact does a high fence have on the movement of white-tailed deer?"

Game fences are typically 8 or 10 feet in height, so there are high fences and then really high fences. Ask just about anyone and they will tell you that high fences are deer proof—deer inside the fence can't get out and deer outside the fence can't get in. This belief is disturbing to hunters and landowners bordering high fenced properties because it seems more and more ranches are turning to boundary fence that consist of high fence. I can see both the pros and cons of high game fences, but neither of them is so compelling that I want to drink to the proverbial Kool-Aid. That being said, high fences make it much easier to manage a deer herd.

If high fences were banned then deer and habitat management would still take place. However, the fact is in many states, including Texas, that high fences are legal. As such, game fences are just another tool that a landowner can choose to use or not to use in their individual deer

management program. So whether you love them or simply love to hate them, let's take a look at some of the latest research regarding how high fences impact the movement of white-tailed deer.

A study in South Texas headed up by Texas AgriLife Research is interested in determining the home range of deer both inside and outside a high fenced area. To collect the necessary data on deer movements, researchers placed GPS collars on three does and three bucks inside and three does and three bucks outside a 500 acre high fenced area. Collars collected location data every three hours for each deer for an entire year. So what did the first year of the study find?

This may surprise many of you, but researchers found that the home range sizes of collared bucks were similar on both sides of the high fence. Both groups of bucks, both inside and outside, had home range sizes of about 300 acres. Does, however,



Welcome Hunters!

- * Furniture
- * Clothing
- * Jewelry
- * Gifts



- * Housewares
- * Books
- * & More..



"New & Used"
Furniture & Antiques
Collectibles & Resale Clothes

Open
 Mon. - Fri. 9am - 5pm
 Sat. 10am - 4pm

Shirley Denton
 325-473-7371

116 N. State Street, Bronte, TX 76933

TOM'S TIRE, LUBE & DETAIL

TOMMY SCATES, OWNER

Monday - Friday • 8 am to 5 pm
 Saturday • 8 am to 12 noon

201 N. State Street
 Bronte, Texas

Business (325) 473-2400
 Mobile (325) 473-8534



103 W. MAIN STREET, BRONTE
 (CORNER OF HWY 277 & 158)
 (325) 473-2160

HOURS:

SUN, MON & THURS 7 AM TO 2 PM
 FRI & SAT 7 AM TO 2 PM AND 5 PM TO 8 PM
 CLOSED TUESDAY AND WEDNESDAY

Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner

Classic American Favorites

Burgers • Salads

Daily Specials • Casual Dining • TV's

PALMER FEED & SUPPLY, Inc. DEER HUNTERS



HEADQUARTERS

With The Best Selections In:

- Deer Feeders
- Deer Corn
- Deer Blocks
- Feeder Batteries
- Deer Food Plot Mix
- Timers
- Deer Protein Pellets
- Spinner/Timer Units
- The Best in Carhart & Wrangler

Check out our website at www.PalmerFeed.com!

Two Locations to Serve You Better!

PALMER FEED & SUPPLY, INC.
 1318 N. Chadbourne • San Angelo
 (325) 653-6765

BALLINGER FEED & SEED
 621 Strong Ave. • Ballinger
 (325) 365-2647