

within the high fenced pasture tended to have smaller home ranges (185 acres) than those of does outside (285 acres) the high fence. These results lead to the conclusion that high fences restrict the home range of does, but do not necessarily effect the home range of bucks.

Although I would not have guessed this initially, the results of the first year of this study make sense. Both males and females of many wildlife species tend to be quite territorial, but the home range of males usually includes at least parts of the home ranges of several females. Does tend to be quite protective of their fawns and family groups much of the year, while bucks tend to be more complacent with other bucks over the bulk of the year. It would be interesting to compare the home ranges for bucks inside and bucks outside the high fence during the rut period.

These home range findings are interesting, but here is something that was identified over the course of the year that many of you will probably find most interesting. In fact, it may make you think a little differently about deer management and high fences. Remember the part about high fences being deer proof? Well, it turns out that they are not. Over 40% of the collared deer moved in and out of the high fenced pastures fairly regularly, presumably through holes created by feral hogs. This may be the case in some instances, but let's not forget that deer can jump, too. Eitherway, researchers found that both bucks and does were capable of passing through a high fence, possibly eliminating potential deer overpopulation. Now that is something to think about.



High Fences! The wildlife on these pages are an example of the animals hunters are able to take from the high fence ranches specializing in not only Texas native white tails, but also elk and red deer.

**Texas Parks & Wildlife
Department Game
Warden Field Notes**

No Tailgating Allowed

Game wardens were patrolling the Sam Houston National Forest when they noticed a restricted area had the lock cut and gate swung open. Upon further investigation, they found several people camping in the restricted area preparing for opening day of bow season. Several citations were issued. While exiting the area the wardens noticed another vehicle in a restricted area. Upon contact with that driver, the wardens discovered the subject had outstanding warrants for his arrest and was in possession of drug paraphernalia. He was arrested and transported to Montgomery County jail. The case is pending.

Next in Line, Please

On Oct. 1 at about 9 p.m., a Hunt County game warden received a call from a landowner about shots being fired from a county road near her home. The warden responded and soon located a truck with a spotlight being shined from the window. He stopped the vehicle and a brief investigation revealed the subjects inside were the ones shooting from the roadway. The warden seized three spotlights, two semi-automatic rifles and cartridge casings as evidence. As the warden was issuing citations to the group for hunting from a roadway, another vehicle pulled alongside. When the warden attempted to make contact with the occupants of the second vehicle, the driver shifted into reverse and began to flee. The warden was able to stop the fleeing vehicle a short distance away and an investigation turned up methamphetamine, marijuana and drug paraphernalia. A computer check revealed the male and female subjects inside the vehicle had both recently been released from prison. The couple were arrested on drug-related charges. The cases are pending.

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