



News Release

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Wildlife Refuge Seeks Public Input on Proposed Hunting Plan Revision

The Balcones Canyonlands National Wildlife Refuge (Refuge), in compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, intends to prepare an Environmental Assessment (EA) as part of a Hunting Plan. The public is being invited to provide information that should be considered in creation of the assessment.

The purpose of the revised Hunting Plan is to update the existing plan and provide additional hunting opportunities for white-tailed deer, wild turkeys, feral hogs, and doves on several tracts acquired since the current plan was approved in 1997. The refuge is not adding hunting for any new species. This plan will also contain provisions for increased access for non-hunting visitors to the Doeskin Ranch area during Refuge hunts when possible.

Through this scoping process, the Refuge is seeking public input to facilitate identification of issues and concerns. Following this scoping period, a draft EA will be developed. Comments collected during this scoping period will be incorporated in the draft EA to the extent practicable. The draft EA once completed will also be provided to the public for further review and comment.

The public is encouraged to provide input by writing to: Deputy Refuge Manager, Balcones Canyonlands National Wildlife Refuge, 24518 FM 1431, Box 1, Marble Falls TX 78654; or may e-mail David_Maple@fws.gov. Note, please put "EA - Public Input" in the subject line of the email.

Comments will be accepted until 4:30 pm on **Thursday, November 15, 2012.**

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