



# YOUR ATV

FORTIS INTERNATIONAL AUTOMOTIVE, INC. / "Fortis ATV" NEWSLETTER

Spring 2018

[www.fortisatv.com](http://www.fortisatv.com) [Facebook.com/FortisATV](https://www.facebook.com/FortisATV)

*Reprinted from article by Shannon Tompkins, Houston Chronicle January 28, 2018*



**M**ost of the 750,000 Texas hunters who pursue white-tailed deer would see their fall hunting season lengthen by two weeks, closing on the third Sunday in January instead of the year's first Sunday as it has for decades, under a proposed change in regulations recommended by state wildlife officials.

The recommendation that set statewide opening and closing dates of the general hunting season for white-tailed deer as the first Saturday in November through the third Sunday in January was part of a package of proposed changes in hunting regulations officially presented by Texas Parks and Wildlife Department officials.

The rule change proposals, which the Texas Parks and Wildlife Commission approved for publication and public comment as a prelude to consideration for adoption, also includes a recommendation to open the South Zone dove season on Sept. 14 - a full week earlier than in past seasons - and legalize use of large-caliber air rifles as well as recently introduced "air bows" by hunters pursuing deer and most other game during hunting seasons when use of firearms is allowed.

Since the 1980s, deer hunters in all or part of the 226 counties classified as Texas' North Deer Zone have seen a general whitetail hunting season that opened the first Saturday in November and closed the first Sunday in January.

For the last 16 years, deer hunters in Texas' South Deer Zone, which covers all or part of 30 counties, enjoyed a deer season that opened the first Saturday in November and closed the third Sunday in January. The disparity in season length between the North and South deer zones serves no biological or deer management function and is an artifact of rule changes pushed by South Texas interests in past decades. In the 1990s, South Texas interests successfully pushed to delay opening of the general deer season in the region until the second Saturday in November and, in exchange, extend the season through the third Sunday in January. Proponents arguing for the move cited mating season for whitetails in South Texas, which increases deer movement and hunters' odds of success, that begins in mid or late December - a month or more later than in most of the remainder of the state.

In 2001, the TPW Commission adopted a recommendation to move the South Zone opening back to the first Saturday in November - the same opening date as the rest of the state. But no change was made to the closing date, giving deer hunters in the South Deer Zone two more weeks afield than hunters in the rest of the state.

Setting uniform statewide general whitetail season opening and closing dates that mirror current South Deer Zone dates likely would have no significant impact on Texas' deer herd, Alan Cain, TPWD's whitetail deer program leader, told the commission. The move would not be expected to substantially increase deer harvest but would increase hunter opportunity in those 226 counties and simplify regulations, Cain said.

The move, if adopted by the commission, would necessitate moving the special "late" deer seasons - for antlerless deer and unbranched-antler bucks, muzzleloader-only and youth-only - to begin after the close of the general season, he added.

Also, the agency staff recommended that the dates of the "fall" Rio Grande turkey season, which traditionally runs concurrent with the general whitetail season, be modified as well, adding those two weeks in January to seasons in counties in the North Deer Zone.

If approved by the TPW Commission at its March meeting, the rules changes would become effective for the 2018-19 hunting seasons.



**Service and parts orders over \$350 will receive a free saddlebag or camo backpack!**

## **New and Used Parts & Tires**

**eBay: "fortisauto"**

Or call and ask for Doug or Reece.

**281-579-1006**



**FORTIS INTERNATIONAL AUTOMOTIVE, INC./FORTIS ATV**

**16522 Park Row Blvd. Houston, Texas 77084 ▪ 281-579-1006**

**www.fortisatv.com**