

NATURAL RESOURCES BOARD AGENDA ITEM

SUBJECT: Secretary's order pertaining to 2007 deer hunting regulation modifications in select deer management units.

FOR: MARCH **BOARD MEETING**

TO BE PRESENTED BY: Keith Warnke, Big Game Biologist

SUMMARY:

The department annually recommends deer season frameworks in management units where standard hunting seasons will not reduce the population to established goals. For 2007 the department makes the following recommendations.

Non-CWD Units

The department recommends that the NRB approve the following units for herd control seasons in 2007 (Figure 1); 60 Herd Control units: 1, 1M, 2, 3, 4, 6, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23A, 25, 26, 30, 32, 36, 37, 38, 42, 43, 51A, 51B, 52, 52A, 53, 54A, 55, 56, 57, 57A, 57C, 57D, 58, 59A, 59D, 60A, 60B, 65A, 69, 69C, 72, 72A, 73A, 73B, 73D, 74B, 77E, 77M and 78 and 35 Earn-a-Buck units: 22A, 23, 24, 27, 46, 47, 54B, 54C, 57B, 59B, 59C, 59M, 60M, 61, 61A, 62A, 62B, 63A, 63B, 64, 64A, 64M, 65B, 66, 67A, 67B, 68A, 68B, 74A, 77C, 77D, 80A, 80B, 80C and 81.

CWD Units

Additionally, the department recommends that the NRB approve the following season structure in deer management units or portions of deer management units 54B, 70, 70A, 70B, 70C, 70D, 70E, 70F, 70G, 71, 73B, 73E, 75A, 75B, 75C, 75D, 76, 76A, 76M, 77A, 77B, 77C which are located in the CWD eradication and herd reduction zones:

- Tagging regulation: Unlimited earn-a-buck in the DEZ and HRZ
- Archery season: September 15 to January 6
- Early gun season: October 13-21 (DEZ); October 18-21 (HRZ)
- Late gun season: November 17 to December 9

RECOMMENDATION: Adoption of Secretary's order pertaining to modification of deer hunting regulations in select deer management units.

LIST OF ATTACHED MATERIALS:

- | | | | |
|--|---|---|----------|
| No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Fiscal Estimate Required | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> | Attached |
| No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Environmental Assessment or Impact Statement Required | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> | Attached |
| No <input type="checkbox"/> | Background Memo | Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Attached |

APPROVED:

/s/

Bureau Director, Tom Hauge

/s/

Administrator, Laurie Osterndorf

/s/

Secretary, Scott Hassett

3/15/07

Date

3/15/07

Date

3/15/07

Date

- | | | |
|---------------------------------------|-----------------------------|--------------------------|
| cc: Laurie J. Ross - AD/5 | GLIFWC & Tribes - 14 - WM/6 | Carol Turner - LS/5 |
| Cons. Congress Exec. Cmte. - 4 - LS/5 | Diane Brookbank - CS/GEF 3 | Reg. WM Sups. - 5 - WM/6 |
| Kurt Thiede - 6 - LS/5 | Kevin Huggins - CS/GEF 3 | Reg. LE Sups. - 5 - WM/6 |
| Tom Hauge - WM/6 | Tim Andryk - LS/5 | Bob Manwell - CE/8 |
| Randy Stark - LE/5 | Peter Biermeier - PR/6 | |

CORRESPONDENCE/MEMORANDUM

DATE: March 12, 2007 FILE REF: 2300
TO: Natural Resources Board Members
FROM: Scott Hassett
SUBJECT: 2007 Deer season options

Recommendation:

Non-CWD Units

The department recommends that the NRB approve the following units for herd control seasons in 2007 (Figure 1); 60 Herd Control units: 1, 1M, 2, 3, 4, 6, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23A, 25, 26, 30, 32, 36, 37, 38, 42, 43, 51A, 51B, 52, 52A, 53, 54A, 55, 56, 57, 57A, 57C, 57D, 58, 59A, 59D, 60A, 60B, 65A, 69, 69C, 72, 72A, 73A, 73B, 73D, 74B, 77E, 77M and 78 and 35 Earn-a-Buck units: 22A, 23, 24, 27, 46, 47, 54B, 54C, 57B, 59B, 59C, 59M, 60M, 61, 61A, 62A, 62B, 63A, 63B, 64, 64A, 64M, 65B, 66, 67A, 67B, 68A, 68B, 74A, 77C, 77D, 80A, 80B, 80C and 81.

CWD Units

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- Late gun season: November 17 to December 9
- No change in boundaries

Background:

The 2006 deer season total harvest was 506,947. This is the third highest total in history, all of the top three deer harvests have come since 2000. There were 54 Herd Control units, and the southern third of the state remained under CWD regulations. Harvest during the 9-day gun season was strong and was aided greatly by an early timing (Nov. 18 opener), late rut, and use of herd control and earn-a-buck season structures. Discontinuing the use of earn-a-buck in CWD units, however, hampered efforts in those zones. Overall harvest was 0.59 deer per license sold in 2006, the fourth highest rate on record indicating many hunters are working to push the population lower. About 328,000 individual hunters killed at least one deer in 2006.

Table 1. Deer Harvest by Season Compared to Prior Years

	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
Archery Season Harvest	86,799	83,120	54,093	95,607	103,569	78,028	113,884
Total Gun Harvest	528,494	361,264	317,888	388,344	413,559	385,907	393,063
Muzzleloader Season Harvest	3,814	4,891	3,905	6,092	7,074	8,476	10,231
Total Zone T Harvest	82,099	58,107	36,228	57,792	86,627	85,049	23,029*
Total Antlerless Harvest	402,961	261,539	216,249	291,017	350,153	274,364	326,065
Total Buck Harvest	212,332	182,809	155,792	192,934	166,796	183,135	177,293
Total Deer Harvest	615,293	444,384	372,021	483,951	517,128	463,935	506,947

*December four-day season only in 2006

Population Model

The registered harvest was used with the Sex-Age-Kill and accounting style population models to develop an estimate of the deer population prior to the 2006 hunting season and to assess the effects of herd control seasons. The pre-hunt estimate constructed from harvest data was about 1.6 million deer in non-CWD DMUs in 2006.

The pre-hunt population *projection* was 1.5 – 1.7 million deer. The pre-hunt projection is developed in March or April each year by applying an historical average rate of population increase to the over winter population estimate for the year. The post-hunt SAK based *estimate* is much more reliable because it is based on a sample of deer on the landscape each fall rather than applying a multiplication factor based on historical information prior to the hunting season. The predicted buck harvest this year was 160,000 – 180,000. The actual buck harvest was 177,293.

The post hunt 2006 population estimate in non-CWD units is 1,050,000 deer. Post hunt 2005 the estimate in non-CWD units was 950,000 deer. The population has not changed much in overall numbers, but the EAB and herd control seasons in much of the state resulted in a higher proportion of the harvest being antlerless deer this year compared to 2005. The result is we have started populations moving toward goals in many units. Herd Control and EAB season structures are recommended for many units again in 2007 to build upon the progress made in 2006. This year, we are on the precipice of making great strides toward getting deer populations down towards goal. The season structures recommended are intended to further push populations downward where needed.

Herd Control Seasons

Because of the excellent deer habitat throughout much of the state, our deer herd has tremendous potential to grow. In many units, the population continued to increase even with herd control hunts. A deer population as high as ours is now has several implications including:

- Increased crop damage to Wisconsin farmers.
- Deer- vehicle crashes.
- Long-term negative impacts to forests
- Increased risk of disease transmission.

There are three levels of Herd Control tools available to the Department: 1) Regular season structure with bonus tags; 2) Herd control units where free antlerless tags are issued with archery and firearm deer licenses; and 2) Earn-a-buck.

The regular deer season structure with 9 days of gun hunting, the muzzle loader season, and four-days of antlerless-only gun hunting in December can be effective in DMUs with limited growth potential when the herd is at or near goal. When populations are above goal by 20% or greater, the regular season structure simply will not control herd growth.

The herd control unit designation provides an extra free tag for each archery and gun license and two extra free tags for a conservation patron license. In 2006, 54 deer management units were designated as herd control units.

- The antlerless:antlered harvest ratio in herd control units was 1.7:1. In regular deer season units (2006) the antlerless:antlered harvest ratio was 1.2:1.
- The department reviewed harvest history and trends in all units and determined that in 84 units populations are not likely to be reduced to within 20% of goal under a 9-day season structure. In 60 of those units (Table 2), we recommend the herd control unit designation.

If after two years of Herd Control seasons, the population is still not within 20% of goal, and it is determined that a third year will not likely bring the population to within 20% of the over winter goal, EAB regulations may be applied.

Earn-A-Buck

The department reviewed harvest history and trends in all units and determined that EAB is needed in 35 units (Table 3). EAB is an effective herd control tool. Below is a comparison of results from the 2006 earn-a-buck season format to the results of the 2005 Zone T season format in the 21 units designated as EAB in 2006:

- The number of antlered deer harvested decreased by 20%
- The number of antlerless deer harvested increased 30%
- Total harvest increased by 10%
- On average the antlerless:antlered harvest ratio in these units increased from 1.7:1 (Zone T) to 3.0:1

EAB is recommended for 35 Deer Management Units for 2007, including most DMUs that had EAB in 2006. Another consecutive year of EAB is the only way to move these populations on a trajectory where they may be managed with herd control seasons. Backing off of EAB now will just continue the cycle of EAB in one year and not the next. Our objective is to eliminate that cycle and the need for EAB.

Population Goals

Statewide, the deer population is still well above goal. As the deer herd gets closer to goal, harvest will go down. Over winter goals are reflective of the social and biological carrying capacity in individual units. In past years, as populations surged, harvest opportunities through multiple permits and seasons have increased harvest. Wisconsin has had several record harvests in recent history because of the large number of deer and the deliberate attempts to decrease the population size. Our management objective is to decrease the population to the goals that have been established, not to set harvest records. Achieving those goals will mean that there are fewer deer on the landscape, and fewer deer seen and harvested by hunters. Bonus permits, extended seasons, and EAB will become limited as the harvest needed to maintain the population at goal decreases.

The number of deer that hunters are willing to harvest is likely to decline in the future. If that happens, our ability to manage deer populations through hunting could be negatively impacted as hunter harvest becomes the limiting resource. It is imperative that we move deer populations significantly downward toward goal now, because there is a real risk that the harvest in the future will be insufficient to hold the deer population stable at the level it now exists.

Our objective is to manage deer populations in each unit toward or at the goal described in Administrative Code, and to provide a hunting opportunity that carefully balances the science and sociology of hunting and managing deer populations as required in s. NR 1.15(2).

CWD units:

The proposed change in CWD hunting zones made by this secretary's order is that hunters will be required to earn-a-buck by harvesting an antlerless deer first in both the DEZ and HRZ.

The overall prescription for the CWD zones remains unchanged. The goals of these areas are to provide zones that include and buffer infected areas, where liberal hunting regulations are aimed at reducing deer populations to reduce CWD transmission and spread. The population goals for the DEZs and HRZ are less than 5 and 10 deer per square mile of deer range, respectively.

No positives have been found outside the HRZ, however, in recognition of the 47 (total) scattered positives found to date in the HRZ, the department believed it is prudent to increase harvest pressure on antlerless deer in the HRZ to more quickly bring deer numbers down.

Earn-A-Buck

In CWD zones there have been three years with EAB rules for the entire hunting season, one year with EAB rules in a portion of the hunting season, and one year of either-sex hunting. It is clear that EAB is the most effective tool for increasing antlerless deer harvest. While it is important that the buck harvest rates remain high, we cannot afford to sacrifice antlerless harvest rates.

Last year's experience suggests that another either sex season will result in antlerless deer harvest that is inadequate for continued herd reduction in CWD zones. The total DEZ harvest was down 18%, with no change in the buck kill and a 28% decrease in antlerless deer kill. The HRZ deer harvest was down 5% with no change in the buck kill and a 23% reduction in the antlerless deer kill. Because the either sex season was not effective for herd reduction, the department recommends exercising the option of EAB rules in 2007.

The following criteria for recommending an EAB season were met in 2006; the harvest ratio of antlerless deer to antlered bucks was less than 2:1, the deer population is above 15 deer per square mile of deer range, and the estimated deer population reduction is less than 20% for the prior year.

October Gun Season in CWD DMUs

The department has the option to and initially recommended extending the early firearm season in both the DEZ and the HRZ by seven days. This recommendation was taken to the Herd Status meetings in south central and south east Wisconsin.

There was widespread concern and complaint from attendees at the Herd Status meetings who have long opposed extending gun hunting opportunity. Archers testified that having much of the rut period to hunt without a blaze orange requirement and without gun hunters in the woods is important to them. Gun hunters also testified that they did not want to extend the gun hunting season. Based on this information and the fact that an extension of the early gun season would be inconsistent with state parks in the CWD zones, the Department is recommending no change to the early gun hunts in either the HRZ or the DEZ.

Many attendees also opposed EAB requirements and wanted either sex hunting again in 2007. Clearly, this past season was unacceptably ineffective at harvesting antlerless deer and controlling the deer population. In light of recent conclusions of the Legislative Audit Bureau's CWD audit, the Department must continue to work toward implementing more effective herd control and CWD strategies that are also sustainable over time. It must be noted that the option of extending gun hunting is the only remaining tool to be implemented to increase effectiveness. We are purposefully choosing not to implement longer October seasons this year in order to evaluate the effect of EAB alone on increasing the deer kill. In 2008, longer gun seasons will be implemented if the kill is insufficient again in 2007.

In 2007, the early gun season in the DEZ will be October 13-21, and the late gun season will not start until November 17, thereby providing a 26-day break from gun hunting. The early gun season in the HRZ will be October 18-21 and the late gun season will not start until November 17, providing a 26-day break from gun hunting.

State Park Hunting in CWD Zones

State parks can serve as refuges for deer in the HRZ and DEZs. Therefore, deer hunting seasons have been established for these parks to enable hunters to reduce deer numbers there. As in the past, state park deer hunting

hours in the early gun season would close at noon in recognition of substantial use by other recreationists in that period.

Statewide Implementation:

Hunters who register antlerless deer in any EAB unit are given a 'Buck Authorization' sticker with their customer number on it. Hunters can earn buck stickers by legally registering an antlerless deer killed in an EAB unit at any time during the year. Buck stickers earned in a current EAB unit are valid for two deer seasons: 2007 and 2008. Buck stickers earned in EAB units last year will be valid again this year in EAB units.

This will be the second year during which hunters may be pre-qualified to harvest a buck in EAB units if they harvested a buck during the previous year in a DMU that was not EAB last year, but is approved for EAB this year (including CWD units). We will be mailing buck stickers (valid for only the 2007 season) to around 30,000 hunters who pre-qualified last year.

Hunters may put their buck sticker on either their gun or archery license carcass tag at or before the time of kill. Hunters may use antlerless deer harvested during any deer hunting season to earn buck stickers for use in any season. For example, in a non-CWD DMU an archer can shoot 2 antlerless deer during the archery season and get two buck stickers. That hunter may only harvest a buck with each buck tag they have (maximum of two: archery and gun). Hunters may also shoot an antlerless deer, then shoot an antlered buck, and transport and register both together without getting a buck sticker.

Hunters will still be limited to one buck with an archery license and one buck with a gun license in non-CWD units. Buck stickers are not transferable among hunters. A buck sticker authorizes the hunter to shoot a buck in any EAB unit statewide, including CWD units. In CWD units, the number of bucks a hunter may harvest with any legal weapon is limited only by the number of antlerless deer a hunter registers in any EAB unit. For example, a hunter could shoot 4 antlerless deer in DMU 61 and be eligible to kill 4 bucks with any weapon in a CWD unit. Alternatively, that hunter could also kill a buck with a gun and a buck with a bow in DMU 61 and still be eligible to kill 2 bucks in a CWD unit.

Deer herd status meetings:

Meetings were held statewide in February to discuss herd status with the public. These meetings are held each year as part of the department's annual deer quota setting process. The meetings provide the local wildlife managers with an opportunity to discuss the past and future deer seasons with local hunters. As part of this discussion, they talk about whether special herd control measures will be required to keep the deer populations near goals. A summary of public comments collected during these meetings will be provided as a handout at the March Board meeting.

Timeline:

The timeline for determining deer season structure and quotas is tight. Following the close of hunting at the end of December, registration stubs are entered into the database and summarized by sex, unit, and county. Aging data and harvest structure are used to develop population estimates and season structure and quota recommendations by mid-March for action at the March Board meeting. Following changes (if there are any) by the Board, the department will return to field staff and population experts to determine new quotas where there were changes to our recommendations. The new quotas will then be used to determine quotas and permit levels. This information needs to be available by the end of May.

Table 2. Herd Control Deer Management Unit Population Status

<i>Unit</i>	<i>Goal</i>	<i>SAK</i>	<i>% over goal</i>	<i>Quota to 20% over goal</i>	<i>Maximum Antlerless Gun Harvest in Regular Season</i>
1	20	34	70	2,185	576
1M	10	32	216	535	5
2	18	34	90	11,590	2,691
3	16	27	67	6,114	1,122
4	15	20	31	1,515	705
6	12	23	88	6,348	929
8	20	28	42	3,558	2,006
9	20	37	83	8,200	2,396
10	25	35	42	4,430	2,775
11	20	29	46	4,128	2,444
12	17	29	73	3,739	1,633
13	15	24	58	6,329	1,980
14	14	24	71	3,370	875
15	22	32	47	5,967	3,273
16	25	39	55	6,800	3,289
17	15	28	86	4,446	1,922
18	20	38	88	7,876	2,193
19	20	31	53	4,273	1,748
20	18	29	61	4,422	1,343
21	25	32	26	2,260	2,353
22	20	29	45	4,282	2,670
25	20	41	103	10,423	1,834
26	20	29	43	4,148	2,165
30	15	20	36	1,554	720
32	21	35	66	8,294	1,977
36	25	42	67	5,440	2,001
37	25	35	38	2,668	1,832
38	20	25	23	1,713	1,629
42	20	27	35	2,758	1,781
43	15	20	31	2,161	1,788
51A	25	35	42	3,399	1,235
51B	25	33	33	4,672	3,682
52	20	26	28	2,095	1,896
53	25	55	121	18,997	4,696
54A	25	54	117	21,378	4,249
55	25	35	41	9,058	6,373
56	30	46	54	7,226	3,013

<i>Unit</i>	<i>Goal</i>	<i>SAK</i>	<i>% over goal</i>	<i>Quota to 20% over goal</i>	<i>Maximum Antlerless Gun Harvest in Regular Season</i>
57	22	33	49	2,140	1,344
57A	25	33	31	2,516	2,030
57C	30	46	55	6,753	2,749
58	25	49	98	19,094	5,496
59A	20	29	47	7,272	3,308
59D	20	41	107	12,477	3305
60A	20	29	44	2,152	1328
60B	20	36	78	1,865	797
65A	30	43	43	3,281	2206
69	25	33	32	5,549	2804
72	20	42	108	16,128	4,109
73B	20	33	64	3,296	2110
73D	20	30	49	2,401	1217
74B	20	35	73	11,251	2677
77M	10	21	112	4,525	621
78	15	31	107	305	104

Table 3. Earn-a-buck Deer Management Unit Population Status and Herd Control History

<i>Unit</i>	<i>Goal</i>	<i>SAK</i>	<i>% over goal</i>	<i>Consecutive Years of Herd Control Seasons</i>	<i>Quota to 20% over goal</i>	<i>Maximum Historic Antlerless Gun Harvest without EAB</i>
22A	20	30	51	3	5,734	4,312
23	20	39	97	4	9,627	4,458
24	20	39	93	3	6,477	3,094
27	20	29	47	3	3,457	3,476
46	25	34	34	4*	3,991	4,636
47	25	34	36	7	3,737	3,046
54B	25	51	104	3*	6,971	6,271
54C	25	49	98	6	3,873	1,444
57B	25	33	32	3	3,258	3,839
59B	15	22	46	3*	7,955	5,823
59C	25	41	63	4*	18,121	9,162
59M	10	48	381	4*	2,176	351
60M	10	18	78	4*	828	756
61	20	32	61	7*	22,423	10,110
62A	25	41	64	3*	9,388	7,158
62B	25	54	118	8*	15,419	6,161
63A	25	40	60	6*	7,684	5,228
63B	25	37	49	7	4,448	4,210
64	20	53	164	4	10,912	3,750
64M	10	45	352	4*	3,369	900
65B	30	49	63	8*	10,596	5,831
66	25	59	138	6*	7,991	2,713
67A	25	54	118	7*	15,290	6,670
67B	25	48	90	8*	6,031	3,798
68A	30	73	142	7*	8,681	2,464
68B	30	42	41	3	4,359	2,299
74A	20	39	96	3*	5,938	1,962
77C	15	35	133	4	3,521	2,045
80A	15	33	117	8	3,067	1,047
80B	20	40	98	7*	5,269	3,003
81	15	66	341	7	1,185	193

* = EAB previous year

BEFORE THE STATE OF WISCONSIN
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

In the matter of a Secretary's Order pertaining to modification of 2007 deer hunting regulations in select deer management units that are not CWD units.

FINDINGS OF FACT, CONCLUSIONS OF LAW AND ORDER

FINDINGS OF FACT

1. It is unlikely the deer population in deer management units 1, 1M, 2, 3, 4, 6, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 25, 26, 30, 32, 36, 37, 38, 42, 43, 51A, 51B, 52, 53, 54A, 55, 56, 57, 57A, 57C, 58, 59A, 59D, 60A, 60B, 65A, 69, 72, 73B, 73D, 74B, 77M and 78 will be reduced to within 20% of the overwinter population goals established in s. NR 10.104, Wis. Adm. Code, under the current deer hunting rules. In making this determination, the department compared the deer harvest required to reduce the deer population to goal to the deer harvest likely to occur under the existing season structure based on data from past seasons.
2. After two consecutive years of seasons described in s. NR 10.01(3)(ed)1.a. or s. NR 10.01(3)(ez)1.a. and am., Wis. Adm. Code, the department has determined that a third season as described in s. NR 10.01(3)(ez)1.a. and am., Wis. Adm. Code, is still unlikely to reduce the deer population to within 20% of the overwinter population goals established in s. NR 10.104, Wis. Adm. Code in deer management units 22A, 23, 24, 27, 47, 54C, 57B, 64, 68B, 77C, 80A, and 81. In making this determination, the department compared the deer harvest required to reduce the deer population to goal to the deer harvest likely to occur based on data from past seasons under the regular season structure and under special hunts.
3. After a season as described in s. NR 10.01(3)(ed)1.b. Wis. Adm. Code, the department has determined that a season as described in subd. 1.a., Wis. Adm. Code, is still unlikely to reduce the deer population to within 20% of the overwinter population goal, established in s. NR 10.104, Wis. Adm. Code, in deer management units 46, 54B, 59B, 59C, 59M, 60M, 61, 62A, 62B, 63A, 63B, 64M, 65B, 66, 67A, 67B, 68A, 74A, and 80B. In making this determination, the department compared the deer harvest required to reduce the deer population to goal to the deer harvest likely to occur based on data from past seasons under the regular season structure and under special hunts.

CONCLUSION OF LAW

1. According to s. NR 10.01(3)(ed) and 10.01(3)(ez), Wis. Adm. Code, the department may, upon making the above findings, modify the deer seasons, deer registration and permit issuance procedures.

ORDER

1. *Free Antlerless Permits.* Notwithstanding all other provisions of Ch. NR 10, Wis. Adm. Code, which remain in effect, special deer hunting permits for antlerless deer issued under s. NR 10.104, Wis. Adm. Code and s. 29.177, Stats., shall be issued free of charge for use in deer management units 1, 1M, 2, 3, 4, 6, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 22A, 23, 23A, 24, 25, 26, 27, 30, 32, 36, 37, 38, 42, 43, 46, 47, 51A, 51B, 52, 52A, 53, 54A, 54B, 54C, 55, 56, 57, 57A, 57B, 57C, 57D, 58, 59A, 59B, 59C, 59D, 59M, 60A, 60B, 60M, 61, 61A, 62A, 62B, 63A, 63B, 64, 64A, 64M, 65A, 65B, 66, 67A, 68B, 69, 69C, 72, 72A, 73A, 73B, 73D, 74B, 77C, 77D, 77E, 77M, 78, 80A, 80C, 81, and the Elroy-Sparta state trail located within deer management units 54B, 59D and 72; the Tuscobia-Park Falls state trail located within deer management units 14, 17, 18, 19, 20 and 22; and Buckhorn, Interstate, Straight Lake, Mill Bluff, Hartman Creek, Kinnickinnic, Mill Bluff, Newport, Rock Island, Willow River, and the Plum

Island portion of the Grand Traverse Islands state parks and the Trempealeau Wildlife Refuge. Hunters may receive one special permit with their archery license and one special permit with their gun license, or two special permits with their conservation patron license. Additional antlerless deer carcass tags may be purchased at no charge, except for a handling fee authorized under s. 29.556, Stats. and s. NR 19.02, Wis. Adm. Code, for the above units except 23A, 52A, 57D, 61A, 64A, 69C, 72A, 73A, 77D 77E and 80C where additional antlerless deer carcass tags may be purchased only by those who have obtained a state park access permit for these units.

2. *Earn-a-Buck*. Notwithstanding all other provisions of Ch. NR 10, Wis. Adm. Code, which remain in effect, hunters shall harvest or tag an antlerless deer in deer management units 22A, 23, 24, 27, 46, 47, 54B, 54C, 57B, 59B, 59C, 59M, 60M, 61, 61A, 62A, 62B, 63A, 63B, 64, 64A, 64M, 65B, 66, 67A, 67B, 68A, 68B, 74A, 77C, 77D, 80A, 80B, 80C and 81 with either a bow or a gun during any deer season in these units, or with an agricultural shooting permit, before they may harvest a buck with either weapon in units 22A, 23, 24, 27, 46, 47, 54B, 54C, 57B, 59B, 59C, 59M, 60M, 61, 61A, 62A, 62B, 63A, 63B, 64, 64A, 64M, 65B, 66, 67A, 67B, 68A, 68B, 74A, 77C, 77D, 80A, 80B, 80C and 81. The requirement to harvest or tag a legally harvested antlerless deer before harvesting or tagging a buck includes state parks and federal properties that are within or adjoining these units including the portion of the Elroy-Sparta state trail located within deer management units 54B, Hartman Creek, Kinnickinnic, Mill Bluff, Newport, Rock Island, Willow River, and the Plum Island portion of the Grand Traverse Islands state parks and the Trempealeau Wildlife Refuge. Only one buck may be taken with a bow under a license which authorizes archery deer hunting including a conservation patron license, and only one buck may be taken with a gun under a license which authorizes gun deer hunting including a conservation patron license. Deer harvested as described in this paragraph shall be transported in accordance with s. NR 10.105 (2).

Dated at Madison, Wisconsin, _____

STATE OF WISCONSIN
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL
RESOURCES

By Scott Hassett, Secretary

BEFORE THE STATE OF WISCONSIN
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

In the matter of a Secretary's Order pertaining to modification of 2007 deer hunting regulations in select deer management units that are CWD units.

FINDINGS OF FACT, CONCLUSIONS OF LAW AND ORDER

FINDINGS OF FACT

1. The harvest ratio of registered antlerless deer to antlered bucks is less than 2:1 for the prior year in deer management units or portions of deer management units 54B, 70, 70A, 70B, 70C, 70D, 70E, 70F, 70G, 71, 73B, 73E, 75A, 75B, 75C, 75D, 76, 76A, 76M, 77A, 77B, 77C which are located in the CWD eradication and herd reduction zones.
2. The deer population in deer management units or portions of deer management units 54B, 70, 70A, 70B, 70C, 70D, 70E, 70F, 70G, 71, 73B, 73E, 75A, 75B, 75C, 75D, 76, 76A, 76M, 77A, 77B, 77C which are located in the CWD eradication and herd reduction zones is estimated to be above 15 deer per square mile of deer range.
3. The estimated deer population reduction is less than 20% for the prior year in deer management units or portions of deer management units 54B, 70, 70A, 70B, 70C, 70D, 70E, 70F, 70G, 71, 73B, 73E, 75A, 75B, 75C, 75D, 76, 76A, 76M, 77A, 77B, 77C which are located in the CWD eradication and herd reduction zones.

CONCLUSION OF LAW

1. According to s. NR 10.01(3)(et), Wis. Adm. Code, the department may, upon making the above findings, modify the deer seasons, deer registration and permit issuance procedures.

ORDER

1. *Earn-a-Buck*. Notwithstanding all other provisions of Ch. NR 10, Wis. Adm. Code, which remain in effect, hunters shall harvest or tag an antlerless deer in deer management units or portions of deer management units 54B, 70, 70A, 70B, 70C, 70D, 70E, 70F, 70G, 71, 73B, 73E, 75A, 75B, 75C, 75D, 76, 76A, 76M, 77A, 77B, 77C which are located in the CWD disease eradication and herd reduction zones with either a bow or a gun during any deer season in these units, or with an agricultural shooting permit, before they may harvest a buck with either weapon. The requirement to harvest or tag a legally harvested antlerless deer before harvesting or tagging a buck includes state parks and federal properties that are within or adjoining these units including Belmont Mound, Mirror Lake, Rocky Arbor, Cadiz Springs, New Glarus Woods, Tower Hill and Devil's Lake state parks. One antlerless deer is required to authorize the harvest of one buck in these units or in state parks with gun deer seasons that are within or adjoining these units, for each archery and gun deer license. Deer harvested as described in this paragraph shall be transported in accordance with s. NR 10.105 (2).

Dated at Madison, Wisconsin, _____

STATE OF WISCONSIN
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL
RESOURCES

By Scott Hassett, Secretary