

SUBJECT: Request approval of antlerless deer quotas, permit levels, unit designations, and adoption of emergency order WM-05-12(E) related to an October, antlerless-only firearm deer season in the CWD Management Zone.

FOR: APRIL, 2012 BOARD MEETING

TO BE PRESENTED BY / TITLE: Kevin Wallenfang, Big Game Biologist

SUMMARY:

The department is recommending approval of two secretary's orders that modify the deer hunting season framework in herd control and CWD units, approval of antlerless quotas and permit levels for "regular" season units, and adoption of a rule that maintains an October antlerless season in CWD units. Where populations are below goals, we again propose limiting or eliminating antlerless harvest. Where they are substantially above goals, herd control seasons are recommended. Earn-a-buck is recommended in CWD units only for bucks that are in addition to ones harvested under the authority of an archery or gun buck deer carcass tag, consistent with the limitations of 2011 ACT 50.

Herd control seasons (45 units plus 8 state park units)

1M, 22A, 27, 33, 46, 47, 51A, 51B, 54A, 54B, 54C, 57, 57B, 57C, 59B, 59C, 59D, 59M, 60A, 60B, 60M, 61, 61A, 62A, 62B, 63A, 63B, 64, 64A, 64M, 65B, 66, 67A, 67B, 68A, 68B, 69, 69C, 72, 72A, 73A, 73B, 73D, 74A, 74B, 77C, 77D, 77E, 77M, 80B, 80A, 80C and 81

CWD Management Zone, limited earn-a-buck season (22 units comprising the entire zone)

54B, 70, 70A, 70B, 70C, 70D, 70E, 70F, 70G, 71, 73B, 73E, 75A, 75B, 75C, 75D, 76, 76A, 76M, 77A, 77B, 77C

Emergency rule revisions would continue the annual October, antlerless-only, firearm deer season that has been held in the CWD management zone since 2002. The four day season will begin on October 11 instead of the Thursday nearest October 15. Annual rulemaking is required under 2011 ACT 50 in order to hold this hunt.

RECOMMENDATION: Approval of antlerless deer quotas, permit levels, unit designations, and adoption of emergency order WM-05-12(E) related to an October, antlerless-only, deer season in the CWD Zone.

LIST OF ATTACHED MATERIALS:

- | | | | | | |
|----|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------|-----|-------------------------------------|----------|
| No | <input type="checkbox"/> | Fiscal Estimate Required | Yes | <input checked="" 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:

Bureau Director, Tom Hauge

Date 4/11/12

Administrator, Kurt Thiede

Date 4/12/12

Secretary, Cathy Stepp

Date 4/12/12

cc: NRB Liaison
DNR Rules Coordinator

Kevin Wallenfang - WM/6
Scott Loomans - WM/6

Tom Hauge - WM/6

DATE: April 13, 2012
TO: Natural Resource Board Members
FROM: Cathy Stepp, Secretary
SUBJECT: 2012 Deer Season Recommendations

FILE REF: 2300

Recommendations: I'm offering the following 2012 deer season recommendations for Natural Resources Board (NRB) consideration and approval:

1. Approval of the antlerless quota and permit levels for deer management units (DMUs) recommended for regular gun deer seasons (Table 1 & Figure 1).
2. Approval of a Secretary's Order designating the 2012 Herd Control Units (Table 2, Figure 1)
3. Approval of a Secretary's Order establishing the 2012 bonus buck requirements for the CWD Management Zone; and
4. Approval of an emergency rule order (WM-05-12(E)) that continues a 4-day antlerless only hunt in CWD management units for 2012

In April of each year, we bring our annual deer season and antlerless quota recommendations to the Natural Resources Board for consideration and approval. We have completed our analysis of the 2011 biological and harvest data to calculate updated population estimates, held public forums to share information on herd status and gather citizen perspectives, and made projections on likely scenarios for herd growth and harvests in 2012. I want to publicly thank our wildlife, research, law enforcement, and communications staff for their work on what can be a very tedious task. On top of all the usual work, these same staff and others have also worked very hard to supply information needed for the review of our deer management program by the Deer Trustee. I am proud to say that every request of Dr. Kroll and his team was met with cooperation and pride by our staff.

I want to also mention a few extra steps in the quota-setting process that we took this year. As you know, I've placed a high priority on reaching out to the public and providing them with new opportunities to participate in our deer management program. This year we launched an on-line forum opportunity for those who are unable to attend a local deer forum. I'm happy to say we had over 5,500 people complete over 6,500 on-line surveys from their homes, providing us with valuable observations and opinions from every deer management unit of Wisconsin. This level of public input is unprecedented during the quota setting process, and we have done our best to put it to use. In addition, department staff held 36 deer forums to share information and talk to the public. Deer hunting shows, conventions, and many other opportunities continue to provide us with an understanding of the current deer management issues before us. Clearly, Wisconsin's hunters are very passionate about their deer as is evident from the wide spectrum of viewpoints on almost every issue. A short summary of some of the deer hunter forum survey results are provided at the end of this report. We expect to have a full summary of the public comments available by mid-May.

Our 2012 deer season proposal attempts to strike a balance between the social and biological interests expressed by hunters, landowners, farmers, foresters, businesses, and many other stakeholders from all corners of the state. Hunters are the backbone of our deer management system and we are striving to make the hunting season enjoyable and satisfying while fulfilling our obligations as herd managers. Without the enthusiasm and participation of hunters and landowners, any management goal is unachievable. We need our partners, the landowners and the hunters, to help manage this deer herd.

Quota and Permit Level Considerations: Department staff gave a great deal of scrutiny to setting permit levels this year because it was a concern expressed by many hunters across the state. I am happy to say that we have listened to the public and our partners, and we have fulfilled promises to set reasonable permit levels. You will not see words like “unlimited”, and we have changed some terms that will show hunters we want to reward them rather than give the perception of forcing them to do something they don’t want to do.

Permit levels are typically set based on the prescribed quota and historic success rates. This year we set permit levels based on historic demand. As an example, let’s look at unit 28. With a prescribed quota of 1,000 antlerless deer, historic success rates indicate that 5,000 permits would be issued to meet this quota. However, history shows that we have never sold more than 2,200 permits under a regular season framework in unit 28. To make permit levels more realistic, we have cut the number down to 2,500, assuring that anyone wishing to purchase a permit will have the opportunity.

I think it is also helpful to put quotas into a landscape perspective. Unit 28’s quota of 1,000 might sound like a lot of deer. However, that harvest will be spread out over almost 700 square miles. A quota of 1,000 would remove fewer than 1.5 antlerless deer per square mile, approximately equal to the expected buck harvest for that unit. Annual gun deer hunter surveys for unit 28 suggest that there are 6 to 9 hunters per square mile. The 1,000 quota would likely result in only 16-25% of the unit 28 hunters taking an antlerless deer home for venison.

Lastly, I would like to address the quota levels for those units that were buck-only in 2011. We often hear things like “how can you go from zero quota to 1,000 this year.” The simple answer to that question is that these units could have had a quota last year, but we used a zero quota in response to public concerns. From a strict herd management point of view, some of these units should have had a quota last year. While we realize that predators and other impacts can make recovery slower, Wisconsin’s deer population is extremely robust and rebounds quickly from low numbers. This year we are playing catch up. This is a tough spot to be in, but responsible management of units and allowing for some antlerless harvest can help us avoid the drastic highs and lows of permit levels. We would like to manage for consistency, and that needs to start with harvest quotas that at least limit the annual increase to the herd.

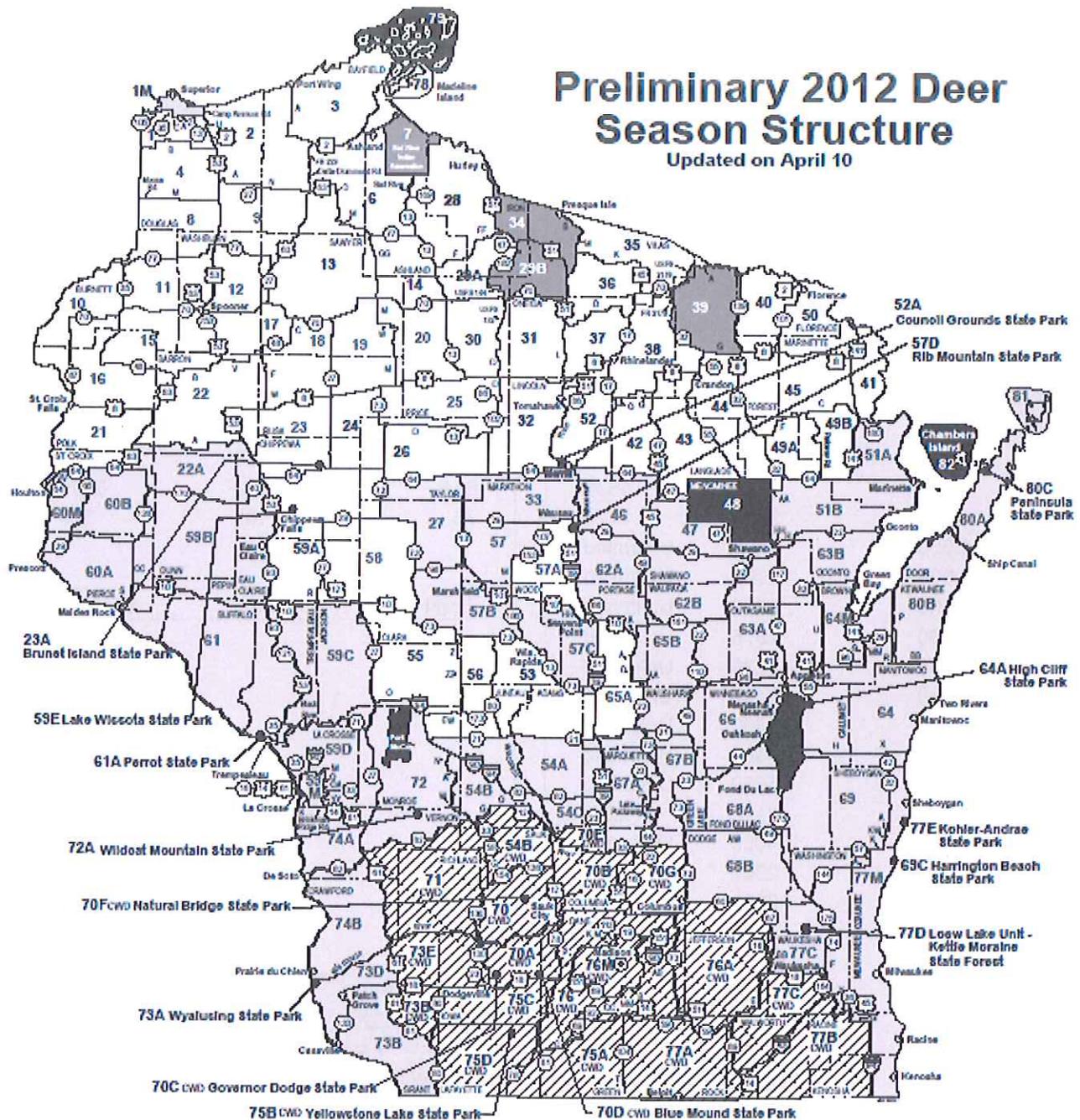
Table 1. Recommended antlerless deer harvest quotas and bonus permit levels in Deer Management Units recommended for a regular gun season in 2012

Deer Mgmt Unit	Recommended Antlerless Gun Quota	Recommended Number of Permits	2011 Permit Comparison	Deer Mgmt Unit	Recommended Antlerless Gun Quota	Recommended Number of Permits	2011 Permit Comparison
1	400	1125	1725	45	1,300	3725	0
2	1,800	4525	9325	49A	200	450	975
3	1,300	3000	0	49B	1,200	3825	4425
4	400	1200	Unlimited	50	1,500	4500	5850
6	1,500	3500	4675	52	1,300	2800	2825
7	0	0	0	53	3,500	6400	1775
8	1,000	2575	Unlimited	55	3,000	7025	3625
9	1,000	2850	Unlimited	56	100	200	200
10	800	1375	Unlimited	57A	2,500	4200	Unlimited
11	1,600	3675	Unlimited	58	4,500	10000	Unlimited
12	1,600	3200	Unlimited	59A	2,500	6400	11775
13	800	2625	5650	65A	1,500	3500	Unlimited
14	600	2100	5775	78	100	300	300
15	4,000	6600	Unlimited				
16	4,000	7000	Unlimited				
17	1,700	3000	Unlimited	Total	72,100	171,475	
18	1,200	2875	Unlimited				
19	1,200	3225	Unlimited				
20	900	2400	Unlimited				
21	2,100	4800	Unlimited				
22	1,500	3000	Unlimited				
23	2,500	5500	Unlimited				
24	900	2125	2375				
25	1,500	4050	Unlimited				
26	900	2000	4075				
28	1,000	2500	3200				
29A	300	1225	1675				
29B	0	0	0				
30	100	300	1950				
31	800	2475	6450				
32	1,600	4225	2150				
34	0	0	0				
35	1,400	4000	0				
36	1,200	3925	7975				
37	500	1425	3775				
38	800	2775	4000				
39	0	0	0				
40	1,200	3600	2925				
41	1,400	3100	2775				
42	1,000	2675	2975				
43	1,200	4100	1875				
44	1,200	3500	0				

Deer Season Framework	2011	2012
Buck Only Units	8	4
Regular Units	28	51
Herd Control	64	45

Preliminary 2012 Deer Season Structure

Updated on April 10



- Regular Unit** - Bucks plus \$12 bonus antlerless permits
- Herd Control Unit** - Bucks plus \$2 antlerless permits
- Bucks Only** - (DMUs 7, 29B, 34, & 39)
- Non-Quota Area** - No permits issued by DNR
- CWD Unit** - 1 archery buck, 1 gun buck, plus antlerless permits.
Bonus Buck rules apply.

• Unit 48 firearm season is for tribal members only - season set by Menominee Tribe

Table 2. Deer Management Units recommended for herd Control designation in 2012

Deer Mgmt Unit	Goal over-winter density	Estimated overwinter density	Gun antlerless harvest needed to get within 20% of goal	10-year Maximum historic antlerless gun kill without Herd Control season structure
01M	10	37	785	5
22A	25	34	4050	2683
27	25	39	3575	1429
33	25	30	2250	1520
46	25	37	3500	1359
47	25	59	10150	2329*
51A	25	47	6200	2942*
51B	25	58	16250	3977*
54A	25	33	7900	4249
54B	25	54	6450	1019
54C	25	67	4000	1243*
57	25	37	2425	1067
57B	25	41	4500	1851
57C	30	38	3475	2194
59B	25	31	5275	3193
59C	25	50	15300	3531
59D	25	35	3375	4031*
59M	15	42	1100	320*
60A	25	30	1425	1047
60B	25	36	1350	658
60M	15	19	250	231
61	25	49	25050	9185*
62A	30	44	5675	3189
62B	30	89	22825	5361*
63A	30	67	13500	4293*
63B	25	63	8225	2569*
64	25	57	8975	1786
64M	15	53	3375	292
65B	30	57	9575	5067*
66	30	74	8150	2702*
67A	25	57	11900	5917*
67B	25	64	7575	3426*
68A	30	76	5850	2133*
68B	25	44	4625	1474
69	25	37	7300	3439
72	20	42	10950	2463
73B	20	37	4550	2889
73D	20	29	2150	1217

74A	25	33	1600	997
74B	20	35	8975	1446
77C	20	46	4275	806
77M	15	25	4000	910
80A	15	28	2600	915*
80B	25	70	9200	2593*
81	15	63	1125	354*

*Maximum antlerless harvest without herd control season structure was set more than 10 years ago

2011 Herd Monitoring Data: Annually, department staff undertakes a post-hunt review of the biological and harvest data from the previous year and calculates updated population estimates for each DMU. Annual herd monitoring data (much of which is now being collected with the help of volunteers) includes information on fawn production, age structure, body condition, and harvest data. Using registration stub data, we again had the opportunity to compare hunter deer sightings to the previous year in 2011. Within the CWD management zone, population assessments are also guided by aerial fixed-wing and helicopter surveys conducted during the winter.

The Winter Severity Index during the winter of 2010-11 varied from mild to moderate across the north, but summer fawn:doe observations were 13% below average. The winter of 2011-12 has been one of the mildest on record. In addition, spring green-up is more than a month early and fawn production is expected to be above average across the state this spring. Combined with conservative 2012 quotas, herd growth is expected across the entire north and should result in more deer sightings during the 2013 season.

We aged 27,366 deer during the 2011 season (a 31% increase over 2010). This information is used to estimate what the pre-hunt population was in September, primarily by measuring the percent of the harvest that are 1.5 year old deer. Our aging efforts have also documented the increasing proportion of older bucks in the farmland regions over the past two decades.

Tables 3 and 4 provide a summary of antlered and antlerless harvests in recent years, as well as a comparison in the 2010 and 2011 harvests by Wisconsin five deer management regions (Figure 2).

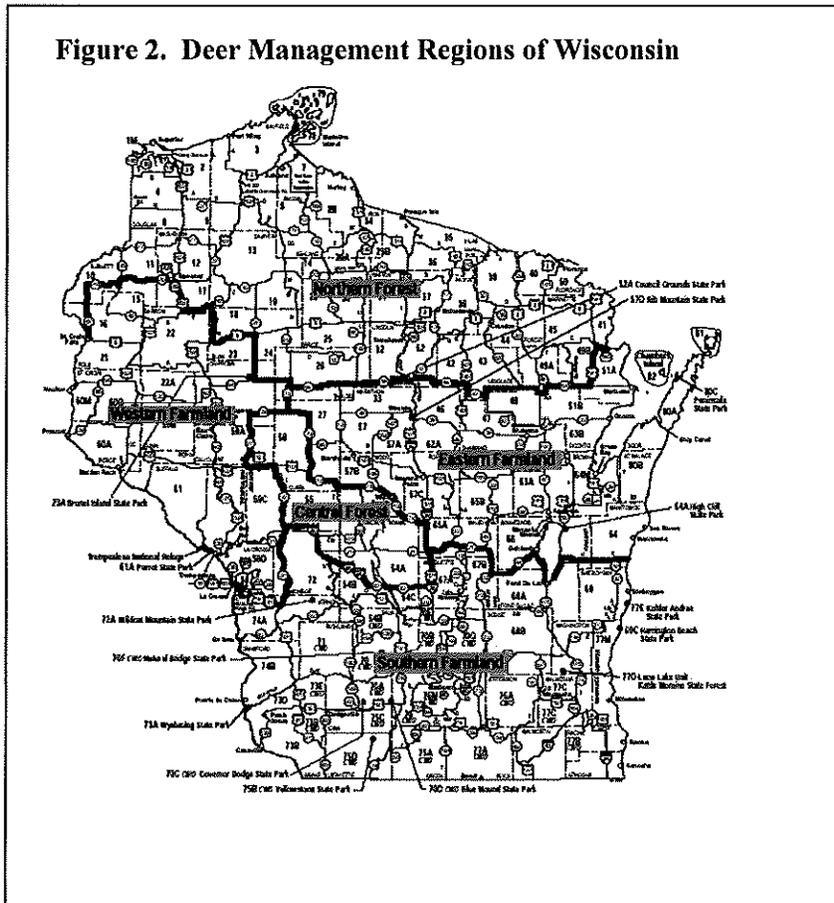
Table 3. Deer Harvest by Season Compared to Prior Years

	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
Archery Season Harvest	78,028	113,884	116,042	99,284	87,241	83,833	90,200
Total Gun Harvest	385,907	393,063	402,531	352,601	241,862	253,038	257,511
Total Antlerless Harvest	274,364	326,065	345,143	310,366	191,715	185,211	193,954
Total Buck Harvest	183,135	177,293	171,142	139,022	134,156	148,378	150,839
Total Deer Harvest	463,935	506,947	518,573	453,480	329,103	336,871	347,711

Table 4. 2011 Deer Harvest by Region and Difference from 2010.

Deer management region	2011 total harvest	Change from 2010	Change in bucks	Change in gun buck	Change in archery buck	Change in antlerless
Northern Forest	76,977	23%	-3%	-4%	-1%	61%
Central Forest	18,193	2%	-4%	-5%	-1%	7%
Eastern Farmland	87,454	12%	2%	1%	3%	22%
Western Farmland	70,815	-7%	-9%	-12%	-2%	-5%
Southern Farmland	94,268	-8%	17%	16%	21%	-22%

Figure 2. Deer Management Regions of Wisconsin



Regular Season & Zero Quota Units: For 2012, we have recommended 51 units for a regular gun deer season framework (up from 36 in 2011) and reduced the number of units recommended for a zero antlerless quota from eight (8) to four (4) units (7, 29B, 34, 39). For each of these four units, we took into consideration local comments and support for buck-only seasons, as well as population estimates that indicate these units are more than 20% below goals. This will be four consecutive years that these units have had buck-only seasons, and it is evident that these units are not recovering at a rate that would normally be expected. None-the-less, zero quotas will maximize herd growth, and we hope to have these units back to established populations goals for the 2013

season. We also anxiously await the results of the deer research projects to shed more light on the impacts of predators to deer survival.

In the four former zero-quota units (3, 35, 44, 45) the herds have grown, as anticipated. We've recommended quotas in these units for 2012 that will continue to promote herd growth, but not to the level where high quotas or herd control seasons would be necessary in 2013.

Several units of the north are below goal, but within 20% of goal. In each of these units we have established modest antlerless quotas that will allow harvest during all hunting seasons, provide needed aging data, and simplify rules while still allowing herd growth.

Herd Control Units: The number of units designated as Herd Control units has decreased from 64 in 2011 to 45 in 2012. These units will have antlerless harvest permits available at \$2/permit, and will be made available to all hunters who wish to purchase them. History shows that it will be very difficult to harvest sufficient numbers of deer in many of these units to slow herd growth. We sincerely hope that the public will provide the Deer Trustee with thoughtful and effective herd management strategies during the April town hall meetings. In some areas of the state we are having success in managing local deer numbers to goals as is evident by the decreased number of Herd Control units.

The main reduction in the number of Herd Control units occurs in the NW where department staff, based on public support at the deer forums and through the on-line survey, elected to go with a conservative, limited quota that will allow herd growth and can be achieved through a regular season structure. We heard from many people who would rather pay \$12 for a limited number of antlerless permits than have an "unlimited" number of less expensive permits. The regular season structure certainly provides a more controlled harvest environment, and we are all in favor of doing so where that can be achieved. In some cases, we have selected units that have been under herd control seasons for several years with little gain. Overall, designating units as "regular units" where possible is a visible gesture to hunters that we have heard their concerns to take a conservative approach. We understand that to many hunters, herd control efforts are perceived as a downgrade in our valuing of the deer resource. I want to assure hunters that the department has not lost our enthusiasm and appreciation for deer. Deer are a keystone of the Wisconsin culture, and all of us wish to hold them at the highest value possible, and continue to recognize them as the most socially and economically important animal in our state.

CWD in Washburn County: In March we received the news of a CWD positive deer in unit 15 within Washburn County, and it was initially shocking and disappointing, to say the least. We have learned a great deal about dealing with CWD over the past 10 years and our response will take advantage of what we have learned. One thing is certain: since the discovery of CWD in 2002 Wisconsin has continued to have excellent deer hunting, and we will continue to have good deer hunting in the future.

In addressing the news, the deer quota in unit 15 has been set to maintain the herd at goal. There is no talk of killing all the deer or other statements that are unachievable. The other surrounding units (DMUs 11, 12, 17) have similar prescriptions aimed at holding deer populations at current levels. We will rely greatly on area hunters this fall to provide a minimum of 300 deer for health testing, and will act accordingly once we have a better understanding of the diseases prevalence in the area. As part of our response plan, we are working with the people in nearby communities, and will again make a major effort to educate the public about CWD based on a great deal of what has been learned over the past 10 years. Our hope is to continue to raise awareness about the important role that the public can have in the long-term direction of this disease.

CWD Management Zone: The deer season in the CWD Zone is proposed to be the same as 2011. While we realize that some hunters do not like the October firearm season, we do hear from others who very much do enjoy it. Just over 2,000 deer were harvested during the CWD October hunt last year. Hunting is one of the few tools we currently have to address CWD and offers a hunting opportunity that some do enjoy, and therefore we are pursuing the Emergency Rule Order WM-05-12 that allows for continuing an antlerless-only firearm deer season in CWD units that would run four consecutive days beginning October 11, 2012.

CWD management zone archery and gun hunters may again harvest either a buck or doe as their first deer. If hunters wish to pursue additional deer including antlered bucks, they will be able to do so under what we are now referring to as the Bonus Buck permit. While the name is new, the rules are not: everything remains exactly the same as the old earn-a-buck requirements. This is simply a communications tweak that we feel better portrays the idea of rewarding hunters rather than the negative connotations that earn-a-buck had.

The 2011 season was the first year without earn-a-buck requirements and resulted in a much reduced antlerless harvest and increased buck harvest in the CWD zone. This has both good and bad ramifications. From a disease perspective, we know that adult males have the highest prevalence of the disease, so an increased buck harvest can increase the probability of removing these deer from the herd. However, the reduced antlerless harvest will result in herd growth throughout the CWD zone with little hope of slowing it under the current season framework.

The CWD Response Plan the Board approved recognizes that disease management is a long-term responsibility. It's not easy work, nor is there a proven recipe we can follow. Our goal of minimizing the area of Wisconsin with the disease, as well as, the prevalence of the disease, is wholly dependent upon the continued cooperation of hunters and landowners. Accordingly, we need to be patient and persistent in our response while seeking a balance between maximizing herd control and maintaining hunter and landowner support.

Subject of Proposed Rule:

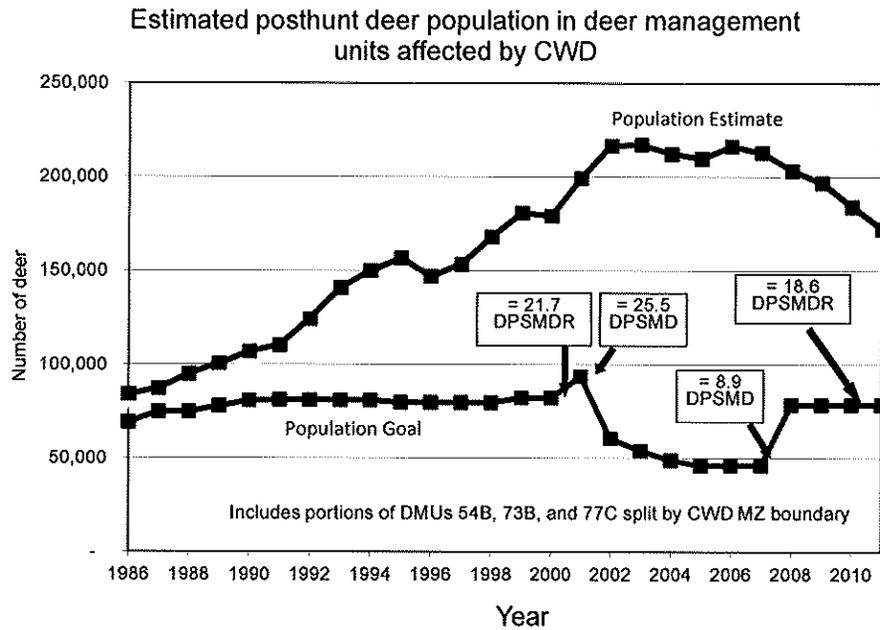
The department recommends promulgating rules that re-establish the annual October, antlerless-only, four day firearm deer season that has been held in the chronic wasting disease management zone.

Rule Background and Finding of Emergency:

Under 2011 ACT 50, the procedure by which the department can establish an October four day, antlerless-only, firearm deer season was changed so that it must be done by enacting emergency rules each year. Previously this season was annually established by Secretary's Order. Also, under Act 50, this season may only be held within the CWD management zone and cannot be held later than October 14th each year. For 2012, the season would begin on Thursday, October 11 and end on Sunday, October 14.

Since 2002, the department has held an October firearm deer season to provide extra hunting opportunity for herd management and disease control purposes in the chronic wasting disease management zone. Modern era regulated deer hunting has been shown to be an ecologically sound, socially beneficial, and fiscally responsible method of managing deer populations. Hunter harvest in the CWD Management Zone during 2002-10 has limited deer population growth in this region (Figure 3).

Figure 3. Deer population trends within the CWD Management Zone



DPSMD = deer per square mile deer range

The department recommends making a finding of emergency and establishing this open season because it is needed to minimize the spread and prevalence of chronic wasting disease:

1. Deer population management via regulated hunting is the only readily available, landscape level, cost-effective disease control method that can currently be enacted.
2. The University of Wisconsin – Madison (Van Deelen et al, 2010) examined the impact of October seasons during 1996-2008 and concluded that these seasons increased the effectiveness of population management by creating an “additive” impact to overall harvest. The continuation of the October 4-day antlerless-only hunt helps to slow that growth.
3. The prevalence of CWD in the herd has increased and is presumed to increase faster, and spread, at higher deer population densities. Since 2002, CWD prevalence within our western monitoring area has shown an overall increasing trend in all sex and age classes. During the past ten years the trend in prevalence in adult males has risen from about 8 percent to over 18 percent and in adult females from about 3 percent to

approximately 7 percent. During that same time, the prevalence trend in yearling males has increased from about 2 percent to about 6 percent and in yearling females from less than 2 percent to about 4 percent.

4. The legislature directed through 2011 ACT 50 that rules establishing this season may only be in effect for 270 days. The only established process for promulgating rules annually is through the emergency rules procedure in Ch. 227.24, Stats.
5. The October season has been a consistent fall hunting opportunity since 2002. A 2010 survey of gun deer hunters indicate about 15% of all gun deer license holders participated in the 4-day hunt that year. If 50,000 gun deer hunters hunt in the CWD management zone, an estimated 7,500 would participate in the October 4-day gun deer season. This rule also serves to protect their public welfare by preserving a valued recreational opportunity.

Statutory Authority:

In promulgating this rule, s. 29.014, 29.016(2)(b), 29.063 and 227.24, Stats., have been interpreted as providing the department with the authority to make modifications to deer hunting seasons.

Rule Development:

These rules were developed with assistance from the bureaus of Law Enforcement, Legal Services and Customer Service & Licensing.

Small Business and Initial Regulatory Flexibility Analysis:

These revisions to ch. NR 10, Wis. Adm. Code, pertain to game and hunting. These rules are applicable to individual sportspersons and impose no compliance or reporting requirements for small businesses. This proposal does not establish design or operational standards. Under s. 227.19 (3m), Stats, a final regulatory flexibility analysis is not required.

Environmental Analysis:

Bureau of Integrated Science Services has determined that these rule revisions are a Type III action under Chapter 150, Wis. Adm. Code, and no environmental analysis is required.

Groups Likely Affected by the Proposed Rule:

Interested groups and individuals are those who are concerned about deer management including hunters and people whose interests involve agriculture, environment, forestry, wildlife viewing, and non-hunting related outdoor recreation that occurs during deer hunting seasons.

2012 Deer Forum Survey Summary

Attendance

Throughout the month of March, Wildlife staff held 36 deer forums around the state to share information about deer management and gather information from hunters and others interested in deer. As an alternative to traveling to a live meeting and new this year, the public was able to obtain unit-specific information and contribute feedback through the DNR website. Nearly 1,200 attended a live forum, while more than 6,500 surveys were completed through the DNR website.

Reponses by Deer Region

The Northern Forest deer management region received the most survey responses (40%), followed by the Southern Farmland (21%), Eastern Farmland (17%), Western Farmland (13%), and Central Forest (8%).

Region	Frequency	Percent
Central Forest	589	8
Eastern Farmland	1203	17
Northern Forest	2766	40
Southern Farmland	1486	21
Unknown	19	0.3
Western Farmland	922	13

Responses by Type of Deer Hunting

The majority of respondents identified themselves as both gun and bow deer hunters (65%), while relatively few respondents replied that they do no hunt deer in the DMU (1%).

Type	Frequency	Percent
Both	4557	65
Gun Only	2084	30
Bow Only	274	4
Don't Hunt	69	1

Reponses by Deer Management Unit

Respondents were asked to identify the Deer Management Unit (DMU) for which they were providing feedback. DMU 45 received the highest number of responses with 171. Next was DMU 54A (150 respondents), 55 (145 respondents), 59C (141 respondents), and 69 (131 respondents).

Number of Deer in Your DMU Compared to Data on DMU Fact Sheet

Statewide, 47% of respondents indicated the number of deer in their DMU was “Much Lower” than the data on the DMU fact sheet. The next most popular response was “Somewhat Lower” (30%), followed by “Equal” (13%).

Number	Frequency	Percent
Much Higher	53	1
Somewhat Higher	172	3
Equal	858	13
Somewhat Lower	1993	30
Much Lower	3165	47
Unsure	508	8

Central Forest respondents had the highest percentage of their total respondents indicating the number of deer in their DMU was “Much Lower” than the data on the DMU fact sheet (62%). The next highest percentage came from the Northern Forest respondents (53%) indicating deer numbers were “Much Lower” than the DMU fact sheet; Eastern farmland (41%); Southern Farmland (40%); and Western Farmland (39%).

Area	Percent (%)						Total #
	Much Higher	Somewhat Higher	Equal	Somewhat Lower	Much Lower	Unsure	
Central Forest	0	1	9	23	61	5	574
E. Farmland	1	2	15	35	41	7	1156
Northern Forest	1	3	10	28	53	6	2685
S. Farmland	1	3	15	30	40	10	1434
Unknown	6	0	25	19	44	6	16
W. Farmland	1	2	16	31	39	10	884
Total #	53	172	858	1993	3165	508	6749

Amount of Importance to be Given to Specific Factors

Respondents were asked to rate the amount of importance that should be given to ten specific considerations when establishing the number of antlerless permits for a particular DMU. The considerations included:

- Amount of agricultural crop damage from deer
- Deer over-browsing of forests that prevent re-growth of some forest tree species
- Number of predators
- Amount of deer mortality during an average winter
- Deer over-browsing of food and cover needed by other wildlife
- Deer over-browsing of food and cover needed for future generations of deer
- The number of deer-vehicle accidents

- Potential health risks to the deer herd
- Enough deer to provide hunters a reasonable chance to bag a deer
- Hunter satisfaction with the number of deer

Ranking of considerations based on percentage of statewide respondents that felt “A lot of importance” should be given were as follows:

1. Predators (63%)
2. Chance to bag a deer (60%)
3. Hunter satisfaction (56%)
4. Winter mortality (42%)
5. Deer herd health risks (34%)
6. Over-browsing effects on future deer numbers (29%)
7. Over-browsing effects on regrowth (23%)
8. Over-browsing effects on other wildlife (19%)
9. Ag crop damage (13.5%)
10. Deer-vehicle accidents (13.1%)

Number of Antlerless Permits Available in 2011

Statewide, the majority of respondents (57%) indicated there were too many antlerless permits available in the DMU in which they hunt. Thirty-three percent felt there were an acceptable number of antlerless permits available and 4% indicated too few antlerless permits were available in their DMU last season.

Permits	Frequency	Percent
Too Few	247	4
Acceptable #	2201	33
Too Many	3763	57
Unsure	398	6

The Central Forest deer region respondents (64%) had the highest percentage indicate they believed too many antlerless permits were available in their DMU in 2011, followed by Northern Forest respondents (62%), Western Farmland (55%), Southern Farmland (52%), and Eastern Farmland (50%).

Area	Permits (%)				Total #
	Too Few	Acceptable #	Too Many	Unsure	
Central Forest	6	25	64	6	570
E. Farmland	2	42	50	6	1131
Northern Forest	6	27	62	6	2633
S. Farmland	2	38	52	8	1396
Unknown	0	44	50	6	16
W. Farmland	2	38	55	5	863
Total #	247	2201	3763	398	6609

What Type of Antlerless Permit System would be Appropriate for 2012?

Statewide, 28% of respondents indicated a “Moderate number” of antlerless permits would be appropriate for the DMU in which they hunt. Twenty-four percent of respondents indicated a “Small number” of antlerless permits would be appropriate, 19% felt a “Buck Only” system would be appropriate, while 15% believe some other system would be appropriate.

System	Frequency	Percent of all Responses
Buck Only	1234	19
Small #	1612	24
Moderate #	1849	28
High #	650	10
CWD	185	3
Unsure	134	2
Other System	967	15

Regionally, Northern Forest respondents indicated the highest amount of support for a “Buck Only” antlerless permit system for 2012 (33%). The Central Forest respondents indicated the largest support for a “Small number” of antlerless permits available in 2012 (33%). Eastern Farmland (36%), Western Farmland (36%), and Southern Farmland (30%) respondents indicated the highest support for a “Moderate number” of antlerless permits in 2012.

Area	Percent (%)							Total
	Buck Only	Small #	Mod. #	High #	CWD	Unsure	Other System	
Central Forest	20	33	25	4	0	2	17	572
E. Farmland	8	20	36	16	2	3	16	1128
Northern Forest	33	29	21	4	0	1	12	2641
S. Farmland	7	16	30	15	11	3	18	1405
Unknown	0	29	29	14	7	0	24	14
W. Farmland	7	24	36	17	1	2	13	871
Total	1234	1612	1849	650	185	134	967	6631

BEFORE THE STATE OF WISCONSIN
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

In the matter of a Secretary's Order pertaining to modification of 2012 deer hunting regulations in deer management units that comprise the CWD Management Zone.

FINDINGS OF FACT, CONCLUSIONS OF LAW, AND ORDER

FINDINGS OF FACT

1. The deer population in deer management units or portions of deer management units 54B, 70, 70A, 70B, 70E, 70G, 71, 73B, 73E, 75A, 75C, 75D, 76, 76A, 76M, 77A, 77B, 77C, which are located in the CWD Management Zone, are estimated to be above the goals established in NR 10.41(3)(b).

CONCLUSION OF LAW

1. According to s. NR 10.01(3)(et)2., Wis. Adm. Code, the department may, upon making the above findings, modify the deer season to require that hunters shall first tag an antlerless deer during the archery or firearm hunts or with an agricultural shooting permit, before they may tag a buck with either weapon in that deer management unit or units during the either sex hunts listed in s. NR 10.01(3)(et). This requirement shall also apply in state parks that are within or adjoining these units. This requirement does not apply to hunters who are using their archery or gun buck deer carcass tags established in ss. NR 10.104(7)(a)1. and (b).

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 Management Zone, with either a bow or a gun during any deer season where earn-a-buck regulations are in place, or with an agricultural shooting permit in an area where earn-a-buck regulations are in place, 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, Blue Mound, Devil's Lake, Governor Dodge, Mirror Lake, Natural Bridge, New Glarus Woods, Rocky Arbor, Tower Hill and Yellowstone 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. Multiple bucks may be harvested with each weapon if each buck taken is pre-qualified by a legally harvested or tagged antlerless deer. Deer harvested as described in this paragraph shall be transported in accordance with s. NR 10.105 (2).

This requirement does not apply to hunters who are using their archery or gun buck deer carcass tags established in ss. NR 10.104(7)(a)1. and (b).

Dated at Madison, Wisconsin, _____

STATE OF WISCONSIN
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL
RESOURCES

By Cathy Stepp, Secretary

BEFORE THE STATE OF WISCONSIN
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

In the matter of a Secretary's Order pertaining to modification of 2012 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 1M, 22A, 27, 33, 46, 47, 51A, 51B, 54A, 54B, 54C, 57, 57B, 57C, 59B, 59C, 59D, 59M, 60A, 60B, 60M, 61, 62A, 62B, 63A, 63B, 64, 64M, 65B, 66, 67A, 67B, 68A, 68B, 69, 72, 73B, 73D, 74A, 74B, 77C, 77M, 80B, 80A and 81 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 harvest required to reduce the deer population to goal to the harvest likely to occur under the existing season structure based on deer harvest data from past seasons, including the sex and age of the registered kill.

CONCLUSION OF LAW

1. According to s. 10.01(3)(ed), Wis. Adm. Code, the department may, upon making the above findings, modify the deer 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 1M, 22A, 27, 33, 46, 47, 51A, 51B, 54A, 54B, 54C, 57, 57B, 57C, 59B, 59C, 59D, 59M, 60A, 60B, 60M, 61, 61A, 62A, 62B, 63A, 63B, 64, 64A, 64M, 65B, 66, 67A, 67B, 68A, 68B, 69, 69C, 72, 72A, 73A, 73B, 73D, 74A, 74B, 77C, 77D, 77E, 77M, 80B, 80A, 80C and 81. 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 obtained at no charge, except for a \$2.00 handling fee authorized under s. 29.556, Stats. and s. NR 19.02, Wis. Adm. Code, for the above units except 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.

Dated at Madison, Wisconsin, _____

STATE OF WISCONSIN
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL
RESOURCES

By Cathy Stepp, Secretary

State of Wisconsin



2011 Senate Bill 75

Date of enactment: November 4, 2011
Date of publication*: November 18, 2011

2011 WISCONSIN ACT 50

AN ACT to create 29.016 of the statutes; relating to: prohibiting the Department of Natural Resources from establishing certain restrictions on hunting antlered deer and regulating the establishment of fall open seasons for hunting deer with firearms.

The people of the state of Wisconsin, represented in senate and assembly, do enact as follows:

SECTION 1. 29.016 of the statutes is created to read:
29.016 Department authority; deer hunting seasons and license restrictions. (1) The department may not do any of the following:

(a) Require a person who holds a license that authorizes the hunting of deer to take an antlerless deer before the person may take the person's first antlered deer under that license.

(b) Except as provided in sub. (2), establish a fall open season for hunting deer with firearms that begins before the Saturday immediately preceding the 4th Thursday in November.

(2) Subsection (1) (b) does not prohibit the department from promulgating a rule that establishes a fall open season for hunting deer with firearms that begins before

the Saturday immediately preceding the 4th Thursday in November if any of the following applies:

(a) The department limits the open season to hunting deer by any of the following persons:

1. Persons who are under 16 years of age.
2. Persons who hold a Class A, Class B, or Class C permit under s. 29.193 (2).
3. Persons who are learning to hunt.

(b) The department establishes the fall open season because a fall open season is necessary to control the spread of chronic wasting disease or other disease in deer and if all of the following apply:

1. The rule authorizes the hunting of only antlerless deer.
2. The rule provides for a closing date for the fall open season that is on or before October 15.
3. The rule provides that the rule does not apply beginning 270 days after the effective date of the rule.

* Section 991.11, WISCONSIN STATUTES 2009-10: Effective date of acts. "Every act and every portion of an act enacted by the legislature over the governor's partial veto which does not expressly prescribe the time when it takes effect shall take effect on the day after its date of publication as designated" by the secretary of state [the date of publication may not be more than 10 working days after the date of enactment].

Fiscal Estimate — 2011 Session

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original	<input type="checkbox"/> Updated	LRB Number	Amendment Number if Applicable
<input type="checkbox"/> Corrected	<input type="checkbox"/> Supplemental	Bill Number	Administrative Rule Number WM-05-12(E)

Subject

Re-establishing an October firearm season for antlerless deer in the Chronic Wasting Disease Management Zone.

Fiscal Effect

State: No State Fiscal Effect
 Indeterminate

Check columns below only if bill makes a direct appropriation or affects a sum sufficient appropriation.

- | | |
|----------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Increase Existing Appropriation | <input type="checkbox"/> Increase Existing Revenues |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Decrease Existing Appropriation | <input type="checkbox"/> Decrease Existing Revenues |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Create New Appropriation | |

Increase Costs — May be possible to absorb within agency's budget.

Yes No

Decrease Costs

Local: No Local Government Costs
 Indeterminate

- | |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1. <input type="checkbox"/> Increase Costs
<input type="checkbox"/> Permissive <input type="checkbox"/> Mandatory |
| 2. <input type="checkbox"/> Decrease Costs
<input type="checkbox"/> Permissive <input type="checkbox"/> Mandatory |

- | |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 3. <input type="checkbox"/> Increase Revenues
<input type="checkbox"/> Permissive <input type="checkbox"/> Mandatory |
| 4. <input type="checkbox"/> Decrease Revenues
<input type="checkbox"/> Permissive <input type="checkbox"/> Mandatory |

5. Types of Local Governmental Units Affected:

- Towns Villages Cities
 Counties Others
 School Districts WTCS Districts

Fund Sources Affected

GPR FED PRO PRS SEG SEG-S

Affected Chapter 20 Appropriations

None

Assumptions Used in Arriving at Fiscal Estimate

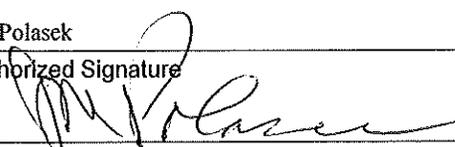
This rule proposal would re-establish the annual October, antlerless-only, four day firearm deer season that has been held in the chronic wasting disease management zone. The rule establishes that a four-day October season for hunting with firearms for antlerless deer begins on October 11 instead of the Thursday nearest October 15.

Under 2011 ACT 50, if the department elects to continue holding the four day, antlerless-only, firearm deer season prior to the traditional nine day firearm season, it must do so by enacting emergency rules each year and cannot be held later than October 14th. This season may only be held in areas where a chronic wasting disease management zone has been established.

Since 2002, the department has held an October firearm deer season to provide extra hunting opportunity for herd management and disease control purposes in the chronic wasting disease management zone. While the timing of this season has varied, this proposal is consistent with previous rules and policies and there will be no fiscal impact.

Long-Range Fiscal Implications

Under 2011 ACT 50, this rule can only be in place for a maximum of 270 days and has no long range fiscal impacts.

Prepared By: Joe Polasek	Telephone No. 266-2794	Agency Department of Natural Resources
Authorized Signature 	Telephone No. 266-2794	Date (mm/dd/ccyy) 04-11-12

Fiscal Estimate Worksheet — 2011 Session
 Detailed Estimate of Annual Fiscal Effect

Original Updated
 Corrected Supplemental

LRB Number	Amendment Number if Applicable
Bill Number	Administrative Rule Number WM-01-11

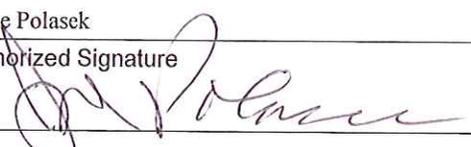
Subject
 Re-establishing an October firearm season for antlerless deer in the Chronic Wasting Disease Management Zone

One-time Costs or Revenue Impacts for State and/or Local Government (do not include in annualized fiscal effect):
 None.

Annualized Costs:		Annualized Fiscal Impact on State Funds from:	
		Increased Costs	Decreased Costs
A. State Costs by Category			
State Operations — Salaries and Fringes	\$	\$ -	
(FTE Position Changes)	(FTE)	(FTE)	
State Operations — Other Costs		-	
Local Assistance		-	
Aids to Individuals or Organizations		-	
Total State Costs by Category	\$ 0	\$ -	0
B. State Costs by Source of Funds			
GPR	\$	\$ -	
FED		-	
PRO/PRS		-	
SEG/SEG-S	0	-	0
State Revenues	<small>Complete this only when proposal will increase or decrease state revenues (e.g., tax increase, decrease in license fee, etc.)</small>	Increased Revenue	Decreased Revenue
GPR Taxes		\$	\$ -
GPR Earned			-
FED			-
PRO/PRS			-
SEG/SEG-S			-
Total State Revenues	\$ 0	\$ -	0

Net Annualized Fiscal Impact

	State	Local
Net Change in Costs	\$ 0	\$ 0
Net Change in Revenues	\$ 0	\$ 0

Prepared By:	Telephone No.	Agency
Joe Polasek	266-2794	Department of Natural Resources
Authorized Signature	Telephone No.	Date (mm/dd/ccyy)
	266-2794	04-11-12

ORDER OF THE STATE OF WISCONSIN NATURAL RESOURCES BOARD AMENDING RULES

The statement of scope for this rule, SS 008-12, was approved by the Governor on February 15, 2012, published in Register No. 674, on February 29, 2012, and approved by the Natural Resources Board on March 28, 2012. This emergency rule was approved by the Governor on _____.

The Wisconsin Natural Resources Board proposes an order amending Ch. NR 10.01(3)(et)1. relating to the firearm deer season in the Chronic Wasting Disease Management Zone.

WM-05-12(E)

Analysis Prepared by the Department of Natural Resources

Statutory Authority and Explanation of Agency Authority: In promulgating this rule, ss. 29.014, 29.016(2)(b), 29.063, 227.11 and 227.24, Stats., have been interpreted as providing the department with the authority to make modifications to deer hunting seasons. These sections grant rule making authority to the department to establish open and closed seasons for hunting and trapping and to establish other regulations. All rules promulgated under this authority are subject to review under ch. 227, Stats.

Statutes Interpreted and Explanation: In promulgating this rule, ss. 29.014, 29.016(2)(b), 29.063 and 227.24 Stats., have been interpreted as providing the department with the authority to make this rule change.

Related Statute or Rule: Under 2011 ACT 50, if the department elects to continue holding the four day, antlerless-only, firearm deer season prior to the traditional nine day firearm season, it must do so by enacting emergency rules each year and cannot be held later than October 14th. This season may only be held in areas where a chronic wasting disease management zone has been established.

Plain Language Rule Analysis: The Bureau of Wildlife Management recommends promulgating emergency rules modifying chapter NR 10 related to deer hunting. These rules would re-establish the annual October, antlerless-only, four day firearm deer season that has been held in the chronic wasting disease management zone.

SECTION 1 Establishes that a four-day October season for hunting with firearms for antlerless deer begins on October 11 instead of the Thursday nearest October 15.

Federal Regulatory Analysis: These state rules and statutes do not relieve individuals from the restrictions, requirements and conditions of federal statutes and regulations. Regulating the hunting and trapping of native species has been delegated to state fish and wildlife agencies.

Comparison with rules in Adjacent States: These rule change proposals do not represent significant policy changes and do not differ significantly from surrounding states. All surrounding states have regulations and rules in place for the management and recreational use of game species that are established based on needs that are unique to that state's resources and public desires.

Illinois

The 2012 Illinois archery season in most of the state will run from October 1 - January 20 except that it is closed during the firearm deer season in some areas. Illinois has two periods for firearm deer hunting. The first firearm season in 2012 will be November 16 - 18, and the second season is November 29 - December 2. The Illinois muzzleloader only season will be December 7 - 9 in 2012. Illinois will hold a youth firearm deer season on October 6 and 7. Hunters may purchase any number of antlerless permits subject to availability in county quotas but are limited to purchasing only one prior to the beginning of random daily drawings in September.

Iowa

In 2011, Iowa had two archery hunting periods: October 1 - December 2 and December 19 - January 10, 2012. Iowa also had two periods for firearm hunting, December 3 - 7 and December 10 - 18. Iowa's two muzzleloader only hunting periods were October 15 - 23 and December 19 - January 10, 2012. Iowa also held a deer season for youth and disabled hunters from September 17 to October 2. Iowa residents could purchase multiple antlerless tags subject only to the availability in a unit, but were limited to purchasing only 1 prior to September 15.

Michigan

In 2011, Michigan had two archery hunting periods: October 1 - November 14 and December 1 - January 1. The Michigan firearm season begins on November 15 - 30. Additionally, Michigan has a 5 day early, private land only, antlerless firearm season beginning on September 15, and a 4 day youth season beginning on September 20. Michigan's muzzleloader-only seasons vary in three zones, all occurring in December and vary from 10 to 17 days in length. Hunters may purchase additional antlerless permits up to a maximum of 5 a year in some units.

Minnesota

In 2012, Minnesota's archery season will run September 15 - December 31. Minnesota's firearm season runs November 3 - 11 or November 3 - 18 depending on the zone. Additional firearm "B" seasons run from November 17 - 25. The youth hunt runs from October 18 - 21. Additionally, there is a special Camp Ripley hunt that runs from October 18 & 19 and October 27 & 28. The muzzleloader-only season runs November 24 - December 9. Minnesota hunters are generally limited to harvesting one buck, regardless of the number of seasons or licenses they purchase. The harvest of up to 7 antlerless deer is possible by hunting in different units and zones.

Summary of Factual Data and Analytical Methodologies: Under 2011 ACT 50, the procedure by which the department can establish an October four day, antlerless-only, firearm deer season was changed so that it must be done by enacting emergency rules each year. Previously this season was established by permanent rule in administrative code. Also, under Act 50, this season may only be held within the CWD management zone and cannot be held later than October 14th each year. For 2012, the season would begin on Thursday, October 11 and end on Sunday, October 14.

Chronic wasting disease has been identified in Wisconsin in both wild and domestic deer. There are documented health risks to deer and elk from CWD and ongoing questions about possible health risks to humans, livestock, and other domestic and wild animals. Additionally, there are secondary risks to economic, sociocultural, and ecosystem values from the effects of the disease and its management.

A principle of CWD and wildlife disease management, based on the best science available to the department at adoption of its CWD response plan for 2010 to 2025, is that the rate of disease spread is affected by the density of deer and the number of infected deer.

Since 2002, the department has held an October firearm deer season to provide extra hunting opportunity for herd management and disease control purposes in the chronic wasting disease management zone. Modern era regulated deer hunting has been shown to be an ecologically sound, socially beneficial, and fiscally responsible method of managing deer populations. Hunter harvest in the CWD Management Zone during 2002-10 has limited deer population growth in this region.

Anticipated Private Sector Costs: These rules, and the legislation which grants the department rule making authority, do not have a significant fiscal effect on the private sector. Additionally, no costs are associated with compliance to these rules.

Effects on Small Business: These rules are applicable to individual sportspersons and impose no compliance or reporting requirements for small businesses, and no design or operational standards are contained in the rule. Because this rule does not add any regulatory requirements for small businesses, the proposed rules will not have a significant economic impact on a substantial number of small businesses under 227.24(3m).

Agency Contact Person: Scott Loomans, 101 South Webster St., PO BOX 7921, Madison, WI 53707-7921. (608) 267-2452, scott.loomans@wisconsin.gov

SECTION 1. NR 10.01(3)(et)1. is amended to read:

Kind of animal and locality	Open season (all dates inclusive)	Limit
NR 10.01(3)(et) <i>Special disease control hunts.</i>		
<p>1. Disease management zone.</p> <p>a. In the portions of deer management units included in the CWD management zone established in s. NR 10.28(3), except as established in subdivision paragraphs b. through d.</p>	<p><i>1. Archery season.</i> An archery deer hunt beginning on the Saturday nearest September 15 and continuing through the Wednesday immediately prior to the opening of the early firearm season in this section.</p> <p>Beginning on the Thursday nearest October 15 <u>October 11</u> and continuing for 4 consecutive days.</p> <p>Beginning on the day immediately following the 4-day antlerless hunt above and continuing through the Wednesday immediately prior to the opening of the late firearm season in this section.</p> <p>Beginning the second Thursday following the Thanksgiving</p>	<p>One deer of either sex per unused deer carcass tag or permit described under s. NR 10.104(11).</p> <p>One antlerless deer per unused deer carcass tag or permit described under s. NR 10.104(11).</p> <p>One deer of either sex per unused deer carcass tag or permit described under s. NR 10.104(11).</p> <p>One antlerless deer per unused deer carcass tag or</p>

	<p>holiday and continuing for 4 consecutive days.</p> <p>Beginning on the day immediately following the 4-day antlerless hunt above and continuing through the Sunday nearest January 6.</p> <p>2. <i>Early firearm season.</i> A firearm deer hunt beginning on the Thursday nearest October 15 <u>October 11</u> and continuing for 4 consecutive days.</p> <p>3. <i>Gun deer season.</i> A firearm deer hunt beginning on the Saturday immediately preceding the Thanksgiving holiday and continuing for 9 consecutive days.</p> <p>4. <i>Muzzleloader season.</i> A muzzleloader hunt as established in s. NR 10.01 (3)(es) beginning on the Monday immediately following the Thanksgiving holiday and continuing for 10 consecutive days.</p> <p>5. <i>Late firearm season.</i> A firearm deer hunt beginning on the second Thursday following the Thanksgiving holiday and continuing for 4 consecutive days.</p> <p>6. <i>Holiday firearm season.</i> A firearm deer hunt beginning on December 24 and continuing through the Sunday nearest January 6.</p>	<p>permit described under s. NR 10.104(11).</p> <p>One deer of either sex per unused deer carcass tag or permit described under s. NR 10.104(11).</p> <p>One antlerless deer per unused deer carcass tag or permit described under s. NR 10.104(11).</p> <p>One deer of either sex per unused deer carcass tag or permit described under s. NR 10.104(11).</p> <p>One deer of either sex per unused deer carcass tag or permit described under s. NR 10.104(11).</p> <p>One antlerless deer per unused deer carcass tag or permit described under s. NR 10.104(11).</p> <p>One deer of either sex per unused deer carcass tag or permit described under s. NR 10.104(11).</p>
--	-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

<p>b. Unit 76M.</p>	<p><i>1. Archery season.</i> An archery deer hunt beginning on the Saturday nearest September 15 and continuing through the Wednesday immediately prior to the opening of the early firearm season in this section.</p> <p>Beginning on the Thursday nearest October 15 <u>October 11</u> and continuing for 4 consecutive days.</p> <p>Beginning on the day immediately following the 4-day antlerless hunt above and continuing through the Wednesday immediately prior to the opening of the late firearm season in this section.</p> <p>Beginning the second Thursday following the Thanksgiving holiday and continuing for 4 consecutive days.</p> <p>Beginning on the day immediately following the 4-day antlerless hunt above and continuing through the Sunday nearest January 6.</p> <p><i>2. Early shotgun season.</i> A shotgun hunt beginning on the Thursday nearest October 15 <u>October 11</u> and continuing for 4 consecutive days.</p> <p><i>3. Shot gun deer season.</i> A shotgun hunt beginning on the Saturday immediately preceding the Thanksgiving holiday and continuing for 9 consecutive days.</p> <p><i>4. Muzzleloader season.</i> A muzzleloader hunt as established in s. NR 10.01 (3)(es) beginning on the</p>	<p>One deer of either sex per unused deer carcass tag or permit described under s. NR 10.104(11).</p> <p>One antlerless deer per unused deer carcass tag or permit described under s. NR 10.104(11).</p> <p>One deer of either sex per unused deer carcass tag or permit described under s. NR 10.104(11).</p> <p>One antlerless deer per unused deer carcass tag or permit described under s. NR 10.104(11).</p> <p>One deer of either sex per unused deer carcass tag or permit described under s. NR 10.104(11).</p> <p>One antlerless deer per unused deer carcass tag or permit described under s. NR 10.104(11).</p> <p>One deer of either sex per unused deer carcass tag or permit described under s. NR 10.104(11).</p> <p>One deer of either sex per unused deer carcass tag or permit described under s. NR 10.104(11).</p>
---------------------	-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

	<p>Monday immediately following the Thanksgiving holiday and continuing for 10 consecutive days.</p> <p>5. <i>Late shotgun season.</i> A shotgun hunt beginning on the second Thursday following the Thanksgiving holiday and continuing for 4 consecutive days.</p> <p>6. <i>Holiday shotgun season.</i> A shotgun hunt beginning on December 24 and continuing through the Sunday nearest January 6.</p>	<p>One antlerless deer per unused deer carcass tag or permit described under s. NR 10.104(11).</p> <p>One deer of either sex per unused deer carcass tag or permit described under s. NR 10.104(11).</p>
<p>c. Belmont Mound, Cadiz Springs, Devil's Lake, Mirror Lake, Natural Bridge, New Glarus Woods, Rocky Arbor and Yellowstone state parks.</p>	<p>1. Early firearm season. A firearm deer hunt beginning on the Thursday nearest October 15 <u>October 11</u> and continuing for 4 consecutive days. Allowable types of firearms are those authorized on the first day of the regular gun deer season under s. NR 10.01(3)(e). Legal hunting hours are the same as those established in s. NR 10.06(5) except that hunting hours shall close at 12:00 p.m. daily.</p> <p>2. Gun deer season. A firearm deer hunt beginning on the Saturday immediately preceding the Thanksgiving holiday and continuing for 9 consecutive days. Allowable types of guns are those authorized on the first day of the regular gun deer season in the surrounding county under s. NR 10.01(3)(e).</p> <p>3. Muzzleloader season. A</p>	<p>One antlerless deer per unused deer carcass tag or permit described under s. NR 10.104(11).</p> <p>One deer of either sex per unused deer carcass tag or permit described under s. NR 10.104(11).</p> <p>One deer of either sex per</p>

	<p>muzzleloader hunt as established in s. NR 10.01 (3)(es) beginning on the Monday immediately following the Thanksgiving holiday and continuing for 10 consecutive days.</p> <p>4. Late firearm season. A firearm deer hunt beginning on the second Thursday following the Thanksgiving holiday and continuing for 4 consecutive days. Allowable types of guns are those authorized on the first day of the regular gun deer season in the surrounding county under s. NR 10.01(3)(e).</p> <p>5. Archery season. An archery hunt beginning on the Saturday immediately preceding the Thanksgiving holiday and continuing through the Wednesday immediately prior to the opening of the late firearm season in this section.</p> <p>Beginning the second Thursday following the Thanksgiving holiday and continuing for 4 consecutive days.</p> <p>Beginning on the day immediately following the 4-day antlerless hunt above and continuing through the Sunday nearest January 6.</p>	<p>unused deer carcass tag or permit described under s. NR 10.104(11).</p> <p>One antlerless deer per unused deer carcass tag or permit described under s. NR 10.104(11).</p> <p>One deer of either sex per unused deer carcass tag or permit described under s. NR 10.104(11).</p> <p>One antlerless deer per unused deer carcass tag or permit described under s. NR 10.104(11).</p> <p>One deer of either sex per unused deer carcass tag or permit described under s. NR 10.104(11).</p>
<p>d. Blue Mound, Governor Dodge and Tower Hill state parks.</p>	<p>1. <i>Early firearm season.</i> A firearm deer hunt beginning on the Thursday nearest October 15 <u>October 11</u> and continuing for 4 consecutive days. Allowable types of firearms are those authorized on the first day of the gun deer season under s. NR 10.01(3)(e). Legal hunting hours are those established in s.</p>	<p>One antlerless deer per unused deer carcass tag or permit described under s. NR 10.104(11).</p>

	<p>NR 10.06(5) except that hunting hours shall close at 12:00 p.m. daily.</p> <p>2. <i>Gun deer season.</i> A firearm deer hunt beginning on the Saturday immediately preceding the Thanksgiving holiday and continuing for 9 consecutive days. Allowable types of guns are those authorized on the first day of the regular gun deer season in the surrounding county under s. NR 10.01(3)(e).</p> <p>3. <i>Muzzleloader season.</i> A muzzleloader hunt as established in s. NR 10.01(3)(es) beginning on the Monday immediately following the Thanksgiving holiday and continuing for 10 consecutive days.</p> <p>4. <i>Late firearm season.</i> A firearm deer hunt beginning on the second Thursday following the Thanksgiving holiday and continuing for 4 consecutive days. Allowable types of guns are those authorized on the first day of the regular gun deer season in the surrounding county under s. NR 10.01(3)(e).</p> <p>5. <i>Archery season.</i> An archery hunt beginning on the Thursday nearest October 15 <u>October 11</u> and continuing for 4 consecutive days. Legal hunting hours are the same as those established in s. NR 10.06(5) except that hunting hours will close at 12:00 p.m. daily.</p> <p>Beginning on the day immediately following the 4-day antlerless hunt above and continuing through the</p>	<p>One deer of either sex per unused deer carcass tag or permit described under s. NR 10.104(11).</p> <p>One deer of either sex per unused deer carcass tag or permit described under s. NR 10.104(11).</p> <p>One antlerless deer per unused deer carcass tag or permit described under s. NR 10.104(11).</p> <p>One antlerless deer per unused deer carcass tag or permit described under s. NR 10.104(11).</p> <p>One deer of either sex per unused deer carcass tag or permit described under s. NR 10.104(11).</p>
--	---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

	Wednesday immediately prior to the opening of the late firearm season in this section.	
	Beginning the second Thursday following the Thanksgiving holiday and continuing for 4 consecutive days.	One antlerless deer per unused deer carcass tag or permit described under s. NR 10.104(11).
	Beginning on the day immediately following the 4-day antlerless hunt above and continuing through the Sunday nearest January 6.	One deer of either sex per unused deer carcass tag or permit described under s. NR 10.104(11).

SECTION 2. STATEMENT OF EMERGENCY. Pursuant to s. 227.24, Stats., the Department of Natural Resources finds that an emergency exists and that the attached rule is necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health, safety, or welfare.

This open season is needed to minimize the spread and prevalence of chronic wasting disease. Deer population management via regulated hunting is the only readily available, landscape level, cost-effective disease control method that can currently be enacted. October firearm deer seasons increase the effectiveness of population management by creating an “additive” impact to overall harvest. The continuation of the October 4-day antlerless-only hunt helps to slow deer population growth. The prevalence of CWD in the herd has increased and is presumed to increase faster, and spread, at higher deer population densities. Since 2002, CWD prevalence within our western monitoring area has shown an overall increasing trend in all sex and age classes. During the past ten years the trend in prevalence in adult males has risen from about 8 percent to over 18 percent and in adult females from about 3 percent to approximately 7 percent. During that same time, the prevalence trend in yearling males has increased from about 2 percent to about 6 percent and in yearling females from less than 2 percent to about 4 percent.

The legislature directed through 2011 ACT 50 that rules establishing this season may only be in effect for 270 days. The only established process for promulgating rules annually is through the emergency rules procedure in Ch. 227.24, Stats.

The October season has been a consistent fall hunting opportunity since 2002. A 2010 survey of gun deer hunters indicate about 15% of all gun deer license holders participated in the 4-day hunt that year. If 50,000 gun deer hunters hunt in the CWD management zone, an estimated 7,500 would participate in the October 4-day gun deer season. This rule serves to protect their public welfare by preserving a valued recreational opportunity.

SECTION 3. EFFECTIVE DATE. This rule shall take effect on September 1, 2012 as provided in s. 227.24(1)(c), Stats.

SECTION 4. BOARD ADOPTION. This rule was approved and adopted by the State of Wisconsin Natural Resources Board on _____.

Dated at Madison, Wisconsin _____.

STATE OF WISCONSIN
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

By _____
Cathy Stepp, Secretary

(SEAL)