

DTR Herd Health/Chronic Wasting Disease Action Team

May 18, 2013 Progress Report

Today's Activities/Discussions:

- Agenda presented for the day
- Overview of the Implementation Proposal Steps and Form
 - HH/CWD Action Team process and review for generating Implementation Proposal Forms

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Implementation Action Items proposed or discussed by the Action Team :

- Recommendation D-4 (Implement Statewide DMAP)

DECISION ITEM: We support this recommendation, because we feel that landowner education and engagement in CWD management are critical. It is important that the deer management alternatives available to DMAP participants in the Management Zone be consistent with this Action Team's recommendations on CWD disease management. The DMAP deer management alternatives should also be consistent with the general deer hunt framework. Other agency land management programs need to aware of and understand the CWD Zone DMAP program.

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Implementation Action Items proposed or discussed by the Action Team :

- Recommendation D-1 (“Passive” Approach in CWD-MZ)

DECISION ITEM: We do agree that the approach should be “more passive” than deer population eradication, but we feel that some level of deer population reduction is currently a strategy to attempt to slow down growth and spread. We believe there is need to minimize further impacts of CWD on the state and that slowing down the growth and spread of CWD from the current Management Zone is a necessary piece of minimizing CWD impact.

Herd management should be based upon habitat, public acceptance and tolerance of herd population levels and disease.

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Implementation Action Items proposed or discussed by the Action Team :

- Recommendation D-1 (“Passive” Approach in CWD-MZ) *Continued*

DECISION ITEM: For hunting season structures in the Management Zone, we recommend a return to statewide seasons, specifically:

- Continue the traditional 9 day gun season.
- Continue the Archery season.
- Continue the Muzzleloader season.
- Continue the Youth Hunt.
- Continue a Holiday Hunt (possibly reduced length), but for antlerless deer harvest only.

And set a total yearly maximum per person harvest.

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Implementation Action Items proposed or discussed by the Action Team :

- Recommendation D-1 (“Passive” Approach in CWD-MZ) *Continued*

DECISION ITEM: And in the CWD Management Zone, we recommend that sharpshooting only be used for harvest of sick or injured deer.

- Additional minor recommendations, responding to citizen input:
- Restore the state-wide rule in the CWD Management Zone, protecting white deer from harvest.
- Do not change current DNR policy prohibiting deer rehabilitation in CWD areas.

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Implementation Action Items proposed or discussed by the Action Team :

- Recommendation D-1 (“Passive” Approach in CWD-MZ) *Continued*

DECISION ITEM: We think this proposal is based on Dr. Kroll’s analysis, concluding CWD is not increasing in prevalence. There are peer-reviewed publications documenting an increase in prevalence.

A result of a more passive approach to CWD management is growth and spread of the disease. We are concerned about the currently unknown human health risk.

CWD is not a native disease or natural part of Wisconsin ecosystems; we are concerned about the possibility of broader ecologic and landscape consequences from continued growth and spread. This approach will greatly simplify deer hunting and deer management in WI, and open the possibility to allow elimination of a special CWD zone and a return to statewide seasons for most deer hunting regulations.

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Implementation Action Items proposed or discussed by the Action Team :

- Recommendation D-2 (New Sampling Protocol)

DECISION ITEM: We support the intent of this proposal, acknowledging that over the last decade there have already been changes made to the state's CWD surveillance program to maximize the chance of detecting changes in disease distribution. We recognize that there will need to be more testing to achieve all the critical surveillance goals – detection of spread, tracking of the progress of the disease. There will need to be new and larger sources of funding to achieve this. This Team supports a renewed effort to expand funding sources to support testing, and propose that a small increase in license fees (\$2-5?) be considered. Over several years, there have already been many changes in the strategies and tools used for surveillance: a weighted surveillance strategy, a focus on finding and testing sick deer, working with taxidermists on a voluntary program to access older buck samples, etc. This appears to already be improving our ability to find new areas where there are CWD deer, and in a more cost effective way.

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Implementation Action Items proposed or discussed by the Action Team :

- Recommendation D-2 (New Sampling Protocol) *Continued*

DECISION ITEM: Cost is a major obstacle to do enough testing to achieve all the surveillance goals (new areas, out-state, CWD Management Zone, etc.). This Team supports a renewed effort to find new sources to support testing: conservation organizations, government funding, hunter testing fee, small increase in license fees (\$2-5?), voluntary donations (license application, etc.), and others.

Next Meeting Date is: June 8, 2013