

DTR Herd Health/Chronic Wasting Disease Action Team

June 8, 2013 Progress Report

Implementation Action Items proposed or discussed by the Action Team:

- Recommendation D-3 (Response plan focused on early detection of “break-outs”)

Implementation Action Item Proposal:

The response to newly detected cases of CWD in wild deer should start immediately but should consider a phase of thoughtful planning considering the local situation before moving to implementation. It should include:

- Public involvement through quick establishment of a citizen advisory committee with diverse representation, for information sharing, consideration of options, stakeholder input, and development of strategies to get public buy-in to management choices.
- Use of existent (or perhaps more efficient) DNR policy to allow harvest of sick-appearing deer, using information on the DNR website (<http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/wildlifehabitat/sickdeer.html>) or by contacting the local warden or DNR Tip Line (1-800-TIP-WDNR).

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Implementation Action Item Proposal (*continued*):

- Enhanced surveillance to determine the scope and magnitude of the problem. This usually should be done as soon as practical, not waiting until the next deer hunting season. Strategies for sample collection that should be considered include landowner permits, road-kill salvage, and encouraging public reporting and harvest of sick deer.
- Significant and sustained herd reduction in a targeted area (chosen based on surveillance findings) with herd goals as low as the public input supports. The citizen advisory group and public stakeholders should be able to consider using extended seasons and tags, agency harvest where appropriate (cooperating private lands, public lands, cooperating municipalities), and financial and other incentives for harvest of CWD-affected deer. We also support offering DMAP participants as many permits as they want to use for reduction of the herd they manage.

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Implementation Action Item Proposal (*continued*):

- Immediate implementation of the current law/policy that prohibits baiting/feeding of deer when CWD is found. This Team also supports the Rules/Regs Team recommendation to adopt a statewide ban on baiting, and thinks there should also be consideration of a statewide ban on feeding.
- Many of these recommendations will require further work by the DNR and other parts of government for implementation. Public participation which is so critical is dependent on citizen understanding of CWD risks and management strategies, so education before and in response to new outbreaks will be needed.
- Effective management of new outbreaks may mean some adaptation of season structure and other deer management structure in the outbreak area. The desire is to manage as much as possible within a statewide season structure.

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Implementation Action Items proposed or discussed by the Action Team:

- Recommendation B-4 (Consider charging a fee for antlerless tags in the CWD-MZ)

Implementation Action Item Proposal:

- We support this core recommendation. For DMAP participants, we support the recommendation that comes from the DMAP Team regarding antlerless tag fees.
- Free tags devalue the deer and the resources from tag sales are needed for deer and CWD management. The current state budget proposal includes language that tag fees from CWD areas would be available to support CWD surveillance and testing, which we support.
- This will bring the southern CWD affected area into line with statewide approaches to tag fees.

Next Meeting Date is: June 29, 2013