Resolution 060120

CWD Leadership Action Needed

Wisconsin again led the nation with 1,329 CWD-positive deer detected in 2019, including in 3 new counties. 56 of 72 counties are now considered as “CWD affected counties.” The disease threatens Wisconsin’s cherished hunting heritage as well as the significant economic benefit. Additional actions are needed to curb the spread and rising prevalence of CWD.

Many CWD experts recommend reliance on hunters and hunting to reduce CWD “hotspots.” These are areas known to have increased numbers of infected deer and dispersing deer. But for this to occur in Wisconsin our elected and appointed leaders must first provide the appropriate leadership in order for hunters and landowners to be effective. Current legislative constraints to herd management need be eliminated, and hunters and landowners could be compensated for efforts to remove infected deer. Also, enhanced prevalence monitoring and prion containment should be better funded.

BE IT RESOLVED that the Conservation Congress at its annual meeting held in Buffalo County on April 13, 2020 recommends that Governor Evers, Wisconsin’s legislators, the Natural Resources Board, and Secretary Cole unite to form and implement measures that will reduce CWD prevalence in Wisconsin.

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