

Sauk County Conservation Alliance

Representing over 2500 outdoor enthusiasts in *Greater Sauk County*, the Alliance is a county-wide collaboration of clubs dedicated to the conservation of Sauk County's wildlife and wild lands. The alliance seeks to inform, educate and involve its members, as well as, provide unity and fellowship among all sports men and women in the county and state

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CWD Leadership Needed

Once again, Wisconsin unfortunately leads the nation with 1,329 CWD-positive deer detected in 2019, including in 3 new counties. It's obvious that we need more than expanded testing and providing carcass dumpsters to curb the spread and rising prevalence of this disease. A CWD vaccine, if even possible, is years away. Quicker CWD test research is helpful but does nothing for hunters looking for increasingly scarce CWD-free venison to eat. We need leadership to fight the CWD fire that is burning across Wisconsin.

The Association of Fish & Wildlife Agencies convened our nation's best CWD experts to create a clear battle plan we should follow. Their Best Management Practices for reducing disease prevalence entrusts hunters and hunting to cool CWD hotspots that create increasing numbers of infected deer, including young dispersing deer. Simply put, they believe Wisconsin's deer hunters can control CWD. We agree, but our elected, and appointed leaders must show leadership and provide hunters and landowners the support needed to be effective. They should reward hunters and landowners for doing the hard work of removing infected deer and remove regulatory constraints that make hunters less effective.

BE IT RESOLVED that the Conservation Congress urges Governor Evers, Wisconsin's legislators, the Natural Resources Board, and Secretary Cole unite this year to quickly implement the Best Management Practices that will reverse CWD prevalence increases.

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