

Program Area: Wildlife Management

Subject: Chronic Wasting Disease Surveillance Permits

Length of Public Input Period: 21 days

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These policies and procedures are modified to provide consistent operating protocols in the issuance of Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) surveillance permits by the Department of Natural Resources (the department). These permits are used to enhance sampling efforts in specific areas to increase knowledge of chronic wasting disease. These permits enable landowners to harvest deer on their property during a specified time frame to meet disease surveillance goals

This draft guidance was developed by department staff and we will solicit comments on it for 21 days. All comments will be considered, revisions will be made to the guidance documents as needed, and final guidance will be made available to internal and external stakeholders.

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## *Chronic Wasting Disease Surveillance Permits*

The management of chronic wasting disease (CWD) remains a priority of the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR). One goal is to enhance DNR sampling efforts in specific areas to increase knowledge of the disease. CWD sample collection in known affected areas can only be accomplished by working cooperatively with landowners and hunters.

A CWD Surveillance Permit (SP) enables the landowner to whom the SP is issued and individuals listed on the SP by the landowner to harvest deer on the landowner's property during a specified time frame. The DNR staff person responsible for administering the CWD Surveillance Program is responsible for notifying appropriate Customer Service staff of surveillance efforts and permit requirements.

### *Participation*

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- A landowner owning a parcel of at least five (5) contiguous acres, all within the designated surveillance area, may be issued a CWD SP which authorizes the harvest of deer on the qualifying parcel. If a landowner's parcel is partially within the designated surveillance area, the entire contiguous parcel may be included at the discretion of the issuing staff. A landowner with less than five acres may be issued a permit at the discretion of the issuing staff. Issuing parameters include but not limited to the type of habitat, deer density of the parcel, and proximity to the CWD positive deer location.
- Each CWD SP is valid for a single contiguous parcel. If a landowner owns several disconnected properties, a separate SP must be issued for each parcel.
- Only one CWD SP may be issued per qualifying contiguous parcel, regardless of the number of persons with an ownership interest in the parcel.
- A landowner who has been issued a CWD SP can allow others to harvest deer under the authority of the SP by listing that person on the SP as their "agent". Only the landowner or those listed as "agents" on the SP can harvest deer under the authority of the SP.
- All persons desiring to harvest deer under the authority of a CWD SP must be added to the SP as an agent by the landowner prior to engaging in the activities authorized by the SP.
- Landowners and agents must carry a copy of the CWD SP while participating in the activities authorized by the SP.
- Landowners and agents participating under the authority of a CWD SP must possess a valid Wisconsin deer hunting license. Additionally, unless otherwise specified in the CWD SP, landowners and agents are limited to using the weapon type specified on the license and must abide by any season dates applicable to the weapon type.
- Landowners may not charge any form of a fee to agents participating under the authorization of a CWD SP.

### *Permits*

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- Each CWD SP is valid only during the timeframe specified on the SP.
- Each CWD SP will include an authorization to harvest 1 to 5 deer, based on the acreage and habitat of land where the harvest can occur. A landowner who harvests the full number of deer allowed by the SP may receive authorization from the DNR to harvest additional deer until CWD surveillance goals for the area have been met.
- CWD SPs may be rescinded by the DNR with 48-hour notice to the landowner, if CWD surveillance goals for the area have been met.
- CWD SPs may be rescinded by the DNR if the landowner and/or agent do not comply with the terms of the SP.
- CWD SPs can be designated antlerless-only, buck-only, or either sex adult deer.
- CWD SPs are valid upon date of issuance and through December 31<sup>st</sup> of the year of issuance.

### *Conditions*

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Landowners and agents participating in a CWD SP shall:

- Submit any adult deer harvested on the property for CWD testing, including those harvested with their regular deer hunting license issued carcass permits.
- Take a chest shot and avoid head shots so as not to damage tissue samples.
- Meet the requirements pertaining to hunter safety and age. Persons born on or after January 1, 1973 must be able to provide proof of successful completion of a hunter education course, basic training in the U.S. Armed Forces, Reserves, or National Guard. No person less than 12 years old may hunt under the authority of a landowner permit. Mentored hunters at least 10 years old may participate as authorized by ss. 29.592.

- Except as otherwise specified in the CWD SP, comply with all regulations applicable to the harvest of deer (see the current *Wisconsin Deer Hunting Regulations*), including: shooting hours, weapon-specific season frameworks, and registration requirements.
- Dispose of deer carcasses as directed by the DNR. Any part of any deer harvested may be collected by the DNR for disease testing purposes.
- Not harvest nor possess albino and white deer (see the current *Wisconsin Deer Hunting Regulations*).
- Be notified of CWD test rests by DNR. CWD test results can also be found at [dnr.wi.gov](http://dnr.wi.gov) (key word *CWD results*).

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