



(FORM UPDATED: 08/11/2010)

**WISCONSIN STATE LEGISLATURE ...  
PUBLIC HEARING - COMMITTEE RECORDS**

**2005-06**

(session year)

**Senate**

(Assembly, Senate or Joint)

**Committee on Natural Resources and  
Transportation...**

**COMMITTEE NOTICES ...**

- Committee Reports ... **CR**
- Executive Sessions ... **ES**
- Public Hearings ... **PH**

**INFORMATION COLLECTED BY COMMITTEE FOR AND AGAINST PROPOSAL**

- Appointments ... **Appt** (w/Record of Comm. Proceedings)
- Clearinghouse Rules ... **CRule** (w/Record of Comm. Proceedings)
- Hearing Records ... bills and resolutions (w/Record of Comm. Proceedings)  
(**ab** = Assembly Bill)                      (**ar** = Assembly Resolution)                      (**ajr** = Assembly Joint Resolution)  
(**sb** = Senate Bill)                              (**sr** = Senate Resolution)                              (**sjr** = Senate Joint Resolution)
- Miscellaneous ... **Misc**

# FACT SHEET

**CLEARING HOUSE RULE 06-013**

**Compiled & Submitted by**

**Wisconsin Deer Hunters Coalition**

**&**

**Safari Club International  
SE WI Bowhunters Chapter**

The CWD rule CR 06-013 has proceeded to the Legislature. It is scheduled for hearing in the Assembly on May 24<sup>th</sup>.

Despite overwhelming opposition at all the DNR public hearings as well as opposition from the Conservation Congress, Wisconsin Bowhunters, the Wisconsin Deer Hunters Coalition, SCI Bowhunters Chapter and numerous others that testified at the NRB meeting in Stevens Point, the Rule has proceeded forward.

To this point Wisconsin's CWD Management Plan has been a colossal failure.

1. Deer populations in the Eradication Zones have not been reduced.
2. Deer populations in the Herd Reduction Zones have grown to all time highs.
3. Disease prevalence has remained the same.
4. Hunter numbers in CWD Units have declined by 38%
5. Land owners have closed access.
6. 30 million dollars has been squandered.

**If the DNR had done absolutely nothing**, Wisconsin's deer herd, a multi-billion dollar industry, and one of our states most cherished traditions, would be better off than it is today.

One more year of irresponsible management by the DNR, alienating hunters and landowners, could result in herd growth that will be beyond the ability of Hunters to control.

We ask that you take a serious look at the data provided and request modification to the rule to reflect the 4 points in the Conservation Congress Resolution which passed overwhelmingly in every county it was presented.

Thank You for Your Attention on This Matter,

Greg Kazmierski  
Pres. SCI SE WI Bowhunters Chapter

The following data was compiled by the Wisconsin Deer Hunters Coalition. All data provided was sourced directly from DNR documentation. The following data will illustrate how ineffective the DNR's CWD Management Policies have been at achieving their goal of herd eradication and reduction.

**Page #2**

This graph is frequently used by the DNR to illustrate the necessity of a longer early gun season in the CWD management units. It shows that 59% of the deer are harvested prior to the regular season opener. What it does not show is how the harvest compares to a traditional season harvest.

**Page #3**

This page illustrates a comparison of the 1999 and 2004 average daily harvest for Unit 70A. This Unit is used for historical comparison because it is the only entire Unit that has been in CWD management from the beginning. 1999 was chosen because it was the last year that this Unit had a traditional season structure and comparable deer population. The red bars indicate the average daily harvest in 2004 (CWD rules) based on the percentages from page #1. The blue bars indicate the average daily harvest for the 1999 traditional season. As you can see, the longer extended gun season not only suppressed the early archery harvest, but resulted in a lower overall total harvest. The 59% harvest during the early firearm hunt did not make up for a 74% lower harvest during the traditional 9-day gun season and a 57% decline in the bow harvest.

**Page #4**

The harvest history illustrated in this graph shows a steady decline in total deer harvest since the implementation of CWD rules along with no appreciable reduction in deer numbers.

**Page #5**

With CWD management the impact on the bow harvest was dramatic. With unlimited tags and a 6 month gun season the DNR's anticipated gun harvest was unable to even offset the decline in the bow harvest contribution to the total harvest.

**Page #6**

This page is the DNR's 10yr Program History for Unit 70A. The CWD years are highlighted in red. This is the primary data source for the previous graphs. It also illustrates that the unlimited either sex rules implemented in '05 resulted in the lowest antlerless harvest in 10yrs.

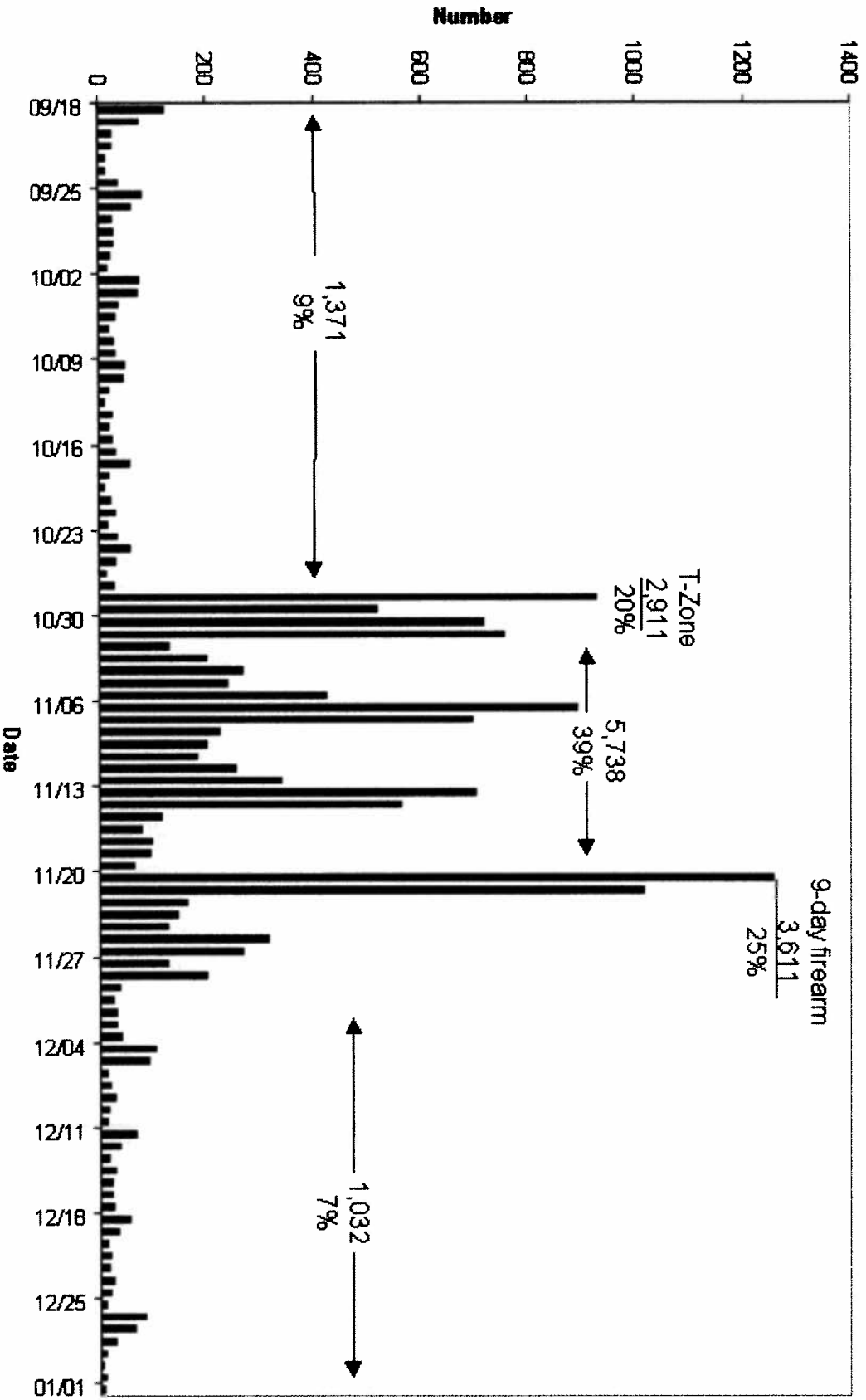
**Page #7 - #10**

These pages are the DNR's final statewide deer population estimates. The blue column on the far right was added to show the Posthunt population density the year prior to CWD Management rules. Partial Units under CWD Management were not included since Pre CWD data is not available for partial Units. The data illustrates CWD Management in the Herd Reduction Zones (HRZ) has been even less effective than the Eradication Zones. All but one HRZ Unit is at the highest population levels in 10yrs.

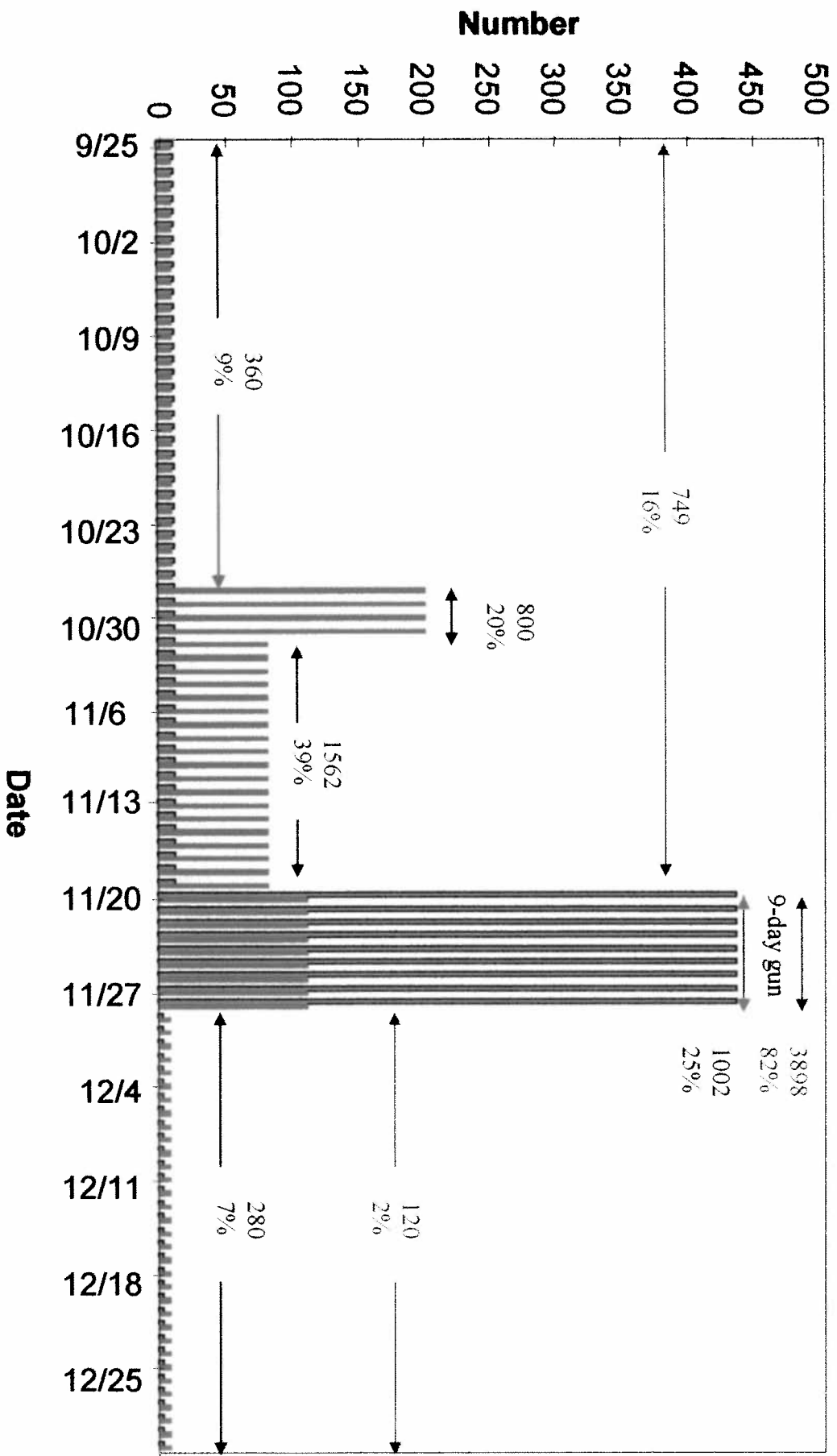
**Page #11**

Opening day hunter densities are tracked by the DNR. The data in this chart was sourced from the WDNR 2004 Wisconsin Big Game Summary. It is obvious hunters have not bought in to the DNR's Gestapo like CWD Management policies and are no longer hunting in significant enough numbers to accomplish the stated goals of eradication and herd reduction.

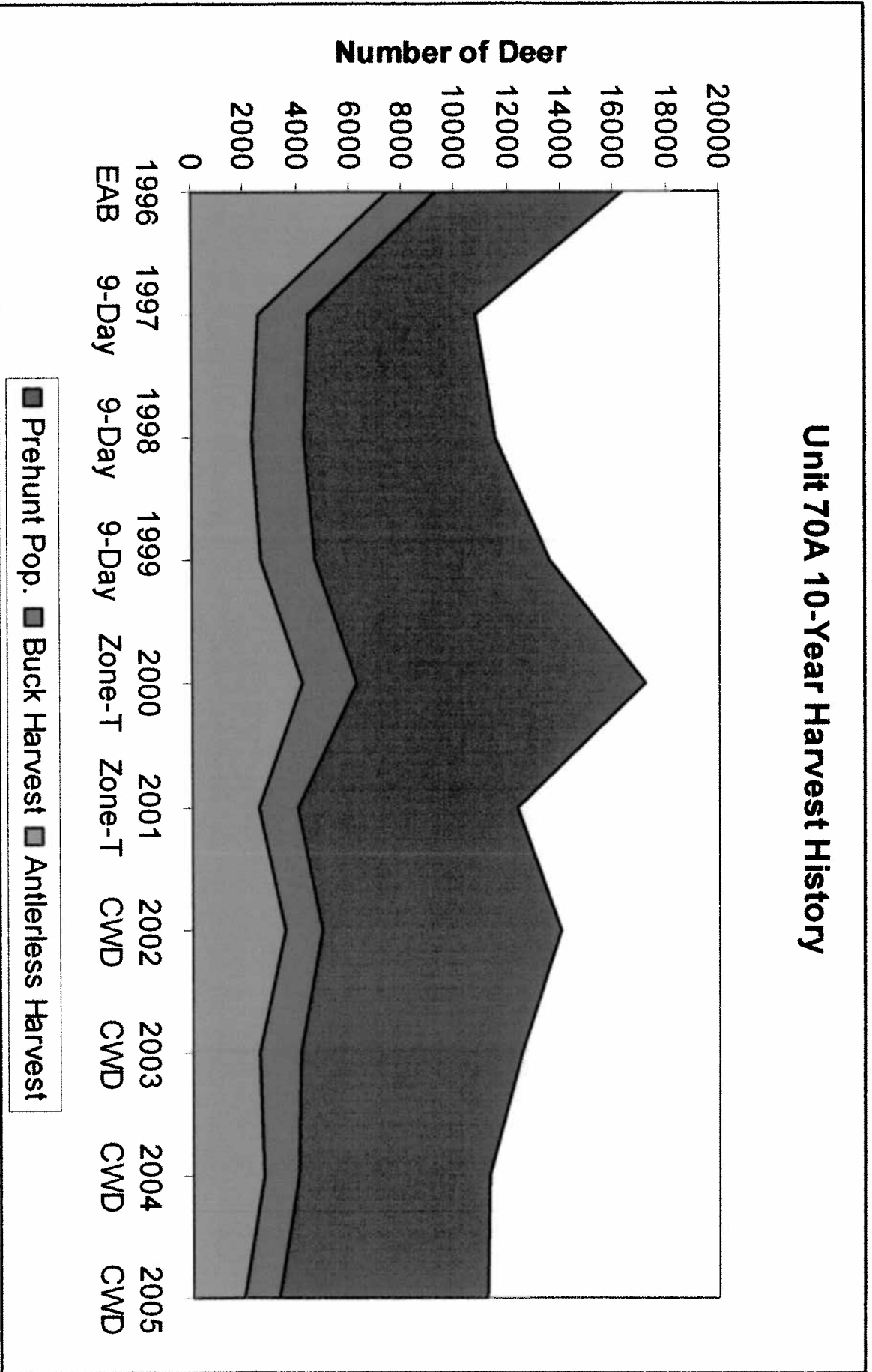
# DEZ deer kill by day, 2004 - Preliminary



## Unit 70A Deer Kill By Day, Comparison of 1999 and 2004 Seasons (1999 harvest = 4767; 2004 harvest = 4004)



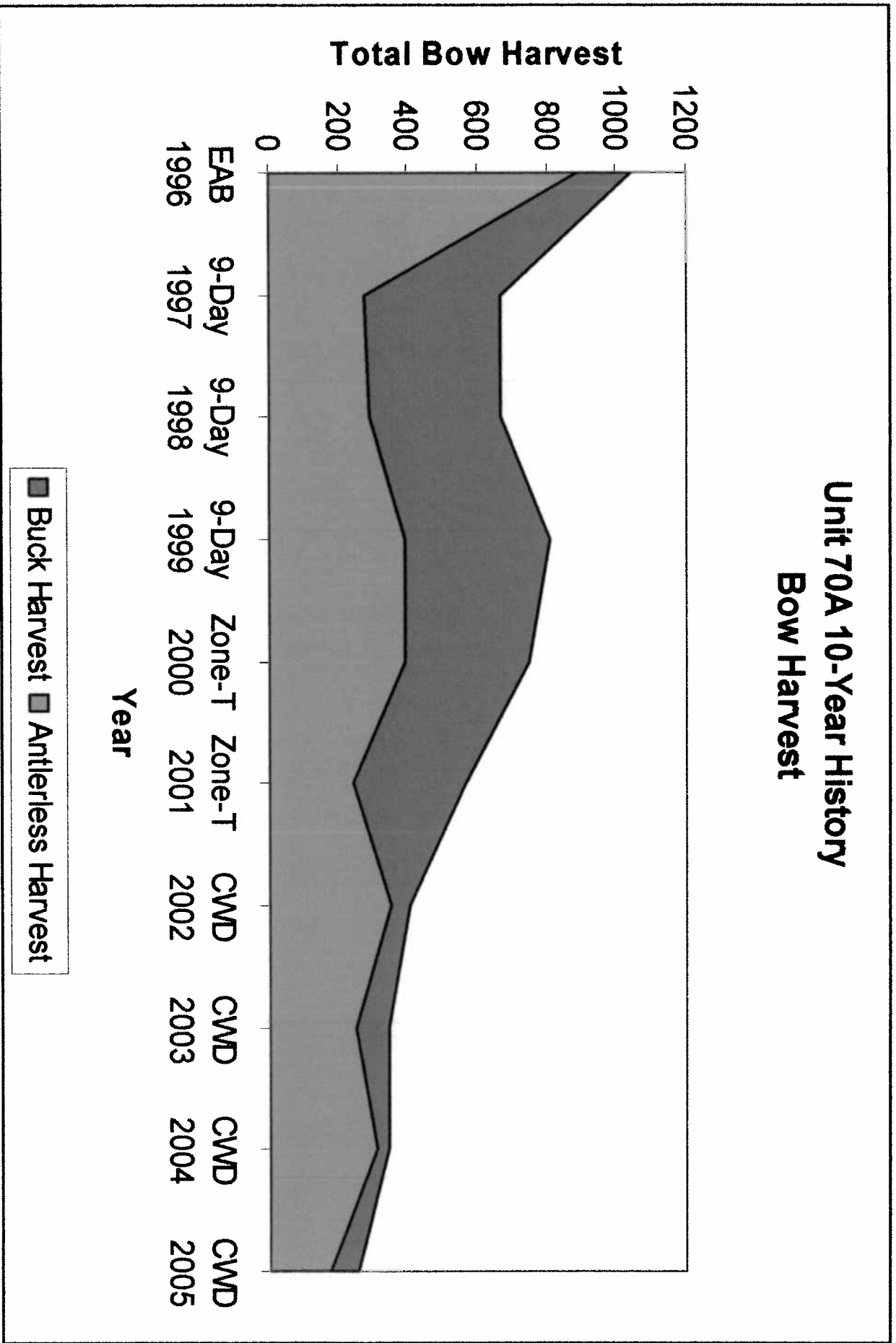
### Unit 70A 10-Year Harvest History



Prehunt Pop. = Adj. SAK # + (Harvest + 15%)

Buck Harvest = Total Harvest - Antlerless Harvest (Red area)

## Unit 70A 10-Year History Bow Harvest





## \*\*\*\* OUTPUT FROM PROGRAM HISTORY \*\*\*\*

03/01/06

## \*\* UNIT 70A \*\*\*

YEAR:	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
TOT AREA	280	280	280	280	280	284	284	284	284	284
DEER RG.	204	204	204	204	204	219	219	219	219	219
WSI	126	116	16	44	37	83	28	0	0	0
GUN BUCK	1658	1500	1625	1643	1754	1183	1363	1467	1256	1233
GUN DOES	6601	2253	2016	2255	3774	2302	3181	2323	2403	1841
GUN TOTL	8259	3753	3641	3898	5528	3485	4544	3790	3659	3074
BOW BUCK	152	390	378	413	354	323	58	93	35	78
BOW DOES	893	275	289	393	393	245	349	250	308	178
BOW TOTL	1047	666	669	806	747	568	408	344	345	257
CHP BUCK	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
CHP DOES	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
CHP TOTL	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
TOT BUCK	1810	1890	2003	2056	2108	1506	1421	1560	1291	1311
TOT DOES	7491	2528	2301	2648	4167	2547	3530	2565	2711	1977
TOT KILL	9306	4419	4310	4704	6275	4053	4952	4134	4004	3331
ANT:BUCK	4.1X	1.3X	1.1X	1.3X	2.0X	1.7X	2.5X	1.6X	2.1X	1.5X
% BOW	11	15	16	17	12	14	8	8	9	8
K/SQ_MI	46	22	21	23	31	19	23	19	18	15
QTA GOAL	6500	2000	2300	3800	5900	8200	4700			
PERMITS	0	2411	2186	2171	0	--	--	--	--	--
% SUCC.	--	24	10	11	--	--	--	--	--	--
LAND:										
# APP.	114	148	126	169	0	0	0	0	0	0
DRAW_RT	100	100	100	100	--	--	--	--	--	--
PREF:										
# APP.	20	922	47	43	0	0	0	0	0	0
DRAW_RT	100	100	100	100	--	--	--	--	--	--
NON-PREF:										
# APP.	1705	1341	2013	1959	0	--	--	--	--	--
DRAW_RT	100	100	100	100	--	--	--	--	--	--
BON. ISS.	12E3	4404	4304	5703	23E3	14E3	0	0	0	0
% SUCC.	45	38	42	36	17	17	0	0	0	0
GOAL	25	25	25	25	25	25	0	0	5	5
BKS AGED	82	216	252	225	197	156	0	0	0	0
SUBL AGED	2	1	0	4	5	0	0	0	0	0
DOE AGED	96	116	125	142	198	114	0	0	0	0
YR BK %	57	47	54	59	45	41	--	--	--	--
YR DOE %	31	36	30	43	37	33	--	--	--	--
ADJ BK %	67	67	67	61	65	65	65	65	65	65
ADJ DOE %	42	42	42	36	40	40	40	40	40	40
Adj. SAK:	28	28	32	40	49	35	38	35	28	34
Adj. SAK#	5712	5712	6528	8160	9996	7665	8322	7665	6132	7446

**Final 2005 SAK DEER POPULATION ESTIMATES -**  
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**Population estimates for 2004 EAB units are based on accounting models**  
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DMU	Goal	Deer	Range	Goal	Kill	2005		5/10-yr	Buck		5-yr	Adult	Fawns	Pre-	Posthunt		% over	Popul.
						Total	Deer		Ave	Reco-					Buck	Average		
1	20	161	3220	602	1,015	50	66	0.330	40	27	1.35	74.1	6,102	4,935	31	53		
01M	10	32	320	112	374	50	66	0.330	40	27	1.35	74.1	1,135	705	22	120		
2	18	627	11286	2,637	7,462	52	69	0.359	44	27	1.48	74.1	26,306	17,725	28	57		
3-EAB	16	555	8880	1,656	3,735	61	61	0.287	37	27	1.25	74.1	18,561	14,389	26	62		
4	15	349	5235	778	1,290	47	61	0.287	37	27	1.25	74.1	8,599	7,116	20	36		
5-EAB	20	226	4520	27	76													
6-EAB	12	546	6552	1,613	4,145	45	57	0.257	39	25	1.42	71.6	15,350	10,555	19	61		
7	15	189	2835	158	249	45	57	0.257	39	25	1.42	71.6	2,115	1,829	10	-36		
8	20	370	7400	1,191	2,122	57	76	0.433	50	30	1.52	88.0	10,581	8,140	22	10		
9	20	438	8760	1,673	3,586	56	75	0.420	50	22	2.07	88.0	19,456	15,332	35	75		
10	25	345	8625	1,595	2,470	65	84	0.546	61	29	1.91	88.0	13,423	10,583	31	23		
11	20	341	6820	1,644	4,001	65	84	0.546	61	34	1.63	88.0	12,244	7,642	22	12		
12	17	264	4488	1,077	2,687	59	78	0.460	55	30	1.67	88.0	9,673	6,583	25	47		
13-EAB	15	715	10725	1,561	3,307								19,819	16,113	23	50		
14-EAB	14	328	4592	798	2,317								11,243	8,676	26	89		
15	22	414	9108	2,796	6,595	71	84	0.597	71	36	1.79	110	22,306	14,722	36	62		
16	25	335	8375	2,372	6,296	69	83	0.571	64	30	1.94	100	20,262	13,021	39	55		
17	15	238	3570	980	2,564	62	81	0.502	59	27	1.99	88.0	9,239	6,291	26	76		
18	20	368	7360	1,364	2,966	58	77	0.447	53	22	2.19	84.4	15,392	11,981	33	63		
19-EAB	20	403	8060	1,152	2,375								12,667	10,019	25	24		
20-EAB	18	378	6804	1,123	2,111								11,679	9,308	25	37		
21	25	225	5625	1,516	3,322	69	83	0.571	69	43	1.46	120	11,173	7,352	33	31		
22	20	349	6980	1,907	4,181	66	80	0.531	66	39	1.54	110	15,190	10,382	30	49		
22A	20	353	7060	1,868	6,051	59	74	0.434	59	42	1.28	120	16,407	9,449	27	34		
23	20	403	8060	1,833	5,498	51	62	0.315	51	36	1.29	110	21,534	15,211	38	89		
24	20	278	5560	1,173	3,829	54	72	0.389	50	23	1.98	84.4	14,015	9,611	35	73		
25	20	437	8740	1,602	5,426	51	68	0.347	41	20	1.86	84.4	20,498	14,258	33	63		
26	20	391	7820	1,757	4,350	61	80	0.488	58	29	1.82	84.4	15,675	10,672	27	36		
27	20	248	4980	1,543	5,252	65	80	0.518	65	37	1.60	110	12,980	6,940	28	40		
28	15	656	9840	1,119	2,047	48	63	0.302	41	24	1.55	71.6	13,561	11,207	17	14		
29A	15	239	3585	513	999	44	66	0.290	35	26	1.22	71.6	5,476	4,327	18	21		
29B	12	233	2796	263	419	51	68	0.347	45	20	2.05	71.6	3,420	2,938	13	5		

rules

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DMU	Goal Density	Deer Range	2005		Total Deer Kill	5/10-yr Ave YB%	Buck		5-yr		Adult Sex Ratio	Fawns /100 Does	Pre-hunt Pop.	Posthunt Pop.	% over popul. goal	Popul. pre CWD Rules	
			Over-winter Pop. Goal	Buck Kill			Reco-very Rate	Buck Harvest Rate	Average YB%	YD%							
30	15	315	4725	754	1,607	51	68	0.347	41	23	1.62	84.4	8,673	6,825	22	44	
31	20	414	8280	1,106	1,958	52	69	0.359	46	31	1.35	84.4	10,752	8,501	21	3	
32	21	487	10227	1,575	2,843	54	72	0.389	48	32	1.36	84.4	14,240	10,970	23	7	
33	20	276	5520	1,531	3,417	70	83	0.584	70	40	1.59	120	11,791	7,862	28	42	
34	17	262	4454	565	1,260	49	65	0.319	43	26	1.50	81.2	6,607	5,158	20	16	
35	20	354	7080	1,057	2,841	51	68	0.347	47	26	1.64	81.2	12,125	8,858	25	25	
36	25	274	6850	1,237	3,409	49	65	0.319	44	26	1.54	81.2	14,712	10,792	39	58	
37	25	235	5875	892	1,471	54	72	0.389	45	32	1.28	81.2	7,609	5,918	25	1	
38	20	429	8580	1,094	2,532	52	69	0.359	48	29	1.50	95.9	12,035	9,124	21	6	
39	20	425	8500	652	941	58	77	0.447	56	25	2.04	65.4	6,377	5,295	12	-38	
40	20	328	6560	787	1,156	61	80	0.488	56	25	2.04	65.4	7,044	5,715	17	-13	
41	25	195	4875	736	1,818	56	70	0.390	56	29	1.76	68.7	7,472	5,382	26	10	
42	20	327	6540	925	2,169	55	74	0.407	50	33	1.38	95.9	8,404	5,910	18	-10	
43	15	408	6120	1,141	2,816	61	80	0.488	58	30	1.76	95.9	10,387	7,149	18	17	
44	17	466	7922	917	1,757	58	77	0.447	56	28	1.82	95.9	9,366	7,345	16	-7	
45	20	593	11860	1,246	1,956	59	74	0.434	59	26	2.06	68.7	12,871	10,622	18	-10	
46	25	321	8025	2,016	6,237	60	75	0.448	60	31	1.76	100	20,336	13,164	41	64	
47-EAB	25	269	6725	2,085	5,344								14,594	8,578	32	28	
49A	25	235	5875	699	2,284	56	70	0.390	56	30	1.70	68.7	6,920	4,293	18	-27	
49B	25	182	4550	826	1,961	68	82	0.558	68	33	1.87	68.7	6,159	3,904	21	-14	
50	20	334	6680	968	1,373	67	85	0.570	64	29	2.01	65.4	7,340	5,761	17	-14	
51A-EAB	25	220	5500	1,192	3,264								11,858	8,161	37	48	
51B-EAB	25	389	9725	2,472	6,565								21,401	13,996	36	44	
52	20	304	6080	1,004	2,604	56	75	0.420	52	28	1.69	95.9	10,295	7,301	24	20	
53	25	461	11525	2,613	4,554	59	85	0.502	59	31	1.73	80.0	21,437	16,200	35	41	
54A	25	484	12100	3,502	8,431	62	80	0.496	59	35	1.53	80.0	26,536	16,841	35	39	
54B	25	186	4650	1,334	3,728	65	80	0.518	65	30	1.97	100	12,731	8,444	45	82	
54BCWD	10	203	2030	1,418	3,697								10,102	5,850	28	188	
54C-EAB	25	95	2375	732	1,980								5,330	3,108	33	31	
55	25	631	15775	2,988	7,178	57	71	0.405	57	33	1.57	80.0	28,243	19,988	32	27	
56	30	335	10050	1,563	4,472	56	76	0.426	56	26	1.96	80.0	16,616	11,473	34	14	
57	22	146	3212	1,089	3,644	67	81	0.545	67	40	1.52	120	8,699	4,508	31	40	

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DMU	Goal	Deer	Over-		Total	5/10-yr	Buck		Buck	5-yr	Adult	Fawns	Pre	Posthunt		% over	Popul.
			Winter	Buck			Reco-	Harvest						Average	Sex		
	Density	Range	Pop.	Kill	Kill	Ave	Very	Rate	YB%	YD%	Ratio	/100	Pop.	Pop.	Density		
57A	25	238	5950	1,705	4,053	68	82	0.558	68	41	1.51	120	13,193	8,532	36	43	
57B	25	252	6300	2,003	6,472	68	82	0.558	68	41	1.51	120	15,499	8,056	32	28	
57C	30	266	7980	1,774	4,444	63	78	0.490	63	37	1.55	110	15,386	10,276	39	29	
58	25	506	12650	3,876	10,007	62	85	0.527	62	34	1.66	80.0	29,301	17,793	35	41	
59A	20	520	10400	2,507	5,468	64	79	0.504	64	43	1.35	120	19,786	13,498	26	30	
59B	15	687	10305	2,803	8,080	58	72	0.419	58	35	1.51	110	27,831	18,539	27	80	
59C	25	626	15650	5,188	14,906	60	75	0.448	60	35	1.56	110	49,481	32,339	52	107	
59D-EAB	20	384	7680	2,495	4,848								15,133	10,061	26	31	
59M	10	44	440	270	762	55	68	0.375	55	35	1.43	110	2,876	2,000	45	355	
60A	20	170	3400	953	2,602	72	85	0.610	72	45	1.45	120	6,559	3,567	21	5	
60B	20	83	1660	585	1,280	67	81	0.545	67	45	1.35	120	4,273	2,801	34	69	
60M	10	80	800	395	1,129	65	80	0.518	65	45	1.31	120	2,968	1,670	21	109	
61-EAB	20	958	19160	5,642	15,201								43,905	26,871	28	40	
62A	25	402	10050	3,240	9,915	65	80	0.518	65	32	1.85	100	29,380	17,978	45	79	
62B-EAB	25	363	9075	4,821	12,172								30,235	16,353	45	80	
63A-EAB	25	339	8475	3,854	10,215								25,515	13,923	41	64	
63B-EAB	25	252	6300	1,903	5,117								14,889	9,219	37	46	
64	20	243	4860	2,093	6,246	69	83	0.571	69	43	1.46	120	15,425	8,242	34	70	
64M	10	81	810	579	1,595	65	80	0.518	65	38	1.56	110	4,772	2,938	36	263	
65A	30	172	5160	1,369	4,193	75	86	0.648	75	39	1.75	110	9,864	5,042	29	-2	
65B-EAB	30	347	10410	3,555	9,446								26,416	15,636	45	50	
66-EAB	25	172	4300	2,023	5,253								15,675	9,752	57	127	
67A-EAB	25	354	8850	3,543	9,491								31,924	21,170	60	139	
67B-EAB	25	188	4700	2,079	5,542								17,173	10,934	58	133	
68A-EAB	30	130	3900	1,528	3,900								11,073	6,658	51	71	
68B	30	183	5490	1,236	3,495	68	82	0.558	68	35	1.77	110	10,432	6,413	35	17	
69	25	391	9775	2,279	7,320	70	83	0.584	70	41	1.55	120	17,219	8,801	23	-10	
70CWD	10	200	2000	1,646	4,001								8,991	4,390	22	120	
SWDEZ	5	744	3720	4,456	11,186								38,160	25,296	34	580	
70BCWD	10	194	1940	1,306	3,599								10,739	6,600	34	240	
70ECWD	10	69	690	671	1,769								4,864	2,830	41	310	

DMU 70A

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**Population estimates for CWD units based on aerial surveys**

DMU	Goal Density	Deer Range	Over- winter		Total Deer Kill	5/10-yr Ave YB%	Buck Reco- very Rate		Buck Harvest Rate	5-yr Average YB% YD%		Adult Sex Ratio	Fawns /100 Does	Pre- Hunt Pop.	Posthunt		% over Popul. goal	Popul. pre CWD
			Pop.	Buck Kill			Rate	Rate		YB%	YD%				Pop.	Density		
70GCWWD	10	122	1220	1,472	4,023									11,946	7,320	60	500	33
71CWWD	10	626	6260	4,547	11,381									35,628	22,540	36	260	25
72-EAB	20	504	10080	3,397	6,125									20,513	13,694	27	36	
73B	20	185	3700	1,026	1,997	68	82							8,121	5,825	31	57	
73BCWWD	10	54	540	369	1,078									2,970	1,730	32	220	
73D	20	158	3160	964	2,264	65	80							7,945	5,341	34	69	
73ECWWD	10	172	1720	1,061	2,592									7,801	4,820	28	180	
74A	20	200	4000	1,056	3,048	57	71							11,329	7,824	39	96	
74B	20	432	8640	1,767	4,043	51	62							19,961	15,312	35	77	
75ACWWD	10	146	1460	914	2,462									9,561	6,730	46	361	27
75CCWWD	10	24	240	210	606									2,117	1,420	59	492	
75DCWWD	10	100	1000	788	2,170									9,196	6,700	67	570	30
76CWWD	10	140	1400	702	2,056									10,914	8,550	61	511	42
76ACWWD	10	305	3050	1,832	6,248									22,425	15,240	50	400	
76MCWWD	10	51	510	154	438									2,084	1,580	31	210	
77ACWWD	10	102	1020	747	2,162									8,386	5,900	58	478	30
SEDEZ	5	92	460	336	976									2,472	1,350	15	193	
77BCWWD	10	201	2010	628	1,583									8,860	7,040	35	250	20
77C	15	135	2025	755	2,083	58	72							7,496	5,101	38	152	
77CCWWD	10	174	1740	665	1,949									8,671	6,430	37	270	
77M	10	312	3120	976	2,629	60	75							8,577	5,554	18	78	
78-EAB	15	22	330	53	113									639	512	23	55	
80A-EAB	15	152	2280	552	1,308									5,485	4,012	26	76	
80B-EAB	20	194	3880	1,893	4,927									13,825	8,323	43	115	
81-EAB	15	18	270	130	271									1,276	970	54	259	
MCC	25	75	1875	121	405	54	67							1,453	988	13	-47	
Total	19.4	36,351	706,276	184,211	467,028									1,823,737	1,089,988	30	54	

Population goals have been updated for Units 3, 4, 15, 28, 29A, 61, and 74A  
 Deer Range estimates updated for Units 2, 35, 38, and 39 due to boundary changes

## Opening Day Hunter Densities per Sq. Mi. In CWD Units.

<b>CWD MANAGEMENT UNITS</b>	<b>20 YEAR AVG. HUNTER DENSITIES PER SQ. MI</b>	<b>3 YEAR AVG. HUNTER DENSITIES PER SQ. MI ('02 THRU '04)</b>	<b>EFFECT OF CWD MANAGEMENT ON HUNTER DENSITY</b>
<b>70</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>-43%</b>
<b>70A</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>-61%</b>
<b>70B</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>-36%</b>
<b>73E</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>-42%</b>
<b>75A</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>-29%</b>
<b>75C</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>-43%</b>
<b>75D</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>-13%</b>
<b>76</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>-38%</b>
<b>76M</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>-38%</b>

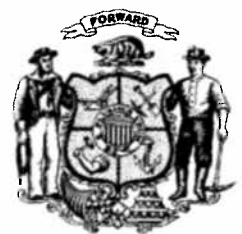
**AVG. DECLINE                    -38%**

Units shown represent entire management units under CWD management for 3 years. Partial units are not included because historical data is not available for partial units. Much of the area represented by these units includes "Herd Reduction Zones" where no CWD positive deer have been discovered.

\*DATA SOURCED FROM WDNR 2004 WISCONSIN BIG GAME SUMMARY



# WISCONSIN STATE LEGISLATURE



**NATURAL RESOURCES BOARD AGENDA ITEM**

**SUBJECT:** Adoption of Board Order WM-11-06, revisions to NR 10 relating to the **2006 CWD hunting seasons.**

**FOR:** APRIL 2006 **BOARD MEETING**

**TO BE PRESENTED BY:** Bill Vander Zouwen

**SUMMARY:**

This rule order includes the following proposed changes in the CWD hunting rules:

- 1) Provides an either-sex tagging regulation for the entire archery and gun deer season (no earn-a-buck).
- 2) Creates criteria where earn-a-buck regulations could be used again, if needed.
- 3) Shortens the early gun season in the DEZs from 18 days beginning in late October to 9 days beginning the Saturday preceding the Thursday closest to October 27.
- 4) Shortens the late gun season in both the HRZ and DEZs by ending the season 3 Sundays after Thanksgiving, rather than January 3.
- 5) Creates criteria where the early gun season could be extended by 7 days, if needed.
- 6) Modifies the administrative code so that the archery season ends the same day as in non-CWD units, should that date change in future rules.
- 7) Modifies the dates of the DEZ state park gun hunting seasons to be consistent with CWD Zone hunts, with the exception that the early gun season hunting hours would close at noon.
- 8) Does not include boundary changes to CWD zones, specifically in unit 73B as requested by petitioners.

Therefore, under this proposal, hunters in the CWD Zones could expect the following season framework in 2006:

- Archery season: September 16 to January 3
- Early gun season: October 21-29 (DEZ); October 26-29 (HRZ)
- Late gun season: November 18 to December 10
- Tagging regulation: Unlimited either-sex, same tag for any deer
- No change in boundaries

**RECOMMENDATION:** Adopt Board Order WM-11-06, revisions to NR 10 relating to the 2006 CWD hunting seasons.

**LIST OF ATTACHED MATERIALS:**

- |    |                                     |   |     |                                     |          |
|----|-------------------------------------|---|-----|-------------------------------------|----------|
| No | <input type="checkbox"/>            | Fiscal Estimate Required                              | Yes | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Attached |
| No | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Environmental Assessment or Impact Statement Required | Yes | <input type="checkbox"/>            | Attached |
| No | <input type="checkbox"/>            | Background Memo                                       | Yes | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Attached |

**APPROVED:**

_____	04/13/2006
Bureau Director, Tom Hauge	Date
_____	04/13/2006
Administrator, Laurie Osterndorf	Date
_____	04/13/2006
Secretary, Scott Hassett	Date

- |                                       |  |                                    |
|---------------------------------------|--|------------------------------------|
| cc: Amy J. Lemberger - AD/5           | Bob Manwell - CE/8                     | Bill Vander Zouwen - WM/6          |
| Conservation Congress Exec. Comm. - 4 | Tim Andryk/Carol Turner - LS/5 - 2     | Diane Brookbank - CS/GEF3          |
| GLIFWC & Tribes - 13                  | Alan Crossley - WM/6                   | Randy Stark - LE/5                 |
| Kurt Thiede - WM/6                    | Regional Wildl. Supervisors - WM/6 - 5 | Tom Van Haren - LE/5               |
| Tom Hauge - WM/6                      | Keith Warnke - WM/6                    | Regional LE Supervisors - LE/5 - 5 |



## CORRESPONDENCE/MEMORANDUM

DATE: April 11, 2006  
TO: Natural Resources Board  
FROM: Scott Hassett  
SUBJECT: 2006 CWD Hunting Rule

I am requesting adoption of Board Order WM-11-06, modifications to NR Ch. 10, Wis. Adm. Code, pertaining to CWD hunting rules and regulations.

**Proposed Amendments to Rule:**

In response to public comments at public hearings, the department proposes that the early gun season in the Herd Reduction Zone (HRZ) remain at 4 days, beginning on the Thursday closest to October 27, rather than the proposed 9 days. The rule is also amended to retain the 4-day early gun season in state parks in the HRZ. To ensure that the proposed 9-day early gun season in the Disease Eradication Zones (DEZ) always overlaps with the HRZ early gun season, the rule is amended to begin the early DEZ gun season on the Saturday preceding the Thursday closest to October 27.

**Background:**

In 2002, the first CWD hunting rule was approved. At that time, we anticipated only needing to change the CWD zones map each year based on sampling results. However, we have annually reviewed all of the CWD hunting rules to see if changes are prudent. This review has involved analyses of both biological and social information. Last year's compromise has not been acceptable to either the public or wildlife and enforcement staff. It proved to be too complex and confusing. We had hoped that our CWD hunting rules could remain unchanged for at least a couple of years. We are hoping that this can be the case with the following modifications. This rule presents some major compromises with hunters and landowners that are hoped to make this rule both adequate for herd reduction and sustainable from a social perspective. Members of the Interagency Health and Science Team as well as department staff are concerned that we may be compromising herd reduction with these more conservative seasons. Yet, we are seeking a season structure that we hope will keep us on the right track toward herd reduction and disease eradication, while balancing the interests of those people who hold the key to our success, the hunters and landowners who live and hunt in this area. The rule proposal also reduces complexity.

Since the CWD rule was presented to the Natural Resources Board in February, department staff have grown more concerned that a shorter gun season and either sex rules might not produce a deer harvest needed for herd reduction in the HRZ and DEZs. Poor snow conditions prevented completion of all planned helicopter and airplane surveys. However, surveys indicated that the deer population did not decline in the Western DEZ and HRZ last year. Earlier available harvest data showed a decline in harvest of antlerless deer in the DEZ (-28%) and HRZ (-23%) with either sex rules applying to all but the rut period in the 2005 hunting seasons. The department plans to recommend use of the options of earn-a-buck and/or longer gun seasons in 2007, if hunters don't harvest enough deer to bring about herd reduction in 2006 with the proposed season framework.

## **Rule Summary:**

This rule order includes the following proposed changes in the CWD hunting rules:

- 1) Provides an either-sex tagging regulation for the entire archery and gun deer season (no earn-a-buck).
- 2) Creates criteria where earn-a-buck regulations could be used again, if needed.
- 3) Shortens the early gun season in the DEZs from 18 days beginning in late October to 9 days beginning the Saturday preceding the Thursday closest to October 27.
- 4) Shortens the late gun season in both the HRZ and DEZs by ending the season 3 Sundays after Thanksgiving, rather than January 3.
- 5) Creates criteria where the early gun season could be extended by 7 days, if needed.
- 6) Modifies the administrative code so that the archery season ends the same day as in non-CWD units, should that date change in future rules.
- 7) Modifies the dates of the DEZ state park gun hunting seasons to be consistent with CWD Zone hunts, with the exception that the early gun season hunting hours would close at noon.
- 8) Does not include boundary changes to CWD zones, specifically in unit 73B as requested by petitioners.

Therefore, under this proposal, hunters in the CWD Zones could expect the following season framework in 2006:

- ~~Archery season: September 16 to January 3~~
- ~~Early gun season: October 21-29 (DEZ); October 26-29 (HRZ)~~
- ~~Late gun season: November 18 to December 10~~
- ~~Tagging regulation: Unlimited either sex, same tag for any deer~~
- ~~No change in boundaries~~

## **Discussion:**

### *CWD Zones*

~~The overall prescription for the CWD zones remains unchanged.~~ The goals of these areas are to provide zones that include and buffer infected areas, where liberal hunting regulations are aimed at reducing deer populations to reduce CWD transmission and spread. The population goals for the DEZs and HRZ are less than 5 and 10 deer per square mile of deer range, respectively. On the other hand, our delineation of these zones has been evolving. The earliest CWD rule called for a DEZ everywhere a positive was found. Subsequent CWD zone rules expanded the DEZs to enclose only clusters of positives and new positives found near existing DEZ boundaries. DEZ designation allows for additional tools to be used for CWD management including issuance of landowner and hunter shooting permits (\$2 each) with extended seasons, authorization of rifle use in shotgun zones, and authorization of staff shooting from vehicles at deer on lands with landowner permission. The DEZ boundaries have also served as the area within which the department operates the DEZ food pantry and the area within which the Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection rules require the quarantine of captive cervid operations.

The department believes that DEZs are still appropriate designations for areas with relatively high infection rates. The department also believes that the HRZ is an appropriate tool for increasing harvest rates and slowing the transmission and spread of CWD from DEZs to the remainder of the state. A subcommittee of the CWD Interagency Health and Science Team is studying this issue. Later this year, they will recommend whether our approach should be modified beginning in 2007. In the meantime, we propose that the DEZs and HRZ boundaries not be changed for 2006.

Boundary consistency for 2 years in a row will be welcomed by both staff and the public. Hunters will be relieved that the finding of one positive does not automatically put their area into a DEZ. Staff will be relieved that we are not creating confusion by modifying boundaries again this year. However, those landowners and hunters within the DEZs, as well as captive cervid operations that are quarantined, may feel that we are treating them unfairly, considering that positive cases have been found in the HRZ.

No positives have been found outside the HRZ, so expansion of the HRZ is not warranted at this time. However, in recognition of the 18 scattered positives found to date in the HRZ, the department believed it was prudent to increase gun hunting opportunities in the HRZ to more quickly bring deer numbers down to the population goal. In consideration of public comment against this approach, the department is suggesting that the 4-day early gun hunt be retained one more year on a trial basis before extending its length.

### *Either-Sex Regulation*

The department is proposing that hunters be allowed to harvest as many deer as they want of either sex. Hunters have endured 3 years with earn-a-buck rules throughout the hunting season and 1 year with earn-a-buck rules in a portion of the hunting season. This rule has been effective for increasing antlerless deer harvest and reducing the deer population. However, many hunters have wanted an either-sex rule. A Conservation Congress proposal to use either-sex regulations in the CWD zones received majority support at last year's spring hearings. We have also learned that older bucks have a higher prevalence of disease than older does. CWD specialists recommend that buck harvest rates be increased, without sacrificing antlerless harvest rates.

Last year's experience, with earn-a-buck rules applying only to 23 days of the 100+ day season, suggest that an either sex season may result in inadequate antlered deer harvest for continued herd reduction in CWD zones. The total DEZ harvest was down 18%, with no change in the buck kill and a 28% decrease in antlerless deer kill. The HRZ deer harvest was down 5% with a 23% reduction in the antlerless deer kill. The department continues to propose giving hunters what they wish and testing the either-sex rule on a season-long basis. If this is not effective for herd reduction, the department will recommend exercising the option of earn-a-buck rules in 2007.

Department staff are concerned that hunters may not harvest enough deer with the either-sex rule. They do not want to lose ground by keeping the either-sex rule for multiple years, if hunters do not continue to reduce the deer population. We would like to preserve the option of using the earn-a-buck regulation to address this scenario, should it occur. Therefore, we propose that criteria be established in code for reinstating the earn-a-buck regulation. If one or more of the criteria are met, the department may propose earn-a-buck regulations for CWD zones. The Natural Resources Board would have the option of accepting such a recommendation on an annual basis without further rule promulgation. The criteria would include: the ratio of antlerless deer to antlered deer in the previous season (<2:1); the estimate of herd reduction from the previous season (<20%); the estimated antlerless harvest rate in the previous season (<30%), and the disease prevalence (unchanged or increasing). It is anticipated that the Department would not automatically recommend a return to earn-a-buck regulations if one or more of these criteria are met. Use of earn-a-buck rules would not be an option if the estimated population is at or below 15 deer per square mile of deer range in recognition of the difficulty of shooting antlerless deer at those deer densities.

### *Early Gun Season*

We have witnessed a significant deer harvest in the early gun season, which means that a significant number of hunters are taking advantage of this opportunity. Yet, we are hearing from a growing number of hunters who are

dissatisfied with the current long gun season. In 2005, a 5-day closure of the gun season immediately preceding the traditional opening date was implemented. This did not appear to satisfy many hunters. Many yearn for a return to the excitement of the traditional opener. They also value the concentration of hunter effort that weekend, which has the effect of moving deer past hunters and making the deer more vulnerable. They don't believe this will happen unless there is a substantial period of time that the gun season is closed prior to the traditional opener. Archers also want to return to having much of the rut period to hunt without a blaze orange requirement and without gun hunters in the woods.

On the other hand, last year's 18-day early gun season accounted for 46% of the total hunting season harvest in the DEZs. This harvest is needed for continued herd reduction. We believe that some or much of this harvest is additive; i.e. hunters will not make it up in the late gun season if the early gun season is discontinued. In an effort to preserve some of the early gun season and address hunter concerns, the department is proposing that the early gun season be reduced from 18 days (3 weekends) to 9 days (2 weekends). The department further proposes that the season begin on a Saturday, when the highest number of hunters can participate at one time. We propose that the opening day of this season be on the Saturday prior to the Thursday nearest October 27. This would be the weekend prior to the HRZ early gun season and the out-state Zone T Thursday openers. This date is earlier on average than we currently open this season, as desired by many hunters. We believe that opening the season even earlier would not be advisable due to increased years with overlap with other season openers such as the pheasant opener. We also believe that an either-sex season should overlap the rut, because the buck hunting opportunity draws hunters to the woods and because older bucks have higher CWD prevalence than older does. In 2006, the early gun season would be October 21-29, and the late gun season would not start until November 18, thereby providing a 19-day rest period.

The early gun season in the HRZ has been 4 days in late-October, similar to the early Zone T hunt offered in herd reduction units outside the CWD zones. We had recommended that the HRZ early gun season be identical to that proposed for the DEZ. With an either-sex rule in much of the hunting season in the HRZ in 2005, hunters harvested 23% less antlerless deer than in 2004. We are concerned that use of an either-sex rule for the entire season would result in inadequate harvest. Also, with 18 positive cases of CWD found in the HRZ to date, we believe that it is prudent to prescribe a longer gun season to encourage greater deer harvest. This proposal would have created simplicity and consistency by offering the same season in all CWD zones. However, in consideration of the substantial testimony against this change, we have modified our proposal to retain the existing 4-day early gun season for a one-year trial. If herd reduction does not occur, the department may recommend a longer early gun season and/or earn-a-buck rules as outlined in the following paragraph.

To address the possibility that a short early gun season could significantly reduce deer harvest rates, the department proposes that the administrative code preserve the option of lengthening the early gun season. The department proposes that the same criteria for reinstating earn-a-buck regulations apply for lengthening the gun season. If any of these criteria were met, the department could recommend that the early gun season be lengthened by 7 days in one or more CWD zones. The Board could choose to accept or reject this recommendation without needing further rule promulgation.

#### *Late Gun Season*

Until 2005, the CWD gun season was a continuous season from late October through early January. The department responded to hunter desires in 2005 by closing the season for 5 days prior to the traditional opener (Saturday before Thanksgiving). As stated earlier, we propose that this closure be longer in 2006. We have also heard from a number of landowners and hunters that they would like the late gun season to close 3 Sundays after

Thanksgiving. This would be consistent with the gun season closing date in herd reduction units outside of CWD zones.

In 2005, over 700 deer were taken by hunters in the DEZs between December 10 and the January 3 closing date. It is not known how many of these deer were taken under the authority of a landowner permit as opposed to a deer hunting license. If the late deer season were closed earlier, landowner permits could still be issued to landowners and their guests for shooting deer beyond the gun season. It appears that landowner permits are more acceptable to some landowners than an open hunting season.

In response to public desires, the Department proposes that the late gun season be modified to close 3 Sundays following Thanksgiving. This would create a 23-day late gun season that includes 4 weekends. The department proposes that both the HRZ and DEZs have this season.

#### *State Park Hunting in CWD Zones*

State parks can serve as refuges for deer in the HRZ and DEZs. Therefore, deer hunting seasons have been established for these parks to enable hunters to reduce deer numbers there. The department recommends that the state park gun hunting season be modified to be consistent with the proposed hunting seasons in the HRZ and DEZs. The DEZ state park gun season would be 9 days beginning on the Saturday preceding the Thursday closest to October 27 and 23 days beginning on the Saturday before Thanksgiving. The HRZ state park season would be 4 days beginning on the Thursday closest to October 27 and 23 days beginning on the Saturday before Thanksgiving. State park deer hunting hours in the early gun season would close at noon in recognition of substantial use by other recreationists in that period.

#### **Public Input:**

Approximately 160 people attended the public hearings in Dodgeville, Prairie du Sac, Waukesha, Jefferson and Kenosha. ~~Two testified in favor, 47 testified in opposition, and 8 gave testimony without a position on the rule.~~ Eleven participants registered in support, ~~69 registered in opposition,~~ 22 registered as interests may appear, and 45 registered without giving a position.

~~The most common comment was opposition to the 9-day October gun hunt (33 oral and 26 written comments).~~ The next most common comment was a desire to return the gun season to the traditional 9-day hunt or a 16-day hunt (13 oral and 16 written comments). We received 9 oral and 6 written comments expressing a willingness to participate in earn-a-buck rules. Other comments were primarily targeted at CWD management rather than the rule and included: annual changes in season structure are confusing; DNR is spending a lot of money on CWD with no evidence it can be eradicated; opposition to government shooting; disappointment with the lack of public notice for the hearings; and concern that CWD management is causing the loss of landowner and hunter support and reducing the hunting experience and tradition.

~~A petition with 534 signatures was delivered to the Dodgeville hearing requesting that Deer Management Unit 73BCWD be removed from the HRZ.~~

#### **Department Response to Public Input on the Rule:**

*9-day October Season* – Many opposed the proposed 9-day early gun season. Concerns for this early gun season included negative impact on archers; unsafe situation with leaves on trees; making deer nocturnal for the remainder of the rut and the traditional gun season; impacts on deer kill; crops in the field; and warm weather

and meat spoilage. Many of those opposing this regulation hunted in the HRZ, where the early gun season had been 4 days as opposed to the DEZ where the early gun season had been 18 days or continuous with the late gun season.

Department Response: Experience with late October gun seasons since 1996 have shown very few problems other than conflicts among various recreationists, particularly archers. The proposed 9-day season in the DEZs is significantly shorter than the 18 day early gun season in 2005 and a continuous, long gun season in 2002-2004. This is a significant compromise in light of the high harvest that has occurred in the early gun season during the last 4 years. Based on this high harvest, clearly not everyone dislikes this season. Survey data show that higher individual harvests are strongly associated with extra gun season days. Although archers commonly believe that deer become nocturnal after the first few days of the gun season, hunters continue to harvest high numbers of deer from late October through mid-November, particularly on the weekends. Forty-six percent of the total deer harvest occurred during the early gun season in the DEZs in 2005. Department staff believe that giving up the early gun season would result in inadequate deer harvests in the DEZs. In response to the concerns from HRZ hunters, the department has modified the rule to retain the 4-day early gun season, rather than lengthen it to 9 days.

*9 or 16-day Gun Season with Traditional Opener* – Some hunters wish to return to the traditional 9-day gun season, perhaps with a 7-day extension.

Department Response: Wisconsin's 9-day gun season is a tradition that many hunters cherish. Unfortunately, it was designed for a time when deer numbers were lower and a conservative approach was appropriate. The 9-day gun season has proven inadequate for maintaining deer populations even at goals of 20-25 deer per square mile of deer range in many non-CWD zone units. Even with unlimited tags in Deer Management Unit 70A, the traditional season did not have enough harvest to keep the deer population at the goal of 25, which is much higher than the CWD management population goal. Season extensions have not proven as effective as late October seasons for deer harvest. With most traditional gun season hunting occurring in the first 2 days of the season, bad weather can substantially affect the total harvest. Few deer have been harvested after the weekend following Thanksgiving in the recent CWD zones hunting seasons. A 9 or 16-day gun season beginning the Saturday before Thanksgiving would not produce adequate harvest in CWD zones. The early gun seasons in the CWD zones have produced a high harvest that would not likely be made up by returning to the traditional season. As a compromise, this rule provides for a much shorter early gun season in the DEZs with 19 days of no gun hunting preceding the traditional gun opener.

*Earn-a-buck* -- Some expressed a desire to have earn-a-buck regulations particularly now that hunters can earn buck hunting authority by shooting an antlerless deer the prior year. Some of this interest was based on a desire to protect bucks, a desire to make hunters shoot antlerless deer rather than just take bucks, or a desire to have earn-a-buck regulations rather than and October gun season that impacts archery hunting, in particular.

Department Response: Although survey data suggest similar numbers of hunters oppose and favor earn-a-buck regulations for CWD management purposes, a large number of participants at past years' hearings were in favor of either sex regulations. Spring hearing results for the 2005 Conservation Congress advisory question also showed support for either sex regulations. Department staff have had mixed feelings on whether to continue with earn-a-buck rules, considering both its effectiveness and the degree of hunter angst over this rule. Earn-a-buck rules have been used during the past 4 hunting seasons. ~~The department is willing to give the either-sex rule a chance, but would recommend returning to earn-a-buck rules in 2007 if deer harvests are unacceptable in 2006.~~

Some suggest a compromise of having an either sex first tag followed by earn-a-buck rules for remaining deer. The department believes that this rule would add complexity and confusion without much benefit. Most hunters take few deer. If earn-a-buck rules are to be used, the key is to have the first deer required to be an antlerless deer. Data from last year's season shows that among those hunters who shot at least one buck, 85% shot only one and only 3% shot more than 2 bucks. Similarly, among those hunters who shot at least on antlerless deer, 76% shot only one. The proposed compromise would only work well if most hunters wanted many deer.

***Removing Deer Management Unit 73BCWD from the HRZ*** -- A petition signed by 534 individuals requested that 73BCWD be removed from the HRZ as no positives have been found there (Appendix C).

Department Response: People in a few other DMUs or portions of DMUs could make the same argument. However, we have discovered many CWD positive deer in the HRZ where none were known earlier. DMU 73BCWD is close enough to known positives that it is not unreasonable to expect that positives will be discovered there or positive deer will disperse there. The purpose of the HRZ is to offer liberal hunting regulations in an area close to infected areas to increase deer harvest rates and reduce the probability of survival and disease transmission by dispersing positive deer and the low numbers of positive deer that have not yet been detected in the HRZ. The CWD Health and Science Team believes that this approach is still appropriate for all areas currently in the HRZ. ~~The department recommends retaining the existing HRZ boundaries.~~

*Antlerless only early gun season* – One person wished to see the early gun season be an antlerless only season. This would protect bucks for the archery hunt in the rut period and would protect many so that they are first available to gun hunters during the traditional gun season opener.

Department Response: Early gun seasons in non-CWD zone units do have an antlerless only rule. This rule does not make sense for a CWD zones where we are trying to greatly reduce the herd...both bucks and antlerless deer...and where older bucks have higher CWD prevalence than older antlerless deer. Not only do the bucks need to be harvested, but the buck hunting opportunity is an incentive for hunters to hunt in the early season.

*Rifles in DEZs* – One person was opposed to using rifles in the DEZs.

Department Response: Rifles are allowed to make hunters as effective as possible at deer removal in the DEZs. There are no data that suggest areas with rifle use have more accidents than areas where only shotguns and muzzleloaders are allowed for deer hunting. Four years of experience with allowing rifles in the DEZs has shown that this has not been a problem.

*Late gun season through January 3* – One person wished to retain the long late gun season rather than have instead of having an early gun season.

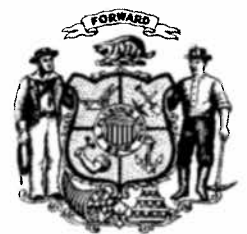
Department Response: The portion of the late gun season between October 11 and January 3 has a relatively low harvest and cannot compensate for the early gun season harvest. The department proposes to give up these late gun season days as a compromise with landowners who are weary of the long gun season.

*Either sex and earn-a-buck rules* – One person suggested that the early gun season have either sex with the late season being earn-a-buck rules.

Department Response: Last year's experience with changing rules from one part of the season to another showed that this was too confusing for many people. We prefer to use one rule for the entire season.

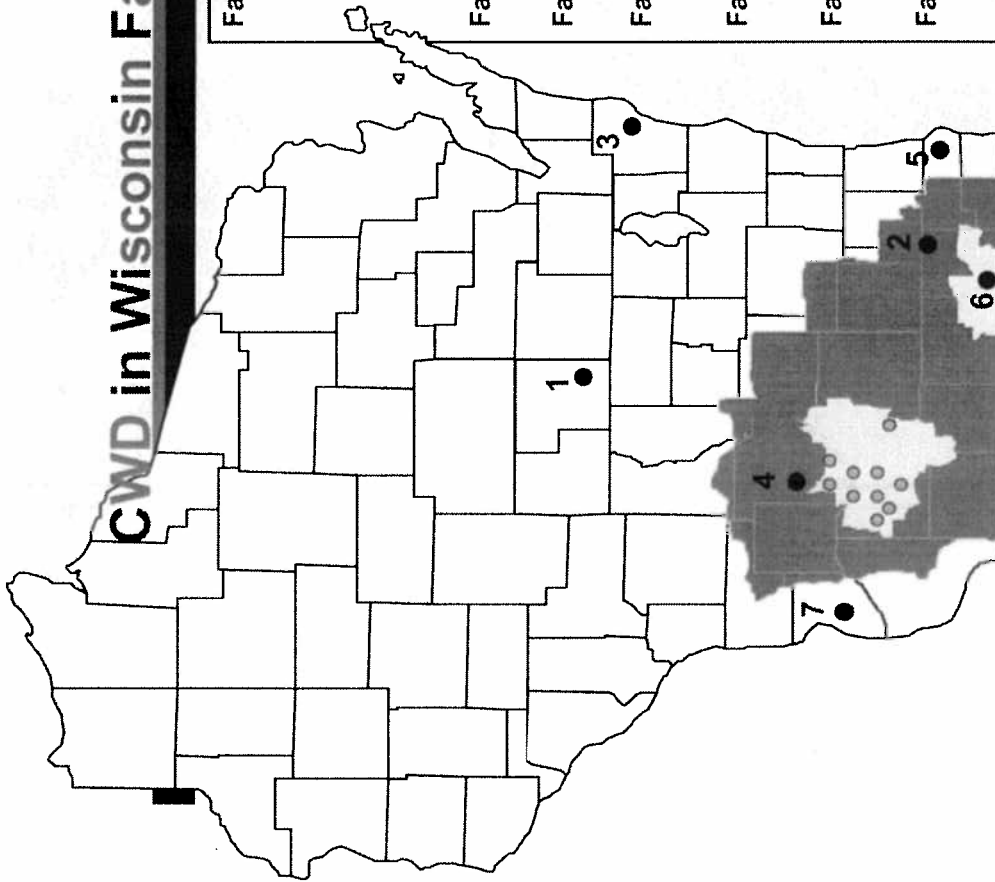


WISCONSIN STATE LEGISLATURE





# CWD in Wisconsin Farm-Raised Herds

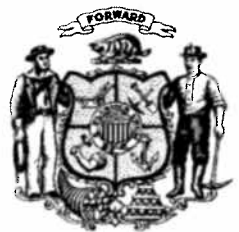


<b>Farm #1</b>	1 WTD	2002
	6 WTD	2003
	10 WTD	2004
	4 WTD	2005
	61 WTD	2006
		Depopped
<b>Farm #2</b>	6 WTD	2002
		Depopped
<b>Farm #3</b>	1 Elk	2003
		Depopped
<b>Farm #4</b>	1 WTD	2003
		Depopped
<b>Farm #5</b>	1 WTD	2004
		Depopped
<b>Farm #6</b>	3 WTD	2004
		Depopped
<b>Farm #7</b>	1 WTD	2005
		In litigation

● 10 herds within the disease eradication zone



# WISCONSIN STATE LEGISLATURE



CWD Zone Season Structure Resolution

**The Problem:**

The DNR has spent over \$30 million since 2002 on CWD programs including extreme efforts to depopulate deer through complex and extended seasons, sharpshooters, and multiple eradication zones. Yet, CWD zones have expanded, deer harvest in these zones has decreased, and CWD incidence rate remains unchanged. Meanwhile, extensive collateral damage has been done to agency trust, hunting culture, and traditions.

Whereas, cooperative deer herd reduction, preservation of Wisconsin's hunting heritage, and fiscal responsibility, are necessary for CWD control.

**BE IT RESOLVED**, after the public meeting in Lone Rock, WI on April 24, 2006, I recommend the DNR take action to correct this situation by introducing these rule changes:

- 1) Simplify CWD zones and deer season structure through a single CWD zone designation where CWD has been detected in wild deer having a Saturday prior to Thanksgiving opener, 23-day either sex gun hunt with unlimited harvest tags. Issue one gun buck tag to every hunter with additional buck tags issued under EAB rules.
- 2) One 4-day (Thurs.-Sun) unlimited tag antlerless only hunt nearest Oct. 15<sup>th</sup>.
- 3) Return archery season to its pre-CWD season date structure with a Sunday nearest Jan. 6<sup>th</sup> closure, but allow unlimited either sex harvest. Issue one archery buck tag to every hunter with additional buck tags issued under EAB rules.
- 4) Eliminate sharpshooters with exception for their removal of visibly sick or injured deer.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

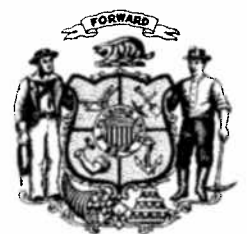
County: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone number: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_



# WISCONSIN STATE LEGISLATURE



# DNR proposes 'milder' deer hunting rules in CWD zones

By Tim Eisele  
Correspondent

Madison — A list of simpler chronic wasting disease hunting rules for 2006 will go to public hearings in March before any changes are approved by the Natural Resources Board, but the DNR is again looking to relax CWD regulations as much as possible.

The DNR will hold the following hearings: March 13, Waukesha state office building; March 14, Prairie du Sac Elementary School; March 15, Jefferson County fairgrounds activity center and at the Kenosha County administration center; and March 17, Dodgeville DNR office.

Bill VanderZouwen, DNR wildlife section chief, outlined

the rules the DNR would like to use for hunting in the CWD zones in 2006. The changes include what the DNR believes are major compromises with hunters and landowners in order to meet social needs while providing the best harvest possible to reach herd-reduction goals.

The rules will be considered permanent, but could change next year if necessary.

"Back in 2002 we adopted the rules and said that we would just change the map every year," VanderZouwen said. "But people want changes and we want changes based on what we learn. We may be overly optimistic, but we hope to create more consistency and simplicity with these regulations."

The DNR's goal is to reduce CWD's spread by reducing deer numbers. In the Disease Eradication Zone the goal is less than five deer per square mile of habitat; in the Herd Reduction Zone the goal is 10 deer per square mile of range.

"We want to try to kill deer that do have CWD so that they can't spread it to other deer, and to reduce densities so that sick deer aren't as likely to give it to healthy deer," VanderZouwen said.

Within the DEZ, the DNR uses specific "tools" including landowner permits, allowing rifles in shotgun zones, food pantry programs, and quarantine of cervid farms. There is a legislative proposal that would allow DNR staff to shoot deer from vehicles in these zones.

Most of the deer that have tested positive for CWD have come

from buck kill programs and our antlerless harvest went down," VanderZouwen said. "We do not have the results of helicopter surveys yet, but it looks like we did have herd reduction with the compromise and a reasonable antlerless deer harvest rate."

The 2006 proposal:

- Allows either-sex deer hunting for the entire archery and gun seasons, without EAB.
- But, EAB could be used if needed, for example, if the antlerless to antlered kill ratio is less than 2-1. If the estimated antlerless harvest is less than 30 percent, if the estimated herd reduction is less than 20 percent, or if CWD prevalence does not decrease.

- Shortens the early gun season in the DEZ from 18 days beginning in late October to nine days, beginning Oct. 21 (any earlier would overlap with the opening of pheasant season).

- Shortens the late gun hunt in the HRZ and DEZ by ending it two Sundays after the nine-day season, rather than on Jan. 3.

- Modifies the early gun season in the HRZ so that it is identical to the DEZ early gun season.

- Creates criteria where the early gun season could be extended by seven days if needed.

- Ends the archery season the same day as in non-CWD units.

- Modifies DEZ and HRZ state park gun seasons to be consistent with CWD zone hunts, except that early gun season hunting hours in parks would close at noon.

The end result would be a 111-day season for archery in the HRZ and DEZ (Sept. 16 through Jan. 3), early gun season would be nine days (Oct. 21-29), and late gun season would start Nov. 18, the traditional opening day, and extend through Dec. 10, which is the same as the end of the southern zone Zone T season.

NRB member John Welter asked if anyone who takes a deer in the DEZ and HRZ can have the deer tested. VanderZouwen said stations in the DEZ are open the entire season (in the HRZ during early gun and opening weekend of traditional gun seasons) and people can turn in deer for testing there.

## CWD update

Alan Crossley, CWD coordinator, said the DNR is trying to balance the social aspects and science information while managing deer populations.

"We are always trying to balance all three things and that is difficult," Crossley said. "It is not easy, and there are a lot of uncertainties. We know that (disease) prevalence is higher in older bucks, there is little evidence of genetic resistance to disease, but from a hunter's perspective, there is a longing for the nine-day traditional season."

Crossley used EAB as an example, saying EAB is not favored by hunters, but it reduces deer numbers. At the same time, it allows for more older bucks.

Crossley said there still are questions about the human health risk of CWD, the state's responsibility to manage CWD in the deer herd, and the risk to

livestock. Also, what is the effect of CWD on the deer population?

"In (light of) the uncertainties, what is the appropriate response for the state?" Crossley asked. "A lot of people, when they criticize what we do, they think it is strictly a black and white issue, that it won't hurt people, cattle, or the deer population. But, all of those are uncertainties, and as a result we juggle all of these concerns."

"The helicopters were in the air this last week in February so we don't have deer numbers in the CWD zone yet, but we think we are making progress in reducing the population in the eradication zone," he said. "We have tested nearly 24,000 deer so far and have 128 positives, 117 within the DEZ and 11 in the Herd Reduction Zone. To date in Wisconsin, we have sampled nearly 100,000 deer and have 600 positives."

Crossley said the sampling of deer from the Northeast Region during the 2005 season found no CWD-positive deer. This year testing will move to the West-Central Region (from Eau Claire to Prairie du Chien).

In response to a question from NRB member Steve Willett about the spread of CWD, Crossley said research seems to show that feces are key, but it is still an unanswered question. NRB chairman Gerry O'Brien asked about the cost of the program, and Crossley estimates it costs about \$5 million per year, and it is mostly coming from the Fish and Wildlife Account, although about \$1 million came from the USDA for testing and surveillance.

## THE NUTRITION PLOT

Many food plot seed companies are making wild claims that their seed grows big bucks! Unfortunately, no such magic exists! Good nutrition is one of many factors involved in producing trophy deer.

Nutritional plots are also being marketed as top choice fall attraction plots. At **Buck Forage**, we do not sell brassicas,

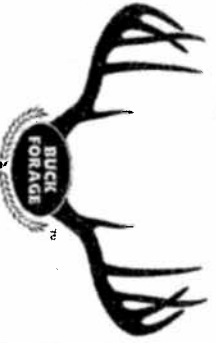
plots. At **Buck Forage**, we do not sell brassicas, blends or similar seeds because they are poor choices for fall attraction.

For several years, the **Buck Forage** staff, along with Dr. James C. Kroll, a.k.a. Dr. Deer, has been performing side by side comparisons of brassicas, blends and similar seeds with **Buck Forage Chicory**. The Nutrition Plot.

Dr. Kroll has found **Buck Forage Chicory**. The Nutrition Plot to be superior in nutrition and preference in all of the rigorous tests performed.

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**PRINCE CORPORATION**  
9251 Columbia, D.C.

Most of the deer that have tested positive for CWD have come from within the DEZ, although a few have come from the buffer area or HRZ. Initially, the DNR adjusted the DEZ around every positive deer, but no longer. An inter-agency committee is studying how the DNR should respond to positives outside the DEZ.

The DNR used what it considered the best deer killing methods in 2002, 2003, and 2004, which included earn-a-buck. In 2005, the agency compromised with either-sex hunting for archers, EAB during the rut, and either-sex for the regular gun season. But, the 2005 compromise was confusing to some hunters.

"As we expected, last year our

hours in parks would close at noon.

health risk of CWD, the state's responsibility to manage CWD in the deer herd, and the risk to lance.

about \$1 million came from the USDA for testing and surveillance.

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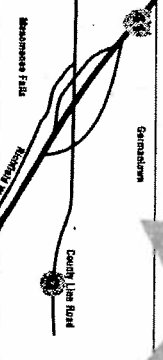
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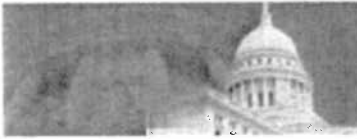
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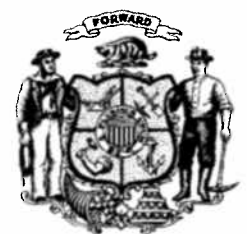
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# WISCONSIN STATE LEGISLATURE



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## Deer hunting plan on track

### Consensus building for legislation

*Posted: April 22, 2006*



**Bob Riepenhoff**

[E-MAIL](#)

A deer hunting rules package that includes a two-year trial moratorium on October Zone T antlerless-only deer hunts is back on track for implementation this year.

"It's been quite a tough road," Steve Oestreicher, Chairman of the Wisconsin Conservation Congress, told me.

But Oestreicher, who worked hard to advance the package and build a consensus among hunting groups, is hopeful that the Natural Resources Board will accept a change requested by the Legislature's Joint Committee for Review of Administrative Rules.

On Tuesday, the joint committee failed to uphold a legislative committee's objection to part of the wide-ranging rules package that was approved by the board in December. The only part of the package before the joint committee was when to schedule a four-day antlerless-only December deer hunt north of Highway 8.

The board set the hunt to begin on the second Thursday after Thanksgiving. But after snowmobiling groups objected to the December hunt in the north, saying it would delay them from opening trails and hurt tourism, a legislative committee moved the December hunt ahead by seven days as a compromise to accommodate the snowmobilers.

*Advertisement* The compromise date was rejected by the board at the recommendation of the DNR and the hunting groups because the earlier December hunt would not accomplish sufficient deer herd control and would interfere with a muzzleloader hunt. The rejection sent the issue to the joint committee.

The joint committee accepted the board's scheduling of the December hunt, but asked the DNR to modify the package by limiting the December hunt to a one-year trial this year, so that any interference with snowmobilers could be assessed.

George Meyer, executive director of the Wisconsin Wildlife Federation, said that members of several hunting groups still want to see the rules package in place this fall.



"The groups were very pleased that the Joint Committee for Review of Administrative Rules listened to the major hunting groups in the state of Wisconsin," Meyer said. "Because of that, we want to make sure that the season will be implemented."

The board is expected to act on the joint committee's request this week.

"I believe the one-year trial will be accepted and we'll get this season structure in place for this fall," Oestreicher said. "This is the season structure we wanted. The early (October) T Zones will be eliminated and they will be replaced by an early December statewide antlerless hunt, Dec. 7 through 10."

Keith Warnke, big game specialist with the DNR, said implementation this fall would be costly and potentially confusing to hunters because of the many rule changes.

Other key changes would include:

- Unlimited antlerless tags would be available in herd control deer management units, the Zone T and Earn-A-Buck where traditional hunting has not brought the deer population to within 20% of DNR goals. The first antlerless tag would be free with the purchase of a gun or archery license. Additional tags would be available for a \$2 handling fee.
- The Hunter's Choice program would be replaced by the sale of bonus antlerless tags valid for specific deer management units not designated as herd control units at a cost of \$12 for state residents and \$20 for non-residents.
- A two-day either-sex youth gun deer hunt held Oct. 7 and 8 would replace the current one-day antlerless-only youth hunt Oct. 28.
- The close of the late archery season would be moved to the Saturday nearest Jan. 6 (Jan. 7 this year, instead of Jan. 3) to ensure hunting during the New Year's holiday.
- Archery licenses would come with two tags valid statewide, one for a buck and one for an antlerless deer, plus another tag good for an antlerless deer in herd control units. Currently, they get one either-sex tag, plus the antlerless tag for herd control units.

The package was forged by DNR wildlife managers, and hunting groups at meetings last summer after many hunters expressed dissatisfaction with Zone T and Earn-A-Buck hunts in 2004.

Earn-A-Buck - which requires hunters to shoot an antlerless deer before they can shoot a buck - would not change. And October Zone T hunts would resume if hunters failed to register 1.4 antlerless deer for each buck killed in herd control units in 2006, and the ratio must climb to two-to-one by the end of the two-year trial.

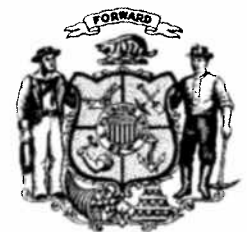
Oestreicher believes those ratios can be met. If the package is approved he said: "We'll get the word out to hunters that we need to harvest as many antlerless deer as possible for this thing to work."

Of course, anything can happen. But my guess is that, at the end of this tough road, hunters will finally get a chance to try these rules this fall.

Specific Modifications  
Anspecific Modification  
Passive Review



# WISCONSIN STATE LEGISLATURE



## Wolverine (cont.)

- Usant Quebec and JTB -
- Do good biology vs. believing's deer

\* Rule down if requires deer to be good -

- Sometimes they're killing wants to limit # killed per person

- Test Road kill deer

## CAZ: Wisconsin Deer Hunters Coalition (Against)

- No incentive to kill deer
  - Usant's "Barns back" program
- See Cons. Groups Proposal
-

- Could JS date costs
- DM 28m

- 300 hunters
- 600 hunters

Prison Rewards:

USGS Nat. Wildlife Health Gr.

(info only)

USGS-SB  
 = 2002  
 = \$ from 0.33m/yr.

1 -

Joe Brunke (against)  
 Quality Deer Mgt Assoc.

- Want shorter intense seasons

Phil Muhreke (info)

Outrigger testified against

Go to Plan B → Reduce Herd

- Doesn't like sharp shooting
- Give bounty to the first hunting program

- Shooting bucks in early season is counterproductive
- USGS antelope only for early

Sec. Order.

EMR 30m did not answer. CWD

Last yr. CWD do you live guidelines

Why change Rules mid-stream

\_\_\_\_\_ 4 \_\_\_\_\_

Erica

CWD

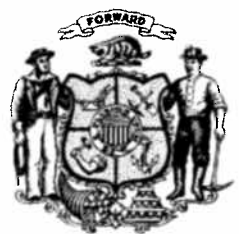
Tom Hays  
Ae Crossley  
Brie Vanderzouwen

- 5th Dec noon w/ CWD

4/22/08



# WISCONSIN STATE LEGISLATURE



WHAT'S MORE IMPORTANT:

MANAGING THE HERD OR

KEEPING HUNTERS IN THE

WOODS?

DOES THE DNR HAVE A

CWD "EXIT STRATEGY"?

HOW MUCH WOULD THAT

NOTIFICATION COST THE STATE?

WHAT ARE THE COSTS INCURRED

FOR DNR SHARP SHOOTERS?

CAN IT BE DONE FOR LESS?

ARE THEY STATE EMPLOYEES OR

ARE THEY CONTRACTED OUT?



"SHED INTO THE ENVIRONMENT?" DOES  
HE ~~MAN~~ MEAN IT IS TRANSMITTED  
THROUGH THE SOIL?

✓ IS WISCONSIN THE MOST AGGRESSIVE  
COMPARED TO OTHER STATES?

A.) Upper tier

AREN'T OTHER STATES JUST  
MONITORING THE HERD?

A. - Generally using *stronger*

○ AND IF SO, WILL WISCONSIN EVER  
RELAX THE REGULATIONS AND  
SIMPLY MONITOR?

○ HOW MUCH HAS THE STATE  
SPENT ON THE CWD PROGRAM  
OVER THE LAST FIVE YEARS?

○ WHAT ARE YOUR ANTICIPATED  
BUDGETS OVER THE NEXT FIVE  
YEARS?

○ Are we planning to test stakeholders

○ *Bear Hunter* & *SE gun* *Ok. Hunt*

○ *Food Animals*