



(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**

(Tony)

A.C. Grabski
5180 Ridge View Road
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opposed

June 27, 2006

(Bacteriology)

Dear Senate Natural Resources Committee Members,

I am a scientist, hunter, and landowner living within the WDNR's CWD eradication zone near Blue Mounds, WI. I am also an Iowa County Delegate to the WI Conservation Congress and have been appointed to the CWD advisory committee. I have talked to hundreds of hunters and landowners both within and outside the CWD zones, and many of them including myself are disgusted with the CWD season structure, use of sharpshooters, and excessive spending on attempts to eradicate CWD. I am not here today to continue the criticism of the failed CWD eradication program, because the program's failures are self-evident.

Instead, I will present a resolution for the CWD zone deer season structure. I drafted the resolution with input from many stakeholders including hunters, landowners, the WDNR, the WI Conservation Congress, the Uplands Branch of the Quality Deer Management Association, several business owners, and many citizens both within and outside of the CWD zones. This resolution has received overwhelming support through its submission at the Conservation Congress hearings held on April 10th. It was submitted in 8 counties in the CWD zones and was approved in all 8 counties by almost a 3 to 1 overall voter margin. Additionally, Dave Poff CWD Committee Chairman has received approval for the resolution from the CWD Committee, Conservation Congress Executive Committee, and Big Game Committee Chairman. The resolution was presented to the Assembly Natural Resources Committee last month and was praised by Chairman Scott Gunderson who said that the resolution "at some point should be given a try." Today I am here to argue that the "at some point" time is now!

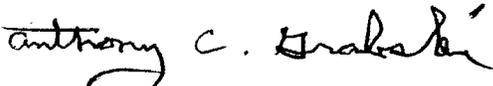
The resolution recommends changes to simplify the CWD zone season structure yet provides substantial opportunity to reduce the deer population within the CWD zones. Since hunter and landowner cooperation is paramount to herd reduction, the changes return us to a more traditional deer season. The nine-day deer gun hunting tradition has been equated to "Holy Week" in WI, and these groups have asked for its return since the CWD rules were imposed four years ago. Although the CWD zone rules were intended to dramatically reduce the deer population and eliminate CWD, the reality is that the rules have resulted in less not more deer harvested, minimal deer population reduction, no significant drop in

CWD prevalence rates, excessive WDNR spending (over \$30 million), destruction of hunting culture and tradition, and many angry hunters and landowners. Meanwhile, CWD has been found in new areas of Dane, Jefferson, Richland, and Columbia Counties, and in one new Illinois County. What was the purpose of the meetings held within the CWD zones to elicit the public's response to these rule changes? There was overwhelming hunter and landowner dissatisfaction with the rule changes that are now approved by the NRB for another year. **The dissatisfaction was reflected in the Disease Eradication Zone deer population, which increased from 23 deer per square mile in 2004 to 33 deer per square mile in 2005.** Alan Crossley and Bill Vander Zouwen asked for a season structure that people would support in order to increase deer harvest in these zones. The following quote was taken from an Associated Press news article about the NRB meeting in Stevens Point.

"What this means is that we haven't been able to figure out a reasonable strategy," said Alan Crossley, the DNR coordinator of chronic wasting disease. "We're not there. We're still struggling."

I worked with many people to devise the CWD zone season structure resolution, and the Board and DNR ignored this resolution as a "reasonable strategy". The current CWD eradication policy will continue in the face of overwhelming public opposition even though the program's success critically depends on the very people who oppose it. The paradigm of managing deer as a public resource on private property is broken. I urge you to consider the resolution submitted here and recommend to the WDNR, Natural Resources Board, Governor Doyle, and the Legislature that these changes be adopted as soon as possible.

Thank you for your consideration,



Anthony C. Grabski, Ph.D.

Scientist, Hunter, Landowner, and Iowa County Conservation Congress Delegate

2006 Annual DNR Spring Hearings & Conservation Congress Meeting
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, the Conservation Congress at its annual meeting in Iowa County on April 10, 2006, recommends 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. 15th.
- 3) Return archery season to its pre-CWD season date structure with a Sunday nearest Jan. 6th 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: Anthony Grabski
Address: 5180 Ridge View Road
Blue Mounds, WI 53517
County: Iowa
Telephone number: (608) 924-9717

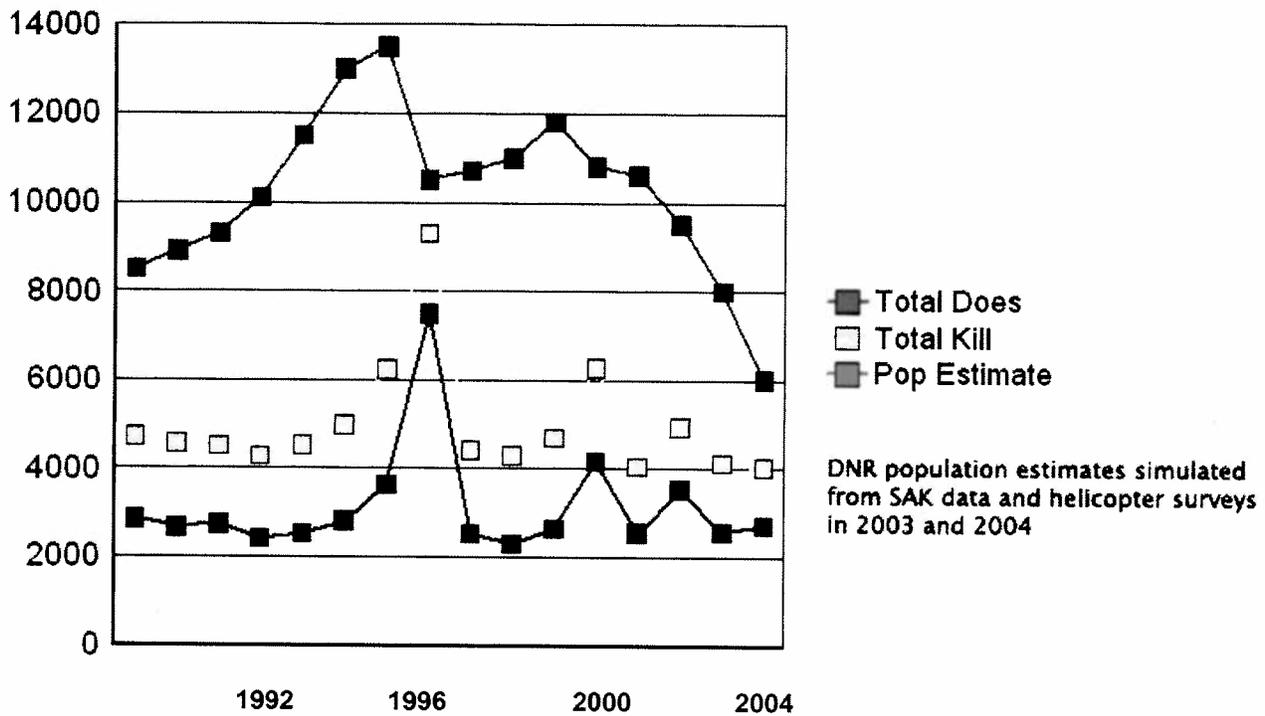
Signature: _____

For Office Use Only: County _____ Passed _____ Failed _____

County Resolution Number: _____

County Vote: (by show of hands or written ballot where appropriate) YES _____ NO _____

Unit 70A Harvest Data & Population Estimates 1989-2004



Unit 70A Unit History information

	CWD Rules in Effect																
	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
Total Area	280	280	280	280	280	280	280	280	280	280	280	280	284	284	284	284	284
Deer Range	204	204	204	204	204	204	204	204	204	204	204	204	219	219	219	219	219
Gun Buck	1526	1603	1426	1459	1611	1703	2169	1658	1500	1625	1643	1754	1183	1363	1467	1264	1241
Gun Doe	2687	2513	2460	2170	2405	2528	3338	6601	2253	2016	2255	3774	2302	3181	2315	2418	1792
Gun Total	4213	4116	3886	3629	4016	4231	5507	8259	3753	3641	3898	5528	3485	4544	*3790	3682	*3075
Bow Bucks	339	285	328	404	373	461	431	152	390	378	413	354	323	58	93	35	78
Bow Does	175	152	288	247	129	282	300	893	275	289	393	393	245	349	250	309	177
Bow Total	514	437	616	651	502	743	731	1045	665	667	806	747	568	407	*344	344	*256
Total Bucks	1865	1888	1754	1863	1984	2164	2600	1810	1890	2003	2056	2108	1506	1421	1560	1299	1319
Total Does	2862	2665	2748	2417	2534	2810	3638	7494	2528	2305	2648	4167	2547	3530	2565	2727	1969
Total Kill	4727	4553	4502	4280	4518	4974	6238	9304	4418	4308	4704	6275	4053	4951	*4134	4026	*3331

*Includes unknowns

Prior to CWD 13 Year Average Kill 1989-2001= 5,143

W/O 1996 included Average Kill= 4,795

Since CWD extended eradication seasons Average Kill = 4,111 20% Drop

DNR uses up license sales cash

Agency is spending more than it takes in from sale of hunting and fishing licenses.

By ROBERT IMRIE
Associated Press

WAUSAU — An audit of the state account that gets tens of millions of dollars from the sale of hunting and fishing licenses warned Monday that declining interest of young people in those sports will imperil the state's ability to support hunting and fishing.

The audit of the Department of Natural Resources' Fish and Wildlife Account — a main funding source for the agency — said surplus money in the account has dried up in the last five years because the agency has spent more than it's taken in.

"We believe close monitoring of the account's balance is warranted," the audit said.

It indicated the Legislature needed to transfer \$4.3 million into the account to keep it from having a negative balance at the end of this fiscal year.

State Auditor Janice Mueller said that whenever an agency spends more than it takes in, it needs to be reviewed.

A Republican state lawmaker who requested the audit said the findings show the agency is spending too much money.

"The simple truth is this agency is bloated and has never seen a problem or a program that it wasn't willing to throw money at," said Rep. Scott Suder, R-Abbotsford.

Some hunters and anglers have questioned whether the money they pay in license fees

is being properly spent to support hunting and fishing opportunities. The audit found nearly 98 percent of the money is being spent to provide "some level of benefit" to hunters and anglers.

According to the audit, the Fish and Wildlife Account had an ending balance of \$28.3 million on June 30, 2001. It dropped to \$6.7 million by June 2003 and to \$1 million last June.

The audit said two trends are likely to continue to put pressure on the account's ability to raise money to keep up with rising costs and needs:

- A declining interest in hunting and fishing among children and young adults, leading to reduced license sales.

- A decline in the sale of deer hunting licenses related to concerns about chronic wasting disease (CWD), a fatal brain disease in deer that was discovered in southern Wisconsin in 2002.

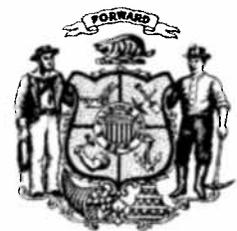
Natural Resources Secretary Scott Hassett said the surplus in the account has dried up, in part, because the price of some licenses wasn't raised for seven years, while at the same time there have been new costs for battling CWD.

To slow the disease's spread, the DNR and other state agencies have worked to reduce deer populations in areas where they have detected the disease.

The audit said the DNR spent \$5.3 million last year on efforts to manage the disease, of which \$3.5 million came from the Fish and Wildlife Account.



WISCONSIN STATE LEGISLATURE





United States Department of the Interior

U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY
National Wildlife Health Center
6006 Schroeder Road
Madison, Wisconsin 53711-6223

June 27, 2006

Testimony to the State of Wisconsin Senate Committee on Natural Resources and Transportation.
Clearinghouse Rule 06-013. Relating to deer hunting and the control and eradication of chronic wasting disease.

Mr. Chairman and Members of the Committee, my name is Bryan Richards. I am the Chronic Wasting Disease Project Leader for the U.S. Geological Survey's National Wildlife Health Center.

Our Center is a national leader in wildlife health issues and has a 30 year history of assessing and managing wildlife disease. We partner with states, tribes, other federal agencies and academia in the pursuit of science related to wildlife health. We are currently involved in Chronic Wasting Disease research with several states, including the state of Wisconsin. We are part of the United States Geological Survey, the science wing of the Department of the Interior. Our mission is to provide reliable, impartial, science-based information to describe and understand wildlife disease processes.

We wish to recognize the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources as a widely-respected leader amongst the states in the fields of wildlife and wildlife disease management, investigation and research.

We also wish to clarify that management of deer and deer disease is the prerogative of the state of Wisconsin, specifically the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources. The U.S. Geological Survey maintains no regulatory authority; our role is cooperative, science-based assistance.

Chronic Wasting Disease, or CWD, is a fatal, contagious neurological disorder of North American deer. First documented in the state of Colorado in 1967, the disease has subsequently been detected in free-ranging populations in 11 states and two Canadian Provinces. Patterns of CWD incidence in and among these states indicate that the disease has, and will continue to, spread geographically. In localized areas where CWD has been monitored for long periods of time, disease prevalence has continued to increase. Initially it was thought that CWD was only transmitted via direct physical contact between individual animals. Recent scientific evidence, however, clearly indicates that infectious animals shed the disease agent into the environment, where it can subsequently infect other individuals. Although population-level impacts have yet to be established, local disease prevalence has exceeded 30 per cent in some areas. Based on our current understanding of transmission, geographic spread and increasing prevalence, it can be inferred that CWD has the long-term potential to become a decimating factor and to impact free-ranging populations.

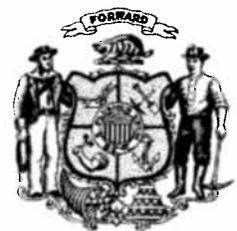
There is no indication that CWD will cease to spread and reach a steady state in free-ranging deer herds. On the contrary, without active management, it is likely that prevalence will increase and the disease will spread. From a disease management perspective, it is clear that management intervention will be required to effectively manage or control CWD. And because of concerns over environmental persistence, it is preferable for management efforts to be aggressive, rapid and timely.

The state of Wisconsin has embarked upon an active CWD management strategy that is based on a simple epidemiological premise: that significant population reduction will lead to decreased numbers of diseased animals and decreased transmission rates. Theoretically, this will reduce disease incidence, disease spread, and environmental contamination. The DNR has portrayed this effort as experimental, since there are no long-term examples of intensive CWD management. Because there are no long-term examples of this type of management for CWD, there is also no scientific evidence that the effort will succeed. There are, however, similar experiences with other wildlife diseases where long-term management efforts have been successful, including foot and mouth disease in Stanislaus National Forest mule deer in the 1920s, and more recently bovine tuberculosis in Michigan white-tailed deer. This strategy of significant population reduction is the best currently-available tool with the potential to successfully manage CWD in Wisconsin. But in order to be successful, it will need to be intensive and sustained. It will require a long-term commitment and the dedication of the state.

The USGS National Wildlife Health Center maintains that Chronic Wasting Disease is of national concern. Effective CWD management is in the best interest of the states and the nation. We support measures by the states that are designed to facilitate significant population reduction as a primary mechanism to control Chronic Wasting Disease.



WISCONSIN STATE LEGISLATURE





State of Wisconsin \ DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

Jim Doyle, Governor
Scott Hassett, Secretary

101 S. Webster St.
Box 7921
Madison, Wisconsin 53707-7921
Telephone 608-266-2621
FAX 608-267-3579
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July 5, 2006

Senator Neal Kedzie
313 South
State Capitol

Subject: CWD zone earn-a-buck authorization

Dear Senator Kedzie:

At the Senate Committee on Natural Resources and Environment hearing Tuesday, June 27, the Department became aware that hunters may have been confused by last year's earn-a-buck pre-qualification procedures within the CWD units. Several hunters testified that they believed they would be pre-qualified for EAB this year (2006) if they harvested an antlerless deer in a CWD unit last year (2005). Our policy has always been consistent: to pre-qualify for EAB, a hunter must have killed an antlerless deer in a unit that became EAB in 2006. There is no EAB in the CWD zones in 2006 and I believe this may be the reason for the confusion.

We all agree that the population in the CWD endemic area must go down. As a result, there has been EAB in the CWD zones for four consecutive years. Some hunters may have come to hunt in the CWD units to help push the population lower and to try to pre-qualify for EAB under the assumption that there would be EAB in the CWD units in 2006 and they would be able to earn a buck authorization that would be valid anywhere in the state.

I understand their confusion. I have been constant promoter of simplifying deer hunting during my tenure here at DNR. To end the confusion surrounding this issue, I have directed staff to allow hunters who killed antlerless deer in CWD units in 2005 to pre-qualify for buck authorization in EAB units in 2006. Hunters who will be hunting in an EAB unit this fall, who killed an antlerless deer in a CWD unit last fall, and want to ~~claim pre-qualification can do so by using the website service at this address~~ <http://dnr.wi.gov/org/land/wildlife/hunt/deer/index.htm>. We will announce this service in a press release that describes the CWD rules as soon as they are finalized.

Thank you for holding this hearing and for the opportunity to address this situation. I look forward to working cooperatively with you on these issues in the future.

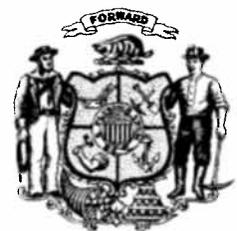
Sincerely,

Scott Hassett

Cc: Representative Scott Gunderson



WISCONSIN STATE LEGISLATURE



Phillips, Matt

From: Sen.Kedzie
Sent: Friday, September 15, 2006 12:27 PM
To: Hassett, P. Scott

September 15, 2006

Secretary Hassett:

Thank you for answering my questions earlier today regarding qualification and distribution of DNR Earn-A-Buck (EAB) prequalification stickers.

I was pleased to hear that the DNR is following through on awarding EAB prequalification stickers to hunters that harvested a doe last year in CWD zones as well as EAB zones, as was detailed in your July 5, 2006, letter to me. In addition, it was good to hear that those stickers have been mailed and would be received by hunters shortly.

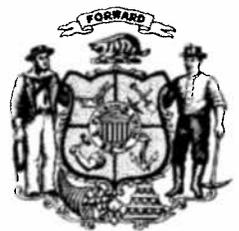
If there are any changes to this information, I would appreciate being contacted about them as soon as possible. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Neal Kedzie
Assistant Majority Leader
Senator, 11th Senate District



WISCONSIN STATE LEGISLATURE



No date

**DNR Testimony to the
Senate Natural Resources Committee
On 2006 CWD Hunting Season Rules**

Chairman Kedzie, members of the committee, thank you for the opportunity to testify today regarding the Chronic Wasting Disease hunting season rule. This rule package establishes the deer hunting framework for the 2006 season, which will be our 5th deer season since the discovery of CWD in February, 2002.

CWD in southern Wisconsin (attachment) represents a significant threat to the state's white-tailed deer population and our strong heritage of deer hunting in the state. Wisconsin has more than 700,000 deer hunters who have harvested an average of 460,000 deer annually during the past decade. Wisconsin deer hunters want a healthy deer herd and that our goal as well. Deer hunting generates more than \$500 million dollars in retail sales and nearly \$1 billion in total impact to the state's economy each year.

Without intervention, CWD will spread throughout Wisconsin and the percentage deer infected with CWD will substantially increase. As all of you know, our state has chosen to actively intervene. The two basic disease management strategies we've implemented are reducing the infected deer herds and annually removing as many sick and susceptible deer as possible from the infected areas through expanded hunting seasons. These strategies require a long-term commitment to be successful. CWD management is our number one wildlife program priority because of the importance of deer to our state.

In short, we are trying to prevent what has happened out west. They have witnessed steady increases in prevalence over the past few years in numerous local populations. Prevalence on some local winter ranges now exceeds 25-30% (attachment).

We recognize that CWD management will not be successful without the cooperation of landowners and hunters. This year's rule package continues an evolution in CWD hunting seasons toward a framework that appropriately blends disease management with the desires of hunters and landowners.

In the first 3 seasons of CWD management, gun seasons were greatly expanded and hunters were required to earn their buck by harvesting an antlerless deer first. These seasons were strong on disease management and winter helicopter surveys indicated they reduced the infected deer herds. However, we heard from many hunters and landowners, as well as this committee that these seasons did not meet their desires.

Last year, we modified the CWD hunting rules by shortening the gun season length and limiting the earn-a-buck requirement only to the late October – early November time period. This year, we are further responding to concerns with a number of recommended changes. The early gun season in the DEZ will be shortened from 18 days to 9 days and moved up ahead of the rut to mid-October. The early gun season in the HRZ will remain 4 days. The late gun season in both

the DEZ and HRZ will end on December 10 instead of January 3 to address landowner concerns. And, hunters may take a deer of the either sex during the entire season. Specific season dates for this fall are:

- DEZ and HRZ archery season: September 16 – January 7
- DEZ and HRZ youth hunt: October 7-8 (statewide)
- DEZ early gun season: October 14-22
- HRZ early gun season: October 19-22
- DEZ and HRZ late gun season: November 18—December 10

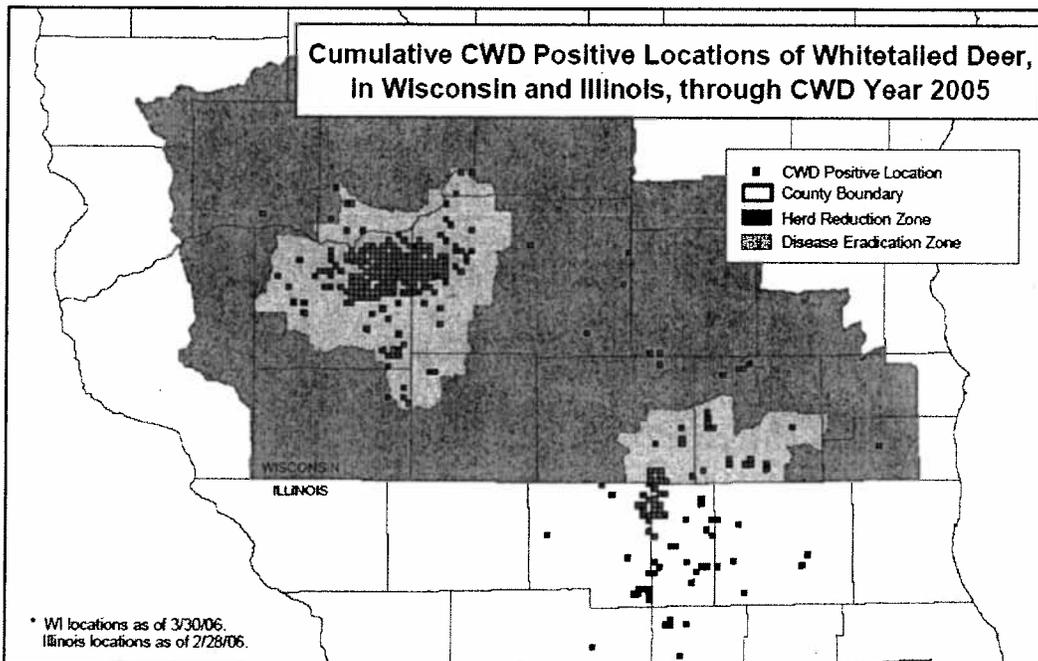
While this year's season definitely goes much further in addressing hunter and landowner desires, it must also adequately address CWD management needs. In 2005, antlerless harvests dropped in the CWD management zones and our winter Helicopter surveys showed mixed deer populations responses, stable to increasing the Western DEZ and decreased in the Eastern DEZ and the Hollandale Area.

We will be watching this issue closely, but, we want to give hunters and landowners a chance with rules that are more to their liking. Many hunters believe they can accomplish the needed deer harvest with shorter gun seasons that concentrate hunting activity, particularly on the two opening weekends, resulting in more deer movement and high harvests. We hope they are right.

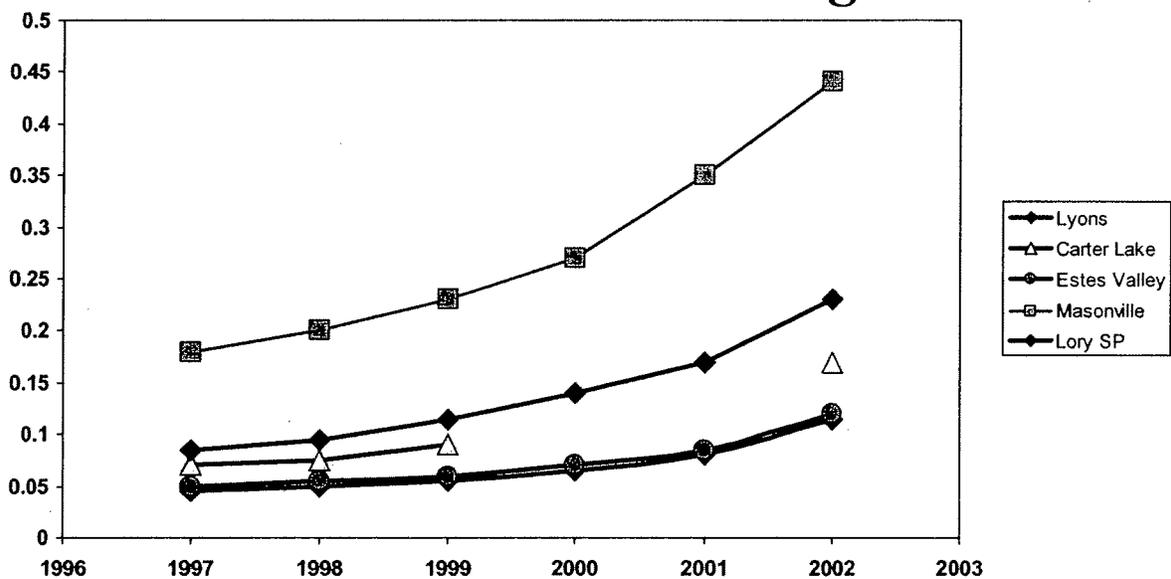
However, if 2006 antlerless deer harvests continue to fall in the CWD zones and the deer herd starts to grow; we will have to take corrective action. If we want to prevent what has happened in west from happening here in Wisconsin, we will need to put disease management ahead of recreational desires. The rule before you today will allow the Natural Resources Board to extend the early gun season by a week and use the earn-a-buck rule in future years, if needed.

Thank you for this opportunity to appear before you today.

CWD Positives in Wisconsin and Illinois



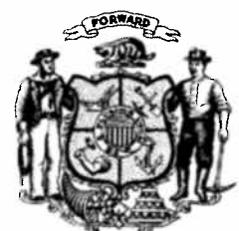
Disease Prevalence in Colorado Mule Deer Bucks *Southern Winter Range*



Source: Miller and Conner, 2005 JWD



WISCONSIN STATE LEGISLATURE



no date

SenateNRCTestimony

Thank you for letting me speak today

Although I could talk for hours on CWD matters, I will try to be focused and brief.

CWD policy put all of Wisconsin in a difficult situation. Even if policy succeeds, the state will suffer great loss. Unintended consequences will likely play out for years to come. This explains why no other state attempts CWD eradication. We are going it alone.

But CWD policy put landowners in the Eradication Zone into a devastating lose-lose situation. The broader good argument is admirable in principle, but it is devastating in practice.

To convince individuals to make a sacrifice of this magnitude, people in authority must be able to say in certain and clear terms that there is no other reasonable option. If our severe CWD policy was to succeed it had to be justified. Unfortunately, a compelling argument was never made to the people most affected - the landowners.

So, here you sit, for the fifth year in a row, listening to the pleas of CWD officials to trust that Plan A is sound, to stay the course, not to waver in support, to have patience, to ignore opposing voices. Four years in a row you have given your endorsement. Each year this has sent voters a signal that current policy is still "working for you."

But it was not working for the people. So, once again, they come to you saying: enough is enough. This is 2006, not 2002. McCallum/Bazzell scare politics failed. There is no crisis. Fear has abated. CWD poses no known health risk to humans or livestock. Statewide, less than fifty deer are known to have become clinically ill with CWD in the past four years. CWD rarely pops up on the media radar. Its time to put things into perspective and be realistic..

The Doyle/Hassett team decided to stick with Plan A. Many feel that was a grave mistake. To a prudent person, four years under Plan A now looks like a regrettable misadventure. Much has been tried, little seems to have been accomplished. The potential upside of CWD policy remains minimal, while the downside has been immense.

We have no significant herd reduction. We have no documented drop in CWD prevalence or spread. CWD has not been contained to the Mt. Horeb area. Eradication Zone rules have broken down. The hunting culture and the image of hunting has been damaged severely. The CWD team has lost credibility. CWD policy has sapped the good will and trust of citizens in their government. The negative impact even extends to popular DNR programs and activities. And all of this was accomplished by taking \$30,000,000 from the taxpayers.

Landowners say its time to try Plan B. If there is no backup plan, here are my suggestions.

Start immediately by abandoning tactics that have lowered the deer harvest under CWD

rules. The culprits are current policy measures that are inconsistent, contradictory, or counter-productive. In rough order of priority, these are:

sharpshooting, bounties, long seasons, gun hunting for bucks in October, long delays in reporting test results, beheading deer at check stations, not requiring field dressing of carcasses, sanctioned thrill killing, and not promptly picking up and testing road kills.

Other objections to these measures include:

they needlessly deny citizens useful information
they are not the least offensive way to accomplish desired end
they are an outdated legacy of early crisis thinking,
they send conflicting messages,
they are contrary to longstanding hunting ethics, and/or
they tarnish the image of hunters in the eyes of the non-hunting majority

How can you be sure that these policy changes would be more effective and cost-efficient than current practices? I have two answers:

First, CWD officials have never provided any proof that current rules meet this accountability standard. Until such proof is provided, they have no logical basis for defending current practices over possible alternatives.

Second, until the changes I suggest have been tried and evaluated, CWD officials have no logical grounds to dismiss them outright. Inertia is not a logical defense for rejecting possible alternatives.

To conclude, I plead with your committee to set CWD policy recovery in motion today. Changing only the most damaging aspects of current policy would be a constructive first step. To let CWD policy drift unchecked for a fifth year is to risk that it has already hit bottom. It is to risk that things can't get worse. It's your call.

Thank you for letting me make these comments.

I would be happy to respond to questions

Phil Muehrcke
4417 Somerset Lane
Madison, WI 53711

Game managers are fond of acknowledging that successful game management is primarily an issue of effective people management.

Landowner Response to Chronic Wasting Disease and its Management in Wisconsin's Southwest Disease Eradication Zone, by Jordan Petchenik [undated, but released in 2006 and refers to survey concerning the 2003 season] (Latest of five "public response" surveys)

Intro to Report:

"This report represents an ongoing effort by the WDNR to bring the opinions and concerns of Wisconsin hunters and landowners to the chronic wasting disease management decision-making table. Its purpose is to enlighten resource managers so that they can make informed recommendations about strategies designed to eradicate the disease from Wisconsin's deer herd. ... By collectively applying this social information, these studies encourage public participation and improve resource managers' abilities to make informed decisions."

Intro to Study Highlights:

"To build public support the Department should develop a way of communicating with the public to explain in lay terms the

- (1) progress that has been made,
- (2) how landowner and hunter participation is contributing to the eradication efforts, and
- (3) where the disease would be without Departmental and public intervention.

This will likely require cooperation from UW researchers to complete their modeling efforts and then develop illustration techniques which easily communicate the model's forecasting powers. ... Expertise outside of the Department may be necessary to help craft these and other communication messages." [summary of Major Finding #1]

"To combat the belief that the disease can never be eliminated, landowners will need, once again, an understanding of progress that has been made, how public participation is contributing to the eradication efforts, and where the disease would be without Department and public intervention. A peer-reviewed model which illustrates possible scenarios for disease spread absent eradication efforts is critical." [summary of Major Finding #3]

Note: Passages underlined for visual emphasis (not in original report).

Senate Natural Resources Committee (June 2006)

Wisconsin CWD officials have consistently defended their CWD management policy by saying **the alternative is to do nothing**. This defense is misguided on two counts:

First, it implies that the McCallum/Bazzell team got policy 100 percent right when it was rushed into place in the atmosphere of confusion, fear and panic that prevailed back in the spring of 2002. A consequence of being absolutely 100 percent right, of course, is that it leaves no room for debate. And to this day, four years and a new (Doyle) administration later, no serious debate has been allowed. Anyone who has questioned, criticized or offered suggestions has likely been either ignored, dismissed or demonized.

Second, the argument that the only alternative is to do nothing is insulting. Only brief thought or minimal reading suffices to conjure up dozens of plausible alternatives. Current policy and doing nothing are only two of many possibilities, and rather extreme ones at that. Yet, as incredible as it sounds, the Doyle/Hassett team is telling us that it is unable to come up with a workable PLAN B.

It is time to admit that current policy has been a costly misadventure. Faith, wishful thinking and ideology were allowed to trump facts. The resulting policy was poorly designed, marketed, executed and defended. It has failed to adjust to realities on the ground, both in Wisconsin and around the country. These flaws have long been evident, just not acknowledged publicly by government officials. As this point many believe Wisconsin's "cure" for CWD is probably a greater threat to the state's rural culture and economy than the disease.

The current state of CWD knowledge in the wild deer herd is this. Disease eradication (the current goal in Wisconsin) is impossible without either killing all deer in the state (and keeping deer from neighboring states out forever), a spectacular research breakthrough, or an act of God. However depressing this news, it only gets worse. Nowhere in the country has herd reduction (the current strategy in Wisconsin) been shown to have any impact on CWD prevalence or spread. Furthermore, nowhere has wild deer density been shown to correlate with CWD incidence or spread. The "doom and gloom" computer model that was used to sell Wisconsin's extreme CWD policy to legislators and taxpayers four years ago has never been taken seriously by independent scholars. Less than 50 deer are known to have become clinically ill with CWD in Wisconsin since 2001. Fifty sick deer are hardly cause for panic, since during the same four year period vehicles killed over 300,000 deer, and over 2,000,000 were killed by hunters.

Wisconsin results are discouraging. The tab now exceeds \$30,000,000. CWD has not been controlled. The disease is now found throughout southern Wisconsin. Much has been tried, little has worked. The prevalence and spread of CWD have not been altered. No general herd reduction has been achieved in the core area. CWD has not been contained to the Mt Horeb area. The DNR no longer even bothers to create an EZ around locations of new positive cases in the huge HRZ. And, sadly, CWD policy has greatly diminished the spirit and enthusiasm for controlling the deer herd by hunters. Indeed, a growing number of thoughtful people now conclude that we likely would be far better off today had there never been a CWD policy!

What went wrong? Fundamentally this. CWD policy was an impossible dream from the start, and matters were only made worse by government officials who refused to work cooperatively with the people. The CWD team dictated and intimidated and incited and mocked and demonized the very people they needed to carry out the policy. Little wonder landowners and hunters resisted by shooting fewer deer. Little wonder they also will go to the voting booth this fall carrying an angry “accountability message” for politicians.

Admit the obvious and move on. There is absolutely no evidence that CWD can be eradicated in the wild deer herd. No other state is attempting such ambitious and costly folly. Yet, Wisconsin citizens are still being falsely led to believe that “disease eradication” is just around the corner. So let’s say it out loud: the only certainty is that we will have to live with this wildlife disease for untold years to come. This is not a cheerful prospect, but it is the reality. Once people realize living with CWD is the best we can reasonably hope for, they will face up to the truth and muddle through. More importantly, the enormous misdirection of state resources and the destructive social fallout from current CWD policy could end. It follows that CWD policy should be changed without further delay to focus primarily on helping Wisconsin citizens learn to deal with CWD. Emphasis should shift to education, rapid test reporting, research, statewide monitoring, private land access incentives, and ways (such as food pantry donations) to encourage hunters to harvest more deer.

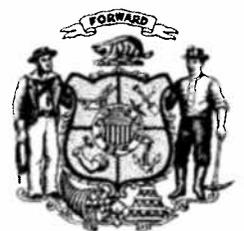
Listen to the people. Landowners feel that long seasons, October gun buck hunts, government sharpshooting, bounties, sanctioned thrill killing, delayed test reporting, beheading deer at check stations, not promptly picking up and testing road kills, and not requiring deer to be field dressed prior to registration are counterproductive aspects of current policy that contribute to depressing the deer harvest. These objectionable behaviors either send contradictory messages, are contrary to longstanding hunting ethics, and/or tarnish the image of hunters in the eyes of the non-hunting majority. They should be abandoned unless there is convincingly proof that they are more effective and cost-efficient than alternatives.

Why not try something different? For the past four years current “in-your-face” policy has not worked. It is time to try something simple but creative, like giving hunters a chance to control the deer herd under liberal rules within a more traditional hunting season framework You could support this new direction immediately by using your power to: (1) stop October gun buck hunting, (2) stop sharpshooting (at least after December), (3) stop bounties, (4) limit opportunity for thrill killing, (5) stop beheading deer, and (6) stop allowing ungutted deer to be registered. Even after these positive and constructive policy changes are made, it may take several years to regain the lost trust of landowners and hunters, and achieve the desired result. But continuing unpopular current policy will only make matters worse. Let’s hope it is not too late to begin the process of restoring enthusiasm for the hunt as a means of effective herd control.

Phil Muehrcke
Landowner in the DEZ



WISCONSIN STATE LEGISLATURE



Clearinghouse Rule 06-013

Report to
Legislative Council Rules Clearinghouse
NR 10, Wis. Adm. Code
Natural Resources Board Order No. WM-11-06

Wisconsin Statutory Authority

ss. 29.014, 29.063, 29.177 and 227.11, Stats., interpreting ss. 29.063, 29.177 and 29.361, Stats.

Federal Authority

N/A

Court Decisions Directly Relevant

None

Analysis of the Rule - Rule Effect - Reason for the Rule

Beginning in 2006, the Department proposes the following CWD hunting rules that:

Create an either-sex hunting regulation for all seasons for both the Herd Reduction Zone (HRZ) and the Disease Eradication Zones (DEZ).

HRZ and DEZ early gun deer season for 9 days beginning the Saturday nearest October 24.

HRZ and DEZ late gun deer season beginning with the traditional opener and ending 3 Sundays after Thanksgiving.

Preservation of the Earn-a-Buck option for the future, if needed. Criteria will be created that will establish when the Department may use the earn-a-buck harvest regulations and add 7 days to the early deer gun season if earn-a-buck regulations are recommended for a unit, units or a herd reduction or disease eradication zone.

In the state parks in the herd reduction zone (Belmont Mound, Cadiz Springs, Devil's Lake, Natural Bridge, New Glarus Woods, Mirror Lake, Rocky Arbor and Yellowstone) the late October season would be extended from 4 to 9 days to mirror the season outside of the park. Also, for consistency, rather than beginning on the Thursday, the season would start on the Saturday nearest October 24. The hunting hours will end at noon for all 9 days to reduce conflicts with traditional park uses.

In state parks in the disease eradication zone (Blue Mound, Governor Dodge and Tower Hill), the number of early gun hunting days will be reduced to be consistent with hunting outside the parks. In 2006, the early firearm season in these parks would begin the Saturday nearest October 24 and extend for 9 days. The archery seasons in these parks will open on the same weekend as the early gun hunt, rather than on the Thursday nearest October 27. The hunting hours will end at noon for all 9 days to reduce conflicts with traditional park uses.

Agency Procedures for Promulgation

Public hearings, Natural Resources Board final adoption, followed by legislative review.

Description of any Forms (attach copies if available)

None

Name and Telephone Number of Agency Contacts

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Submitted on February 16, 2006

**ORDER OF THE STATE OF WISCONSIN NATURAL RESOURCES BOARD
AMENDING AND REPEALING AND RECREATING RULES**

The Wisconsin Natural Resources Board proposes an order to repeal and recreate s. NR 10.01(3)(et); and to amend ss. NR 10.104(11)(b)3.a., b. and c., 10.105(2), and 10.106(2)(g), pertaining to deer hunting as it relates to the control and eradication of chronic wasting disease.

WM-11-06

Analysis Prepared by Department of Natural Resources

Statutory Authority and Explanation: Statutes that authorize the promulgation of this rule order include ss. 29.014, 29.063, 29.177 and 227.11, Stats. These sections grant rule making authority to the department to establish and maintain open and closed seasons for hunting and that all rules promulgated under this authority are subject to review under ch. 227, Stats. In addition, these sections authorize establishment of Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) eradication zones to control the spread of the disease.

Statutes Interpreted and Explanation: In promulgating this rule ss. 29.063, 29.177 and 29.361, Stats., have been interpreted as allowing the department the authority to establish additional CWD zones and regulations for the control and eradication of the disease. These sections authorize the issuance of special deer hunting permits which the department is proposing to issue to hunters to assist in disease control seasons. Finally, the department is utilizing the authority granted to regulate the transportation and registration of deer to obtain samples for disease testing purposes.

Related Statute or Rule: None.

Plain Language Rule Analysis: Since the discovery of CWD in Wisconsin's free-roaming deer herd in February 2002, the Governor, the legislature, and the Natural Resources Board have given the Department of Natural Resources the directive to control the spread of CWD from its current known location and to eradicate the disease where it exists. Additionally, an Environmental Impact Statement completed in 2003, identified adaptive management as the preferred management alternative to manage and eventually eradicate the disease from the state. This rule, which is a follow-up rule to last year's CWD rule order, contains rule changes that adapt to current scientific knowledge gathered in previous seasons and through extensive research. The department recommends the following CWD hunting rules for 2006 and beyond:

1. Tagging Restrictions for Archery and Gun Seasons:

- Either-Sex regulation for all seasons for both the Herd Reduction Zone (HRZ) and the Disease Eradication Zones (DEZ).

Benefits of this proposal include: simplicity; consistent with the 2005 Conservation Congress Advisory Question Spring Hearing vote; no need for hunters to pass up bucks, which are desired by a majority of hunters; and it is what was in place for harvest regulations for most of the 2005 hunting seasons.

2. HRZ and DEZ Early Gun Deer Season:

- 9 days beginning the Saturday nearest October 24

Benefits include: consistency between the HRZ and DEZ hunting seasons; simplicity; extra harvest opportunity for HRZ where we have found several positives, and offers extra days in HRZ due to presence of the CWD positives and a decline in antlerless deer harvest with either-sex regulations in 2005; opens on a weekend to maximize hunting pressure and deer movement and vulnerability; a shorter season which is desired by a number of landowners and hunters in the DEZ; longer archery-only period before traditional gun season opener as requested by bowhunters; will not overlap the pheasant season opener (which would always be the previous weekend).

3. HRZ and DEZ Late Gun Deer Season:

- Beginning with the traditional opener and ending 3 Sundays after Thanksgiving--Dec. 10

Benefits include: consistency between the HRZ and DEZ gun seasons provides less regulatory complexity for hunters; consistency with the deer gun opener in the rest of state, and consistent with herd control units (Zone T) at the end of the gun season; traditional opener after a long gap in the gun season is desired by many gun hunters; an earlier closing in response to landowner concerns; and landowner permits would still enable deer harvest with a gun through a later date if desired.

4. Preservation of Earn-a-buck and additional deer hunting opportunities for the future, if needed:

- Create criteria that establish when the Department may use the EAB harvest regulations and/or add seven days to the early deer firearm season if EAB regulations are recommended for a unit, units, or a zone (HRZ or DEZ).

Criteria for reinstating EAB and/or adding 7 days to the early gun season in the HRZ or DEZ: If one or more of the following criteria are met, the Department may find that it is advisable to use the EAB regulation and may bring a recommendation of EAB to the Natural Resources Board who may decide to reinstate the EAB regulations in a DEZ or HRZ. The EAB rule would not be used if the overwinter population is estimated to be at or below 15 deer per square mile of deer range in recognition of the difficulty of finding and harvesting an antlerless deer at such low densities. Criteria include:

- 1) Harvest ratio of registered antlerless deer to antlered deer is less than 2.0:1 for the prior year, or
- 2) Estimated harvest rate of antlerless deer is less than 30% for the prior year, or
- 3) CWD prevalence in tested adult deer in the core area, a DEZ, or a portion of the HRZ remains unchanged or increases, or
- 4) Estimated deer population reduction is less than 20% for the prior year.

5. State park hunts:

- In the HRZ (Belmont Mound, Mirror Lake, Yellowstone, Rocky Arbor, Natural Bridge, Cadiz Springs, New Glarus Woods and Devil's Lake state parks) we propose extending the late October season from 4 to 9 days to mirror the season outside of the park. Also, for consistency, rather than beginning on a Thursday, the season would start on the Saturday nearest Oct. 24. In the past, the hunting hours ended at noon each day of the 4-day hunt. In 2006, we suggest that hunting hours end at noon for all 9-days to reduce conflicts with traditional park uses.
- In the DEZ (Blue Mound, Governor Dodge and Tower Hill state parks), we propose:
 - 1) Reducing the number of early gun hunting days in these parks to be consistent with the hunting season outside of the parks. Last year you may recall that October season ran from the Thursday nearest Oct. 27 and continued for 18 days, with hunting hours closing at noon during the first 4 days. This year, the early season in these parks would extend from the Saturday nearest Oct. 24 (This year that is Oct. 21 - a week earlier than in previous years), and similar to the HRZ, extending for 9 days. (9 less days than last year)
 - 2) Again for consistency, opening the archery seasons in these three parks on the same weekend as the early gun hunt, rather than on the Thursday nearest to Oct. 27 (archery Oct. 21 - Jan. 3 - hunting hours close at noon the first nine days).

Federal Regulatory Analysis: Provided state rules and statutes do not relieve individuals from the restrictions, requirements and conditions of Federal statutes and regulations, regulation of hunting and trapping of wild animals has been delegated to state fish and wildlife agencies. Other than Federally listed migratory game birds, no Federal regulations regarding feeding or baiting of other wild animals exist. Additionally, none of the proposed rules exceed the authorities granted the states in 50 CFR 10.

State Regulatory Analysis:

Illinois: Illinois first discovered CWD in November of 2002. The state agencies charged with developing and implementing a comprehensive response strategy have taken an approach very similar to that of Wisconsin. Prior to the 2003 deer hunting season, their Governor signed legislation allowing the Illinois Department of Natural Resources the authority to establish special hunting seasons to stem the spread of wildlife diseases that stand to threaten deer populations. The law provides flexibility in efforts to contain transmissible diseases such as CWD and Bovine Tuberculosis. This authority was deemed necessary to provide wildlife managers with the tools necessary to address the risks posed by the discovery of CWD. The ability to harvest deer in specific, targeted locations is a critical component of efforts to reduce transmission rates and to prevent the further spread of such diseases. Illinois has also increased deer permit availability and allowed the use of firearms that were previously restricted in areas of known infection. These management decisions were made to benefit hunters in an effort to harvest more deer than during traditional seasons. These allowances have made significant contributions towards achieving the management goals of the resource agencies involved.

In 2004, sampling of hunter harvested deer was conducted during the archery season in select northern Illinois counties and during the firearm seasons in a number of counties throughout the state. In the 2005-06 deer hunting season, sampling efforts have continued in the deer firearm and archery seasons. Also, hunters with unfilled 2005 firearm, muzzleloader, or archery deer permits valid in target counties were able to use those to hunt in a CWD Deer Season (Jan. 13-15, 2006) to help control deer densities and the spread of chronic wasting disease.

Iowa: Iowa is not known to have any wild deer or elk test CWD-positive. The discovery of CWD in Wisconsin alarmed many natural resources agencies from adjacent states and all of them have subsequently instituted disease surveillance programs in an effort to determine whether or not CWD is present within their borders. The Iowa Department of Natural Resources has tested thousands of deer for CWD throughout each of the past two hunting seasons. Monitoring efforts have been primarily focused upon game management units immediately adjacent to the Wisconsin and Illinois borders. Because CWD has yet to be discovered in Iowa, many of the actions taken and rules instituted have been proactive and preventative, aimed at limiting the risk of CWD transmission to animals within the state. Iowa has limited the movement of captive deer and elk and placed restrictions on what deer and elk products may be brought into the state from areas where CWD is known to exist.

Michigan: Michigan, like Iowa, is not known to have any wild deer or elk test CWD-positive. However, more than perhaps any of our adjacent states, Michigan has taken many proactive and preventative management efforts to limit the risk of CWD transmission to animals within the state. In early 2003, their Governor used her authority to issue an executive order creating the CWD Task Force to address the threats that the discovery of the disease may pose to Michigan. This group was charged with reviewing existing state efforts regarding CWD prevention, developing and making recommendations to implement a comprehensive and coordinated state CWD prevention plan, making clarifications of enforcement authority to prevent the spread of CWD into Michigan, and if ever detected in Michigan, to prevent the spread of CWD within the state.

In late 2003, the CWD Task Force made 12 recommendations to the Governor, many of these recommendations have already been implemented in Wisconsin in previous rule orders, statutes or in this specific rule order. Included in those recommendations was the urging to continue the statewide surveillance program and to act promptly to kill infected or exposed animals if CWD is ever discovered. The task force supported efforts to quickly identify CWD and to take immediate action to prevent transmission and eradicate the disease. Specifically, if CWD were ever detected in Michigan, the CWD Task Force supported intensive surveillance efforts in the immediate area of infection, as is the practice in Wisconsin. In the event of a CWD-positive animal a 5-mile radius surveillance area would be established. Within this 5-mile radius, approximately 300 deer older than 18 months of age would be harvested and tested. If other positives were to be discovered, full-scale control efforts would be initiated including the development of 5-mile radius zones with the management objective of deer depopulation and the establishment of larger zones to continue surveillance efforts. This 5-mile radius area is similar in scope to Wisconsin's Disease Eradication Zone. The group recommended cooperative efforts with landowners to harvest deer in areas of infection to both prevent transmission and to gauge prevalence levels.

Efforts should also be made to access and harvest deer from properties where landowners decide not to cooperate with the agency's management objectives. Finally, testing of deer carcasses should be made mandatory in areas where CWD-positive animals have been detected.

The administrative rules currently in place in Michigan are primarily preventative. However, an infrastructure exists to create and implement rules immediately following the discovery of a CWD-positive deer or elk.

In April 2004, The Governor transferred responsibility for overseeing captive elk and deer herds from the Department of Agriculture to the Department of Natural Resources. Her executive order allowed for the auditing of more than 500 private deer and elk herds statewide to try to keep any cases of chronic wasting disease from cropping up in Michigan. The audit found an approximate 33-percent noncompliance rate of state rules mostly involving gaps under fences or gates that could possibly allow domestic and wild animals to pass back and forth and mingle with one another, and in a lack of adequate documentation of domestic cervid movement

During the 2004 deer season, as part of the state's ongoing Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) Surveillance Plan, 60 deer heads from each county were to be collected from volunteers for submission to Michigan State University for CWD testing. Currently, no CWD has been found in the state of Michigan.

Minnesota: Minnesota is currently one of nine states to have identified CWD in a captive facility. Intensive surveillance efforts have failed to detect any positive cases in the wild cervid population. In mid 2002, their Governor signed into law House File 3183 related to controlling the threat of CWD in Minnesota. This measure supported placing restrictions on the farmed deer and elk industry and furthering surveillance efforts among both captive and wild cervid populations. Like many other states, Minnesota has instituted a number of preventative measures to limit the spread of CWD to animals within the state. Current rules prevent the importation of certain deer and elk parts from areas where CWD is known to occur. The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources has also made CWD sample collection mandatory in specially designated areas where more information is deemed necessary. Minnesota resource professionals are aware of the threats posed by CWD. If CWD were ever to be discovered within the state's wild deer population immediate action would be taken to adopt rules similar to those in place in Wisconsin. In an effort to complete its three-year statewide surveillance for Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) in Minnesota's wild deer population, the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) is offering incentives and streamlining its collection process for hunters who bring their deer in for testing.

For more than three years, the DNR has been testing "suspect" deer that are found sick or displaying symptoms consistent with CWD. The DNR has also tested wild deer from the area around the Aitkin County elk farm where a CWD-positive elk was found in August 2002 and none were positive. The MN DNR will continue to test "suspect deer" indefinitely. The completion of hunter-harvested surveillance and ongoing suspect deer testing will provide DNR biologists with a base for early detection of the disease in Minnesota. However, The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources will not be testing for Chronic Wasting Disease in 2005

Late in 2005, a suspected case of Bovine TB was encountered in northwestern Minnesota. The deer was in an area where several cattle herds were diagnosed with bovine TB earlier this year. At the writing of this report, confirmation was still pending.

Summary of Factual Data and Analytical Methodologies:

Objectives for 2006 deer hunting regulation recommendations:

- 1) Continue reduction of herds in DEZs and HRZ units toward goals (less than 5 and 10 per square mile of deer range, respectively)
- 2) Address greatest concerns of hunters and landowners as much as possible without adverse impacts on Objective #1
- 3) Establish the simplest, enforceable regulations that will accomplish Objectives #1 and #2
- 4) Establish regulations that may be sustainable for at least 3 years (i.e. acceptable enough to wildlife managers and the public that changes are not needed)

The modifications to ch. NR 10 were based on a desire to:

- 1) Keep up the deer harvest rate as much as possible;
- 2) Offer more gun hunting days than we did prior to CWD when seasons were inadequate for herd control;
- 3) Give hunters a chance to show that they can do the job without earn-a-buck regulations;
- 4) Recognize that it is more difficult to shoot an antlerless deer first with lower deer population densities;
- 5) Increase the harvest rate on bucks, because they have higher prevalence of CWD at older ages than do antlerless deer;
- 6) Continue to encourage antlerless deer harvest;
- 7) Make it possible for cooperators who are willing to shoot many deer to continue to do so;
- 8) Simplify the regulations and tagging requirements;
- 9) Address the concern of landowners regarding long gun seasons;
- 10) Increase hunter excitement regarding the traditional opening day of the gun season; and
- 11) Design a set of regulations that may be sustainable for several years.

Anticipated Private Sector Costs: These rules, nor the legislation which grants the department rule making authority, do not have a significant fiscal effect on the private sector. Additionally, no significant costs are associated with compliance to these rules.

Effects on Small Businesses: The proposed revisions to NR 10, Wis. Adm. Code, pertaining to CWD herd control activities and zone boundaries, impose no compliance or reporting requirements for small businesses, nor are there any design or operational standards contained within the proposed rule.

Agency Contact Person: Bill Vander Zouwen, 101 S. Webster St., PO BOX 7921, Madison, WI 53707-7921. (608) 266-8204; wmrules@dnr.state.wi.us

Written Comments: The deadline for written comments is March 20, 2006. The proposed rule and fiscal estimate may be reviewed, and comments electronically submitted at the following Internet site: adminrules.wisconsin.gov or comments may be mailed to Ms. Kari Lee-Zimmerman, Bureau of Wildlife Management, P.O. Box 7921, Madison, WI 53707.

Section 1. NR 10.01(3)(et) is repealed and recreated to read:

Kind of animal and locality	Open season (all dates inclusive)	Limit
<i>(et) Special disease control hunts.</i>		
<p>1. Herd reduction zone. a. In the portions of deer management units included in the herd reduction zone established in s. NR 10.28(3), except as established in subdivision paragraph b.</p>	<p><i>Archery hunt.</i> An archery deer hunt beginning on the Saturday nearest September 15 and continuing through the last day of the late archery season in par. (em)1.</p>	<p>One deer of either sex per unused deer carcass tag or permit described under s. NR 10.104(11).</p>
	<p><i>Early firearm hunt.</i> A firearm deer hunt beginning on the Saturday nearest October 24 and continuing for 9 consecutive days. Allowable types of guns are those authorized on the first day of the regular gun deer season under s. NR 10.01(3)(e).</p>	<p>One deer of either sex per unused deer carcass tag or permit described under s. NR 10.104(11).</p>
	<p><i>Late firearm hunt.</i> A firearm deer hunt beginning on the Saturday immediately preceding the Thanksgiving holiday and continuing through the 3rd Sunday following the Thanksgiving holiday. Allowable types of guns are those authorized on the first day of the regular gun deer season under s. NR 10.01(3)(e).</p>	<p>One deer of either sex per unused deer carcass tag or permit described under s. NR 10.104(11).</p>
<p>b. Belmont Mound, Mirror Lake, Yellowstone, Rocky Arbor, Natural Bridge, Cadiz Springs, New Glarus Woods and Devil's Lake state parks.</p>	<p><i>Early firearm hunt.</i> A firearm deer hunt beginning on the Saturday nearest October 24 and continuing for 9 consecutive days. Allowable types of firearms are those authorized on the first day of the regular gun deer season under s. NR 10.01(3)(e). Legal hunting hours are the same as those established in s. NR 10.06(5) except that hunting hours shall close at 12:00 p.m. daily.</p>	<p>One deer of either sex per unused deer carcass tag or permit described under s. NR 10.104(11).</p>
	<p><i>Late firearm hunt.</i> A firearm deer hunt beginning on the Saturday immediately preceding the Thanksgiving holiday and continuing through the 3rd Sunday following the Thanksgiving holiday. Allowable types of guns are those authorized on the first day of the regular gun deer season in the surrounding county under s. NR 10.01(3)(e).</p>	<p>One deer of either sex per unused deer carcass tag or permit described under s. NR 10.104(11).</p>
	<p><i>Archery hunt.</i> An archery deer hunt beginning on the Saturday immediately preceding the Thanksgiving holiday and continuing through the last day of the late archery season in par. (em)1.</p>	<p>One deer of either sex per unused deer carcass tag or permit described under s. NR 10.104(11).</p>

Kind of animal and locality	Open season (all dates inclusive)	Limit
2. Disease eradication zone. a. In the CWD eradication zone as established in s. NR 10.28(3), except as established in subdivision paragraph b.	<i>Archery hunt.</i> An archery hunt beginning on the Saturday nearest September 15 and continuing through the last day of the late archery season in par. (em)1.	One deer of either sex per unused deer carcass tag or permit described under s. NR 10.104(11).
	<i>Early firearm hunt.</i> A firearm deer hunt beginning on the Saturday nearest October 24 and continuing for 9 consecutive days.	One deer of either sex per unused deer carcass tag or permit described under s. NR 10.104(11).
	<i>Late firearm hunt.</i> A firearm deer hunt beginning on the Saturday immediately preceding the Thanksgiving holiday and continuing through the 3 rd Sunday following the Thanksgiving holiday.	One deer of either sex per unused deer carcass tag or permit described under s. NR 10.104(11).
b. Blue Mound, Governor Dodge and Tower Hill state parks.	<i>Early firearm hunt.</i> A firearm deer hunt beginning on the Saturday nearest October 24 and continuing for 9 consecutive days. Legal hunting hours are the same as those established in s. NR 10.06(5) except that hunting hours will close at 12:00 p.m. daily.	One deer of either sex per unused deer carcass tag or permit described under s. NR 10.104(11).
	<i>Late firearm hunt.</i> A firearm deer hunt beginning on the Saturday immediately preceding the Thanksgiving holiday and continuing through the 3 rd Sunday following the Thanksgiving holiday.	One deer of either sex per unused deer carcass tag or permit described under s. NR 10.104(11).
	<i>Archery hunt.</i> An archery hunt beginning on the Saturday nearest October 24 and continuing through the last day of the late archery season in par. (em)1. Legal hunting hours are the same as those established in s. NR 10.06(5) except that hunting hours will close at 12:00 p.m. daily during the first 9 days of this season.	One deer of either sex per unused deer carcass tag or permit described under s. NR 10.104(11).

Kind of animal and locality	Open season (all dates inclusive)	Limit
<p>3. Earn-a-buck control measures. If the department estimates that the deer population in a unit or units is at or above 15 deer per square mile of deer range, and the department determines that a unit or units meets any of the following criteria established in subds. a. to d., the department may require that hunters shall first harvest or tag an antlerless deer in that unit or units, or within the CWD eradication or herd reduction zone during the archery or firearm hunts, with either a bow or a gun during any deer season or with an agricultural shooting permit, before they may harvest a buck with either weapon in that unit or units. One antlerless deer is required to authorize harvest of one buck in that unit or units, or in state parks with gun deer seasons that are within or adjoining these units, for each archery and gun deer license. Deer harvested as described in this paragraph shall be transported in accordance with s. NR 10.105(2).</p>		
<p>a. The harvest ratio of registered antlerless deer to antlered bucks is less than 2:1 for the prior year. b. the estimated harvest rate of antlerless deer is less than 30% for the prior year. c. The CWD prevalence in tested adult deer in a disease eradication zone, or portion of a disease eradication zone or herd reduction zone remains unchanged or increases. d. The estimated deer population reduction is less than 20% for the prior year.</p>		
<p>4. The department may, upon making the findings in subd. 3., add 7 days to the early firearm hunt in subd. 1.a. or 2.a.</p>		

Section 2. NR 10.104(11)(b)3.a., b. and c. are amended to read:

NR 10.104(11)(b)3.a. ~~Early and late either sex archery~~ Archery or ~~early and late either sex firearm~~ firearm hunts in units that do not meet the criteria established in s. NR 10.01(3)(et)3., or
b. ~~Earn a buck archery~~ Archery or ~~earn a buck firearm~~ firearm hunts in units where earn-a-buck regulations established in s. NR 10.01(3)(et)3. are in effect if the hunter possesses an antlerless deer registration verification earned in a unit designated under s. NR 10.01(3)(ez)1.d. or in a CWD eradication or herd reduction zone identified in s. NR 10.28(3), or
c. ~~Earn a buck archery~~ Archery or ~~earn a buck firearm~~ firearm hunts in units where earn-a-buck regulations established in s. NR 10.01(3)(et)3. are in effect if an antlerless deer has been legally harvested and tagged prior to the harvest of the buck deer, and the antlerless deer accompanies the buck deer until each is registered.

Section 3. NR 10.105(2) is amended to read:

NR 10.105(2) In deer management units with deer seasons modified under s. NR 10.01 (3) (ez) 1. d., or ~~in the CWD eradication or herd reduction zones, during the earn a buck archery or earn a buck firearm hunts (et)3.,~~ no person may transport a buck deer from the time it is killed to the time it is registered under s. NR 10.106 unless accompanied by the antlerless deer or antlerless deer registration verification which authorized the taking of the buck deer. An antlerless deer may be used only by the hunter who tagged it to secure authorization for that hunter to tag one buck deer in the unit or units modified under s. NR 10.01 (3) (ez) 1. d., or ~~in the CWD eradication or herd reduction zones (et)3.~~ Deer may only be transported outside of the unit of kill or adjoining unit after they have been registered.

Section 4. NR 10.106(2)(g) is amended to read:

NR 10.106(2)(g) *Earn-a-buck units.* No person may use or attempt to use an antlerless deer to earn the ability to harvest more than one buck or to receive more than one antlerless deer registration verification in any unit designated as an earn-a-buck unit under s. NR 10.01(3)(ez)1.d. or during ~~the early any~~ any earn-a-buck archery and firearm hunts in a CWD eradication or herd reduction zone identified in s. NR 10.28(3).

Section 5. Effective date. This rule shall take effect the first day of the month following publication in the Wisconsin administrative register as provided in s. 227.22(2)(intro.), Stats.

Section 6. Board adoption. The foregoing rules were approved and adopted by the State of Wisconsin Natural Resources Board on _____.

Dated at Madison, Wisconsin _____

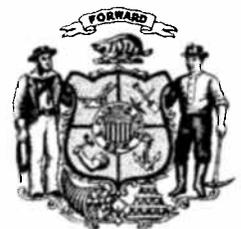
STATE OF WISCONSIN
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

By _____
Scott Hassett, Secretary

(SEAL)



WISCONSIN STATE LEGISLATURE



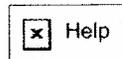
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Earn-a-Buck Pre-Qualification Status



This application allows you to determine if you have pre-qualified for a buck sticker for the 2006 Earn-A-Buck (EAB) season by harvesting an antlerless deer in the previous hunting season in any DMU which is authorized as an EAB unit the following season.

For the 2006 deer hunting season units: 46, 51A, 51B, 54B, 59B, 59C, 59M, 60M, 61, 62A, 62B, 63A, 63B, 64M, 65B, 66, 67A, 67B, 68A, 74A, and 80B are the only units where a hunter could have pre-qualified for EAB by harvesting an antlerless deer during the 2005 deer hunting season. **If you did not register an antlerless deer in one of the above units in 2005, you are not pre-qualified for EAB regulations.**

At this time, EAB regulations are not proposed for the CWD units. **Because EAB regulations are not proposed for the CWD units in 2006, antlerless deer harvested in a CWD unit during the 2005 season do not count towards EAB pre-qualification.**

Please enter your DNR Customer number from your deer hunting license and then click the "Search" button. The number should be entered without dashes or spaces.

DNR Customer #:

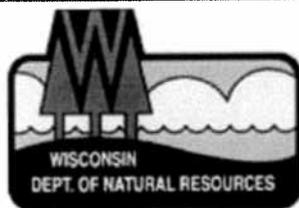
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*For questions or comments about Earn-a-Buck regulations, send e-mail to: **Wildlife Management***

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Earn-a-Buck Pre-Qualification Status

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This application allows you to determine if you have pre-qualified for a buck sticker for the 2006 Earn-A-Buck (EAB) season by harvesting an antlerless deer in the previous hunting season in any DMU which is authorized as an EAB unit the following season.

For the 2006 deer hunting season units: 46, 51A, 51B, 54B, 59B, 59C, 59M, 60M, 61, 62A, 62B, 63A, 63B, 64M, 65B, 66, 67A, 67B, 68A, 74A, 80B, and all CWD units are the only units where a hunter could have pre-qualified for EAB by harvesting an antlerless deer during the 2005 deer hunting season. **If you did not register an antlerless deer in one of the above units in 2005, you are not pre-qualified for EAB regulations.**

Please enter your DNR Customer number from your deer hunting license and then click the "Search" button. The number should be entered without dashes or spaces.

DNR Customer #:

Note: EAB Buck Authorization stickers are not needed to harvest bucks in the CWD units this year. Unlimited either-sex regulations apply in CWD units for the 2006 deer hunting season so if you do not plan on hunting outside of the CWD Zones, you do not need a EAB Buck Authorization Sticker. However, **if you harvested an antlerless deer in a CWD unit last year and may hunt in a EAB unit this year, please submit your deer harvest information and the Department will mail your authorization.**

*For questions or comments about Earn-a-Buck regulations, send e-mail to: **Wildlife Management***

Earn-A-Buck Frequently Asked Questions

- 1. What is Earn-A-Buck (EAB)?** Earn-A-Buck requires a hunter to harvest an antlerless deer prior to being authorized to harvest an antlered deer in Deer Management Units (DMU's) where other population control measures have not been effective. EAB is a strong and effective herd control measure which increases harvest pressure on antlerless deer.
- 2. What are the requirements under EAB?** Under the EAB season structure, a hunter must first harvest an antlerless deer in order to obtain a sticker that makes the regular gun or bow carcass tag valid for an antlered deer. During an EAB season, your regular gun or bow carcass tag is not valid for and antlered deer without the sticker. You can also qualify for a buck sticker by filling an agricultural damage tag with an antlerless deer.
- 3. Can I pre-qualify?** Yes, a hunter can qualify for a buck sticker prior to an EAB hunting season by harvesting an antlerless deer in the previous hunting season in any DMU which is authorized as an EAB unit the following season.
- 4. What are the benefits of pre-qualifying?** This modification to the EAB program enables hunters to plan ahead for the next season. If the unit you hunt in could potentially be EAB in the following year, you can prepare by harvesting an antlerless deer in that unit so that you are pre-qualified for a buck the following year, if EAB is approved. It also encourages antlerless harvest in those units that need increased herd control. Significant antlerless harvest in certain units could be enough to keep the unit out of EAB the following year. A list of EAB watch units can be found at <http://dnr.wi.gov/org/land/wildlife/hunt/deer/eabwatch.htm> .
- 5. How will the Department know if I earned my buck sticker?** The DNR has developed and implemented a **new deer registration database** so that if EAB is approved in any unit, we can review who harvested an antlerless deer and where. **Stickers will then be issued to those who have pre-qualified** for their buck sticker in EAB units.
- 6. When/ how will I receive my buck sticker?** Buck stickers may be mailed to qualifying hunters in the late summer of 2006, once season structures have been established and the database has been reviewed for pre-qualified candidates. The buck sticker will be mailed out to the address consistent with the customer ID that the antlerless deer was registered to. **Be sure to fill out your registration stub completely and legibly to make sure you are eligible to pre-qualify for EAB. Also, make sure your address is correct and up-to-date.**
- 7. Can I get a replacement sticker if I misplace mine?** No. Once the stickers have been issued, it is your responsibility to keep track of them. Make sure you keep your sticker in a safe place and have your correct mailing address filed with the Department. No replacement stickers will be issued for lost stickers.
- 8. What if I harvested an antlerless deer in the CWD zone?** Antlerless deer harvest in a CWD zone anytime during the 2005 deer hunting season qualify a hunter for a buck sticker. Buck stickers earned in the CWD zone will be valid in any EAB unit throughout the rest of the state.

- 9. Where is my buck sticker valid?** Buck stickers can be used with a hunter's Gun Buck Deer Carcass Tag or Archery Either Sex Deer Carcass Tag and can be used during any hunting season open to harvesting antlered deer using a legal hunting weapon. They are valid in **ANY EAB unit** throughout the state. Buck stickers earned in the CWD zones during the 2005 season are also valid in **ANY EAB unit**.
- 10. How many buck stickers can I earn?** You can earn many, but only use two buck stickers outside of the CWD zones—one which can be used with a valid archery license and one which can be used with a valid gun license in an EAB unit. A buck sticker can be used with either valid license and is not weapon or season specific. Inside the CWD zones, multiple buck stickers may be used during EAB seasons there.
- 11. Is the buck sticker weapon/ season specific?** No. It can be used with either a valid archery license or a valid gun license during an open season. An antlerless deer harvested with a gun or bow in an EAB unit will earn a buck sticker that can be used with either a gun buck tag or an archery buck tag.
- 12. How do I use my buck sticker?** A buck sticker is required to harvest and register an antlered deer in an EAB unit. The buck sticker must be immediately attached to the validated carcass tag and deer upon harvesting an antlered deer in an EAB unit. Buck stickers are not valid during antlerless only hunts.
- 13. Can I earn a buck for someone else?** No, buck stickers are non-transferable. Only those who register an antlerless deer from a unit that later becomes EAB will be issued buck stickers.
- 14. Do I have to pre-qualify?** No. You can harvest an antlerless deer with a valid license during an open season and earn a buck sticker for a DMU with EAB designation.

