

GREAT LAKES INDIAN FISH & WILDLIFE COMMISSION

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• MEMBER TRIBES •

MICHIGAN

Bay Mills Community
Keweenaw Bay Community
Lac Vieux Desert Band

WISCONSIN

Bad River Band
Lac Courte Oreilles Band
Lac du Flambeau Band
Red Cliff Band
St. Croix Chippewa
Sokaogon Chippewa

MINNESOTA

Fond du Lac Band
Mille Lacs Band



GLIFWC's CWD Talking Points

presented to

Wisconsin Legislative Council

Special Committee on State-Tribal Relations

October 19, 2004

Issue Statement

Chronic wasting disease (CWD) has not been found in northern Wisconsin's wild deer herd, and Wisconsin's Ojibwe Tribes want to keep it that way. CWD's devastating effects on deer populations would threaten the Tribes' treaty hunting rights.

Primary Goals

1. Prevent the spread of CWD into Northern Wisconsin by the carcasses of infected wild animals that were harvested in known CWD-infected areas.
2. Prevent the transmission of CWD from captive animals to wild animals.
3. Prevent the infectious spread of CWD from wild deer populations in southern Wisconsin to wild deer populations in northern Wisconsin.

Desired Outcomes

1. Transport and/or Disposal of CWD-Infected Carcasses into Non-Infected Areas – Prevent the introduction into non-infected areas of CWD prions from the carcasses of wild animals harvested in known CWD-infected areas.
2. Intermingling of Captive and Wild Animals – Prevent the movement of animals either off of or on to a game farm, as well as prevent captive animal contact with wild animals at the periphery of game farms.
3. Elimination of CWD in Known Infected Areas – Prevent CWD transmission through the successive exchange of prions in a number of wild animals or as a result of the migration/movement of specific infected wild animals from infected areas to non-infected areas.

Matters to Consider

1. The pathways by which CWD could be spread into northern Wisconsin:
 - Natural wild animal migration
 - Diseased animals dying and the deposition of prions into the ecosystem
 - Transmission by animal-to-animal contact
 - Disposal of diseased carcasses
 - Transmission from captive animals to wild animals
2. Dealing with potentially-infected carcasses:
 - Carcasses can come from both in-state and out-of-state infected populations, and from both wild populations and captive populations
 - Carcass transport – Should infected deer and elk carcasses be brought into northern Wisconsin?
 - Carcass disposal – If allowed to be brought in, what are the options for disposing of the carcasses to prevent the introduction of prions into the ecosystem?
3. Eliminate contact between captive and wild animals:
 - Physical barriers separating captive and wild animals
 - Game farm fencing requirements, both to prevent movement of animals and intermingling at the periphery
 - Identifying and responding to escapes from game farms or to movement of wild animals onto game farms
 - Movement of captive animals between game farms
 - Appropriate responses once CWD has infected a captive herd on a particular game farm
4. Reducing the density of herds once infected with CWD:
 - Tribal concerns with the concept of herd “eradication”
 - Population control measures that do not undermine or interfere with tribal treaty rights
5. State Statutes Potentially Involved:
 - Chapter 95 – Animal Health:
 - Administered by the Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection
 - Deals with captive “domestic” animals
 - Particular aspects addressed – diseased animals (Section 95.19); import and movement of animals (Section 95.20); disposition of carcasses (Section 95.50); farm-raised deer (Section 95.55) intrastate transportation of white-tailed deer (Section 95.65).
 - Chapter 169 – Captive Wildlife
 - Administered by the Department of Natural Resources
 - Deals with captive “wild” animals
 - Particular aspects addressed – sale and purchase of live wild animals (169.10); carcasses of captive wild animals (Section 169.14); captive wild animal farm licenses (Section 169.15 (includes fencing requirements)); taking custody of captive wild animals (Section 169.42).