

Resolution to Combat the Increase of CWD With the Use of Increased Testing Methods Statewide

WHEREAS, there has been a substantial increase in prevalence of white-tailed deer infected with Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) throughout Wisconsin [1], and current CWD testing is inadequate in regards to the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources' (WDNR) testing standards; *and*

WHEREAS, deer hunting generates roughly \$1.4 billion each year to the state's economy from nearly 700,000 hunters that handle, consume, and distribute venison to others [2]. Lands inhabited by deer represent a large portion of Wisconsin and affect the economic values, health, and intrinsic beliefs of many Wisconsinites including: landowners, hunters, farmers, tribal lands and members, wildlife reserves and more; *and*

WHEREAS, the mission of the Wisconsin Wildlife Federation (WWF) is to conserve Wisconsin wildlife and outdoor sporting heritage, and CWD is threatening the sustainability of white-tailed deer populations in Wisconsin [3]; *and*

WHEREAS, this issue has been prevalent since 2002 when the first CWD-positive deer was found in North Central Iowa County, Wisconsin, and today there have been CWD infected deer found in 48 of Wisconsin's 72 counties [4]; *and*

WHEREAS, the recreational and traditional livelihoods of Wisconsinites can be greatly impacted by the presence of CWD-positive white-tailed deer. A loss of a healthy deer population will greatly reduce the effective population size and limit the overall growth of the Wisconsin herd; *and*

WHEREAS, it has been the recommendation of the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) that deer appearing sick, acting strangely, or known to be infected with CWD not be consumed by people [5]; *and*

WHEREAS, the general WDNR guideline is to obtain an adequate test sample of 500 adult deer samples per county to accurately identify a 1% prevalence at a 90-95% confidence level. In 2017, only 8.5% of counties with a wild/captive CWD-positive deer or wild/captive deer within 10 miles of a CWD-positive deer met this WDNR standard of 500 samples; *and*

WHEREAS, the WWF promotes sound, healthy and scientific management solutions for the preservation of deer populations for multiple uses to maintain livelihoods and traditions of Wisconsinites including hunting, wildlife viewing and consumption; *and*

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the WWF, at its annual meeting in Wisconsin Rapids, Wisconsin, on April 20th-21st, 2018, supports a 500 deer test quota in counties that have CWD-positive results in both wild, captive and within 10 miles of a captive or wild population of deer, with the use of incentives, regulations and if necessary, under Wisconsin State Statute 23.09 Conservation 2 (p); *and*

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the WWF, at its Annual Meeting in Wisconsin Rapids, Wisconsin, on April 20th-21st, 2018, supports the increase in student trainee positions at testing facilities throughout the state in order to increase the staff and attain testing quotas for CWD in the state of Wisconsin.

Submitted by the Wisconsin Conservation Leadership Corps,

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Sources

[1] - <https://dnr.wi.gov/topic/wildlifehabitat/prevalence.html>

[2] https://dnr.wi.gov/topic/wildlifehabitat/documents/executive_summary.pdf

[3] - <http://www.wiwf.org/about-us/>

[4] - <https://dnr.wi.gov/topic/wildlifehabitat/regulations.html>

[5] - <https://www.cdc.gov/prions/cwd/prevention.html>