

Public Action Team Implementation Proposal

Action Team: Herd Health / CWD	Chronic Wasting Disease D.3
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This document shows the original Deer Trustee Report recommendation that the Public Action Team considered when developing proposals for implementing the recommendation in Wisconsin. The Public Action Team's implementation proposal is presented then followed by additional background information.

I. ORIGINAL DEER TRUSTEE REPORT RECOMMENDATION

D.3 Dealing with wildlife diseases is not unlike responding to wild fires, and response plan should be developed on this model, focusing on early detection of "break outs" and citizen involvement. EARLY detection of CWD in the current DMZ may have allowed a focused eradication effort using trained sharpshooters. Yet, no one ever will know. In the wild fire analogy, a fire is controlled easily when it first starts, but uncontrolled there is a point where control is out of the question; leading to a fall back strategy to defend what is in its path. We believe this is the case for the DMZ. Hence, the reaction to the Shell Lake infected deer, although much more reasoned than in 2002, should have included a faster response to determine the extent of distribution. Waiting until deer season in fall of 2012 to sample for CWD is not adequate. A proper approach would have been use of a health check/surveillance team (discussed later) deployed immediately on such a finding. In addition, use of local observers and cooperators to find and report sick or dead deer would have provided a non-lethal first response. Once the geographic context is determined, the appropriate action should be focused, localized eradication. Mistakes were made in this particular case, including leaving an infected carcass on the landscape for some time and delays in testing the suspected animal.

II. PUBLIC ACTION TEAM PROPOSAL FOR IMPLEMENTING THE ABOVE RECOMMENDATION

Below is the Public Action Team implementation proposal along with their rationale and supporting evidence, potential implementation obstacles and consideration of the proposal's potential impact on the overall deer management in Wisconsin.

1. Action Team Implementation Proposal:

The response to newly detected cases of CWD in wild deer should start immediately but should consider a phase of thoughtful planning considering the local situation before moving to implementation. It should include:

- Request public involvement through quick establishment of a citizen advisory committee with diverse representation, for information sharing, consideration of options, stakeholder input, and development of strategies to get public buy-in to management choices.
- Use of existent (or perhaps more efficient) DNR policy to allow harvest of sick-appearing deer, using information on the DNR website (<http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/wildlifehabitat/sickdeer.html>) or by contacting the local warden or DNR Tip Line (1-800-TIP-WDNR).
- Enhanced surveillance to determine the scope and magnitude of the problem. This usually should be done as soon as practical, not waiting until the next deer hunting season. Strategies for sample collection that should be considered include landowner permits, road-kill salvage, and encouraging public reporting and harvest of sick deer.
- Significant and sustained herd reduction in a targeted area (chosen based on surveillance findings) with herd goals as low as the public input supports. The citizen advisory group and public stakeholders should be able to consider using extended seasons and tags (including landowner tags), agency harvest where appropriate (cooperating private lands, public lands, cooperating municipalities), and financial and other incentives for harvest of CWD-affected deer. We also support offering DMAP participants as many permits as they want to use for reduction of the herd they manage.



Public Action Team Implementation Proposal

- Immediate implementation of the current law/policy that prohibits baiting/feeding of deer when CWD is found. This Team also supports the Rules/Regs Team recommendation to adopt a statewide ban on baiting, and thinks there should also be consideration of a statewide ban on feeding.
- As technology becomes available, harvest emphasis should switch to harvest of diseased animals.

2. Supporting data, references, rationale and other information behind it.

- No additional comments submitted by Team

3. Consider and describe potential implementation obstacles or drawbacks.

- Many of these recommendations will require further work by the DNR and other parts of government for implementation. Public participation which is so critical is dependent on citizen understanding of CWD risks and management strategies, so education before and in response to new outbreaks will be needed.

4. Overall, how will this proposal simplify or complicate deer hunting, management, or research in Wisconsin.

- Effective management of new outbreaks may mean some adaptation of season structure and other deer management structure in the outbreak area. The desire is to manage as much as possible within a statewide season structure.