

Herd Health/CWD Management Action Team Meeting

04/06/13

Attendees: Mike Foy, Marc Schultz, Julie Langenberg, Jim Riphon, Robert Benson, Bryan Richards, Dave Clausen, Mark McCaulley, & Joe Weiss

Welcome, Introduction, and Action Team Overview & Ground Rules

- Action team members introduce themselves and give a brief personal and professional background
- Joe Weiss is identified as the reporter and will perform the end of meeting report out
- Ground rules and the decision process are summarized
- Review of the DTR Action Team action item development process for those that missed the first meeting
- Participation Agreements signed and collected
- Assignment Sheet four question & 14 DTR Herd Health/CWD recommendation review
- Colored dot priority ranking exercise performed of 14 DTR Herd Health/CWD recommendations with future meeting date discussion items planned
- DTR Herd Health/CWD recommendation priority rankings:
 1. Charlotte the Deer should become the “Smokey Bear” of CWD in Wisconsin, serving as the centerpiece for a public education program developed with stakeholder organizations such as QDMA, Whitetails of Wisconsin, & Whitetails Unlimited
 2. The time required to receive CWD test results from hunter-killed animals must be decreased to a few days
 3. In the long-term, we recommend developing a wildlife disease unit to:
 - respond quickly to CWD outbreaks
 - monitor health and disease of other wildlife species
 - train and support local biologists/technicians in conducting annual herd health surveys
 4. There is a need to provide more information about concerns for humans contracting a CWD variant
 5. An annual meeting of DMAP cooperators would be an excellent venue for reporting on various aspects of CWD, in addition to the topics discussed earlier. This would greatly enhance public awareness and WDNR credibility.

6. 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
7. We believe it is time to consider a more passive approach to CWD in the DMZ
8. We recommend implementation of a statewide DMAP program; and, nowhere is such a program needed more than in the DMZ
9. There is a clear need for a new sampling protocol for CWD in Wisconsin, one that gives a true picture of the progress of the disease; but more importantly, one designed to detect spread
10. Re-evaluate the effectiveness of the October antlerless seasons in the CWD Zone
11. Maintain the Bonus Buck Regulation in CWD Zone
12. Consider charging a fee for antlerless tags in the CWD Zone
13. WDNR should work closely (through the local biologist) with the Conservation Congress in developing goals and strategies at the county level. We feel use of human dimensions research to anticipate, rather than reacting to issues as they arise would be very effective.
14. We feel use of human dimensions research to anticipate, rather than reacting to issues as they arise would be very effective

Presentations

- Overview of CWD Prevalence & Trends Calculations – Robert Rolley, WI DNR
 - An overview of CWD prevalence, surveillance, and trends was given within the CWD-MZ as well as the rest of the state
 - Specific sex/age prevalence data for subsections within counties within the CWD-MZ
- Overview of CWD Management, Modifications in Surveillance Methods, Challenges, & Successes – Tim Lizotte, WI DNR
 - Review of CWD Surveillance, Monitoring, & Management over the past 10+ years
 - Areas where the CWD RP & DTR do and do *not* align
 - Disposal, funding, & other challenges that WI DNR continues to face

Meeting Report Out

- Report out discussed and performed by Joe Weiss

DTR Herd Health/Chronic Wasting Disease Action Team

April 6, 2013 Progress Report

Today's Activities/Discussions:

- Established ground rules for the group and the decision process are summarized
- Reviewed the DTR Action Team action item development process for those that missed the first meeting
- Received a presentation on CWD Management Zone Prevalence, Trends, & Population Calculations by Robert Rolley, Research Scientist, WI DNR
- Received a recorded presentation on CWD Management, Modifications in Surveillance Methods, Challenges, & Successes in Wisconsin by Tim Lizotte, Area Wildlife Supervisor, WI DNR
- Reviewed Herd Health Assignment Sheet including 14 assigned recommendations and conducted a colored dot priority ranking exercise for future meeting discussion items

DTR Herd Health/Chronic Wasting Disease Action Team

April 6, 2013 Progress Report

Additional Action Team questions/information requests:

- N/A

Implementation Action Items proposed or discussed by the Action Team :

- N/A

General comments or considerations noted by the Team:

- The Team ran short on time to view the CWD in western states video, please visit the KnowCWD.com to website to view the ~ 20 min. video
- The group agrees that information presented strongly suggests that CWD prevalence is increasing in Wisconsin.

Herd Health/CWD Management Action Team Meeting

04/27/13

Attendees: Mike Foy, Marc Schultz, Julie Langenberg, Jim Riphon, Robert Benson, Dave Clausen, Mark McCaulley, Joe Weiss, Gene Reineking, & Tony Grabski

Welcome, Introduction, & Action Team Member Introductions

- Ground rules and a quick round of introductions
- Overview of the Implementation Proposal Steps and Form
 - We can forward a modified recommendation
- Survey results will be used as we discuss the recommendations

DTR Recommendation Review

- Recommendation #10 (Charlotte)
 - Not good to personalize a wild animal
 - Charlotte background is too complex of an issue
 - Mascot branding is short term
 - Should we allocate the necessary resources?
 - What does a marketing expert think of a mascot?
 - **DECISION ITEM:** We do not believe that this specific recommendation should be implemented, though we strongly support the need for more CWD public education and outreach efforts. Charlotte is not a good choice for a centerpiece because this is a complex issue more about illegally taken wildlife than about CWD. With rejecting the specific Charlotte approach to public education, we are definitely not rejecting the importance of CWD public education. Once the goals of CWD are re-developed, it will be important to re-enforce CWD outreach to help meet those goals.
- Recommendation #6 (Turnaround time)
 - Survey results show 83% acceptance with current 21 days
 - Turnaround time has improved over the past decade
 - Is there room for improvement?
 - At what cost?
 - Are there other diagnostic lab options?
 - Will hunters pay to expedite their test turnaround time?

- DNR should look to incorporate a way to offer an expedited test working with the existing private vets list
 - **DECISION ITEM:** We agree with the majority of the surveyed public, the time required for CWD test results is currently acceptable. However, cost effective improvement in the time required should be a long term objective. Alternate testing opportunities need to be communicated broadly. Recommend DNR investigate an expedited test for a service/fee.
- Recommendation #9 (Wildlife Disease Unit)
 - One already exists (Wildlife Health Section)
 - It is adequate for the current needs
 - Does the section have enough resources to handle additional needs
 - **DECISION ITEM:** A DNR wildlife health unit has existed for over 30 years. It is supported by technical staff in other state and federal agencies. It works well with the existing organization and a large cadre of field staff. The existing wildlife disease unit works well with current budget staff and organizational structure. The main issue is whether the unit will have the resources to handle expected increases in CWD distribution and prevalence while still handling other disease and species challenges.
- Recommendation #5 (Humans contracting a CWD variant)
 - Survey results not too concerned about CWD consumption
 - Is there a lack of education?
 - **DECISION ITEM:** We support this recommendation. DNR and DHS should enhance and make more accessible information about CWD and human health risks. The basic message should include acknowledgement that though there is no evidence that humans can acquire CWD from eating meat from a CWD-infected deer, that there is much research to be done on that possibility. The basic message should be available in a position in the annual deer regulations, and updated more extensive information should be easily accessible through DNR and DHS websites. Research has already identified that venison and blood can contain small concentrations of CWD prion, so normal field dressing of a carcass will not necessarily remove all CWD prions. Accessibility is important; information must also be available to non-computer users. Taking this approach could complicate deer management and create need for more testing and more research (which will add costs), but providing information to the public, including deer hunters and their families, is a responsibility.
- Recommendation #7 (Annual meeting of DMAP Cooperators)
 - **DECISION ITEM:** We support this recommendation, that CWD consistently be included in any annual DMAP meetings. But we do not support or reject the DMAP concept. We support that additional to the DMAP annual meeting, that

there be other forums in which stakeholders have an opportunity to get updated CWD information and provide input on CWD management.

Two public comments:

- Orphaned fawn and ban on deer rehabilitation concern by license rehabilitator from Washington County
 - This will be set aside for when “passive management in the CWD-MZ” is discussed at a future meeting
- Revert the white deer allowable harvest in the CWD-MZ
 - This will be set aside for when “passive management in the CWD-MZ” is discussed at a future meeting

Meeting Report Out

- Report out discussed and performed by Joe Weiss

DTR Herd Health/Chronic Wasting Disease Action Team

April 27, 2013 Progress Report

Today's Activities/Discussions:

- Overview of the Implementation Proposal Steps and Form
 - We can forward a modified recommendation
- Survey results will be used as we discuss the recommendations

Additional Action Team questions/information requests:

- N/A

DTR Herd Health/Chronic Wasting Disease Action Team

April 27, 2013 Progress Report

Implementation Action Items proposed or discussed by the Action Team :

- Recommendation #10 (Charlotte)
 - **DECISION ITEM:** We do not believe that this specific recommendation should be implemented, though we strongly support the need for more CWD public education and outreach efforts. Charlotte is not a good choice for a centerpiece because this is a complex issue more about illegally taken wildlife than about CWD. With rejecting the specific Charlotte approach to public education, we are definitely not rejecting the importance of CWD public education. Once the goals of CWD are re-developed, it will be important to re-enforce CWD outreach to help meet those goals.

DTR Herd Health/Chronic Wasting Disease Action Team

April 27, 2013 Progress Report

Implementation Action Items proposed or discussed by the Action Team :

- Recommendation #6 (Turnaround Time)
 - **DECISION ITEM:** We agree with the majority of the surveyed public, the time required for CWD test results is currently acceptable. However, cost effective improvement in the time required should be a long term objective. Alternate testing opportunities need to be communicated broadly. Recommend DNR investigate an expedited test for a service/fee.

DTR Herd Health/Chronic Wasting Disease Action Team

April 27, 2013 Progress Report

Implementation Action Items proposed or discussed by the Action Team :

- Recommendation #9 (Wildlife Disease Unit)
 - **DECISION ITEM:** A DNR wildlife health unit has existed for over 30 years. It is supported by technical staff in other state and federal agencies. It works well with the existing organization and a large cadre of field staff. The existing wildlife disease unit works well with current budget staff and organizational structure. The main issue is whether the unit will have the resources to handle expected increases in CWD distribution and prevalence while still handling other disease and species challenges.

DTR Herd Health/Chronic Wasting Disease Action Team

April 27, 2013 Progress Report

Implementation Action Items proposed or discussed by the Action Team :

- Recommendation #5 (Humans contracting a CWD variant)
 - **DECISION ITEM:** We support this recommendation. DNR and DHS should enhance and make more accessible information about CWD and human health risks. The basic message should include acknowledgement that though there is no evidence that humans can acquire CWD from eating meat from a CWD-infected deer, that there is much research to be done on that possibility. The basic message should be available in a position in the annual deer regulations, and updated more extensive information should be easily accessible through DNR and DHS websites. Research has already identified that venison and blood can contain small concentrations of CWD prion, so normal field dressing of a carcass will not necessarily remove all CWD prions. Accessibility is important; information must also be available to non-computer users. Taking this approach could complicate deer management and create need for more testing and more research (which will add costs), but providing information to the public, including deer hunters and their families, is a responsibility.

DTR Herd Health/Chronic Wasting Disease Action Team

April 27, 2013 Progress Report

Implementation Action Items proposed or discussed by the Action Team :

- Recommendation #7 (Annual meeting of DMAP Cooperators)
 - **DECISION ITEM:** We support this recommendation, that CWD consistently be included in any annual DMAP meetings. But we do not support or reject the DMAP concept. We support that additional to the DMAP annual meeting, that there be other forums in which stakeholders have an opportunity to get updated CWD information and provide input on CWD management.

DTR Herd Health/Chronic Wasting Disease Action Team

April 27, 2013 Progress Report

General comments or considerations noted by the Team:

- Two public comments:
 - Orphaned fawn and ban on deer rehabilitation concern by license rehabilitator from Washington County
 - This will be set aside for when “passive management in the CWD-MZ” is discussed at a future meeting
 - Revert the white deer allowable harvest in the CWD-MZ
 - This will be set aside for when “passive management in the CWD-MZ” is discussed at a future meeting

Next Meeting Date is:

May 18, 2013

DTR Herd Health/Chronic Wasting Disease Action Team

May 18, 2013 Progress Report

Today's Activities/Discussions:

- Agenda presented for the day
- Overview of the Implementation Proposal Steps and Form
 - HH/CWD Action Team process and review for generating Implementation Proposal Forms

DTR Herd Health/Chronic Wasting Disease Action Team

May 18, 2013 Progress Report

Implementation Action Items proposed or discussed by the Action Team :

- Recommendation D-4 (Implement Statewide DMAP)

DECISION ITEM: We support this recommendation, because we feel that landowner education and engagement in CWD management are critical. It is important that the deer management alternatives available to DMAP participants in the Management Zone be consistent with this Action Team's recommendations on CWD disease management. The DMAP deer management alternatives should also be consistent with the general deer hunt framework. Other agency land management programs need to aware of and understand the CWD Zone DMAP program.

DTR Herd Health/Chronic Wasting Disease Action Team

May 18, 2013 Progress Report

Implementation Action Items proposed or discussed by the Action Team :

- Recommendation D-1 (“Passive” Approach in CWD-MZ)

DECISION ITEM: We do agree that the approach should be “more passive” than deer population eradication, but we feel that some level of deer population reduction is currently a strategy to attempt to slow down growth and spread. We believe there is need to minimize further impacts of CWD on the state and that slowing down the growth and spread of CWD from the current Management Zone is a necessary piece of minimizing CWD impact.

Herd management should be based upon habitat, public acceptance and tolerance of herd population levels and disease.

DTR Herd Health/Chronic Wasting Disease Action Team

May 18, 2013 Progress Report

Implementation Action Items proposed or discussed by the Action Team :

- Recommendation D-1 (“Passive” Approach in CWD-MZ) *Continued*

DECISION ITEM: For hunting season structures in the Management Zone, we recommend a return to statewide seasons, specifically:

- Continue the traditional 9 day gun season.
- Continue the Archery season.
- Continue the Muzzleloader season.
- Continue the Youth Hunt.
- Continue a Holiday Hunt (possibly reduced length), but for antlerless deer harvest only.

And set a total yearly maximum per person harvest.

DTR Herd Health/Chronic Wasting Disease Action Team

May 18, 2013 Progress Report

Implementation Action Items proposed or discussed by the Action Team :

- Recommendation D-1 (“Passive” Approach in CWD-MZ) *Continued*

DECISION ITEM: And in the CWD Management Zone, we recommend that sharpshooting only be used for harvest of sick or injured deer.

- Additional minor recommendations, responding to citizen input:
- Restore the state-wide rule in the CWD Management Zone, protecting white deer from harvest.
- Do not change current DNR policy prohibiting deer rehabilitation in CWD areas.

DTR Herd Health/Chronic Wasting Disease Action Team

May 18, 2013 Progress Report

Implementation Action Items proposed or discussed by the Action Team :

- Recommendation D-1 (“Passive” Approach in CWD-MZ) *Continued*

DECISION ITEM: We think this proposal is based on Dr. Kroll’s analysis, concluding CWD is not increasing in prevalence. There are peer-reviewed publications documenting an increase in prevalence.

A result of a more passive approach to CWD management is growth and spread of the disease. We are concerned about the currently unknown human health risk.

CWD is not a native disease or natural part of Wisconsin ecosystems; we are concerned about the possibility of broader ecologic and landscape consequences from continued growth and spread. This approach will greatly simplify deer hunting and deer management in WI, and open the possibility to allow elimination of a special CWD zone and a return to statewide seasons for most deer hunting regulations.

DTR Herd Health/Chronic Wasting Disease Action Team

May 18, 2013 Progress Report

Implementation Action Items proposed or discussed by the Action Team :

- Recommendation D-2 (New Sampling Protocol)

DECISION ITEM: We support the intent of this proposal, acknowledging that over the last decade there have already been changes made to the state's CWD surveillance program to maximize the chance of detecting changes in disease distribution. We recognize that there will need to be more testing to achieve all the critical surveillance goals – detection of spread, tracking of the progress of the disease. There will need to be new and larger sources of funding to achieve this. This Team supports a renewed effort to expand funding sources to support testing, and propose that a small increase in license fees (\$2-5?) be considered. Over several years, there have already been many changes in the strategies and tools used for surveillance: a weighted surveillance strategy, a focus on finding and testing sick deer, working with taxidermists on a voluntary program to access older buck samples, etc. This appears to already be improving our ability to find new areas where there are CWD deer, and in a more cost effective way.

DTR Herd Health/Chronic Wasting Disease Action Team

May 18, 2013 Progress Report

Implementation Action Items proposed or discussed by the Action Team :

- Recommendation D-2 (New Sampling Protocol) *Continued*

DECISION ITEM: Cost is a major obstacle to do enough testing to achieve all the surveillance goals (new areas, out-state, CWD Management Zone, etc.). This Team supports a renewed effort to find new sources to support testing: conservation organizations, government funding, hunter testing fee, small increase in license fees (\$2-5?), voluntary donations (license application, etc.), and others.

Next Meeting Date is: June 8, 2013

DTR Herd Health/Chronic Wasting Disease Action Team

June 8, 2013 Progress Report

Implementation Action Items proposed or discussed by the Action Team:

- Recommendation D-3 (Response plan focused on early detection of “break-outs”)

Implementation Action Item 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:

- 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).

DTR Herd Health/Chronic Wasting Disease Action Team

June 8, 2013 Progress Report

Implementation Action Items proposed or discussed by the Action Team:

- Recommendation D-3 (Response plan focused on early detection of “break-outs”)

Implementation Action Item Proposal (*continued*):

- 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, 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.

DTR Herd Health/Chronic Wasting Disease Action Team

June 8, 2013 Progress Report

Implementation Action Items proposed or discussed by the Action Team:

- Recommendation D-3 (Response plan focused on early detection of “break-outs”)

Implementation Action Item Proposal (*continued*):

- 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.
- 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.
- 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.

DTR Herd Health/Chronic Wasting Disease Action Team

June 8, 2013 Progress Report

Implementation Action Items proposed or discussed by the Action Team:

- Recommendation B-4 (Consider charging a fee for antlerless tags in the CWD-MZ)

Implementation Action Item Proposal:

- We support this core recommendation. For DMAP participants, we support the recommendation that comes from the DMAP Team regarding antlerless tag fees.
- Free tags devalue the deer and the resources from tag sales are needed for deer and CWD management. The current state budget proposal includes language that tag fees from CWD areas would be available to support CWD surveillance and testing, which we support.
- This will bring the southern CWD affected area into line with statewide approaches to tag fees.

Next Meeting Date is: June 29, 2013

DTR Herd Health/Chronic Wasting Disease Action Team

June 29, 2013 Progress Report

Implementation Action Items proposed or discussed by the Action Team:

- Recommendation D.8 - WDNR should work closely (through the local biologist) with the Conservation Congress in developing goals and strategies at the county level

Implementation Action Item Proposal:

We support regular meetings between WDNR and WCC for mutual education and issues discussion on CWD/herd health management on a county level or other appropriate geographic scale. But it is important to also maintain the independence of the two institutions. There are already regular WCC county and district meetings that could be the forum for these CWD/herd health discussions. And public and stakeholder input on CWD/herd health management issues should ALSO occur through other forums, particularly any local Citizen Advisory Groups that have been formed in response to a new CWD detection.

DTR Herd Health/Chronic Wasting Disease Action Team

June 29, 2013 Progress Report

Implementation Action Items proposed or discussed by the Action Team:

- Recommendation D.8 - WDNR should work closely (through the local biologist) with the Conservation Congress in developing goals and strategies at the county level

Implementation Action Item Proposal: (*continued*)

There is a need for citizens to understand the roles and activities of the WCC in its work with the WDNR and the NRB.

The goals of the WDNR –WCC collaboration on CWD/herd health goals and strategies perhaps need to be better defined.

There is value in the Natural Resources Board hearing somewhat independently from WDNR staff and the WCC, so this should not be defined as WDNR and WCC bringing joint CWD/herd health recommendations to the NRB.

There is value in the interchange between WDNR staff and WCC members, to improve understanding of issues and different perspectives.

DTR Herd Health/Chronic Wasting Disease Action Team

June 29, 2013 Progress Report

Implementation Action Items proposed or discussed by the Action Team:

- Recommendation D.8 - WDNR should work closely (through the local biologist) with the Conservation Congress in developing goals and strategies at the county level

Implementation Action Item Proposal: (*continued*)

Sometimes it will be appropriate for this interchange to be focused at the county level, but there should be recognition and flexibility so this interchange can happen with multiple counties represented or at the WCC district level, if appropriate.

The time that WDNR local biologists have available is not infinite and needs to be prioritized, so being thoughtful of how this is implemented is important (especially as DMAP implementation also is being considered).

Science based CWD/herd health management recommendations may not always be supported by the public.

The value that will be built by enhanced WDNR and WCC engagement should be respected and not compromised by legislative and higher executive branch decision-making.

Though more WDNR and WCC engagement will of course mean more time spent, the mutual education should hopefully also simplify the process of decision-making.

DTR Herd Health/Chronic Wasting Disease Action Team

June 29, 2013 Progress Report

Implementation Action Items proposed or discussed by the Action Team:

- Recommendation D.9 - We feel use of human dimensions research to anticipate, rather than reacting to issues as they arise would be very effective

Implementation Action Item Proposal:

We support the use of human dimensions research as part of optimal CWD management. However, this needs to be rigorous research (with well thought out targeted study subjects and approaches). We recommend consideration of studies closely tied to chosen CWD management actions, incorporating pre-action assessment of stakeholder attitudes and actions and monitoring of how the management action changes attitudes and actions.

Human dimensions research has been part of Wisconsin's CWD response over the last decade, but there is clearly need to better understand stakeholders attitudes and actions.

DTR Herd Health/Chronic Wasting Disease Action Team

June 29, 2013 Progress Report

Implementation Action Items proposed or discussed by the Action Team:

- Recommendation D.9 - We feel use of human dimensions research to anticipate, rather than reacting to issues as they arise would be very effective

Implementation Action Item Proposal: *(continued)*

There is a need for rigorous research on stakeholders' attitudes and action choices, as they relate to CWD/herd health management. Surveys and other methods for collecting hunter/landowner input have value, but decision-makers need human dimension research with a well-defined study set and expert analysis and interpretation.

This work should be done collaboratively between the WDNR and independent and scientific (university) researchers to maximize credibility and use of state-of-the art approaches.

Good research takes money, time, and planning.

Good research may help simplify publically accepted management.

DTR Herd Health/Chronic Wasting Disease Action Team

June 29, 2013 Progress Report

Implementation Action Items proposed or discussed by the Action Team:

- Recommendation B.8 - Re-evaluate the effectiveness of the October antlerless seasons in the CWD Zone

Implementation Action Item Proposal:

This Team supports having an October antlerless season available statewide which would be used when and where needed for population management, including response to disease. Though it should be possible to qualify for bonus buck tags (where Bonus Buck has been applied) through antlerless deer harvested in an October season, there should be a limit (e.g.3) to the number of bucks harvested annually by one individual, total (all weapons). The WDNR deer management structure should be able to cancel the October season as needed in response to deer population changes. The availability of an October season was removed by an administrative order from the Governor in 2012.

DTR Herd Health/Chronic Wasting Disease Action Team

June 29, 2013 Progress Report

Implementation Action Items proposed or discussed by the Action Team:

- Recommendation B.8 - Re-evaluate the effectiveness of the October antlerless seasons in the CWD Zone

Implementation Action Item Proposal: *(continued)*

Many hunters perceive that having an October hunt reduces sightings of deer, and hunting success when the 9-day season starts. There are also many hunters who like the extra opportunity of the October hunt. Decisions about implementing an October antlerless hunt should always include public input.

The Team's DNR advisors from the Northern Region view the October antlerless hunt as the best tool available for increasing antlerless deer harvest. This is a tool that may be needed in general to achieve CWD management goals in areas of new CWD detections.

This issue needs to be considered not just for the CWD Management Zone, but also in areas of new CWD detections, such as Washburn County. It also is a tool that should be available for other disease management and deer population management.

DTR Herd Health/Chronic Wasting Disease Action Team

June 29, 2013 Progress Report

Implementation Action Items proposed or discussed by the Action Team:

- Recommendation B.8 - Re-evaluate the effectiveness of the October antlerless seasons in the CWD Zone

Implementation Action Item Proposal: *(continued)*

This is also a tool for accessing more deer for CWD surveillance testing, so if there is an October hunt, focus should be put on testing of the harvested deer where it is appropriate.

Currently the WDNR does not have clear authority to use an October season as a tool for deer management. As a standard procedure, authority to implement this tool should reside with the WDNR with public and stakeholder input.

This Team prioritizes having a simplified, statewide deer hunting season structure whenever possible. An October antlerless hunt is an important tool that WDNR should have available statewide, to be used when WDNR and its stakeholder partners decide it is needed for disease management and deer population and harvest management.

DTR Herd Health/Chronic Wasting Disease Action Team

June 29, 2013 Progress Report

Implementation Action Items proposed or discussed by the Action Team:

- Recommendation B.10 - Maintain the Bonus Buck Regulation in CWD Zone

Implementation Action Item Proposal:

This Team supports having a Bonus Buck Regulation available statewide which would be used when and where needed for population management, including response to disease. There should be a limit (e.g.3) to the number of bucks harvested annually by one individual, total (all weapons). A minimum of 2 antlerless deer should be required to qualify for a Bonus Buck tag. The WDNR deer management structure should be able to cancel the Bonus Buck Program as needed in response to deer population changes.

DTR Herd Health/Chronic Wasting Disease Action Team

June 29, 2013 Progress Report

Implementation Action Items proposed or discussed by the Action Team:

- Recommendation B.10 - Maintain the Bonus Buck Regulation in CWD Zone

Implementation Action Item Proposal: *(continued)*

We recognize that some hunters are uncomfortable with higher buck harvest, but there are situations (including CWD affected areas) where allowing the harvest of more bucks is important.

It is important that the WDNR has tools that work to remove more deer, especially antlerless deer, to manage deer populations that are too high and to control disease impacts. Bonus Buck is an effective current tool to increase deer harvest and promote antlerless harvest.

The Bonus Buck Program needs to be applied thoughtfully and there needs to be continued creative thinking about how to provide incentives to private landowners and DMAP participants to contribute to deer population reduction, where needed.

DTR Herd Health/Chronic Wasting Disease Action Team

June 29, 2013 Progress Report

Implementation Action Items proposed or discussed by the Action Team:

- Recommendation B.10 - Maintain the Bonus Buck Regulation in CWD Zone

Implementation Action Item Proposal: *(continued)*

There must be continued attention to keeping hunting season structure simple, even while using the Bonus Buck Program.

Conflicts between private and public land users are likely.

Deer hunting management will be simplified when the same tool, the Bonus Buck Program, is available to be used for disease management and deer population management statewide.

Next Meeting Date is: July 20, 2013

DTR Herd Health/Chronic Wasting Disease Action Team

July 20, 2013 Progress Report

Implementation Action Items proposed or discussed by the Action Team:

- All 14 draft proposals were reviewed and fine tuned followed by discussion of five parking lot items

DTR Herd Health/Chronic Wasting Disease Action Team

July 20, 2013 Progress Report

Parking Lot Items proposed or discussed by the Action Team:

- Parking Lot #1 - What does the CWD Management Zone mean? How should we define CWD Zones going forward?

Implementation Parking Lot Item Proposal:

Some sort of defined CWD zone is appropriate for items including, but not limited to cervid farms and carcass movement restrictions, but may not be necessary for harvest rules.

In general, we believe that CWD Zone designations should be defined using the current baiting/feeding format, i.e. using county boundaries, create a zone incorporating all areas within 10 miles of where a CWD test positive deer is identified.

However, there are many complex implications of declaring a CWD Zone (see below), so designating new zones/modifying existent zones should be done very carefully on a case-by-case basis and in consultation with local stakeholders.

The Team recommends naming such zones “CWD-affected areas.”

We suggest provisions for removing the CWD-affected designation when it can be confirmed that CWD is no longer a concern in this area.

DTR Herd Health/Chronic Wasting Disease Action Team

July 20, 2013 Progress Report

Parking Lot Items proposed or discussed by the Action Team:

- Parking Lot #1 - What does the CWD Management Zone mean? How should we define CWD Zones going forward? (*continued*)

Supporting data, references, rationale and other information behind it:

The following are likely implications of creating a CWD Zone, and therefore should be considered when decisions are being made about Zone designation:

- Carcass movement restrictions
- Deer processor/disposal guidance and/or restrictions
- Use of Zone by DATCP for certain aspects of deer farm management
- Use of Zone by other states to apply their disease transfer risk management
- Application of surveillance: mandatory testing, etc.
- The desire to have an intensive-surveillance-based CWD prevalence map to guide management decisions.

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Parking Lot Items proposed or discussed by the Action Team:

- Parking Lot #1 - What does the CWD Management Zone mean? How should we define CWD Zones going forward? (*continued*)

Consider and describe potential implementation obstacles or drawbacks:

Based on WI's experience with CWD Zones to date, maybe they should only be used for some disease containment/management issues (such as carcass movement restriction, deer farm risk management, etc.), but not be used for other purposes, such as deer hunting season structure?

There needs to be additional discussion about how best to name a CWD Zone: Should this be a "CWD Affected Zone" rather than "Management Zone"? Or should it be a "CWD Prevalence Zone"?

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Parking Lot Items proposed or discussed by the Action Team:

- Parking Lot #1 - What does the CWD Management Zone mean? How should we define CWD Zones going forward? (*continued*)

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

As we know from WI's experience to date, the designation of CWD Zones both simplifies and complicates aspects of deer management and deer hunting. [For example, can you imagine trying to control the risks associated with deer processing by a processor-by-processor risk evaluation and control designation, rather than using a Zone?] The designation of a CWD Zone is of deep concern to some affected landowners, hunters, municipalities, and businesses, so involvement of local stakeholders is critical in these decisions.

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Parking Lot Items proposed or discussed by the Action Team:

- Parking Lot #2 - Revert to allowing harvest of white (albino, lutino) deer in the CWD-Management Zone

Implementation Parking Lot Item Proposal:

Restore in any CWD Management Zones, the state-wide rule protecting white deer from harvest.

The DNR received a letter from State Representative Fred Clark requesting that the Herd Health/CWD Action Team consider restoring protections for albino and white deer in the CWD Management Zone. The CWD-Management Zone-specific exemption allowing harvest of white and albino deer is a DNR rule change that was one of many liberalized harvest measures implemented for controlling and containing CWD to the southern portion of the state, . The current HH/CWD Team does not feel that there is sufficient value from harvest white deer for CWD management to make it worthwhile to have a different rule on white deer harvest in CWD Zones from the rest of the state.

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Parking Lot Items proposed or discussed by the Action Team:

- Parking Lot #2 - Revert to allowing harvest of white (albino, lutino) deer in the CWD-Management Zone (*continued*)

Consider and describe potential implementation obstacles or drawbacks:

None, except the need for informing the public who hunts in CWD Zones that the rules about harvest of white deer have changed again.

This will simplify the hunting experience by reducing rule differences, and will simplify enforcement responsibilities for the game wardens.

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Parking Lot Items proposed or discussed by the Action Team:

- Parking Lot #3 - Do not continue with bans on orphaned fawn and injured deer rehabilitation associated with CWD affected areas (a request from a licensed rehabilitator from Washington County)

Implementation Parking Lot Item Proposal:

Do not change current DNR policy prohibiting deer rehabilitation in CWD areas. The DNR received a letter from a licensed wildlife rehabilitator from Washington County requesting that the DNR policy restricting the rehabilitation of deer due to detection of CWD be changed. This is due to the fact that CWD was detected in a wild deer in Waukesha County which resulted in the implementation of a ban of baiting & feeding and deer rehabilitation in Washington County.

Currently, rehabilitation and release is not allowed for wild deer from counties whose borders fall within 10 miles of where a CWD affected deer has been found. The HH/CWD Team feels that rehabilitation and release of deer is counterproductive to controlling the spread of CWD and that continuing this restriction is prudent.

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Parking Lot Items proposed or discussed by the Action Team:

- Parking Lot #4 - Reducing risk of new CWD introductions in WI needs to include control of human-facilitated spread of CWD prion

Implementation Parking Lot Item Proposal:

WI's CWD management needs to include

- Reducing the risk of spread of CWD from farmed cervids to wild cervids by continuing mandatory CWD surveillance on all WI deer farms (implemented by accredited veterinarians), mandatory depopulation and premise management of CWD-affected farms, and rigorous prevention and management of farmed cervid escapes (including financial responsibility by producers for the government costs of escape management).
- Regulation of movement and disposal of carcasses and carcass parts from deer harvested in CWD-affected areas (the intent is to reduce the potential for infectious material to be left on the landscape).
- Appropriate limitations on licensing so that taxidermy, deer rehabilitation, and deer farming activities cannot happen at the same facility.

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Parking Lot Items proposed or discussed by the Action Team:

- Parking Lot #4 - Reducing risk of new CWD introductions in WI needs to include control of human-facilitated spread of CWD prion (*continued*)

Supporting data, references, rationale and other information behind it:

To achieve the goal of limiting spread of CWD to new areas in WI, we need to do more than manage spread of infection in wild deer populations; we also need to reduce the risk of human-facilitated new introductions of CWD:

1. Deer farms are a proven source of new introductions of CWD to wild deer populations; CWD has been repeatedly found on WI deer farms. There needs to be continued attention to surveillance and control of CWD on WI deer farms and management to guard against mixing of farmed and wild deer.
2. Carcass exposure is a proven route of CWD infection for deer; therefore controlling how people move and dispose of carcasses of harvested deer is a prudent part of CWD risk management.
3. In at least one case where CWD was found in a new area (New York), it is suspected that the source was a facility where taxidermy (of cervids harvested in other states) and deer rehabilitation/release were both practiced. To reduce this risk for introductions of CWD in new areas, cross-licensing of facilities for taxidermy, rehabilitation, or deer-farming should not be allowed.

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Parking Lot Items proposed or discussed by the Action Team:

- Parking Lot #4 - Reducing risk of new CWD introductions in WI needs to include control of human-facilitated spread of CWD prion (*continued*)

Consider and describe potential implementation obstacles or drawbacks:

Effective implementation of all 3 of these proposals is dependent on collaboration between the DNR, other units in WI state government (especially DATCP) and the involved business communities (e.g. deer farmers, meat processors, taxidermists etc.).

We know that restrictions on carcass movements and disposal can create challenges for some hunters and have workload implications for DNR staff (Enforcement, Staff, Wildlife, etc.). However, the risk management approaches described here are important to limiting spread of CWD and therefore are important to the future of quality deer hunting in Wisconsin.

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Parking Lot Items proposed or discussed by the Action Team:

- Parking Lot #5 - Wisconsin needs to continue to support CWD research that will improve WI CWD management

Implementation Parking Lot Item Proposal:

WI state and federal governments need to continue to identify, facilitate, and financially support CWD research that is carefully selected to provide information for state CWD and deer management decisions. Research conducted on public or private landholdings must be approved by the appropriate landowner/property manager. Current high priority research areas include the role of environmental contamination in CWD spread, enhancing surveillance approaches to detect spread and prevalence trends, the efficacy of control strategies, and whether CWD will pose a risk for livestock and human health. WDNR, WI Universities, and other proven CWD research partners must collaborate to achieve this in a timely and cost effective way. WDNR routine surveillance data must be readily available (through a WDNR website), both to further some of the research goals, but also for citizen and stakeholder use^{C-18} in making choices about hunting and other activities.

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Parking Lot Items proposed or discussed by the Action Team:

- Parking Lot #5 - Wisconsin needs to continue to support CWD research that will improve WI CWD management (*continued*)

Supporting data, references, rationale and other information behind it:

There continue to be many areas of our understanding of CWD that need further research to inform good disease management in our state. High priority examples include:

- Understanding detection and trend monitoring capacities of various surveillance strategies
- Understanding the role that environmental deposition of CWD prion play in spread of infection
- Exploring how various control strategies impact further spread of CWD (potentially including, but not limited to, different hunter harvest season structures, incentives to hunters, agency culling, and vaccination)

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Parking Lot Items proposed or discussed by the Action Team:

- Parking Lot #5 - Wisconsin needs to continue to support CWD research that will improve WI CWD management (*continued*)

Supporting data, references, rationale and other information behind it:

- Understanding how CWD prions adapt to new hosts in natural systems and what this means for potential risks to livestock and human health.
- Any changes to regulatory structure, proposed pursuant to research findings, must be appropriately reviewed (including public input) and approved by the Natural Resources Board prior to implementation.

Historically, WI made a strong commitment to supporting CWD research, but recently WDNR has invested less, been less active in fostering research important to WI CWD management, and been less open to facilitating research (e.g. through making surveillance data accessible, by leveraging unique resources like the Hall farm premise, etc.). This trend needs to be turned around.

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Parking Lot Items proposed or discussed by the Action Team:

- Parking Lot #5 - Wisconsin needs to continue to support CWD research that will improve WI CWD management (*continued*)

Consider and describe potential implementation obstacles or drawbacks:

Nationally, there is less funding available for CWD research and there is less interest by agencies in stimulating/facilitating research. So, WDNR (with partners) really needs to be active in making important research happen.

Good targeted research on CWD should ultimately help simplify and improve deer management decision-making.