

Report to
Legislative Council Rules Clearinghouse
NR 10, 12 and 19, Wis. Adm. Code
Natural Resources Board Order No. WM-05-08

Wisconsin Statutory Authority

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

Federal Authority

N/A

Court Decisions Directly Relevant

None

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

In 2002 when CWD was first identified in Wisconsin's deer herd, initial efforts to respond to the presence of the disease were swift and were based on the knowledge available at that time. Since that time the body of knowledge and experience regarding CWD has grown considerably and will continue to do so.

Over the past year, a number of factors came together which indicated a need to revisit CWD management practices develop plans for the future. These factors include:

- Acknowledgement that CWD has not been eradicated in Wisconsin and that current management practices have not met expectations
- A broader understanding of the complexities of CWD impacts on Wisconsin's free-ranging deer population, the economy, hunters, landowners and others who benefit from a healthy deer herd.
- Recognition that disease management within a free-ranging deer population requires the cooperation and collaboration of many individuals and groups including landowners and hunters.

This rule order includes the following proposed changes in the CWD hunting rules:

1. Combine the Disease Eradication Zone (DEZ) and Herd Reduction Zone (HRZ) into one zone, called the CWD Management Zone (CWD-MZ) whose outer boundary is defined by the current HRZ boundary.
2. Instead of a deer population goal of 5 deer/square mile in the DEZ and 10 deer/square mile in the HRZ, establish interim deer population goals for each DMU contained within the CWD-MZ. Those interim deer population goals would be established through a 20% reduction in the goal for those DMUs in 2001, with the exception that DMUs that had goals less than 20 in 2001, remain unchanged.
3. Authorize the use of rifles within the CWD Management Zone with the exception of metro units.
4. Restrict the import of whole cervid carcasses (deer, elk & moose) into Wisconsin from states or provinces that have CWD and restrict whole deer carcass movement from the CWD-MZ to elsewhere in the state. The Department recommends that the effective date of the carcass movement restrictions be delayed until September 1, 2009 to allow hunters time to research and evaluate their options for complying with the movement restriction if they live outside of the CWD-MZ.
5. Allow the harvest of white and albino deer in the entire CWD-MZ (formerly restricted to the DEZ)
6. Allow the shooting of deer from a farm tractor or implement of husbandry in the entire CWD-MZ (formerly restricted to the DEZ)

7. Establish a deer season framework in the CWD-MZ that is more consistent with the season framework that has been used for DMUs that are over goal in the rest of the state. Under this proposal, hunters in the CWD Zones could expect the following season framework in 2008:
- Archery season: September 13 to January 4
 - Youth hunt: October 4-5
 - Early firearm season: antlerless only October 16-19
 - 9-day firearm deer season: November 22-30
 - 10-day muzzleloader season: December 1-10
 - Late firearm season: antlerless only December 11-14
 - Holiday firearm season: antlerless only December 26-January 4
 - Unlimited Earn-a-buck regulations in effect with pre-qualification

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

Scott Loomans, Bureau of Wildlife Management – 267-2452
Tim Andryk, Bureau of Legal Services – 264-9228
Carol Turner, Bureau of Legal Services - 266-1959

Submitted on February 12, 2008