Meeting Date: January 17, 2018
Agenda Item No. 7
Agenda Item: Chronic Wasting Disease Response Plan

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Background:
The Chronic Wasting Disease surveillance plan is being revised by a team of IDFG staff. The original plan was written in 2002 and minor revisions were made in 2010 and 2012. IDFG has been conducting surveillance for CWD since 1997 and has tested over 16,000 samples and no samples have indicated positive for the disease.

The response plan revision will incorporate the latest knowledge in research and management of the disease in cervids in North America and abroad. The plan is written to be adaptive in nature and act as a toolbox for the IDFG and the Commission in the event that a positive animal is detected in either a free-ranging or captive scenario. The adaptive nature of the plan will give IDFG the flexibility to react in the most appropriate manner based on the detection scenario. The team designed a new sampling strategy that will be able to detect a 1% prevalence with 95% confidence. The communication section of the plan is a major component and details the tools and messages that we will use to communicate with internal customers, partner agencies (Idaho State Department of Agriculture, Idaho Department of Health and Welfare), NGOs (MDF, RMEF) and most importantly the public. There are also recommendations for rule proposals that could help reduce the rate of spread of CWD once it is detected.

The draft will be distributed to the Commission as soon as it has been reviewed and accepted by the Wildlife Bureau and the Director’s Office.

Statutory Authority and/or Policy Issues:
The CWD Response Plan revision does present several potential rule changes for consideration by the Commission in the future. They include restricting the transport of carcasses to, from and within CWD positive areas; import / transport of live deer and moose from CWD positive areas; and private winter feeding of big game. The Commission’s authority for these proposals is based on Idaho Title 36 and Chapter 13 of the Idaho Administrative Procedures Act.

Public Involvement Process:
This plan will be posted on the website once a final draft has been accepted by the Director.

Staff Recommendation:
This is for information purposes only and no action is needed by the Commission.

Action Requested:
None.