

Meeting Date: March 22, 2018

Agenda Item No. 13

Agenda Item: Chronic Wasting Disease Update

Bureau Chief Approval:

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Background:

In 2016, Department staff began revising the Chronic Wasting Disease Strategy which was first written in 2002 and revised in 2010 and 2012. The Department presented the draft strategy to the Commission at the January 2018 meeting. The Strategy revision is a comprehensive document that includes updated background information on research and management on CWD, prevention, and surveillance for both pre- and potentially post-detection, rule change recommendations, potential management strategies for post-detection and communication strategies.

Statutory Authority and/or Policy Issues:

Current rules in place that relate to CWD transport, carcass disposal, and use of scents for big game hunting are:

- (1) IDAPA 13.01.10: No person shall import, export, transport into or cause to be transported within, release or sell within the state of Idaho any living wildlife including wildlife eggs without having first obtained a permit from, and on a form prescribed by, the Director of the Idaho Department of Fish and Game.
- (2) IDAPA 13.01.18: Provides guidance about emergency winter feeding to minimize disease transmission. Idaho Code 36-123 establishes the Winter Feeding Advisory Committees.
- (3) IDAPA 13.01.03: Proper disposal of carcasses by hunters and taxidermists: - on public lands owned/controlled by IDFG, one cannot discard dead animals or parts or remains there ofon or in any lands or waters.
- (4) IDAPA 13.01.17: Currently allows as an exception the use of scents for deer and elk hunting.

As part of the Strategy revision, staff developed recommendations for new rules to address carcass transport, carcass disposal, private winter feeding operations, and the use of deer urine as a scent for the aid of hunting. Intent of any future transport rule proposals to the Commission will be to reduce the chance of CWD-infected materials being transported into or to other areas of the state. A feeding rule proposal to the Commission would specifically address private wildlife feeding in areas if CWD has been detected. A proposal to prohibit the use of natural deer urine scents for hunting could reduce the chances of CWD prions in the urine getting into the environment. Other rule change concepts might be developed as the new strategy is implemented.

Public Involvement Process:

This agenda item is for Commission information.

Justification:

This agenda item is to get Commission approval to move forward with the negotiated rule making process for carcass transport, winter feeding and the use of natural urine as a scent for hunting.

Staff Recommendation:

Staff recommends that Commission allow the Department to move forward with the negotiated rule process on the proposed rules outlined in the strategy.