

Testimony for TPWD Hearing on Adoption of Emergency CWD rules

CWD as you are aware is a very serious disease affecting several species of cervides.

We commend the TPWD Commission for considering adoption of these emergency rules to protect the wild deer herd of Texas and preserving the deer hunting heritage of Texas hunters and the valuable asset utilized by the landowning community that depends on the lease hunting assets.

The movement of deer has allowed for the transmission of this disease across a broad landscape in Texas. We therefore advocate for the testing of ALL deer for proof of a negative test for CWD before movement is permitted. These deer should also have an easily identifiable tag that can be seen at a distance to allow for removable deer that epidemiology determines provide a risk to wild deer.

The importance of deer hunting to perpetuate the conservation of wild resources in Texas is imperative for the continued hunting traditions and the funding mechanisms for the Texas Parks and Wildlife agency.

The public of Texas would expect the TPWD to exercise their utmost care to protect the public trust deer resources that are cherished by Texas citizens and we therefor ask that you adopt these rules.