

**Conservation Federation of Missouri
2014 Resolutions**

Committee: Deer, Wild Turkey and Elk
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#32

CWD

WHEREAS, Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) is a contagious and 100 percent fatal disease that attacks the nervous systems of cervids, such as white-tailed, mule and other types of deer; and

WHEREAS, CWD is highly transmissible primarily through direct animal to animal contact, but also through contact with contaminated soil, which remains potentially infectious for decades; and

WHEREAS, transmission rates of CWD are increased through activities that unnaturally concentrate deer; and

WHEREAS, commercial trade in live deer among breeders and the high-fence shooting industry has been a consistent factor in the geographic spread of CWD to previously uninfected areas throughout North America; and

WHEREAS, high-fence shooting preserves and deer breeding operations pose a serious threat to the cultural, social and economic benefits that a healthy wild white-tailed deer herd provides to all Missouri citizens; and

WHEREAS, the Missouri Department of Conservation requires “any person” to acquire a permit to hold white-tailed deer in captivity in deer breeding or high-fence shooting facilities (hereafter “deer facilities”); and

WHEREAS, the Missouri Department of Conservation (MDC) has permitted approximately 27 high-fence shooting preserves in Missouri with white-tailed deer, and approximately 277 white-tailed deer wildlife breeders; and

WHEREAS, the Missouri Department of Conservation does not require all landowners or operators of deer facilities to hold a permit; and

WHEREAS, permits often lack detail on facility location and other pertinent information; and

WHEREAS, the public does not receive any advance notice of or opportunity to comment on whether any such person should receive a permit to own or operate a deer facility; and

WHEREAS, such permits do not allow the Missouri Department of Conservation to depopulate or quarantine deer facilities contaminated with CWD; and

WHEREAS, such permits do not impose or require inspection requirements or routine fence inspections; and

WHEREAS, such permits do not require all deer facilities to participate in a CWD program for tracking animals; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED that the Conservation Federation of Missouri assembled at the Capitol Plaza Hotel, Jefferson City, MO on this 23rd day of March, 2014, that the Conservation Federation of Missouri finds that the Missouri Department of Conservation's system for permitting deer facilities requires strengthening in many respects; and, be it further

RESOLVED that the CFM suggests that the Missouri Department of Conservation and the Missouri Conservation Commission conduct a thorough review of its deer facility permitting program with input from the public; and, be it further

RESOLVED that the CFM suggests that the Missouri Department of Conservation and the Missouri Conservation Commission make the following procedural changes and regulatory modifications:

1. Permits must have all landowners sign application and be included as permittees, not just operator if different from landowner(s); and
2. If the operator is not the landowner, the operator must also sign the application and be a co-permittee with the landowner; and
3. Ask permit applicant to confirm whether the permittee is a sole proprietor, partnership or corporation. If a partnership, require all partners to sign application. If a corporation, confirm that the corporation is in good standing with Secretary of State's office; and
4. Application must require submission of property deed for verification of all owners; and
5. A legal description and map of pen area should be required to be on application and permit; and
6. Permits, including permit renewals, must go on public notice for 30 days. The draft permit shall include the names of all owners and operators and the physical location of the facility. The public notice for permit renewals shall also summarize the status of the facility's compliance with its permit during the last permit cycle and the Missouri Wildlife Code; and
7. Changes to fence boundaries or other structures, beyond routine maintenance and repair, must be approved as an amendment to the existing permit and inspected/approved prior to use; and
8. All herd plans shall go on public notice for 30 days and be posted on MDC's web page; and
9. All permittees shall be enrolled in CWD program (on movement of ALL cervids). No more "voluntary" program; and
10. MDC should develop a points system for revoking or suspending permits. The points system should undergo public notice for comment and to make sure cervid industry is aware of point system; and
11. Permit language should make reference to points system and potential for suspension of revocation of permit; and
12. Regulation and permit should require monthly submission of a report on all changes in deer numbers (e.g. imports, deer that died, shot, missing, escaped, transported out); and
13. Permit application and monthly reports must include a signatory's certification statement (allows prosecution for perjury); and
14. Application and permit should include language in which they acknowledge their permit could be suspended or revoked and they could be required to depopulate; and

15. Regulation and permits should allow MDC to quarantine contaminated areas on property from which deer must be excluded; which may require continuation of deer proof fence after depopulation to prevent deer access to contaminated areas; and
16. Permit fees should be adjusted if necessary to help cover MDC expenses associated with administering the program; and
17. Sale of the \$10 "Hunting preserve hunting permit" required for those hunting on permitted game preserves should be moved from the current on-site, paper-based system to the main MDC permit system, to be acquired from vendors or on-line. Currently permits are not on the public record nor maintained anywhere other than on-site. These permits should be part of the public record subject to the Missouri Sunshine Law; and
18. Hunter education requirements for game preserve permit holders are not adequately screened. There should be a system to ensure these shooters are certified.