



State of New Jersey

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

NATURAL AND HISTORIC RESOURCES

DIVISION OF FISH AND WILDLIFE

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Larry Herrighty, Director

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Governor

SHEILA Y. OLIVER

Lt. Governor

November 2018

Dear New Jersey Deer Hunter,

I am asking for your help in addressing a potentially serious threat to our wild deer herd and hunting traditions.

During the last century, state and provincial fish and wildlife agencies, with the support of hunters, restored the white-tailed deer to a condition of abundance. With careful management, hunters throughout the Northeast have enjoyed the rich traditions associated with deer hunting including quality time spent with friends and family, memories of hunting camp, and fresh venison.

There is now however, a serious threat to our deer herds from a deadly illness called *Chronic Wasting Disease* or *CWD*. This disease is a contagious neurological disease affecting deer and other members of the deer family such as elk, mule deer and moose. CWD results in emaciation, abnormal behavior, loss of bodily functions and death, and is readily spread from deer to deer. It eventually wears down and kills every infected animal.

New England states are currently CWD-free; however, it has been found in wild and captive deer in Pennsylvania and New York. New Jersey is one of only two states in the mid-Atlantic region – the other being Delaware - that does *not* have CWD in its deer herd, *which is why I am asking for your help in keeping it that way.*

State and provincial fish and wildlife agencies are taking all appropriate measures to control the spread of CWD, however we can't succeed without your help. Here's what you can do:

- Refrain from using urines and scents as lures if they are derived from live deer as CWD can be spread with these scents and lures. Many, if not all, of these products are derived from CAPTIVE deer, where the risk of CWD is greatest. Some states and provinces already prohibit the use of natural scents and lures and you must follow those requirements. But even if not mandated, it is important that you take measures to reduce or eliminate the spread of these materials in the environment.

- Debone all deer species before crossing state or provincial borders. CWD is carried in the brain and spinal cord of infected deer, and it is vitally important that these parts of a deer are not transported across state and provincial boundaries. This means you should have your deer processed commercially before you move it across a state or provincial boundary, or you should bone out a deer (removing the head and all bones) after you have complied with state and provincial regulations for bringing your deer to a check station. Instructional videos can be found on the internet.
- Be familiar with and follow all laws regarding the transport of deer carcasses - both wild and captive - and be sure to check all legal requirements of the provinces and states where you hunt or transport your deer. As a hunter, you are personally responsible for following all applicable laws and regulations, including those pertaining to the transport of deer and/or deer parts across state and provincial borders.
- Report deer that appear sick, weak, or starving to the Division of Fish and Wildlife by calling (908)-637-4125 ext. 120 or (609)-984-6295. One of the most important ways of stopping the spread of CWD is early detection, so your reports of potentially sick deer are critically important to NJ's disease monitoring efforts!

Please continue to enjoy New Jersey's rich deer hunting tradition this season with safety, enjoyment, and responsibility, and take ownership of our cherished hunting tradition by doing your part to prevent the spread of CWD across state and provincial borders.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Larry Herrighty".

Larry Herrighty, Director
NJ Division of Fish and Wildlife