



QUALITY DEER MANAGEMENT ASSOCIATION

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Date: 12 June 2019
To: Missouri Department of Conservation
From: Jacob Pries, Policy Intern
Re: Support for CWD Regulations

On behalf of the Quality Deer Management Association (QDMA), we would like to state our strong support for the regulations promulgated by the Missouri Department of Conservation (MDC) on Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) and respectfully request these vital regulations be enacted. The QDMA is a national nonprofit wildlife conservation organization dedicated to ensuring the future of white-tailed deer, wildlife habitat and our hunting heritage. Founded in 1988, the QDMA has over 60,000 members nationwide and our membership includes hunters, landowners and natural resource professionals.

CWD is nothing short of an epidemic within the wildlife community and these common-sense regulations address the expanding problem of CWD in the United States keeping Missouri's successful hunting industry thriving. CWD is an always fatal disease found in all native North American cervids (members of the deer family) including elk, moose, mule and white-tailed deer, and it has now been identified in 26 U.S. states, three Canadian provinces, Korea, Finland and Norway. Contagions spread through urine, feces, saliva, blood, deer parts, and especially via live animals. Importantly, there is no vaccine, no cure and no practical live animal test.

Whitetails are the most popular big game animal in the U.S., and whitetail hunters are the foundation of the nearly \$67 billion hunting industry. According to the National Shooting Sports Foundation, approximately three of every four hunters pursue whitetails, and in Missouri over 570,000 hunters contribute more than \$1.6 billion annually to the state's economy. Additionally, these hunters support an industry that directly maintains 133,000 jobs. These regulations allow for the preservation of the white-tailed deer hunting culture that runs deep in the hearts of so many Missourians, while ensuring the necessary precautions are taken into consideration. These necessary regulations are the next crucial step in Missouri to address the problem of CWD being tackled across the country. On behalf of the Quality Deer Management Association, we would like to thank you for your time, dedicated service to the state of Missouri, and your consideration of this matter.

Respectfully,

Jacob Pries
Policy Intern
Quality Deer Management Association