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Conservation Notes

Current topics and issues affecting hunting, fishing, and outdoor recreation in our North Dakota.

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Chronic Wasting Disease: A threat to North Dakota's deer and deer Hunters

Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) is an always fatal brain disease of deer, elk, and moose that has no cure or treatment. First identified in Colorado and Wyoming, CWD was detected in North Dakota in 2009 and is now found in some 23 states and three Canadian provinces. The N.D. Game Fish Department (GFD) developed a CWD Prevention Plan in 2002. They updated the 2002 Plan to the 2023 CWD Management and Surveillance Plan. The 2023 Plan is based on the most up-to-date information from North Dakota and 5 decades of research and scientific studies from across the United States and Canada. The GFD's mission is to protect, conserve, and manage ND's wildlife for the public to use and enjoy. GFD uses science and years of expertise in wildlife management to make the decisions necessary to manage wildlife in ND. Failure to take all steps to protect the viability of the deer herd will result in the severe reduction or even demise of deer hunting in the State. Therefore, because the GFD biologists are the state's experts in wildlife management and have a scientifically sound management plan for CWD, the legislature should not restrict or control how GFD manages diseases such as CWD.

For more information on this message or other conservation topics, contact: John Bradley, Executive Director, North Dakota Wildlife Federation, (jbradley.ndwf@gmail.com), Mike McEnroe, Past President, North Dakota Wildlife Federation (memcenroe@midco.net) or Rick Nelson, Past President, North Dakota Chapter, The Wildlife Society, (bluebill@bis.midco.net). For a complete list of Conservation Notes visit (ndctws.org)-library