



Press Release: June 2, 2002
www.caids-wi.org

A Safe & Sane Alternative to the Wisconsin DNR Deer Slaughter

The DNR's rush to kill 100% of the deer population in a 361 square mile area in Southwestern Wisconsin - as soon as possible - is meeting strong resistance from many hunters and landowners. As outlined here, CAIDS-Wisconsin and these two groups support a more reasoned, balanced approach to successfully addressing and containing **Chronic Wasting Disease** in Wisconsin.

Hunter-sportsmen oppose the kill because it is neither for food nor sport. Ninety-eight percent (98%) of the deer to be killed and incinerated or dumped in the landfill will be healthy animals. The traditions that mark the sport of deer hunting are being cast aside. What the DNR has proposed is an all-out "War" against the deer, not a sporting deer hunt.

Area landowners opposed granting the DNR the power to abuse private property rights and view the plan as a threat to the right to live safely and securely in their communities. Conducting a war-like assault to search and kill all deer will produce "collateral damage" and materially upset the ecological balance of the area. The DNR rush to judgement - without adequate research, testing and preparation - simply adds further insecurity and anxiety that accidents and harm are a certainty.

CAIDS-Wisconsin Action Plan. Despite this strong opposition to the DNR's plan, hunters and landowners of **CAIDS-Wisconsin** support a **vigorous** yet non-hysterical effort to confront Chronic Wasting Disease in Wisconsin. We believe the millions of dollars proposed to be squandered on the "Deer War" effort can be better invested in:

1. Providing accurate, quick, and convenient testing facilities for hunters across the entire state of Wisconsin, including funding of private testing facilities;
2. Increased education to protect human health in consumption of venison;
3. Basic research on Chronic Wasting Disease, including its causes and methods of transmission;
4. Rapidly collecting statistically valid samples state-wide to determine the extent and breadth of the disease among Wisconsin's Deer Herd; and
5. Requiring the Wisc. Dept of Ag to impose **mandatory** rules regarding identification, valid testing practices, and oversight of all Wisconsin deer & elk farms.

CAIDS-Wisconsin supports a common sense program of **vigorous action to significantly reduce the deer overpopulation** in Wisconsin (that is a cause/contributor to Chronic Wasting Disease). In addition to respecting the traditions of the sporting community and the rights of landowners, this program provides:

1. Two additional deer hunting seasons to supplement the traditional season: a state-wide 4 day sampling season in late October and an optional 9 day season in January;
2. A minimum of 3 deer tags per hunting license, one of which is only valid for the October collection hunt and additional earn-a-buck tags for all Deer Mgt Units with above average deer populations;
3. Provision of economical, adequate, convenient, and quick testing facilities for all hunters;
4. Ban on all deer feeding and baiting; and
5. An adaptive long-term deer management plan based on sound statistical sampling methods.

Additionally CAIDS-Wisconsin (www.caids-wi.org) supports a change in statewide natural resources policy that promotes over-abundance of deer to the detriment of a balanced wildlife ecology.



CAIDS

Citizens Against Irrational Deer Slaughter

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