

Summary

Meeting dates: March 18-19, 2016

Agenda item: Possession and Importation Dead Wildlife and Transport of Elk Hooves
– Rule Briefing and Public Hearing

Presenter: Jerry Nelson, Ph.D., Deer and Elk Section Manager, Wildlife Program

Background summary:

Currently there is no legal way to salvage and possess deer, elk, or moose that have been killed by a motor vehicle. Per a request by the Commission, the Department has investigated a strategy that would allow salvage and possession of those animals. Staff will brief the Commission on proposed amendments to WAC 232-12-287 that would facilitate the legal salvage of road-killed deer and elk.

In WAC 232-12-021, the Department is recommending adding the state of Michigan to the list of states that have discovered chronic wasting disease (CWD) in their wild, free-ranging deer populations. Michigan had their first detection of CWD in late May of 2015. The Commission currently requires additional processing of deer, elk, and moose carcasses harvested in these states. The additional processing may help reduce the risk of CWD being imported into the state. Currently CWD has not been detected in Washington. This amendment would make the emergency rule permanent.

The Department is recommending an amendment to WAC 232-12-286 that would allow, under certain circumstances, the legal transport of elk hooves coming from GMUs with treponeme associated hoof disease (TAHD). The amendment would help facilitate current research on TAHD and make the emergency rule permanent.

Policy issue(s) you are bringing to the Commission for consideration:

- Provide a mechanism for the public to legally make use of deer, elk and moose killed by motor vehicles that currently cannot be used.
 - Facilitate research on TAHD.
 - Reduce the risk of importing CWD into Washington.
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Public involvement process used and what you learned:

The Department notified approximately 28,000 individuals and organizations informing them of the opportunity to provide comment on the proposed regulations. Additionally, these individuals and organizations were informed of the opportunity to provide verbal testimony at the March 18-19, 2016 Commission Meeting in Moses Lake.

Action requested:

Take public comment. Adoption is planned for the April 8-9, 2016 Commission Meeting.

Draft motion language:

NA – Briefing and public hearing only.

Justification for Commission action:

NA – Briefing and public hearing only.

Communications Plan:

WDFW Website
News Releases
Hunting Pamphlet
