Department Response to Deer Regulation Amendments

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Amendment 1

• Allow hunters with disabilities a baiting exception for the entire season
  – Currently allowed in Liberty and Independence hunts (6 days)
  – Increase in baiting duration represents an increased risk on the landscape
  – Department does not have data on success rates for hunters with disabilities
  – Department does not support this amendment
Amendment 2

• Remove all mandatory APRs from CWD/APR study area
  – Current study was designed to evaluate impacts of APRs
  – Cause-effect relationship of the study would no longer be applicable if APRs are removed
  – Townships chosen for landscape characteristics
  – Department does not support this amendment
Amendment 3

• Remove mandatory APRs from Montcalm County in CWD/APR study
  – Would necessitate a project redesign, incorporating new townships
  – Would impact data collection timeline
  – Permission already acquired on 36 properties in Montcalm County
  – Department does not support this amendment
Amendment 4

- Flip the CWD/APR treatment and control areas
  - Most treatment APR townships located interior of the county
  - In evaluating the impacts of APRs, desire to limit potential impacts associated with border counties with differing regulations
  - Department **does not** support this amendment
Amendment 5

• Allow single bite baits in the UP CWD Core Zone
  – No data to support single bite baits pose less risk for disease transmission than multi-bite baits
  – Repeated placement of bait congregates animals and increases risk
  – Baiting ban implemented with CWD response
  – Department does not support this amendment
Amendment 6

• Remove APRs in DMU 122
  – One positive deer identified after 2018 surveillance; more informed going into regulatory response
  – Current impacts of APRs is a research question identified by the NRC
  – Department does not support this amendment
Amendment 7

• Remove APRs from the first tag of the combo license in the UP, except Drummond Island
  – Survey data supports “hunter’s choice” in the UP (64% UP, 62% Statewide)
  – Current impacts of APRs is a research question identified by the NRC
  – Best addressed after extensive engagement occurs and during 2020 deer regulations cycle
  – Department **does not** support this amendment
Amendment 8

- Sunset on baiting/feeding ban in UP CWD Core if surveillance goals are met & no additional CWD positive animals
  - CWD will remain a concern for the foreseeable future in the UP
  - Communication challenges with the lower peninsula baiting/feeding ban
  - Department does not support this amendment
Amendment 9

- Redefining bait to include scented materials
  - Materials would be inaccessible for consumption
  - Materials would be inaccessible for contact
  - Department supports this amendment
Amendment 10

- Establish an antlerless harvest goal for the CWD/APR study to continue
  - Camera study will indicate whether population declines are experienced in surveyed townships
  - Harvest data will be analyzed to determine county trends
  - Can communicate nonbinding “harvest goals”
  - Department does not support this amendment
Amendment 11

- Allow late-archery crossbow use in UP CWD Core
  - Crossbows currently allowed in early archery season
  - Concerns were raised with the NRC in 2009
  - Department is neutral on this amendment
Technical Amendment

• Allow baiting of deer to begin 5 days prior to the second Saturday in September
  – Currently it is illegal to bait deer prior to September 15
  – Current order proposes Liberty hunt to be September 14-15, 2019 (two-day hunt starting the second Saturday in September)
  – Department supports this amendment
Thank You

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