

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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