

## MEMORANDUM:

September 7, 2023

**TO:** Roger A. Young, Executive Director

**FROM:** George Warthen, Director, Division of Hunting and Game Management

**SUBJECT:** Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) Response – CWD Management Zone establishment and special regulations

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Attached is an executive order that reestablishes a Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) Management Zone in the area surrounding the location of a confirmed CWD-positive white-tailed deer and establishes special regulations for white-tailed deer in Zone D.

The proposed regulations include prohibitions on exporting of whole cervid (deer) carcasses and high-risk carcass parts originating from the CWD Management Zone, feeding of deer within the CWD Management Zone with limited exceptions, and rehabilitating or releasing of injured or orphaned white-tailed deer originating within the CWD Management Zone.

Additionally, the proposed regulations require all deer harvested in Holmes, Jackson and Washington counties from December 9-10, 2023 to be checked at a staffed check station, allow the take of antlerless deer during the entire antlered deer season in Deer Management Unit (DMU) D2 (except in WMAs), allow the take of antlerless deer in those portions of Holmes, Jackson and Washington counties located within DMU D1 from December 9-10, 2023 (except in WMAs), and specify that any deer testing positive for CWD does not count towards an individual's bag limit.

The purpose of these regulations is to help protect Florida's white-tailed deer herd by reducing the potential spread of CWD within the CWD Management Zone and to other parts of the state.

Please let us know if you have any questions or if you would like to discuss these proposals further.

**State of Florida  
Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission**

**Executive Order Number: EO 23-30**

**ESTABLISHMENT OF A CHRONIC  
WASTING DISEASE (CWD)  
MANAGEMENT ZONE AND SPECIAL  
REGULATIONS FOR DEER**

The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission of the State of Florida, acting under the authority of Article IV, Section 9, of the Florida Constitution, and acting through its Executive Director under Paragraph 22 of the Delegations of Authority, hereby establishes the following special regulations in response to the confirmed detection of Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) in a wild white-tailed deer in Florida. This order reaffirms, except as modified herein, and replaces executive order number EO 23-19:

1. Establish a CWD Management Zone that includes that portion of Holmes, Jackson, and Washington counties north of Interstate 10, east of State Road 81 and west of U.S. Highway 231.
2. Notwithstanding anything to the contrary in Title 68A, Florida Administrative Code (F.A.C.), no person shall export the carcass or parts thereof of any species in the family Cervidae (deer) originating from within the CWD Management Zone except:
  - a. boned-out meat or products thereof;
  - b. clean hides with no head attached;
  - c. antlers, antlers with a clean skull plate with no tissue attached or clean skulls with no tissue attached;
  - d. finished taxidermy products; and
  - e. clean teeth with no tissue attached.
3. Any carcass or portions or parts thereof, except those parts listed in 2 b. through e. above, of any species in the family Cervidae (deer) originating from Florida, testing positive for CWD shall be surrendered to FWC personnel and shall not apply to an individual's bag limit for deer.
4. The placement of grain, salt products, minerals and other products meant to be consumed by any species in the family Cervidae (deer) is prohibited year-round within the CWD Management Zone except as follows:
  - a. consumable products placed in a manner that excludes access by deer;
  - b. consumable products used solely for normal agricultural, forest management, or wildlife food plot production practices; and
  - c. consumable products used as part of any feral hog management effort (must be placed within a trap), or in operation of any licensed Game Farm or Hunting Preserve, or for any Commission-authorized CWD management activities.
5. The rehabilitation or release of injured or orphaned white-tailed deer originating from or located within the CWD Management Zone is prohibited.

6. All deer harvested from December 9-10, 2023 in Holmes, Jackson and Washington counties, shall be checked at a staffed FWC check station prior to transporting the deer to the possessor's domicile or a processor or taxidermist, except deer harvested on licensed Game Farms or Hunting Preserves.
7. Take of antlerless deer shall be allowed throughout Deer Management Unit (DMU) D2 during the entirety of the open season for antlered deer established in Rule 68A-13.004, F.A.C., for DMU D2. Additionally, the take of antlerless deer shall be allowed from December 9-10, 2023, in those portions of Holmes, Jackson and Washington counties located within DMU D1. These regulations shall not apply on commission-managed lands.

Violations of rules or orders of the Commission, including the prohibitions found herein, may result in noncriminal and/or criminal charges. All other provisions of Title 68A, F.A.C., not in conflict with this Order shall remain in full force and effect.

This order shall take effect upon execution and shall remain in effect until rescinded or replaced by subsequent order or rule of the Commission.

**Specific Authority:** Article IV, Section 9, Florida Constitution  
Rule 68-1.009, F.A.C.



Attest:

*Sabrina Menendez*  
Agency Clerk

GIVEN UNDER MY HAND AND SEAL OF  
THE FISH AND WILDLIFE CONSERVATION  
COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF FLORIDA  
THIS 8th DAY OF SEPTEMBER 2023.

*Roger A. Young*  
Roger A. Young  
Executive Director

APPROVED as to form and legality:

/s/ Daniel Shubeck  
Commission Attorney