

Facility: Leopold Wetland Management District
Title: CWD Surveillance and Management Plan

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

For the reasons briefly presented below and based on an evaluation of the information contained in the supporting references enumerated below, I have determined that:

implementation of the Chronic Wasting Disease Surveillance and Management Plan, as described in Alternative A of the attached Environmental Assessment is not a major Federal action which would significantly affect the quality of the human environment within the meaning of Section 102(2)(c) of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969. An Environmental Impact Statement will, accordingly, not be prepared.

Reasons:

1. The recent detection of CWD in the wild white-tailed deer herd in Wisconsin is of particular concern due to the potential for rapid spread within white-tailed deer populations of substantially higher densities than in the previously identified endemic areas of Colorado, Wyoming, and Nebraska (2-5 deer per square mile). Fall deer densities in south-central Wisconsin can be as high as 75+ animals per square mile.
2. The goals of this CWD contingency plan are to minimize the impact of CWD on ungulate populations that reside or frequent District lands, to ensure early, rapid, and accurate detection, and ensure coordination and communication with adjacent wildlife management agencies on CWD. Disease prevention is far more cost-effective and resource-protective than disease control. Therefore, a secondary objective for CWD contingency planning is to encourage review of current Refuge management activities and where practical and consistent with Refuge objectives and FWS policy, adapt management to minimize the potential for CWD incursion or minimize CWD impact should it be found.
3. No listed species will be negatively impacted (Sub-section 3.2.2 of EA and Appendix B of EA).
4. No traditional cultural/archaeological resources found on the WPA would be negatively impacted by the proposed action (Sub-section 4.1.4 of the EA).

Supporting References:

1. Environmental Assessment
2. Section 7 Consultation (Appendix B of EA)


Regional Director, FWS Region 3
Date: 9/24/04

Distribution:
Wash., DC (OEC)
State Clearinghouse