



Midwest Fish and Wildlife Health Committee Meeting

April 19-20, 2011
Keystone, South Dakota



Hosted by:

South Dakota Department of Game, Fish & Parks

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Meeting Time and Place

April 19-20, 2011, Keystone, SD

Attendance

Representatives from 8 state fish and wildlife agencies (MI, NE, SD, ND, KS, IA, KT and MN) and the United States Department of Agriculture - Wildlife Services (USDA-WS), Wind Cave National Park, Three Affiliated Tribes of North Dakota, Oglala Sioux Parks and Recreation Authority, South Dakota State University, and the South Dakota Animal Industry Board attended this year's Midwest Fish and Wildlife Health Committee Meeting. A total of 19 individuals were in attendance. In addition, we had representatives from 4 state fish and wildlife agencies (WI, IL, MN, and IN), the United States Geological Survey-National Wildlife Health Center, and USDA-WS (MO) participating in the meeting via WebEx. Ohio and the Canadian provinces of Manitoba, Ontario, and Saskatchewan were not represented.

Executive Summary

Disease Reports

Each state represented, Wind Cave National Park, and the National Wildlife Health Center provided an update on the wildlife disease issues within their jurisdiction.

Update on White-nose Syndrome in North American Bats, Anne Ballmann, NWHC

During winter 2010-2011, white-nose syndrome (WNS) spread into Indiana, North Carolina, Ohio, Kentucky, and Nova Scotia/New Brunswick. No further westward movement of the fungus has been recently reported. There have been no significant changes in the diagnostic tests; the gold standard is still histopathology. Fungal tape can be a non-lethal method to determine the presence of *Geomyces destructans conidia* (Gd). Case definitions have 2 levels: confirmed WNS+ and suspect WNS+. A site is considered contaminated with Gd indefinitely if WNS is confirmed or suspected. No new bat species have been added to the susceptible list this past year. How does WNS kill? Hypothesis 1: WNS increases arousals from hibernation leading to premature depletion of fat stores, which can lead to starvation. Hypothesis 2: fungal disruption of sebaceous glands in skin causes increased evaporative water loss, which can lead to dehydration. Epidemiology of WNS: the earliest reported case was 30-Sept and latest was 21-May; the incubation period for fungal growth is 7-12 weeks (experimental) with mortality occurring at 8 weeks to 1 year. Transmission routes are thought to be bat-to-bat and environment-to-bat. Timing is thought to be primarily during winter hibernation. There are still a number of unknowns, including survival rates, transmission rates, and resistance/duration of immunity. Often not all the field signs are present upon initial detection of WNS (not all are emaciated, have visible evidence of fungus, or report bat mortality). The presence of wing damage is a poor indicator of WNS status. Also, the wing damage index isn't applicable after June, but might be useful from April-June. No WNS bats have been detected in June-August nationwide. Current research is looking at nonlethal methods for testing using UV fluorescence as a screening tool, distinguishing North American *Geomyces spp* in environmental samples, Gd persistence in cave sediment, temperature effects on Gd growth rates, comparative infection trials with North American and European Gd isolates, and Gd infection in a mammalian model. WNS National Plan went out for public comment in late November. The next phase is to develop an implementation plan. The US Fish and Wildlife Service has granted over \$5.2 million since 2007 for research and monitoring.

NWHC update: Major avian mortality events in the Midwest in 2010, LeAnn White

There were 45 epizootic events investigated or reported to NWHC from the Midwest; which accounted for 13,925 estimated dead birds. Twelve primary etiologies were detected, some with multiple causes. Trematodiasis made up the largest mortality category. Newcastle Virus (avian paramyxovirus) was reported in MN, ND, and WI in cormorants. While investigating the Newcastle outbreaks, other pathogens were also found including botulism, WNV and salmonellosis. Crow reovirus was first detected in winter 2001-2002 and there has been recurring mortality in some locations (e.g., 60 crows were diagnosed in Ohio in 2010). Avian botulism, (Type C and E) resulted in about 200 and 1,870 mortalities, respectively. There is a new program starting, called Lake Michigan Volunteer Avian Monitoring for Botulism Lakeshore Events, to monitor for botulism

outbreaks. Trematodiasis tends to occur in the upper Mississippi National Wildlife Refuge, where about 5,350-7,620 birds have died, primarily lesser scaup and American coot. Aspergillosis was found in SD in January and February 2011, which involved about 8,000 mallards (might be linked to spoiled silage).

USDA-WS Update, Tom DeLiberto

Avian influenza funding is likely coming to an end. Assistance should still be available with large (>500 birds) avian mortality events. The Early Detection System had come to an official end on March 31, 2011. WS is still active in feral swine control and disease screening. Plague and tularemia surveillance continues. MN and MI assisted WS with input on guidelines for responding to an outbreak of bovine tuberculosis, assuming some surveillance of wildlife is desired. There were less mobilizations of disease biologists to states in 2010, due to funding shortages. Recently, the field program staff has been reduced from 44 to 38, as well as 4 office staff positions. This trend might continue down to a 20-person level for the field program and another 30% reduction in office staff support. The Disease Program will likely continue, but at what level is still up in the air.

South Dakota State University, Lamb Survival and Disease Prevalence of Bighorn Sheep in SD, Josh Smith

Bighorn sheep were native to SD, but were extirpated by 1916. There have been some reintroduction attempts prior to 1964, but the 1991 reintroduction into the Spring Creek Canyon area (now 3 herds) has been the most successful one. From 2005 to present, bighorn sheep recruitment has declined and the mountain lion population has increased-Are these related? Researchers are also interested in the nutritional condition of the ewes and disease prevalence. In this study, they used vaginal implant transmitters (VITs) to capture and radio collar neonate bighorn lambs to examine cause-specific survival. Adult sheep were captured by drop net, blood was drawn and throat/nose were swabbed. Beginning in May, researchers started monitoring ewes and VITs daily. Once born, the lambs were fitted with expandable radio collars. Lambs were monitored daily until July 31st. Any carcasses were sent to the Washington Animal Disease Diagnostic Laboratory for necropsy. Thus far, 29 ewes have been collared and 23 VITs have been deployed (retention was 60-85%). For the 17 VITs that were retained, 91-100% of lambs were captured (n = 25). The first lamb drop was 3-May, most were mid-May, and the last was 30-May. All lambs died, 28 weeks of age was the oldest. Predation (24%) and pneumonia (44%) were the 2 main causes of mortality. Adult mortalities have also occurred. Nine ewes (2 confirmed pneumonia, 3 suspect pneumonia, 2 vehicle-collision, and 2 predation) and 5 rams were found dead. Pneumonia was primarily caused by *Pasturella spp*, *Mycoplasma ovipneumoniae*, and Bovine Respiratory Syncytial Virus. A discussion continued about serological results versus swabs and culture findings, and attendees provided guidance on better ways to analyze and present these data. This study is expected to continue for an additional 1-2 years.

Chronic Wasting Disease Update for Minnesota, Michelle Carstensen

The MN DNR recently found an adult female deer, harvested during the 2010 hunting season, positive for CWD. This marks the first case of CWD discovered in MN's wild deer herd. The CWD-positive deer was one of more than 500 sampled from hunter-harvested deer within a 20-mile radius of a CWD-positive captive elk herd (discovered in 2009) near Pine Island in southeastern Minnesota. The National Veterinary Services Laboratory in Ames, Iowa, confirmed the University of Minnesota's preliminary diagnosis of the single adult female white-tailed deer on Jan. 25, 2011. In response to this detection of CWD, DNR initiated its CWD Response Plan. First, an aerial survey within 10 miles of the CWD-positive deer was conducted, which estimated the local population to be 6,200 deer (20 deer/mi²). However, densities ranged as high as 80 deer/mi² within a few miles of where the positive deer was shot, which coincided with good deer wintering habitat and high recreational feeding activity. Second, a ban on recreational feeding in 4 counties was instituted in early February. Third, additional samples were collected throughout a winter surveillance area, defined as 10 miles around the CWD-positive case. The goal was to collect 900 samples; however, only 752 samples could be obtained before spring conditions precluding the deer removal efforts. No additional CWD-positive deer were detected. These results are encouraging, as it suggests a recent CWD infection with limited disease prevalence and distribution. Surveillance will continue this fall and will include the creation of a new CWD Management Zone that will have increased bag limits, disease management tags, mandatory sampling, and carcass movement restrictions.

Wisconsin CWD Update, Tami Ryan

The total number of CWD-positive deer from 2002-2011 is 1,570 out of a total of 166,612 samples. In 2010, CWD surveillance efforts were focused only in the CWD Management zone, which detected 219 new CWD-positive cases. There has been an increasing trend in prevalence in all age/sex classes, most notable is the increase from 8 to 17% in adult bucks. There has been nearly a 15% decline in the deer population in the CWD Management Zone. WI DNR is currently working with a graduate student to conduct a weighted surveillance system for fall 2011. Modeling has shown that suspect, hunter-suspect, and deer found dead have been most valuable for surveillance. Older males have highest value. Sharpshot and car-killed deer are not very useful. WI DNR has recently finalized their CWD Response Plan. The primary goals are to minimize the area where CWD occurs and minimize the prevalence of the disease in the state. They hope to enhance their outreach and communication plans by hiring a marketing firm. There is also a new website coming on line that is CWD-specific and includes interviews with CWD experts in western states.

CWD Group Discussion on Surveillance Systems, Funding and Captive Cervid Testing

Paul Shelton (IL) discussed that Illinois is fortunate that the areas with CWD are not the most popular deer hunting areas, thus the use of sharpshooters was made possible without a lot of public push-back. They are seeing success in controlling CWD prevalence by sharpshooter harvesting. Tami Ryan (WI) further explained how they intend to use a weighted surveillance system and what a management response might look like if positives were detected outside the current CWD Management Zone. Brian Richards (USGS) cautioned that the weighted surveillance system is based on data from WI and CO where there has been a long-standing infection and those demographic patterns have been established for a long time. This may not be fitting for new states that are monitoring a more recent outbreak. In these new detection situations, all age/sex classes should be sampled because these demographic patterns may not have time to become established.

Federal CWD funding has been at a \$16-17M level. In the current USDA budget request for FY13, USDA suggested an elimination of the CWD funding to states and tribes entirely; only \$1.8M would be retained to keep on 30 CWD staff to administer the rule. There may still be CWD funding in FY12 for states and tribes, the level of which is currently uncertain. A discussion on funding for CWD, independent of federal funding, continued. Some states have some dedicated funding for wildlife health whereas others do not. Disease spending needs to be driven by biological impacts to the resource versus impact to agriculture (e.g. CWD vs TB). Steve Schmitt (MI) asked what states that currently do not have CWD will do with a lack of federal funding. Indiana plans to continue CWD surveillance regardless of federal funding, but the scale may be reduced. Iowa would continue surveillance also, but probably scale this back and concentrate efforts on the most high risk areas. Other states suggested they will only test animals showing symptoms of CWD.

The group discussed the need to continue testing captive cervids. If federal funding goes away, does the monitoring of captive cervids disappear with it? Currently, Brian Richards pointed out that the CWD-positive captive herd in Missouri is still not depopulated. There continues to be new cases of CWD detected in the captive cervid industry, notably 6 premises in Saskatchewan and 1 in NE this year alone. Steve Schmitt and Dale Garner (IA) agree that they would rather see DNR funds being spent on testing captives than testing hunter-harvested wild deer at random. Brian Richards informed the group that Idaho had a bill passed through both houses that would reduce the amount of required disease testing in the captive cervid industry. This new rule will reduce testing requirement to only 20% of testable mortalities once every 3 years. This greatly alarmed the committee. If Idaho passes this bill, this might be a slippery slope that other states would reduce their testing requirements and thus import requirements. Currently, most states will not allow importation of captive cervids from a herd without 100% testing of testable animals for 3-5 years. Dan Grove (ND) suggested the captive cervid industry pay their own testing fees, as it should be a small price to pay on the expensive shooter bucks or the need to transport these animals for marketing opportunities.

Bovine Tuberculosis Update in Minnesota, Michelle Carstensen

Michelle Carstensen provided an overview of the bovine tuberculosis (bTB) outbreak in cattle and wild deer in the northwestern corner of the state. To date, they have found 27 wild deer with the disease and 12 infected cattle herds. Fall 2010 hunter-harvested surveillance efforts yielded 1,639 samples and no obvious cases of bTB (final culture results are pending). This could mark the first year that no new cases of bTB were detected in

wild deer. The last bTB positive deer was found in fall 2009. The DNR has committed to conducting deer surveillance for bovine TB for 5 years of consecutive zero positives detected. However, Minnesota DNR may be working to renegotiate the current sampling requirements with USDA. The state was granted Split-State Status in 2008, following a cattle buy-out program that removed 46 of 68 herds from the endemic area. In 2010, the state was upgraded to TB-Free everywhere except within the split-state component, which remained Modified Accredited Advanced. In 2011, the Minnesota Board of Animal Health will be applying for TB-Free status within the split state zone as well, and if achieved, it is uncertain how this may affect future surveillance requirements for deer. It is likely that cattle testing requirements and movement restrictions will remain in place within the bTB Management Zone until such time that state and federal agencies agree the disease has been eradicated in the deer population.

Bovine Tuberculosis Update in Michigan, Steve Schmitt

Bovine tuberculosis (bTB) testing in fall 2010 included nearly 5,000 deer and found 24 positives. Most of these positives came from DMU 452, the endemic bTB core area. What drives bTB transmission? Deer density and concentration. Strategies are simple, keep deer from concentrating by eliminating supplemental feeding and baiting, and reducing deer numbers through hunting to a level supported by the natural vegetation. There has been success in bringing prevalence down from 4.9% in 1995 to 1.8% in 2010. However, disease prevalence appears to be stable over the past 8 years, averaging just under 2%. Recent modeling work is suggesting that if management of the disease continues as is, prevalence will remain just under 2% for the next 30 years. It will take more aggressive management strategies to eradicate the disease. The model was developed to compare different management scenarios. Even under the most aggressive scenarios with increased harvest, 100% compliance on the feeding/baiting ban and use of bTB vaccination, it would take a minimum of 13 years to reach eradication of the disease. The model suggests that without baiting there is a 1.6% probability the disease would become established in a new area and a 10% probability with baiting. Michigan is putting a lot of effort in the continued development of an oral vaccine for bTB.

South Dakota Bovine Tuberculosis Review, Dustin Oedekoven

State Veterinarian, Dustin Oedekoven provided an overview of national bTB eradication history. In the 1900's, bTB caused 10% of all human deaths; 20-30% of this was *M. bovis*. In 1917, about 5% of cattle in the US had bTB, which was the start of the bTB Eradication Program. By 1935, this was reduced to 3%. In the 1950s, this was further reduced to 0.1% of all US cattle. By the 1960s, primary surveillance became slaughter surveillance. bTB is NOT going away and recent cases have been detected in numerous states, including SD, NE, TX, IN, OH, KT, and CO. In South Dakota in 2009-2010, there has been one slaughter trace of a bTB-positive cow from a SD feedlot (no animal ID at slaughter) and one slaughter trace from a SD auction (brucellosis vaccination tag with no records on file). Traces implicated both infected and exposed herds in NE, as well as an infected dairy in TX. A bTB-positive heifer was found in a feedlot in southeastern SD (no animal ID was collected at slaughter, but the specific feedlot was identified). There was a breeding herd on the feedlot that tested bTB-negative and records show 38 possible producers and 7 auction markets. The genotype found the strain of bTB to be similar to the NE captive elk herd (Jan 09) and an IN beef herd and 3 IN captive elk herds. There was a link to NE- a producer had pastured his cattle 0.5 miles from the bTB+ cervid herd in NE. This herd of 300 head (commercial cow-calf operation, annually buys 200 yearlings) was tested and they found 2 bTB-infected animals (considered to be the Index Herd). Subsequent trace in/trace outs found 1 herd in SD and 1 in NE that were bTB-positive. All 5 of these cows were the same age and all pastured near the bTB-positive captive cervid herd in NE. Now with the new Federal Order, every state is for themselves- no requirements are applicable to accredited-free and modified accredited advanced states or zones. Wildlife surveillance was done in Yankton County, including 50 sharpshot deer and 22 hunter-harvested deer; no bTB was found. The NE side has also not found bTB in wild deer to date.

Action Item

Dale Garner (IA) brought forth a resolution in support of feeding and baiting restrictions to the committee. The Midwest Deer and Wild Turkey Study Group has recently voted to support this resolution and Dale, as the liaison, will be bringing this to the upcoming AWFA Director's meeting. The request was made that the Health Committee also weighs in on the importance of banning these activities due to inherent risks in disease transmission. The committee discussed the resolution below. All committee members voted in favor of the resolution, no nays.

Resolution by the Midwest Deer and Wild Turkey Study Group regarding the detrimental consequences of the growing practice of baiting and feeding

Our concerns focus primarily on the impacts of baiting and feeding on the transmission and spread of diseases and parasites in deer and wild turkey, the economic impacts of disease management and the subsequent ability of our agencies' to manage deer and wild turkey populations in light of these threats.

WHEREAS: Wildlife belongs to all citizens equally; method of take is entrusted to the state or province in consideration of the resource for the benefit of the public. AND

WHEREAS: Effective communication, education and enforcement are enhanced when rules and regulations are consistent across state and provincial boundaries. AND

WHEREAS: Baiting is not necessary to successfully harvest deer or wild turkey. AND

WHEREAS: Feeding is not necessary to sustain healthy deer and wild turkey populations. AND

WHEREAS: It is not possible to bait or feed deer and wild turkey without increasing the likelihood for the spread of diseases and parasites. AND

WHEREAS: Concentrating deer by baiting and feeding can facilitate the transmission, establishment, and spread of diseases such as chronic wasting disease, bovine tuberculosis, brucellosis and Johne's disease and parasites such as ticks, mites and nematodes. AND

WHEREAS: Concentrating wild turkey by baiting and feeding can facilitate the transmission, establishment, and spread of diseases such as blackhead, avian pox and parasites such as ticks, lice, tape worms and round worms. AND

WHEREAS: Deer and wild turkey pathogens often remain viable at bait or feed sites long after the feed or bait no longer exists. AND

WHEREAS: Increased transmission and spread of diseases and parasites in deer and wild turkey may potentially put other wildlife and domestic livestock and public health at risk. AND

WHEREAS: Once certain diseases such as bovine tuberculosis become established in a deer population the cost of management dramatically increases thereby diverting limited public funds from traditional wildlife management activities. AND

WHEREAS: Feeding deer and wild turkey acclimates these animals to people which creates nuisance animals. Once the general public perceives a species as a nuisance, tolerance for and value of the species to society diminishes. AND

WHEREAS: The National Wild Turkey Federation technical committee resolution (1982) discourages the artificial feeding of turkeys, and The Wildlife Society position paper, Baiting and Supplemental Feeding of Game Wildlife Species (2007) discourages supplemental feeding and baiting of all wild game species, AND

WHEREAS: We acknowledge that feeding of wild ungulates has been a long tradition with some state, federal and provincial agencies dating back to the early 1900s. AND

WHEREAS: We acknowledge that banning baiting and feeding will not totally eliminate the possibility of disease transmission, establishment, and spread in free-ranging deer and wild turkey populations; but it is a positive, proactive step. AND

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED: The Midwest Deer and Wild Turkey Study Group respectfully requests the Midwest Directors representing member state and provincial wildlife agencies to:

1. collectively work to educate deer and wild turkey hunters, conservation organizations, the agricultural community and the general public as to the dangers and potential impacts resulting from baiting and feeding of deer and wild turkey; and
2. remain resolute in prohibiting the practice of baiting and feeding of deer and wild turkey in those states and provinces where baiting and feeding bans currently exist; and
3. prohibit baiting and feeding of deer and wild turkey in those states and provinces where those practices are currently allowed ; and
4. communicate these concerns to the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies.

MEMO TO: Midwest Directors:

FROM: Midwest Deer and Wild Turkey Study Group

DATE: August 24, 2010

RE: Feeding and Baiting Resolution

Attached is a resolution adopted by the Midwest Deer and Wild Turkey Study Group at their annual meeting in Devils Lake, North Dakota August 23-24, 2010. Additional supporting documentation and references are provided below.

Dr. William R. Davidson, retired assistant director of the Southeastern Cooperative for Wildlife Disease Study (SCWDS) at the University of Georgia has stated "... science knows more than enough about the transmissible disease to realize we must not concentrate wildlife." "A key to prevention is to reduce or eliminate those risk factors that are controllable, and live animal importation, supplemental feeding, baiting, and other highly artificial practices are controllable risk factors." "Based on experience gained over several decades of work in the wildlife disease field at SCWDS, we believe that such actions are imperative if wildlife, domestic livestock and poultry, and human populations are to be safeguarded from unnecessary disease risks (Davidson and Fischer 2003)."

USDA research has shown that the bacteria responsible for causing TB can remain infectious for more than 17 weeks in frozen feed. This study terminated at 120-days with *M. bovis* bacteria still viable (Whipple and Palmer 2000). The prions that cause CWD will bind with soil particles (Johnson et al. 2007) and have been shown to infect mule deer at least two years later (Miller et al. 2004). Anthrax is believed to remain dormant in the soil for decades. Researchers believe that some areas of the country near historic cattle trails have a higher incidence of anthrax due to soils being infected from cattle drives in the late 1800s (Parker et al. 2007).

Repeated placement of food, minerals or attractants to a site to be consumed by deer and wild turkeys distinguishes these practices from any natural food source or feeding behavior. The practice of baiting congregates deer and wild turkeys, thus changing their distribution. These concentrations generally equate to the loss of opportunity and harvest by the general public since deer and wild turkey are restricted to a few properties rather than more evenly distributed based on quality habitats. By artificially altering the distribution and behavior of deer and wild turkey, the ability of state and provincial agencies to effectively manage populations is also impacted. A study in Wisconsin revealed that deer harvest success during the gun season increased when baiting was banned (Van Deelen et al. 2006). Deer returned to natural distribution and movements that allowed the general public to harvest.

Bait and feed piles provide a situation where partially consumed feed, contaminated with saliva or nasal secretions from diseased animals, can be consumed and spread the disease to other deer (Miller et al. 2003). The TB bacterium can also be spread to humans through contact with saliva, urine, feces, milk, and improperly cooked meat of infected animals (Wiltkins et al. 2008). Blackhead and many other parasitic diseases affecting wild turkeys are spread via infected feces. Mortality rates of turkeys infected with blackhead disease usually

exceeds 75%. In some instances concerns over disease by agricultural producers have resulted in the removal of the surviving turkeys after the disease has taken its toll on the flock. Grain used for bait or feeding can mold and be infected with aflatoxins or ergot toxins that can sicken and kill deer, turkeys, and a variety of other wildlife.

Once disease is established in wildlife populations, the cost to hunters and taxpayers quickly escalates. Between 1994 and 2002, Michigan spent in excess of \$150 million in an effort to control bovine tuberculosis (TB) in their deer herd, with an estimated annual cost to producers of \$15 million for testing (Toso 2002). In Wisconsin, efforts to control Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) have topped well over \$32 million since 2001. Since 2005, the estimated cost of controlling TB in the northwestern Minnesota cattle and deer herd has now exceeded \$10 million for testing cattle and another \$3 to \$5 million for testing and removal of deer.

Exceptions. Our resolution does not include feed that is:

A. present solely as a result of normal agricultural, forest management, orchard management, wildlife food planting or other similar land management practices; or

B. used for scientific purposes such as but not limited to population control or capture and handling of wildlife under written authorization from the responsible fish and wildlife agency. This section shall not be construed to limit employees of agencies of the state or province, or local animal control officers in the performance of their official duties related to public health, wildlife management, or wildlife removal; or

C. for the purpose of luring coyotes or furbearing animals for trapping as permitted by law.

Definitions.

“Baiting” is defined as the placement and/or use of bait(s) for attracting deer, wild turkey and other game to a specific location for the purpose of hunting. Baits include but are not limited to grains, minerals, salts, fruits, vegetables, hay or any other natural or manufactured foods. This designation does not apply to the use of scents and lures, water, standing crops, or livestock feeds being used in standard farming practices. “Baited area” means any area where any “feed” is intentionally placed, deposited, distributed or scattered so as to lure, attract or entice wildlife to, on, or over a specific location. Such area shall remain a “baited area” for thirty days following complete removal of all “feed”, except for salt, minerals, or any other “feed” that will dissolve and leach into the soil; in which case such area shall be considered as a permanently “baited area” until such time as all contaminated soil is either removed or covered in such a manner that the area no longer serves to artificially attract wildlife.

“Feeds” include but are not limited to grains, minerals, salts, fruits, vegetables, hay or any other natural or manufactured foods that are capable of luring, attracting or enticing wildlife.

“Feeding” means the intentional placement of food for deer, wild turkey, and other game animals to a specific location for any purpose (e.g., photographing or viewing, taming, providing nutritional supplements). This designation does not apply to the use of scents and lures, water, standing crops, or livestock feeds being used in standard farming practices.

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AFWA Federal Appropriations Recommendations for 2013 Federal Budget for USDA-APHIS

Ranking #1, Chronic Wasting Disease for \$20M

Ranking #2, Bovine Tuberculosis for \$20.6M (\$10M should go to monitoring and management of this disease in free-ranging wildlife)

Ranking #3, Aquaculture/VHS for \$18M

Ranking #4, Invasive Species for \$30M (e.g., increasing incidence of feral hogs)

Ranking #5, Avian Influenza for \$10M (for wild birds)

Ranking #6, Brucellosis for \$13M

We recommend funding be continued for \$250,000 for Southeast Cooperative Wildlife Disease Study. We also recommend funding for USDA-APHIS-WS for the Wildlife Disease Monitoring and Surveillance program for \$8.0M. This program funds wildlife disease assistance to states at no cost, such as CWD and bovine TB surveillance, and participation of wildlife disease biologists in state agency wildlife disease management activities.

AFWA Federal Appropriations Recommendations for 2013 Federal Budget for Department of Interior

Ranking #1, White-nose Syndrome in Bats for \$10M

Time and Place of Next Meeting

During the wrap-up, the committee decided the location of the 2012 meeting would be in Kansas, either in late April or early May. This year's meeting was judged a success and we want to thank the Directors who sent representatives to this meeting and encourage those who did not to consider sending one to next year's meeting.

Submitted by:

Stephen M. Schmitt, Chair

Michelle Carstensen, Vice-Chair