



The Alberta Fish & Game Association

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Alberta hunters asked to assist with CWD control efforts

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

(Edmonton November 6, 2006)... Alberta's largest conservation group, the Alberta Fish & Game Association (AFGA), is reminding deer hunters to help in reducing the spread of chronic wasting disease (CWD) in wild deer in the province.

Beginning this season, hunters are required to submit the heads of all deer harvested in key areas along the Alberta/Saskatchewan border and to voluntarily submit them in others. Additional deer licences are available in specific locations to help reduce deer populations.

As part of Alberta's CWD management efforts, the province will test all deer harvested in wildlife management units 150, 151, 234, 256 and 500 for the presence of the disease. The data will provide critical information about the distribution of the disease along the Alberta-Saskatchewan border. Hunters are asked for their co-operation with the new mandatory requirement to submit the heads of deer taken in these areas.

To detect potential spread of the disease beyond these key areas, hunters are also encouraged to voluntarily submit the heads of deer harvested in wildlife management units 144, 148, 152, 162, 200, 202, 203, 232, 236 and 238. Hunters will be notified of test results within six weeks.

To reduce deer densities in known risk areas, increased deer hunting opportunities are available within portions of wildlife management units 150, 151 and 234. CWD quota licences for all interested resident hunters are being made available through the Hunting Draws process for undersubscribed special licences.

Three tags are issued with each CWD quota licence. The first two tags are valid for two antlerless deer (either mule deer or white-tailed deer). The third tag can be used for any deer, but is not valid until the heads from the first two deer have been submitted to a Fish and Wildlife office. Licences cost \$9 plus GST.

The Alberta Fish and Game Association is a not-for-profit volunteer organization proud to serve Albertans in the promotion of the wise use of our fish and wildlife resources and the conservation of their habitats. Celebrating its 98th anniversary the AFGA has been active since 1908 in working towards these goals. It has a province-wide membership of more than 14,000 individuals spread among 100+ Clubs.

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