



LOUISIANA WILDLIFE FEDERATION

The voice of Louisiana's wildlife and natural resources since 1940.

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Louisiana Wildlife Federation Recommendations submitted to Louisiana Chronic Wasting Disease Task Force March 2026

These recommendations are submitted by the Louisiana Wildlife Federation (LWF) in direct response to House Concurrent Resolution 75 (HCR 75), which established the Louisiana Legislative Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) Task Force. HCR 75 directs the Task Force to evaluate Louisiana's preparedness for CWD; review current statutes, regulations, and management practices; assess interagency coordination; identify gaps that increase CWD risk; and recommend legislative or administrative actions necessary to protect Louisiana's free-ranging whitetail deer herd and the public trust.

I. Surveillance, Monitoring, and Disease Response Framework

(HCR 75 directs the Task Force to evaluate the adequacy of current CWD surveillance, monitoring, and response mechanisms and to recommend improvements where necessary.)

1. Maintain LDWF CWD Surveillance and Control Zone Framework

LWF strongly supports maintaining Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries' (LDWF) existing CWD surveillance and control zone framework and reaffirms its original position in support of a 25-mile surveillance buffer around confirmed CWD detections. LWF recognizes that this original 25-mile framework provided a clear, precautionary, and science-based approach to disease containment, particularly during early detection and response phases. While LWF agreed to support a subsequent legislative and stakeholder compromise that adjusted buffer distances, the Federation continues to view the original 25-mile surveillance zone as the more protective standard for limiting disease spread, maintaining a low prevalence rate, and providing regulatory certainty.

LWF recognizes the current zone-based management approach as an effective and adaptable tool that allows surveillance intensity, carcass movement restrictions, and outreach to scale with risk. Maintaining this framework, while acknowledging the protective value of the original 25-mile position, ensures Louisiana retains the ability to respond rapidly, adjust management actions as conditions warrant, and prioritize long-term containment over short-term convenience.

2. Designate Areas of High Concern Adjacent to CWD Control and Buffer Zones

LWF recommends authorizing LDWF to designate parishes immediately adjacent to CWD control and buffer zones as Areas of High Concern based on proximity to known detections. This

designation would allow LDWF to prioritize outreach, voluntary testing, monitoring, and targeted management actions, without immediately imposing full control zone restrictions. Establishing Areas of High Concern provides LDWF with a flexible, graduated management tool that reflects how CWD spreads across landscapes rather than relying solely on administrative boundaries. This designation would not impose mandatory restrictions but would function as an early-warning and prioritization tool for surveillance and outreach.

3. Encourage LDWF to Seek Opportunity to Provide Increased Harvest Opportunities within CWD Control and Buffer Zones, as well as Areas Identified as High Concern Areas

LWF recommends that LDWF continue to explore opportunities to provide increased harvest opportunities for hunters in CWD control areas, buffer zones, and parishes identified as areas of high concern. Testimony presented throughout the Task Force process consistently emphasized that maintaining a balanced, or lowered, carrying capacity can contribute to reducing the spread of CWD across the landscape. LWF encourages LDWF to continue their efforts to take advantage of the Tier 1 DMAP program and expand opportunity for hunter harvest where possible. LWF recommends the use of specific harvest days for larger DMAP clubs where a mobile processor would pick up whole carcasses or process on site. In addition to expanded harvest, the Federation supports the idea of increased funding for the Hunters for the Hungry Organization. LWF believes Hunters for the Hungry can play a crucial role in accepting donations that can turn increased hunter harvest opportunities into a needed benefit for our local communities.

4. Establish Clear Benchmarks and a Formal Process for Removal of Parishes from CWD Control Zones

LWF recommends establishing a transparent, science-based process that allows parishes to be removed from CWD control or buffer zones after meeting defined benchmarks. Benchmarks should include sustained negative CWD testing results over a specified number of years, achievement of testing targets, and absence of new detections in both wild and captive cervids. Establishing a formal exit pathway encourages long-term compliance, improves landowner and hunter cooperation, and reinforces that CWD management zones are adaptive tools rather than permanent designations.

5. Establish a 15-Mile Surveillance Buffer Around CWD-Positive Alternative Livestock Facilities

LWF recommends establishing a minimum 15-mile surveillance buffer around any Louisiana Department of Agriculture and Forestry (LDAF) alternative livestock facility with a confirmed CWD-positive cervid. Task force briefings have identified raccoons and other wildlife as potential vectors capable of transporting CWD prions on their bodies in and out of fenced facilities, eliminating the argument that infection can be contained solely within pens, including double fence facilities.

6. Recognize Emerging Surveillance Tools to Support Early Detection

LWF recommends that Louisiana continue to evaluate emerging, non-regulatory surveillance tools, such as environmental sampling, as supplemental methods to inform and prioritize traditional CWD surveillance efforts. These tools should be used to help guide sampling strategy, focus resources, and enhance early detection capabilities. As laboratory capacity and scientific validation advance, these tools may provide valuable insight into disease presence and distribution, particularly in areas where traditional surveillance goals are difficult to meet.

II. Agency Roles, Interagency Coordination, and Regulatory Authority

(HCR 75 directs the Task Force to review existing statutes and administrative rules, assess agency authority and coordination, and identify regulatory gaps that increase CWD risk.)

7. Create Standing Authority for Automatic CWD Control Area Expansion

LWF recommends that the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission and LDWF revise the Title 76 Chronic Wasting Disease control area framework to provide standing, non-emergency authority for LDWF to automatically establish or expand CWD Control Areas upon confirmation of a CWD-positive cervid outside an existing Control Area.

Currently, LDWF has been required to rely on repeated Declarations of Emergency, issued under R.S. 49:962 and R.S. 56:6.1, to modify the CWD Control Area described in LAC 76: V.137, with each declaration effective for a limited period (typically 180 days) unless superseded by Commission action. This structure forces the regulatory process to restart each time new positives occur outside existing zones, even though the biological risk and management response are already well understood and can delay rapid implementation of necessary disease containment measures.

To eliminate this procedural bottleneck and improve responsiveness, LWF recommends that Title 76 be amended to include:

- **Automatic Trigger Authority**
Upon laboratory confirmation of CWD in a wild cervid outside the existing Control Area, LDWF shall have authority to immediately designate a new or expanded CWD Control Area consistent with predetermined criteria (e.g., a defined radius infectious zone and buffer zone, or other science-based boundaries).
- **Map-and-Notice Implementation**
The new or expanded Control Area should become effective upon LDWF's publication of updated Control Area boundaries and an effective date on the LDWF website, consistent with Title 76's existing reliance on a publicly listed Control Area.
- **Commission Oversight Without Delay**
The Commission should retain oversight through a requirement that LDWF present the

action at the next regularly scheduled Commission meeting for review/ratification, but the designation should not be delayed pending emergency declarations.

- **Transition from Emergency-First to Rule-First**
Emergency declarations should be reserved for truly extraordinary circumstances, not routine disease-response boundary updates, especially where Title 76 already contemplates LDWF designation and public posting of Control Areas.

This change would strengthen Louisiana’s ability to respond rapidly to new CWD detections, reduce administrative repetition, and ensure that disease containment measures can be implemented consistently and immediately, based on biological risk rather than emergency procedural timelines.

8. Affirm LDWF as Lead Wildlife Authority with Shared Responsibility from LDAF

LDWF should remain the lead agency for wildlife disease management in Louisiana. However, CWD risk cannot be effectively managed without shared responsibility from LDAF, particularly regarding alternative livestock facilities housing cervids. Prior to 2016, LDAF Title 7 regulations provided a clearer framework for joint oversight. Restoring a similar shared-authority structure would improve coordination, accountability, and disease containment.

9. Clarify and Align Regulatory Authority Over Cervid Transportation

LWF recommends that the Legislature and relevant agencies formally clarify and align regulatory authority over the transportation of all cervids within Louisiana to eliminate existing statutory and administrative gaps that undermine Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) management.

Under current law, the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries (LDWF) and the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission operate under Revised Statutes Title 56 and Louisiana Administrative Code Title 76 and possess regulatory authority only over wild quadruped cervids. Conversely, the Louisiana Department of Agriculture and Forestry (LDAF), operating under Louisiana Administrative Code Title 7, exercises regulatory authority over pen-raised cervids classified as alternative livestock. As a result, when LDWF adopts regulations addressing cervids, including transportation, handling, or movement restrictions, those regulations apply solely to wild quadruped cervids and do not extend to pen-raised alternative livestock cervids.

As a practical matter, the only wild quadruped cervids that could lawfully be transported within Louisiana under LDWF authority would originate from LDWF-licensed game breeder facilities. However, the majority of such facilities that existed in the early 2000s were converted to LDAF-regulated alternative livestock facilities in 2003, when regulatory authority over pen-raised cervids was consolidated under LDAF. Today, LDWF licenses only a very limited number of game breeder facilities, most of which are zoological institutions rather than commercial cervid operations.

This jurisdictional division creates a significant regulatory loophole that limits LDWF’s ability to effectively control, monitor, and respond to cervid transportation pathways that pose CWD transmission risk. The movement of pen-raised cervids and associated high-risk materials can

occur outside LDWF regulatory authority, even when those movements intersect directly with free-ranging wildlife populations and disease management zones.

To address this gap, LWF recommends that all regulations related to cervid transportation, movement, and associated disease-risk pathways be developed and implemented under the coordinated dual authority of both LDWF and LDAF. Such coordination should ensure that transportation rules, and regulatory authority, apply consistently to all cervids, wild and pen-raised, based on disease risk rather than classification.

Clarifying and aligning regulatory authority over cervid transportation is essential to closing existing loopholes, strengthening disease containment efforts, improving enforceability, and ensuring that Louisiana's CWD management framework reflects the biological reality that disease transmission does not recognize agency or jurisdictional boundaries.

10. Strengthen Penalties and Enforcement Provisions for Title 7 Alternative Livestock Cervid Violations

LWF recommends that Louisiana revise enforcement and penalty provisions within Louisiana Administrative Code Title 7 governing alternative livestock facilities housing cervids to ensure that violations related to Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) prevention, surveillance, reporting, containment, and transportation carry meaningful consequences and provide a credible deterrent to noncompliance.

Under the current Title 7 framework administered by the Louisiana Department of Agriculture and Forestry (LDAF), first and second violations associated with alternative livestock cervid facilities typically result in minimal or no significant penalties. Enforcement actions are primarily structured around notices of violation and opportunities for corrective compliance, and do not require escalating penalties for repeat or disease-risk-related violations. As a result, facilities may repeatedly violate reporting, biosecurity, fencing, testing, or movement requirements while avoiding meaningful financial penalties, operational restrictions, or license impacts. License suspension or revocation remains discretionary and infrequently applied. This enforcement structure fails to provide a credible deterrent for high-risk behavior and is ill-suited to disease management, where delayed compliance can result in irreversible environmental contamination and long-term risk to free-ranging wildlife.

LWF further notes that this penalty framework creates an imbalance between the regulatory treatment of alternative livestock cervid facilities and the enforcement standards applied to wildlife-related violations under LDWF authority, where immediate penalties and license consequences are routinely used to protect public trust resources.

To address these deficiencies, LWF recommends that Title 7 be amended to:

- Establish graduated penalty structures that impose meaningful financial penalties for first and second violations involving CWD risk factors.
- Authorize immediate corrective actions tied to enforceable compliance timelines.

- Provide clear authority for mandatory license suspension, restriction, or revocation in cases involving disease risk, repeat noncompliance, or failure to implement corrective measures.
- Align penalty severity with biological and environmental risk rather than treating violations as routine administrative infractions; and
- Remove discretionary authority that allows enforcement outcomes to vary independently of risk or compliance history.

Strengthening penalty and enforcement provisions within Title 7 is essential to promoting compliance, deterring high-risk behavior, and ensuring that alternative livestock cervid facilities operate under regulatory standards commensurate with the potential impacts their operations pose to Louisiana’s free-ranging wildlife, hunting heritage, and public trust resources. LWF welcomes continued dialogue with state agencies on this matter to ensure that existing enforcement efforts are clearly understood and accurately represented.

If the Louisiana Department of Agriculture and Forestry believes that current enforcement practices or outcomes are being mischaracterized, LWF would welcome the opportunity for further discussion informed by objective data. In that circumstance, LWF recommends a retrospective review of enforcement actions taken by LDAF under Title 7 over the previous five years as they relate to alternative livestock cervid facilities.

Such a review, conducted through an agency data request or, if necessary, a public records process, could summarize the types of violations identified, enforcement actions taken, penalties assessed, and final case dispositions. A data-driven review would support a constructive policy discussion, promote transparency, and help ensure that enforcement frameworks are aligned with biological risk and public trust responsibilities, without presuming deficiencies in agency performance.

11. Mandatory Enrollment in the USDA CWD Herd Certification Program and Mandatory CWD Testing in all LDAF-Licensed Alternative Livestock Facilities

LWF strongly recommends that all LDAF Alternative Livestock licensed facilities be required to participate in the USDA CWD Herd Certification Program, currently offered as a voluntary program. The Federation also strongly recommends that all cervids harvested, euthanized, or found dead within LDAF-licensed alternative livestock facilities should be required to undergo mandatory CWD testing, regardless of cause of death. Voluntary participation creates blind spots that undermine disease surveillance and public confidence. Mandatory testing ensures early detection and allows LDWF to participate and respond before environmental contamination occurs. The operation of an LDAF Alternative Livestock facility in Louisiana is a licensed and regulated practice, not a right. As such, regulation modification is consistent with all other regulated entities in Louisiana.

12. Mandatory 24-Hour Reporting of Positive Results to LDWF and USDA-APHIS

Any CWD-positive test result originating from an LDAF-regulated facility must be reported to LDWF and USDA APHIS (Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service) within 24 hours of detection. The

reported incident should be site-specific, as timely reporting is critical for rapid response, expanded surveillance, and public communication. Delays increase the likelihood of disease spread and erode trust between agencies and stakeholders.

13. Amend LDAF Title 7 to Grant LDWF Dual Inspection and Oversight Authority, Consistent with pre-2016 Title 7 Regulations (Appendix A)

LWF recommends amending LDAF Title 7 to provide LDWF with explicit dual authority, consistent with pre-2016 Title 7 regulations, including the authority to inspect alternative livestock facilities housing cervids. This authority should include access to animals, records, and premises. Wildlife and cervid disease management expertise, along with the enforcement resources to adequately monitor and enforce regulations, resides within LDWF, and excluding the agency from oversight creates unacceptable risk. Unlike LDWF, which employs a large cadre of sworn wildlife enforcement agents, LDAF's law enforcement presence in the agricultural space is very limited, with only a handful of commissioned officers tied to livestock/brand enforcement.

That limited enforcement capacity highlights the importance of strengthening compliance mechanisms and penalties in Title 7, because simply issuing regulatory requirements without sufficient enforcement personnel reduces deterrence effectiveness.

(a summary of pre-2016 regulation is attached for reference in Appendix A)

III. Carcass Handling, Transport, and Industry-Related Risk Reduction

(HCR 75 directs the Task Force to evaluate pathways of disease transmission and identify practical risk-reduction measures.)

14. Strengthen Taxidermy Transport Rules from CWD Control Areas

Current LDWF regulations allow deer heads to leave CWD control areas for taxidermy under an online permit system, without mandatory CWD testing and without requiring taxidermists to be registered or approved by LDWF. LWF recommends that CWD testing samples be collected by LDWF-approved taxidermists and that transport of deer heads from CWD control areas be limited exclusively to LDWF-approved taxidermists to reduce disease transmission risks associated with carcass handling, processing, and disposal.

LWF further supports requiring each LDWF-approved taxidermist to submit an annual report to LDWF documenting the number of CWD permitted deer heads received during the respective deer hunting season, along with any additional information necessary for LDWF to effectively monitor compliance, surveillance participation, and disease-risk pathways associated with taxidermy activities.

In addition to strengthening LDWF cervid transport regulations, LWF recommends that all cervid deer heads originating from LDAF-regulated alternative livestock facilities and harvested

within an LDWF- or LDAF-designated CWD control area be subject to the same permit, processing, and testing requirements. Specifically, such deer heads should be required to utilize the LDWF permit system and be processed and tested only by LDWF-approved taxidermists to ensure consistent disease-risk mitigation regardless of regulatory classification.

LWF further recommends exploring incentive-based participation for taxidermists and deer processors who assist with surveillance and early detection efforts. Strategic engagement with these stakeholders can increase testing participation, improve early detection, and reduce surveillance blind spots, particularly in newly affected or high-risk areas, while fostering cooperation within the hunting and outdoor industry community.

IV. Interstate and Jurisdictional Risk Management

(HCR 75 directs the Task Force to consider cross-boundary risks and coordination with neighboring states where wildlife movement creates shared disease exposure.)

15. Address Mississippi River Boundary and River Island Management Gaps

Numerous Mississippi-owned properties, located west of the Mississippi River's main channel, such as Davis Island, Jiles Island, Hogue Island, and the area of Old River are connected to Louisiana and are directly accessible by free-ranging whitetail deer. At least one of these properties, Davis Island, has documented and reported positive CWD detection by the State of Mississippi. LWF recommends applying LDWF CWD management protocols to these lands to eliminate loopholes created by jurisdictional boundaries. The current failure to recognize these lands as relevant in Louisiana's CWD management strategy creates an unnecessary risk for the spread of the disease. CWD risk is driven by animal movement and landscape connectivity, not political boundaries.

16. Strengthen Louisiana–Mississippi CWD Coordination

LWF urges strengthened coordination between Louisiana and Mississippi to address inconsistencies in CWD surveillance, carcass movement rules, and response actions. The current Louisiana-Mississippi Reciprocal Agreement should immediately be updated to reflect current disease risks, license and tagging discrepancies, and shared landscape loopholes. LWF recommends that all Louisiana lands allowing a Mississippi licensed hunter to hunt on Louisiana lands with a resident Mississippi license be required to be enrolled in a LDWF DMAP program that provides LDWF tags, both antlered and antlerless, for Mississippi license holders.

V. Hunter Practices, Incentives, and Community Engagement

(HCR 75 recognizes the importance of public participation, hunter behavior, and outreach in reducing CWD transmission risk.)

17. Incentivize the Transition from Baiting to Food Plot Practices Near CWD Zones

LWF recommends development of a voluntary incentive-based program encouraging hunters in, and near, CWD control zones to be provided an opportunity to transition from hunting over bait to food plot-based practices. This program could be integrated into LDWF's Private Lands Management Assistance Program and tailored to disease-risk reduction.

18. Provide Monetary Incentives and Support Local Economic Development

Participating landowners in the food plot incentive program should receive direct monetary incentives to offset transition costs. Feed stores and agricultural businesses could replace corn sales with approved food plot seed, fertilizer sales, and lime, while small contractors could gain opportunities to construct and maintain food plots under the program, supporting local economies.

19. Support for Integrated CWD Information and Mapping Framework

LWF recommends that LDWF be formally supported in maintaining their integrated CWD information and mapping framework that provides timely public notification of confirmed CWD detections, clearly displays CWD Control Areas, surveillance buffers, and areas of heightened concern, and supports coordinated interagency response. The platform should be expanded to include LDAF Alternative Livestock Facility information, including, but not limited to, pen locations and CWD positive LDAF pens.

This framework should continue to include an easily accessible public-facing platform with interactive mapping tools, regular updates following confirmed detections, and clear guidance for hunters, landowners, processors, Hunter for the Hungry locations, and taxidermists. Transparent and consistent public communication is essential to improving compliance, reducing misinformation, and maintaining public trust in Louisiana's CWD management strategy. The Federation recognizes LDWF's current Outdoor Explorer App as a foundation for this recommendation and encourages additional funding for the development and maintenance of this tool.

VI. Funding, Governance, and Long-Term Oversight

(HCR 75 directs the Task Force to recommend durable implementation structures, funding mechanisms, and long-term oversight necessary for sustained CWD management.)

20. Identify Dedicated Funding for CWD Management in Louisiana

Successful implementation of these recommendations requires a dedicated funding source to support expanded testing, surveillance, increased funding for enforcement, incentives, and interagency coordination. Stable funding is essential for long-term CWD containment. LWF recommends the identification and establishment of a dedicated funding source, through legislative action, that assists LDWF and LDAF with disease management efforts, testing costs, and incentive-based programs that help Louisiana's rural economies transition to an alternative income metrics.

CWD management in Louisiana should be recognized as a critical responsibility and be included in funding strategies, with regard to state surplus monies.

21. Establish a CWD Advisory Council to continue the work of the CWD Task Force

Lastly, LWF Recommends that a CWD Advisory Council be established to continue the work of the CWD Task Force. It is recommended that the CWD Advisory Council be housed under the LDWF framework, like existing advisory councils, and provide advice, recommendations, a forum for public input, and interagency monitoring to ensure that CWD management in Louisiana is given the greatest chance of success. The Federation recommends that a representative from the newly established Advisory Council participate in the SEAFWA CWD process to advise the council on successful practices being implemented in other southern states in the battle to manage CWD.

Closing Statement

The Louisiana Wildlife Federation appreciates the Louisiana Legislature’s leadership in establishing the Chronic Wasting Disease Task Force through HCR 75 and for recognizing the long-term threat CWD poses to Louisiana’s wildlife resources, hunting heritage, and rural communities. The Task Force process underscores that Louisiana’s success will depend on sustained surveillance, clear agency authority, measurable benchmarks, dedicated funding, and closing regulatory gaps that elevate risk, especially at the interface of free-ranging wildlife and alternative livestock operations.

Scientific evidence from other states demonstrates that once CWD prevalence exceeds relatively low thresholds, disease spread can accelerate rapidly and lead to measurable population declines. Preventing Louisiana from reaching these prevalence levels requires maintaining precautionary containment measures, prioritizing early detection, and applying management actions before disease prevalence becomes firmly established across the landscape.

LWF’s recommendations are intended to directly support the Task Force’s HCR 75 charge by reinforcing science-based management, strengthening interagency accountability, reducing transmission pathways, supporting hunter and landowner participation through practical incentives, and ensuring stable funding and durable governance for long-term disease containment.

LWF would like to thank Louisiana State Representative Neil Riser and Louisiana Senator Glen Womack for the supervision of the CWD Task Force, their leadership, and the opportunity to participate and contribute to the task force process. The Federation remains committed to working collaboratively with legislators, LDWF, LDAF, scientists, hunters, landowners, and industry stakeholders to ensure Louisiana maintains a proactive, science-based approach to Chronic Wasting Disease management—one that prioritizes prevention, early detection, and the protection of public trust wildlife resources.

Appendix A

Itemized Review of the Removal of LDWF Authority from

Louisiana Administrative Code Title 7 (2016 Draft copy available for confirmation)

Alternative Livestock Regulations

This appendix is provided in support of the Louisiana Wildlife Federation's recommendations to the Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) Legislative Task Force. It documents, in detail, the 2016 draft revisions to Louisiana Administrative Code (LAC) Title 7 governing Alternative Livestock facilities that removed or substantially reduced the role of the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries (LDWF) in shared regulatory authority with the Louisiana Department of Agriculture and Forestry (LDAF). The following itemized review preserves all substantive findings and is intended to provide historical and regulatory context for proposed statutory and administrative corrections.

1. Removal from Statement of Authority and Purpose

LDWF is no longer referenced in the foundational authority or purpose section of the regulations. Authority is asserted exclusively under agricultural statutes, eliminating recognition of shared wildlife jurisdiction and establishing the framework for subsequent removals.

2. Removal from Initial Facility Inspection and Licensing Approval

LDWF was removed as a mandatory inspection and approval authority prior to issuance of an alternative livestock license. This eliminated LDWF's ability to assess wildlife escape risk, fencing adequacy, and disease interface before a facility became operational.

3. Removal from License Renewal and Denial Authority

LDWF no longer has authority to independently deny or oppose issuance or renewal of licenses based on wildlife or disease concerns. Licensing decisions rest solely with LDAF.

4. Removal from Approval of Operational Plan Modifications

LDWF approval was removed from requirements governing changes to fencing, herd management plans, and facility operations, allowing modifications to proceed without wildlife agency review.

5. Limitation of Fencing Standards to Historical LDWF Approvals

LDWF's fencing approval authority was limited to approvals issued prior to April 22, 1997. No new or modified fencing systems require LDWF approval despite advances in wildlife containment standards.

6. Downgrade to Notification-Only Role for Escapes and Breaches

LDWF's role was reduced to receiving notice after an escape or fence breach, rather than participating in joint response, enforcement, or mandatory corrective action decisions.

7. Removal from Final Authority over Native Deer Intrusions

Although LDWF may provide input when native deer enter facilities, final determinations and approvals are made solely by LDAF, removing wildlife authority from decisions with direct disease implications.

8. Removal from Final Approval of Facility Decommissioning

While LDWF may participate in inspections during farm closure or decommissioning, final approval authority rests entirely with LDAF despite long-term environmental and disease risks.

9. Removal of Routine Inspection Authority

LDWF was removed from the list of agencies with guaranteed inspection authority, eliminating routine access to facilities and records and limiting LDWF involvement to discretionary or invited inspections.

10. Restriction of Enforcement Authority to Post-Escape Situations

LDWF enforcement authority is largely limited to responding after animals escape confinement rather than preventing conditions that increase risk to free-ranging wildlife.

11. Reduction to Advance Notification for Harvest Events

LDWF receives advance notice of harvest events but lacks approval authority over timing, methods, or disease testing requirements for captive cervids.

Appendix Conclusion

The 2016 revisions to LAC Title 7 reflect a deliberate policy decision to consolidate regulatory authority over alternative livestock facilities within LDAF at the request of that agency, while removing LDWF from meaningful oversight roles. These changes created regulatory gaps that are directly relevant to the prevention, detection, and management of Chronic Wasting Disease. Restoring shared LDWF-LDAF authority is essential to protecting free-ranging wildlife, ensuring timely disease response, and maintaining public trust responsibilities.