

DECLARATION OF EMERGENCY

Department of Wildlife and Fisheries Wildlife and Fisheries Commission

Rescinding the Supplemental Feeding Ban in Morehouse and Union Parishes

In accordance with the emergency provisions of R.S. 49:953.1 and under the authority of R.S. 56:6.1, 115 and 116, the Secretary of Wildlife and Fisheries Commission hereby adopts the following Emergency Rule.

On December 2, 2021, the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission announced that a chronic wasting disease (CWD) positive doe was discovered in Union County, Arkansas. The CWD positive doe was located just a few miles north of the Louisiana Border on Felsenthal National Wildlife Refuge.

In response to the discovery of CWD in Arkansas near the Louisiana Border, the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries (LDWF) implemented its CWD Response Plan to monitor the presence of CWD in Louisiana. The Wildlife and Fisheries Commission took emergency action resulting in an immediate cessation of all supplemental feeding, including mineral or salt licks in Union and Morehouse parishes effective December 6, 2021. The purpose of the feeding ban was to reduce the potential for the spread of CWD into Louisiana by reducing the risk of exposure for deer concentrated around feeding sites.

LDWF monitoring efforts resulted in 328 samples collected from hunter harvested deer in Morehouse and Union parishes, which were subsequently submitted to the LSU Animal Disease Diagnostic Laboratory. CWD was not detected.

In accordance with LDWF's CWD Response Plan, the supplemental feeding ban for deer in Morehouse and Union parishes is hereby rescinded.

This Declaration of Emergency shall become effective January 7, 2022, and will remain in effect for the maximum period allowed under the Administrative Procedure Act or until rescinded by the secretary.

Jack Montoucet
Secretary