

# Public Comments

## CWD Regulations

---

**Paul Lepisto**

**Pierre SD**

**Position:** support

**Comment:**

Please see the attached comments in support of the CWD proposal from the South Dakota Division of the Izaak Walton League of America. Thank you.

## Deer Seasons

---

**Adam Karst**

**Watertown SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

I understand and agree to protect some of the antlerless mule deer in some units. However, this new proposal limits opportunity for youth by just having to pick one unit.

All 3 of my children have participated in the mentored deer hunts. They have all had hunting opportunities West River and East River. Sometimes they would fill their antlerless tag West River, other times they would fill their antlerless tag East River. They enjoyed being able to hunt both areas. I believe these mentored deer hunts have helped pave the way for future SD hunters.

I ask the commission to consider the following 3 alternatives.

1 - One statewide tag only good for any antlerless (mule deer or whitetail) in the shaded area otherwise it is whitetail only in the white area. This would protect the antlerless mule deer population in the unshaded areas but still allow opportunity state wide for our youth.

2. Allow youth to apply for 2 mentored tags: 1 in the shaded unit (any antlerless) and one in the white area (whitetail only). This would also protect the antlerless mule deer population in the unshaded areas.

3 - No change to current policy

Please consider slight modifications to the proposal or vote no on the current proposal. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Adam Karst



SOUTH DAKOTA  
DIVISION

# The Izaak Walton League of America

DEFENDERS OF SOIL, AIR, WOODS, WATERS, AND WILDLIFE

April 1, 2021

South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks Commission  
523 East Capitol Avenue  
Pierre, SD 57501

Re: Support of CWD Proposal

Dear Commissioners,

The South Dakota Division of the Izaak Walton League of America (Division) appreciates the opportunity to comment on the Department of Game, Fish and Parks' (GFP) proposed rule changes regarding Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD).

The Division shares GFP's concern that a CWD carrying carcass may spread the fatal infection to other cervids when it decomposes. Sadly, CWD is a very real threat in the state. Last fall many hunters, including some of our members, harvested CWD positive deer and elk. Hunters have moved infected animals from known endemic areas and disposed the remains in other locations. This opens the door to a further spread of CWD.

In the last year, four new counties have been confirmed to have CWD infections and are considered endemic areas. The new counties, Ziebach, Lyman, Mellette, and Sully bring the endemic counties in South Dakota to sixteen.

Due to this extremely serious, and fast-moving risk, the Division supports rules stating that the carcasses of potentially infected cervids be properly disposed of only by a waste management provider or in a permitted landfill to protect uninfected cervids from exposure. This must include bones, trimmings, and all other parts from butchering or taxidermy processes.

Specific to this proposal, the Division supports repealing existing rule 41:06:03:15. We support recommended rule 41:06:03:16, and current rule 41:06:03:17. And we endorse the changes to 41:06:03:18, 41:06:03:19 and 41:09:11:07.

Deer and elk are very important to South Dakota. The species are a major component in our quality of life and provide a great food source enjoyed by many families. Big game hunting provides a major economic impact to the state each year. The Division supports all rules and regulations that lower or eliminate the potential spread of CWD. This includes rules governing the proper disposal of the carcass to prevent future cervid exposure.

These recommended rule changes should be embraced by all hunters, processors, and taxidermists to reduce the spread of CWD. Successful hunters can transport harvested deer and elk to a game processor, taxidermist, or to privately process if they abide by these regulations

for proper disposal. The proposed rule changes will help protect our cervid populations and the future of big game hunting in South Dakota.

The South Dakota Division of the Izaak Walton League of America thanks you for the opportunity to comment on the proposed CWD rule changes. We urge your support of them.

Thanks for your service to the people of South Dakota.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Kelly Kistner".

Kelly Kistner

National IWLA President and President of the South Dakota Division of the IWLA

603 Lakeshore Drive

McCook Lake, SD 57049

605-232-2030 (H) – 712-490-1726 (C)

[iwlasdpresident@outlook.com](mailto:iwlasdpresident@outlook.com)