



MEMORANDUM

DEPARTMENT OF GAME & FISH

TO: Whom it may concern

FROM: New Mexico Department of Game and Fish

DATE: 22 January 2018

RE: Suspension of live Cervid importation

As of today, the director of New Mexico Department of Game and Fish is suspending all importation into New Mexico of live animals from the deer family (Cervidae.) Director's authority to take this action is specified in 17-1-14, 17-1-26 and 17-3-32 NMSA 1978 as well as 19.35.7.10.B NMAC.

Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) continues to expand and be detected in areas where CWD has not previously been known to exist. New detections have become common within the United States, including states in the intermountain west and southwest. New occurrences of CWD seem to be associated with game farms or from expansion of the known range of CWD through disease transmission. This expansion of CWD across North America and the importation of live animals from outside the state poses an elevated risk to New Mexico's wild cervid populations.

CWD has not been detected in any of New Mexico's game parks, however, CWD has been detected in free ranging deer and elk in the Organ and Sacramento Mountains. New Mexico Department of Game and Fish management of CWD includes actions to prevent new introductions of CWD and reduce the risk of expansion of the known range of the disease. The suspension of importations (per 19.35.7.10.B NMAC) of live cervids into New Mexico will reduce the risk of human caused spread and/or introduction of CWD.

Alexandra Sandoval