



FOR RELEASE
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New rules in place to reduce risk of Chronic Wasting Disease in Yukon

WHITEHORSE—The Government of Yukon is prohibiting the import or possession of members of the deer family (cervids) killed outside of Yukon to minimize the risk of introducing Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) to Yukon game populations, both farmed and wild.

"These new rules will help maintain Yukon's natural, healthy meat supply," Environment Minister Currie Dixon said. "It will also protect the economic interests of game farmers, outfitters and tourism operators. CWD has not yet been found in Yukon animals and these rules will complement the current prohibition on importing live cervids to Yukon."

For many years, the Environment department has asked Yukon deer and elk hunters to voluntarily refrain from bringing home certain body parts from animals harvested outside of the territory.

The *Wildlife Regulation* will now ban the import, sale or possession of scent lures sold for the hunting of cervids (deer, elk, caribou, moose) that contain animal body fluids or tissues and could introduce disease agents, particularly CWD, to Yukon. The import or possession of the whole carcass or any part of a cervid that has been killed or has died outside of Yukon is also banned, with the following body parts exempted:

- Meat (no bones), or portions of the carcass where the spinal column and head have been removed,
- Finished taxidermy mount, tanned hide, or raw hide kept in a protective container that will be tanned within five days of entering Yukon,
- Teeth, if completely removed from the head, and
- Antlers, with or without an attached skull cap, if no tissue or hide remains.

Cervids harvested in the Northwest Territories or in the two most northerly hunting zones in British Columbia are also exempt, as are cervids that are in a protective container and being transported through Yukon. In the event cervids or cervid parts brought into Yukon test positive for CWD, the person responsible for importing the animal must immediately notify a conservation officer.

The new rules align with those in place in Alaska, British Columbia and Alberta. They will not prevent the natural movement of animals across borders, so the risk of introducing CWD—while low at present—is not eliminated. The new rules will be set out in the *2013/14 Hunting Regulations Summary* and can be viewed at www.env.gov.yk.ca.

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