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 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 340 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.

As a result of the negative tests and in accordance with LDWF’s CWD Response Plan, the Secretary utilized his authority to suspend the emergency supplemental feeding ban on January 7, 2022.

The Wildlife and Fisheries Commission hereby ratifies the Secretary’s suspension of the Commission’s prior emergency action and rescinds the supplemental feeding ban for deer in Morehouse and Union parishes.

This Declaration of Emergency, rescinding the original supplemental feeding ban shall become effective February 3, 2022.

Joe McPherson
Chairman