

TEXAS PARKS AND WILDLIFE DEPARTMENT

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR ORDER NO. 022-005

Under the provisions of Parks and Wildlife Code, §12.027, if the Texas Parks and Wildlife Commission (the Commission) or the Executive Director of the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (Executive Director) finds that there is an immediate danger to a species authorized to be regulated by the Department, the Commission or the Executive Director may adopt emergency rules as provided by Government Code, §2001.034.

White-tailed deer and mule deer are game animals subject to regulation by the Commission under the provisions of various chapters of the Parks and Wildlife Code, including Chapters 43 (Subchapters E, L, R, and R-1), 61, 62, and 63. Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) is a fatal neurodegenerative disorder that affects some cervid species, including white-tailed deer and mule deer. The Executive Director finds that the confirmation of CWD in deer breeding facilities in Gillespie and Limestone counties, given the nature of CWD and its recent detection in two breeding facilities there is an immediate danger to a public resource of Texas, namely, white-tailed deer and mule deer, and that the adoption of this rule on an emergency basis with fewer than 30 days' notice is necessary to address this immediate danger.

The Executive Director hereby **ORDERS** the adoption, on an emergency basis, of an amendment to 31 TAC §65.82 to establish additional surveillance zones for the containment of CWD where it has been confirmed to be present. This order is effective immediately upon filing, and authorizes publication of a Notice of Emergency Adoption in the *Texas Register*.

This order is issued pursuant to §12.027 of the Texas Parks and Wildlife Code and is effective immediately.

Signed this the 4th day of November, 2022.



Carter Smith
Executive Director
Texas Parks and Wildlife Department