

TEXAS PARKS AND WILDLIFE DEPARTMENT

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR ORDER NO. 015-003

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 (the Department) 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 recent discovery of CWD in a Texas deer breeder's facility regulated under Parks and Wildlife Code, Chapter 43, Subchapter L and regulations adopted pursuant to that subchapter (31 TAC Chapter 65, Subchapter T) creates an immediate danger to the white-tailed deer and mule deer resources of Texas and that the adoption of these rules 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 new 31 TAC §§65.90-65.93 to implement additional disease testing requirements for deer breeding facilities and sites where breeder deer are released or temporarily detained. 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 18th day of August, 2015.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Carter Smith". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large loop at the end.

Carter Smith
Executive Director
Texas Parks and Wildlife Department