

TEXAS PARKS AND WILDLIFE DEPARTMENT

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR ORDER NO. 015-006

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 two Texas deer breeding facilities 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 emergency rules with fewer than 30 days' notice is necessary to address this immediate danger by limiting potential impacts to native cervids as a result of permits issued by the department for the trap, transport, and transplanting of game animals and game birds ("Triple T" permits), the trap, transport and processing of surplus deer ("TTP" permits); and deer management permits (DMP).

The Executive Director hereby ORDERS the adoption, on an emergency basis, of new 31 TAC §65.94 and §65.95 to implement additional disease testing requirements and movement restrictions for deer that are moved, commingled with free-ranging deer, or released under the authority of a permit issued by the department. 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 5th day of October, 2015.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Carter Smith", written in a cursive style.

Carter Smith
Executive Director
Texas Parks and Wildlife Department

