

TEXAS PARKS AND WILDLIFE DEPARTMENT

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR ORDER NO. 023-001

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.

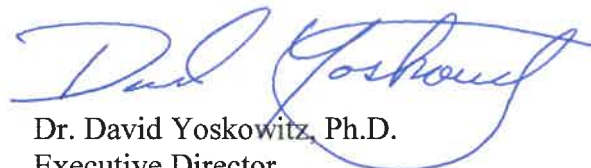
The Executive Director finds that the discovery of CWD in free-ranging white-tailed deer at release sites associated with deer breeding facilities regulated under Parks and Wildlife Code, Chapter 43, Subchapter L and regulations adopted pursuant to that subchapter (31 TAC Chapter 65, Subchapters B and T) constitutes an immediate danger to the white-tailed deer and mule deer resources of Texas and that the adoption of rules on an emergency basis with fewer than 30 days' notice was necessary to address an immediate danger.

The emergency rule establishes a Containment Zone (CZ) subject to the provisions of 31 TAC Chapter 65, Subchapter B, in Hunt and Kaufman counties in response to the detection of CWD in free-ranging white-tailed deer.

Therefore, finding that the immediate danger to both captive and free-ranging white-tailed and mule deer populations continues to exist, the Executive Director hereby ORDERS a 60-day extension of new 31 TAC §65.100. This order is effective immediately upon filing, and authorizes publication of a Notice of Extension of Emergency Adoption in the *Texas Register*.

This order is issued pursuant to §12.027 of the Texas Parks and Wildlife Code and §2001.034 of the Texas Government Code and is effective immediately.

Signed this the 26th day of May, 2023.



Dr. David Yoskowitz, Ph.D.
Executive Director
Texas Parks and Wildlife Department