BACKCOUNTRY
HUNTERS & ANGLERS

2019 NORTH AMERICAN POLICY STATEMENT:
CHRONIC WASTING DISEASE (CWD)

Purpose: The intent of policy statements are to provide a formal mechanism for Backcountry Hunters & Anglers to engage in specific conservation issues while establishing clear policy direction that not only defines the parameters of our position statements but the relevance to our mission. As declarations of policy, statements do not direct specific actions, establish policy priorities or allocate BHA resources.

Sponsored by: Originally proposed by Pennsylvania, Southeast, and Wisconsin Chapters of BHA, this policy statement reflects revisions and additions made by the 2019 policy review committee.

North American Board Action: Adopted on May 2, 2019

North American Policy Statement:
Backcountry Hunters and Anglers recognizes the threat Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) poses to North American cervid populations. Healthy wildlife populations held in the public trust are an integral part of the North American Model of Conservation. BHA supports science-based wildlife management practices to limit the spread of CWD. Additionally, BHA supports the following activities:

- *Education and engagement of the hunting community in the fight against CWD including, but not limited to, best practices for hunters in a CWD prevalent area, background information on CWD, current research and data findings, up-to-date management agency websites, and regulations.*
- *Research of disease epidemiology, management techniques, human dimension issues, and economic analysis of CWD to economies and stakeholders (including wildlife management agencies).*
- *Coordination between neighboring state, provincial, and territorial wildlife agencies to ensure effective management and regulatory responses to CWD at the regional level.*
- *Dedicated funding to combat CWD through, but not limited to, research, testing, surveillance, carcass disposal, education, and programs to increase hunter compliance.*
- *The continued hunting of cervids in CWD positive areas, where appropriate, to keep population densities at optimum levels to minimize the spread of CWD.*