



**2016 NORTH AMERICAN POLICY STATEMENT:
PRIVATIZATION OF WILDLIFE AND CAPTIVE CERVIDS**

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 the New England, New York, and Pennsylvania Chapters of BHA.

North American Board Action: Adopted on March 31, 2016

North American Policy Statement:

Backcountry Hunters & Anglers urges the following:

- *The enactment of laws, policies, or other governing rules that prohibit the privatization of wildlife and the importation/exportation of live cervids, cervid carcasses, and cervid reproductive materials outside unique management circumstances sanctioned by state, provincial, territorial or federal wildlife management agencies charged with the stewardship of publicly held wildlife resources.*
- *The enactment of laws, policies, or other governing rules that prohibit the pursuit and shooting of artificially bred or captive-reared cervids within fenced enclosures that eliminate escape and fair chase.*
- *Oppose the engagement of agencies including but not limited to the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Animal Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), extension offices, universities, and other entities in activities which aid and abet big game breeding operations and the captive raising of cervids.*
- *Oppose the expenditure of public resources (including those revenues generated by hunters and anglers through license sales and excise taxes) on policies promoting and supporting the private ownership or commercialization of native wildlife species.*
- *Recognize the publicly entrusted responsibility of state, provincial, territorial and federal fish and wildlife management agencies and supports disease management jurisdiction of free-ranging wildlife populations by wildlife professionals operating under their authority.*