

My name is Jeff Whillock, I am a resident of Kenmare, ND and a landowner in Burke and Mountrail counties. I would like to address the overreach of our NDG&F related to CWD and hunting over bait. I am mostly retired but work part time, and Volunteer as a Junior Shooting Coach at the Minot Rifle and Pistol Club on Saturday mornings.

I am 69 years old and can't cover the ground as I once could, additionally I hunt with disabled Veterans, disabled youth, and my grandchildren. The disabled individuals I hunt with could not possibly do a spot and stalk hunt, and having close supervision of grandchildren's early deer hunts make them better, more ethical hunters in the long run.

As with the Covid overreach the science of CWD is not settled. NDG&F took the easy and authoritative approach and administratively banned hunting over bait. To justify this approach I would like the NDG&F to answer a few questions:

1. If it is as bad as you present, how does Colorado and Wyoming have any wildlife left?
2. How many of the deer that tested positive for CWD died OF CWD and how many died WITH CWD?
3. How many deer did NDG&F kill looking for CWD and what was the percentage testing positive?
4. Deer are social animals. What is the percentage of exposure baiting is responsible for?
5. Why is it legal to bait for viewing and photographic purposes?

The restrictions on baiting looks to me and others as a government control mechanism for hunters and landowners and a solution looking for a problem. With the current weather and the deer herded up (there are probably 500 within 5 miles of Kenmare) I have seen no weakened or dead deer and they are surely being social.

You hunt your way on land you control, I will hunt how I prefer on my land and we will get along much better,

Jeff Whillock