

Regulations designed to help deer herds grow in much of the state were adopted by the Nebraska Game and Parks Commissioners at their meeting March 21 in Norfolk.

In 2012, a drought and an outbreak of epizootic hemorrhagic disease (EHD) killed off an estimated one third of the state's whitetail population. Regulations created to help recover the populations began last year and continue in 2014.

The regulations that should allow deer numbers to increase this year include:

- Remove 18,420 antlerless deer bonus tags from 12 units;
- Remove 950 buck/either-sex deer permits in the Elkhorn, Platte Whitetail, Pine Ridge and Sandhills units;
- Shorten the Late Antlerless Deer Season by nine days to Jan. 1-15.

Game and Parks' goals are to allow whitetail herds to rebuild slowly in most units and to allow mule deer herds to grow in all units.

Other changes to deer regulations in this area include:

- Eliminate the Nonresident Statewide Buck permit (restricted statewide buck permits are available to residents and nonresidents);
- Create a quota in which nonresidents are allocated no more than 8 percent of the Frenchman Mule Deer Conservation Area (MDCA) permits;
- Add 200 Frenchman MDCA permits with bonus tags for an antlerless whitetail;
- Add 300 antlerless whitetail bonus tags to Frenchman West permits.