Indiana Conservation and Hunting Organizations Oppose Canned Hunting – HB1453

- The Indiana Wildlife Federation (IWF)
- Indiana Division of the Izaak Walton League of America
- Indiana Sportsmen’s Round Table (ISR)
- Indiana Deer Hunters Association
- Indiana Bow Hunter Association
- Indiana Conservation Alliance
- Quality Deer Management Association
- Indiana Conservation Officer Organization
- Many other conservation and hunting organizations oppose “canned hunting” in Indiana.

Indiana Voters Strongly Object to Shooting Wildlife in Enclosures

- Mason-Dixon Poll of Indiana Voters found 80% of voters oppose canned hunting:

  “Do you support or oppose the practice canned hunts where captive large animals like deer, elk and exotic non-native mammals are shot in enclosures?”

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- Over 1100 Indiana citizens signed the petition “Say NO to shooting deer in fenced enclosures – canned hunting.”
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Indiana conservation and hunting organizations call for a BAN ON IMPORTS of captive deer. 21 states have banned the importation of at least some species of captive raised deer. Florida is the most recent and stated the ban was to reduce the risk of CWD entering the state. An import ban is one of the actions Indiana can take to reduce the risk of CWD coming into the state, threatening the wild deer herd and the associated wild deer hunting economy of over $300 million annually.

WHY CONSERVATION AND HUNTING ORGANIZATIONS OPPOSE CANNED HUNTING:

Captive deer shooting preserves violate ethical standards.
- Hunting captive deer that cannot escape from enclosed pens violates principle of fair chase. Shooting tame deer in a pen is not ethical.
- Shooting preserves undermine the Indiana’s long held wildlife management philosophy that all wildlife are held in public trust and managed by the state for all citizens.

Captive deer shooting preserves threaten wildlife health.
- The health of Indiana’s wild deer herd is threatened when captive deer are held in high density populations and disease occurs.
- Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD)
  - CWD is a contagious neurological disease that quickly spreads among captive herds and is transmitted by animal to animal contact or animal to soil contact.
  - Soil contaminated with CWD carries the disease vector, called prions, for years, and deer must be excluded from the area to avoid spreading the disease.
  - There is no cure for CWD. Death is always the result.
- Bovine tuberculosis
  - Indiana has had outbreaks of bovine TB in deer and cattle in recent years. Further bovine TB outbreaks could jeopardize the Indiana beef producer industry.
- The interstate transportation of deer to hunting preserves also contributes to health concerns.
  - Hunting preserves often import deer from out of state to meet the demand for trophy bucks. If the deer carries CWD, the disease can jump to the receiving state. Importation of captive raised deer should be banned.

Captive deer shooting preserves threaten Indiana’s economy and put taxpayers at risk.
- Deer hunting in Indiana contributes over $300 million annually and supports >1600 jobs. Anything threatening Indiana’s wild deer population would have a negative economic impact.
- CWD management in Indiana would cost the state huge amounts of money.
  - Disease surveillance programs must be dramatically increased and new disease management steps must be taken at the state’s expense. Taxpayers are liable for captive deer herds condemned due to disease. Hunters and anglers license fees fund State monitoring and management of CWD.
  - The federal budget for both CWD surveillance activities and the study of prion disease has been cut, pushing the financial burden to the states.
  - Twenty-three (23) states now have CWD in captive and/or wild deer populations and have spent literally millions of dollars of their state’s natural resources budget to combat CWD. Six states have been added in the last two years and all were associated with captive deer facilities and moving captive deer.
    - 15 States have put a total ban on cervid (captive deer and elk) imports; 31 states have at least a partial ban.
    - Wisconsin has spent more than 50 million dollars.
    - The North Carolina Wildlife Resource Commission predicts CWD would cost the state $35 to $54 million in recreational economic activity each year.
THE COSTS AND THE RISKS OF CANNED HUNTING: “The pursuit of deer bred for enormous antlers and shot in hunting pens is compromising our ethics and laws, and comes with growing risk and costs.” - Thank you to the Indianapolis Star and reporter Ryan Sabalow for the series of articles entitled BUCK FEVER that educated the public about the canned hunting industry, the costs and the risks. Sabalow’s comprehensive report may be found at the following links.

Overview TROPHY DEER INDUSTRY LINKED TO DISEASE, COSTS TAXPAYERS MILLIONS

Chapter 1 A TROUBLING INDUSTRY IS BORNhttp://www.indystar.com/longform/news/investigations/2014/03/27/buck-fever-chapter-one/6865283/


Contact: Barbara Simpson, Executive Director, Indiana Wildlife Federation, 317.875.9453, simpson@indianawildlife.org 1-24-15