



***Big Game Committee Meeting Summary  
February 26, 2014, 2:00 pm  
NCWRC, 5<sup>th</sup> Floor Commission Room***

**Meeting Attendees**

• **Committee Members:**

David Hoyle, Jr. – Big Game Committee Chair	John Litton Clark
Wes Seegars	Tim Spear
Tom Berry	Tommy Fonville
Ray Clifton	Garry Spence

• **Commissioners:**

Joe Barker	Jim Cogdell
Brian White	Joe Budd

• **Staff:**

Erik Christofferson	Perry Sumner
Kerry Linehan	Mallory Martin
Gordon Myers	Betsy Haywood
Brad Howard	David Cobb

• **Visitors:**

Jim Noles – NC Bear Hunters Assoc.	Tommy Kimball – NC Bowhunters Assoc.
David Simmons – NCBHA	John Thompson – NCBA
Bryan Perry – Natl. Wild Turkey Federation	Dick Hamilton – NC Wildlife Federation
Fred Harris – NCWF	Terry Morris
Jackie Morris	Greg Culpepper

Big Game Committee Chair David Hoyle, Jr. called the meeting of the Big Game Committee to order at 2:10 pm.

### ***Reported Deer Harvest Data for Youth Hunters***

Brad Howard, *Private Lands Coordinator*, provided the committee with deer harvest data pertaining to youth hunters less than 16 years of age. Of the 250,000 deer hunters in NC, 18,000 are youth under age 16. Howard stated that 6.1 percent of the reported deer harvest is by youth, with 69 percent by ages 12 – 15. Weapons used by youth are 86 percent gun, 8 percent muzzleloader, and 4 percent bow and arrow. Howard reported that the number one youth hunting day is the Friday after Thanksgiving. Sixty-seven percent of the youth harvest falls on Saturdays or holidays. Discussion was held about adding a special Youth Day to provide additional opportunity for young people to be able to hunt.

**Action:** staff will come back to the Big Game Committee in May with some options for Youth Hunting days.

### ***Morrow Mountain Deer Project Update***

Brad Howard provided the committee with an update on the removal of 38 deer from Morrow Mountain State Park to the tribal lands of the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians. The cooperative effort was among staff from the Wildlife Resources Commission, State Parks, and Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians. Six bucks and 32 does were moved. Thirty-five survived and are being monitored in their new habitat. Howard praised the cooperation among agencies and the success of the operation.

### ***Chronic Wasting Disease Surveillance Update***

Brad Howard reported that 3625 samples of cervid tissue have been collected for sampling for CWD. He estimates that it will take six to eight month for the testing to be completed.

### ***Update on Elk Management Activities***

Brad Howard updated the committee on the efforts to put tracking collars on elk. He reported that two bulls and two cows have been collared so far and they hope to collar two more cows. One collared bull broke his jaw and had to be put down, and one cow was hit by a car. Kerry Linehan, *Human Dimensions Biologist*, has done a landowner survey about elk outside the Smoky Mountains National Park.

**Action:** Linehan will present the results of that landowner survey at the May Big Game Committee meeting.

### ***Adjourn***

Chairman Dave Hoyle adjourned the meeting at 2:55 pm.