

Good Afternoon,

I am writing this in the support of feeding big game wildlife, small game wildlife, and any other wildlife that would like to eat at my buffet. I am and will always be a hunter. I have hunted animals since I can remember with my dad's daisy BB he had as a kid. I have always enjoyed the outdoors and will continue till I die, teaching the youth and also new outdoors people.

I did a speech in high school in 1987 or 1988 ( I have looked for this speech and can't find) back then CWD was about 25-30 yrs since it was discovered and no one knew what to do so they just said no baiting, no moving bones, no moving brain matter, no bout a lot of stuff because the big game animals will all be dead in 50 yrs if Game and Fish don't do anything about it. Well is it 50 yrs later and we still have Deer, Elk, Moose or any other animal that can be infected with so called CWD, and what is weird is that the numbers in many of these so called contaminated areas are growing. So where is the idea of all these animals being dead now.

Feeding of wildlife should be the right of the land owner or private property owners. These are the people that will help save the big game animal by feeding them the minerals that these animals need to survive winters, rut, or any other stress these animals can have. The way Game and Fish have written their law is that only big game animals that get this CWD is by hunters, everyone in the world that feeds these animals but doesn't hunt that is ok. There are many many studies out there that have proven feeding certain minerals can help stop or slow the spread of CWD in animals and I'm sure you have heard the private deer farms that have paid a lot of money for this to help them continue making a living. There are articles from DR. Deer, Keith Warren, Ted Nugent and others out there. But the Game and Fish don't believe this they don't even try to figure out a cure they just test and test and test already dead animals that have died from a gunshot, Car accidents, and other unnatural things but not from CWD itself. There is not one proof of a big game animal that has straight up died from CWD, they say one near Williston but I believe that deer was old had no teeth and was a bad winter so she finally died from starvation. I would think Game and Fish would get more involved in the treatment of this disease than just testing this disease like have a 7-10 yr study to see if some of these minerals do really work, try some of the testing of live animals to really get an idea of this disease. The ND big game biologist isn't the man for this job because he throws out a lot of the tries to say these results from game farms and other very well know doctors of big game animals. Calling some of the minerals bleach what in the world his is agenda? I believe it is just to collect money from government. Game and Fish get a lot of money from government funding for CWD but never use it all on it only certain percent of it really goes to CWD treatment and testing if that isn't the case maybe all of us hunters need to see where it goes or doesn't go.

There is a lot of stuff being said about feeding animals for hunting purposes if it is ethical or not. The way I look at it is that the people that were here millions of yrs ago also feed animals for the purpose of killing them for meat, fur, and other usages of all body parts. So to me ethics as nothing to do with it. If people say that it isn't ethical then they need to quit using compound bows, long range rifles, metal broadheads, carbon arrows they need to make their own bow out of willows and carve their own arrows chip their own broadheads use guns that only shoot 50-75 yards. Hunting over feed is a great way to take out the oldest the weak or wounded animals. It is also a way to feed them with proper minerals so they are healthy the healthier the animals are the less amount of disease they get. As a hunter my main concern is a healthy animal heard for birds to moose and there are minerals out there that will help stop the spread of this CWD and help the animals. WHY is that bad to help the animals as a hunter? You would think that game and fish would be on board with this they say they are for the animals but truly they are not if we can't help them be healthy. We need to get together on this as sportsmens for the common good of the wildlife. Right now it is a fight for us hunters to save the health of the animals to keep hunting them for a group that just wants to collect money for government funding.

My final thoughts on this. Game and fish show numbers of new hunters coming in well with today's youth they need something to keep their concentration going for sake they can't even watch a baseball game, anymore because it is so long. Hunting over feed is a way to keep the attention of young hunters and get them into the sport. Well dang I use a minnow or worm to catch a fish and I'm sure they get sick and spread infection between them also if they try eat the same bait. There are 2 reasons to pass this bill our youth and the health of our animals as hunters we are truly the ones that care about the health of a herd, flock, pack, etc. without us hunters there would be no animals we are the true managers of wildlife.

Thank you for the time

Lane Johnson a sportsmen