



PENNSYLVANIA GAME COMMISSION

SOUTHEAST REGION

253 SNYDER ROAD READING, PA 19605 | (610) 926-3136

September 6, 2022

Pennsylvania Game Commission
Middle Creek Wildlife Management Area
P.O. Box 110
Kleinfeltersville, PA 17039

Dear Middle Creek Archery Hunt Applicant,

It is with regret that the Pennsylvania Game Commission will be cancelling this year's controlled archery hunt at Middle Creek Wildlife Management Area. The cancellation of this opportunity is due to an outbreak of hemorrhagic disease across the Southeast Region, including at Middle Creek.

Hemorrhagic disease is a common infectious disease of white-tailed deer in the eastern United States and can cause a significant number of deaths during an outbreak. The viruses that cause the disease, Epizootic Hemorrhagic Disease Virus and Bluetongue Virus, are passed from infected to uninfected deer by biting flies or midges from the genus *Culicoides*. Outbreaks usually occur when deer congregate at water sources during the driest part of late summer and early fall when seasonal midge activity is at its peak. Outbreaks generally end when the first hard frosts kill the midges.

While the outcome of this particular hemorrhagic disease outbreak is unknown, the potential for a large number of deer to die remains high. Cancelling this hunt will enable us to assess the total impact of this outbreak on the Middle Creek deer population and ensure that hunters continue to have quality hunting experiences in the future. The future of the Middle Creek's late season flintlock/archery hunt is still pending. We appreciate your patience and understanding as we continue to navigate through this hemorrhagic disease outbreak. For more information on hemorrhagic disease, please visit the Pennsylvania Game Commission's website [here](#) or see the [Hemorrhagic Disease](#) fact sheet from the Penn Vet Wildlife Futures Program.

Lauren Ferreri
Controlled Hunt Manager
Middle Creek Wildlife Management Area
Pennsylvania Game Commission – Southeast Region