Emergency winter feeding of big game ungulates may be used as a last resort to prevent damage to private property or to reduce unusually severe winter-related mortality.

Feeding may be initiated when winter conditions in any area are such that the estimated cost of damage to private property will exceed the cost of feeding to prevent that damage and other preventive measures have been ruled impracticable, inappropriate or ineffective, or if the predicted winter-related mortality exceeds thirty percent (30%) of the adult female segment of a major big game population. The decision of where and when to feed will be made by the Director of the Division of Wildlife considering site-specific, quantified information about the anticipated costs of feeding versus the consequences of not feeding.

If the anticipated feeding activity will require the redirection of resources equivalent to fifty percent (50%) or more of the Division's appropriation for game damage prevention for any fiscal year, a supplemental appropriation will be sought through the State's budget process in consultation with the Executive Director of the Department of Natural Resources. In each case, the Division will consider whether Wildlife Cash or the General Fund is the most appropriate source for the supplemental request. The feeding activity will be structured so that Wildlife Cash and General Fund expenditures do not exceed the amount of such funds provided in a supplemental appropriation.

An evaluation of methods, costs and administrative procedures for any emergency winter feeding program funded by a supplemental appropriation will be provided to the Wildlife Commission and the Executive Director of the Department of Natural Resources.