

# 2023 HUNTERS, WE NEED YOUR HELP!



## CHRONIC WASTING DISEASE MONITORING AND SURVEILLANCE

Since 1997, Wyoming Game and Fish has been monitoring the distribution and prevalence of chronic wasting disease (CWD) to better understand how this disease affects the health of Wyoming's deer and elk populations. This disease has now been identified in most of Wyoming. Continued monitoring of CWD over time is important to help understand the potential impacts of

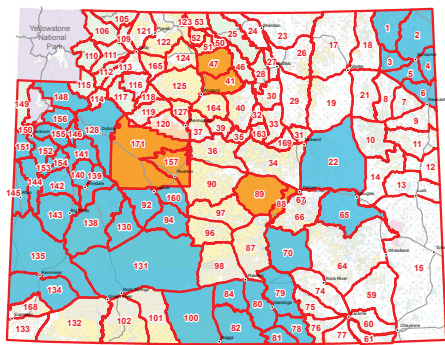
the disease as well as evaluate management actions for deer and elk. This will be a challenge, as collecting samples for valid estimates of prevalence requires large sample sizes in focused areas across the state. The Game and Fish Wildlife Health Laboratory has limited testing capacity to monitor CWD across the entire state, so focused sampling will rotate hunt areas each year.

**\* Hunters are very important in helping understand CWD and achieve monitoring goals. Game and Fish is asking that if you harvest a deer or elk in the hunt areas listed below, please submit a sample for testing to help achieve our goals.**

Hunters outside of this year's focused surveillance areas can still submit a sample for testing.

FOR INFORMATION ON THE WYOMING CWD MANAGEMENT PLAN VISIT [WGFD.WYO.GOV/CWD](http://WGFD.WYO.GOV/CWD)

### CWD MONITORING DEER FOCUS AREAS

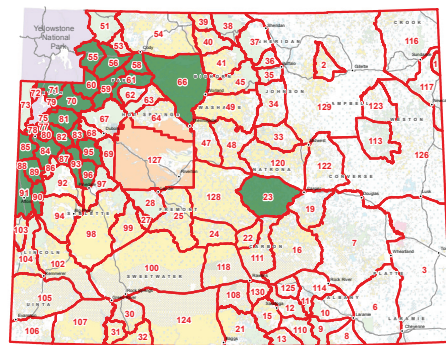


**CWD MONITORING DEER FOCUS AREAS**

**MANDATORY CWD SAMPLE SUBMISSION AREA**

**DEER HUNT AREAS:** 1-6, 22, 65, 70, 41 (Type 1 only), 47 (Type 1 only), 78-82, 84, 92, 94, 88, 89, 100, 128, 130, 131, 134, 135, 138-146, 148, 150-156, 157, 160, 171

### CWD MONITORING ELK FOCUS AREAS



**CWD MONITORING ELK FOCUS AREAS**

**ELK HUNT AREAS:** 23, 55, 56, 58-61, 66, 70, 71, 75, 77-85, 87-91, 93, 95, 96

### THERE ARE SEVERAL WAYS TO GET YOUR HARVESTED ANIMAL TESTED:

- ✓ **Game check station** – Personnel are normally available to sample your harvested animal for CWD.
- ✓ **WGFD regional office** – You may have to leave the head if personnel are not immediately available.
- ✓ **Collect it yourself** – Collect a sample yourself by watching the online video, complete a submission form, and send to the Wildlife Health Lab. Please visit [wgfd.wyo.gov/CWD](http://wgfd.wyo.gov/CWD) for instructions and more information.
- ! Results from WGFD surveillance are usually available online within 3 weeks.
- ! If you want results within 10 working days, contact the Wyoming State Veterinary Lab in Laramie at (307) 766-9925 (\$30 fee).
- ! Quarter and freeze your animal until test results are returned to save on meat processing costs if CWD is detected in your animal.

### FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT YOUR GAME AND FISH REGIONAL OFFICE

#### Cheyenne Headquarters

(307) 777-4600 • (800) 842-1934  
5400 Bishop Blvd., Cheyenne, WY 82006

#### Casper Region

(307) 473-3400 • (800) 233-8544  
3030 Energy Lane, Casper, WY 82604  
(Deer hunt areas 1-6, 22, 65, 88, 89;  
Elk hunt area 23)

#### Cody Region

(307) 527-7125 • (800) 654-1178  
2 Tilden Trl., Cody, WY 82414  
(Deer hunt areas 41 (Type 1 only), 47 (Type 1 only); Elk hunt areas 55, 56, 58-61, 66)

#### Green River Region

(307) 875-3223 • (800) 843-8096  
351 Astle, Green River, WY 82935  
(Deer hunt areas 82, 84, 100, 131, 134, 135)

#### Jackson Region

(307) 733-2321 • (800) 423-4113  
420 North Cache, Jackson, WY 83001  
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 67, Jackson, WY 83001  
(Deer hunt areas 144-146, 150-152, 155, 156; Elk hunt areas 70, 71, 75, 77-85, 88-91)

#### Lander Region

(307) 332-2688 • (800) 654-7862  
260 Buena Vista, Lander, WY 82520  
(Deer hunt areas 92, 94, 128, 148, 157, 160, 171)

#### Laramie Region

(307) 745-4046 • (800) 843-2352  
1212 South Adams Street, Laramie WY 82070  
(Deer hunt areas 70, 78-81)

#### Pinedale Region

(307) 367-4353 • (800) 452-9107  
432 East Mill Street, Pinedale, WY 82941  
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 850, Pinedale, WY 82941  
(Deer hunt areas 130, 138-143, 153, 154;  
Elk hunt areas 87, 93, 95, 96)

#### Sheridan Region

(307) 672-7418 • (800) 331-9834  
700 Valley View Drive, Sheridan, WY 82801  
(Deer hunt areas 1-6)



## WHAT IS CHRONIC WASTING DISEASE?

Chronic wasting disease (CWD) is a chronic, fatal disease of the central nervous system in mule deer, white-tailed deer, elk, and moose.

## WHAT DO DEER AND ELK WITH CWD LOOK LIKE?

Early in the disease, animals show no clinical signs. Later on, affected animals show weight loss, reluctance to move, excessive salivation, droopy ears, increased drinking and urinating, lethargy, and eventually death. Not all animals will show the typical signs of CWD. The majority of all CWD-positive animals that are harvested appear completely normal. The only way to know whether your harvested animal has CWD is to have it tested.

## HOW IS CWD TRANSMITTED?

Evidence suggests that CWD is transmitted via saliva, urine, feces, or even infected carcasses. Animals may also be infected through the environment via contamination of feed or habitat with prions (which can persist for 10+ years).

## HOW OFTEN DOES IT OCCUR?

The prevalence of CWD is higher in deer than elk, and tends to be higher in bucks than in does. In Wyoming, CWD is most prevalent in the southeastern quadrant and within the Bighorn Basin. Over the past 30 years, CWD prevalence has increased in many hunt areas across Wyoming.

## HOW DOES CWD AFFECT DEER, ELK, AND MOOSE POPULATIONS?

Research suggests that CWD can lead to declines in some deer and elk populations at high prevalence. Additional data suggests that CWD can decrease the number of older bucks in a population. There is currently no data to indicate that this disease will have population impacts in moose.

## IS IT SAFE TO EAT A CWD INFECTED ANIMAL?

To date, there have been no cases of CWD in humans and no strong evidence for the occurrence of CWD in people. However, experimental studies raise the concern that CWD may pose a risk and suggest that it is important to prevent human exposure. Therefore, the Centers for Disease Control and the World Health Organization recommend that CWD-positive animals not be consumed.

**The information provided in this brochure is a direct action of the Wyoming CWD Management Plan.**



## WHAT PRECAUTIONS SHOULD HUNTERS TAKE?

- Animals that appear sick or test positive for CWD should not be consumed.
- Wear rubber or latex gloves when field dressing.
- Minimize handling of brain and spinal tissues and wash your hands and instruments afterwards.
- Do not eat the brain, spinal cord, eyes, spleen, and lymph nodes.
- When butchering, meat should be boned out.
- Knives, dressing, and meat processing equipment should first be cleaned of any tissue and then can be disinfected by soaking in a 40% household bleach solution (mixed with water) for a minimum of 5 minutes. Rinse utensils and equipment after soaking.

## WHERE CAN I HAVE A DEER, ELK, OR MOOSE TESTED?

There are several ways to get your harvested animal tested:

- Take your harvested animal to a check station and ask them to sample your animal for CWD.
- Take your harvested animal to a WGFD regional office – if no one is available to take a sample, you may have to leave the head for samples to be collected when personnel are available.
- Collect a sample yourself by watching the online video, complete a submission form, and send to the Wildlife Health Lab. Please visit [wgfd.wyo.gov/CWD](http://wgfd.wyo.gov/CWD) for instructions and more information.
- Results from WGFD surveillance are usually available online within three weeks at [wgfd.wyo.gov/CWD](http://wgfd.wyo.gov/CWD).
- If you want results within 10 working days, you can go through the Wyoming State Veterinary Lab in Laramie and pay a \$30 fee for testing (307) 766-9925.
- Quarter and freeze your animal until test results are available to save on meat processing costs in case your animal tests positive.

## WHAT CAN YOU DO TO HELP?

- In focus surveillance areas, have your animal tested for CWD to help with the Game and Fish monitoring program.
- Report sick deer, elk, and moose to the Wyoming Game and Fish Department; removing CWD-positive animals from the landscape can help to minimize transmission of the disease.
- Follow carcass transport regulations that apply to all hunt areas in Wyoming as well as carcass import regulations of your home state if you are a nonresident.