**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.

For more information, contact your Game and Fish Regional Office.

**CWD MONITORING DEER FOCUS AREAS**

- Casper Region (307) 777-4600 • (800) 842-1934
  5400 Bishop Blvd., Casper, WY 82006
- Cody Region (307) 527-7125 • (800) 654-1178
  2 Tilden Trl., Cody, WY 82414
- Green River Region (307) 875-3223 • (800) 843-8096
  351 Astle, Green River, WY 82935
  (Deer hunt areas 1-6, 22, 65, 88, 89, 100, 128, 130, 131, 134, 135, 138-146, 148, 150-156, 157, 160, 171)
- 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 23, 55, 56, 58-61, 66)

**CWD MONITORING ELK FOCUS AREAS**

- Lander Region (307) 332-2688 • (800) 654-7862
  260 Buena Vista, Lander, WY 82520
  (Deer hunt areas 23, 55, 56, 58-61, 66)
- 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)

**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 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.

**FOR INFORMATION ON THE WYOMING CWD MANAGEMENT PLAN VISIT WGFD.WYO.GOV/CWD**

wgfd.wyo.gov

Conserving Wildlife, Serving People
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.

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 for instructions and more information.
• Results from WGFD surveillance are usually available online within three weeks at 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.

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