Chronic wasting disease (CWD) can be transmitted from CWD-positive animal carcasses harvested by hunters that have not been properly disposed of. The majority of CWD-positive animals that are harvested appear completely normal and healthy. To minimize the possibility of transmission, Wyoming’s regulations require deer, elk, and moose hunters transport only the following items within Wyoming:

1. Deers, elk, and moose taken in Wyoming may be transported within Wyoming to a camp, private residence for processing, a taxidermist, a processor, or a CWD sample collection site in Wyoming, provided the head and all portions of the spinal column remain at the site of the kill or such parts are disposed of in any approved landfill or approved incinerator in Wyoming.

2. Edible portions with no part of the spinal column or head.

3. Cleaned hide without the head attached.

4. Skull, skull plate, or antlers that have been cleaned of all meat and brain tissue; teeth.

5. Finished taxidermy mounts.

Hunters are reminded they must abide by the evidence of sex, species, and horn or antler development retention requirements as per regulations. For more information on carcass disposal visit wgfd.wyo.gov/CWD.
Chronic wasting disease (CWD) is a fatal disease of the central nervous system in mule deer, white-tailed deer, elk, and moose. Special regulations were adopted by the Wyoming Game and Fish Department to decrease the spread of the disease. Details about CWD, where it exists in Wyoming and testing for the disease are provided on the Game and Fish website. For more information on CWD or to check your CWD sample results, please visit: wgfd.wyo.gov/cwd. Hunters wanting to collect lymph nodes from their harvested deer, elk, or moose for CWD testing can watch a video on how to do so at: Wyoming Game and Fish Department - Lymph node removal video.

Most animals infected with CWD show no clinical signs early on, but as the disease progresses (> 1 year), animals will begin to 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 harvested appear completely normal. The only way to know whether your harvested animal has CWD is to have it tested.

For information on the Wyoming CWD Management Plan visit wgfd.wyo.gov/cwd.