



# CWD MANAGEMENT



Dear Montana Processor,

Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks needs your help in managing and monitoring Chronic Wasting Disease. As you know, CWD is a deadly disease of deer, elk, and moose that was first found in wild deer in Montana in 2017. We now know the disease is present along the Hi-Line mostly north of Highway 2, in northwest Montana in the city of Libby, in southern Montana south of Billings, and within a half mile of our southeast border near Decker. In 2019, FWP has designated specific CWD Management Zones and areas where FWP will sample for CWD.

You may see deer, elk, or moose arrive at your shop with a yellow ID tag, reading “MTFWP CWD TEST.” This tag indicates the animal has been sampled for CWD by FWP and the hunter should have the results within 3 weeks. If an animal tests positive for CWD, the hunter will be contacted by FWP and advised not to consume the meat. If the positive animal was processed at a commercial facility, the Montana Department of Health and Human Services will notify the processor of the positive test and work with them to determine whether the animal was processed in a batch with other animals. Any hunter that received meat processed as part of a CWD-positive batch will be contacted and advised not to consume the meat. It is helpful if there are good records available about which animals were processed together.

## How you can help

1. Please notify hunters that FWP is interested in sampling and testing adult deer, elk, and moose harvested from any of our sampling areas (see map). You can encourage them to take their harvested animal to a local check station or a regional office so FWP can collect samples for our CWD surveillance.
2. If hunters harvest an animal outside of these areas, they may still submit their own samples for testing free of charge, by mailing them to the Wildlife Health Lab (instructions are online at [fwp.mt.gov/cwd](http://fwp.mt.gov/cwd)).
3. Place CWD informational cards at your front desk. FWP can supply the informational cards.

**CWD Best Practices** – CWD “prions” are extremely resistant to conventional disinfecting techniques (e.g. soap, boiling water, etc.). Prions are found throughout the body of an infected animal but are most concentrated in the brain, spinal cord, and lymph nodes. We recommend processors wear rubber gloves and eye protection when processing wild game, and avoid processing the brain, spinal cord, eyes, spleen, tonsils and lymph nodes of harvested animals. We also recommend disinfecting instruments and work surfaces with a 40% solution of bleach for 5 minutes after processing is complete. All large tissue or carcass waste (bone, etc.) should be disposed of in a landfill to prevent the accidental spread of CWD.

If left unmanaged, CWD will spread. As infection rates increase, it can have a significant impact on our wildlife. Thank you for your help as we fight CWD together. For more information, please contact your local FWP office or visit [fwp.mt.gov/cwd](http://fwp.mt.gov/cwd).

Sincerely,

Martha Williams  
Director  
Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks

# CWD Management Zones and areas where FWP will sample in 2019

