

Northern Region 4 CWD, Buck Permit Survey and Commission Comment Summary

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- **Sampling**
 - Not a priority CWD sampling area for 2020 general season.
 - May be a priority sampling area in 2021 or 2022, decision yet to be made.
 - Submission of samples available at Region 4 office, Conrad office by request, and self-administered.
 - 1174 CWD samples collected to date.
- **CWD Management**
 - CWD plan calls for determining prevalence levels with confidence then institute long-term management and evaluate management in 3 to 5+ years.
 - Currently have rigorous estimates of prevalence rates in HDs 400 and 401
 - do not need additional samples for a rigorous prevalence estimate.
 - Sampling on a voluntary basis as a service to hunters
 - Insufficient samples to exclude CWD presence in HDs 403 and 406.
 - Not a priority sampling area in the near term.
 - Long-term management instituted for the 2020 season for all four HDs.
 - CWD plan allows pre-emptive management in adjacent HDs to reduce the potential for spread of the disease.
 - 3-week general season followed by 2 weeks of limited antlered buck permits by species and HDs.
- **Current Prevalence Estimates**
 - Mule deer are 0.8% (95% CI, 0.0% – 2.0%) and 0.2% (95% CI, 0.0% – 1.0%) in HDs 400 and 401, respectively. (Note the precision of these estimates, narrow CIs).
 - White-tailed deer are 1.6 % (95% CI, 0.0% – 9.0%) and 0.5% (95% CI, 0.0 – 3.0) in HDs 400 and 401, respectively. (Note the wide CI in HD 400 and narrower CI in HD 400).
- **Northern Region 4 Buck Permit and Survey Summary**
 - For 2020 Season, 420 antlered buck permits issued.
 - 64% of permits were Region 4 Residents (mostly local)
 - 59.7% survey response rate, accuracy is +/- 1 percent at 98%CI.
 - 76.8% of respondents hunted with permit.
 - Successful antlered buck mule deer applicants could hunt mule deer in other HDs until the final 2 weeks of the season when the permit became valid.
 - There were no restrictions on successful antlered buck white-tailed deer applicants.
 - Hunting pressure approximately equally distributed among:
 - Private land belonging to family or friends
 - Private land NOT belonging to family or friends.
 - Block Management
 - Public Land
 - Hunters could hunt on multiple landownership types.

- Harvest success on Permits
 - Mule Deer – 56.1%
 - White-tailed Deer – 73.9%
 - Overall – 65%
- An estimated 273 bucks harvested across all HDs and LPTs.
 - Does not represent an increase in total harvest. Some portion of harvest from the 3-week season shifted to the final 2 weeks.
 - Will have a better understand when 2020 deer harvest estimates are available.
 - 5-year average total buck harvest on all LPTs is 1832 in these 4 HDs under the 3-week general season.
- Average antler points per side was 4.3 and 4.4.
 - Successful in harvesting mature bucks.
- 38.1% of harvest occurred on Private land belonging to family and friends.
 - Remaining harvest approximately equally distributed across remaining 3 landownership types.
- Of survey respondents that had an opinion, 71% support the current season structure.
- **Recommended Permit Quotas for 2021 season**
 - Reduction of 115 to a total of 305 total permits based on 2020 success rates.
- **Commission Comment Summary**
 - 60 Individual Comments
 - 56.7 % oppose current season structure.
 - 43.3% support extended season structure
 - 65% support a full 5-week season.
 - 35% support the current season structure.