



CHRONIC WASTING DISEASE

A call to action.

Cait Nelson
Ministry of Forests



What is Chronic Wasting Disease?



- Infectious disease of the deer family
- 100% fatal
- Not naturally occurring
- Difficult to detect and manage



Role of Hunters in CWD Management



- Eyes and ears on the ground
- Provide 80% of samples
- Important management tool

CWD in the Environment

- Shed through bodily fluids / carcasses
- Resistant to disinfectants / burning
- Remain infectious for several years





Silent Carriers of CWD

- Most animals appear healthy
- Rarely see “sick” animals in the wild
- Symptoms take 18+ months to show



What is at Risk?

- Wildlife conservation
- Hunting traditions
- Wildlife-related businesses
- Food security

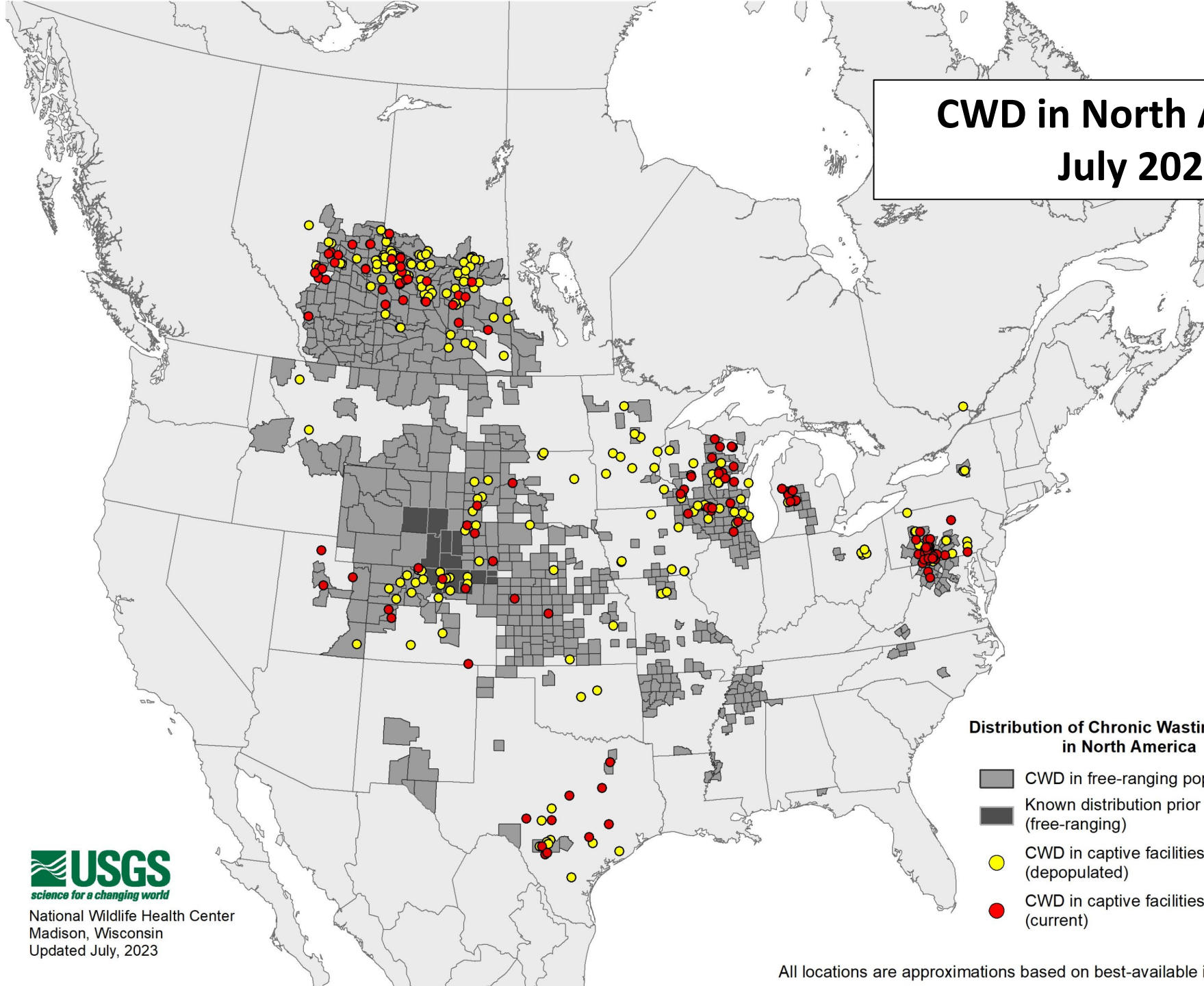
Human Health Concern?

Public Health says:

- There has never been a human CWD case
- Research has been inconclusive
- Positive animals should NOT be eaten



CWD in North America July 2023



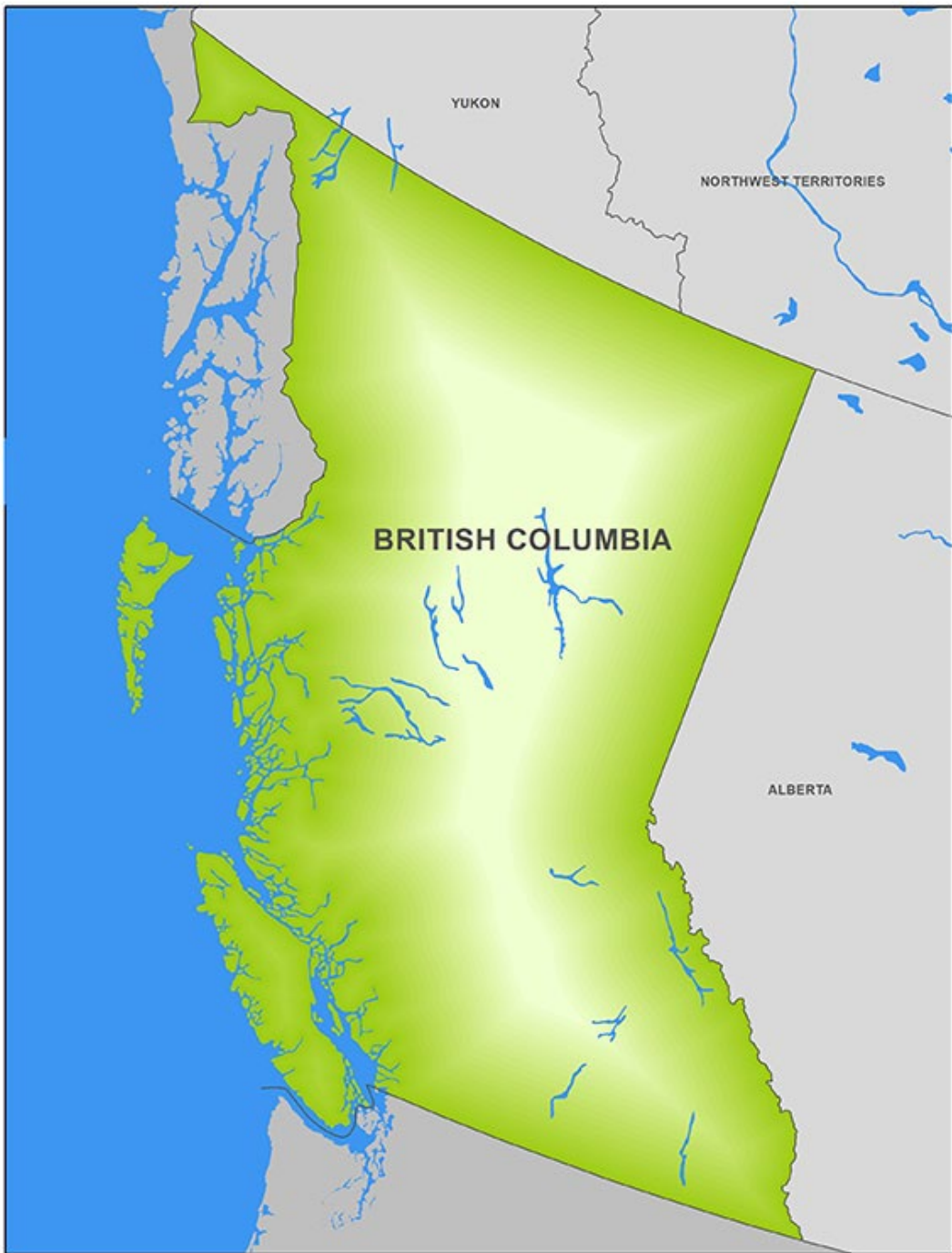
Distribution of Chronic Wasting Disease in North America

- CWD in free-ranging populations
- Known distribution prior to 2000 (free-ranging)
- CWD in captive facilities (depopulated)
- CWD in captive facilities (current)



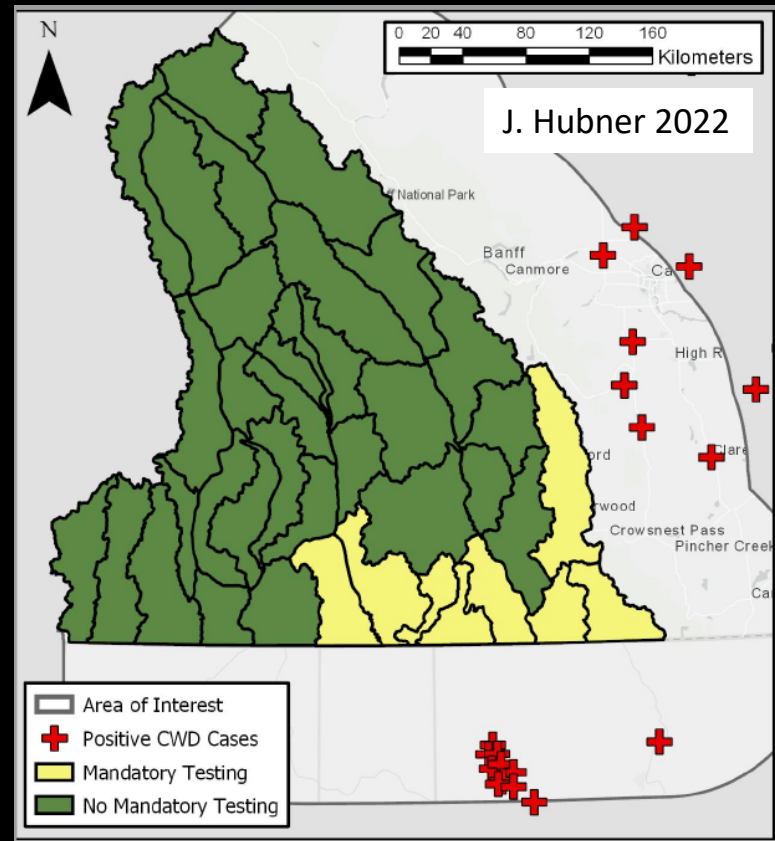
National Wildlife Health Center
Madison, Wisconsin
Updated July, 2023

All locations are approximations based on best-available information



What is the CWD situation in BC?

- CWD has NOT been detected in B.C.
- Introduction (detection) is imminent
- Preventative measures and testing are critical



How will CWD enter BC?

- Natural (live) animal movement
- Human import - carcasses, hay, scents
- Scavengers – coyotes, crows



An infected cervid (deer, elk, moose) carcass could **introduce** Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) to B.C.



Cleaned antlers, hide and deboned meat have **less risk of transporting CWD.**



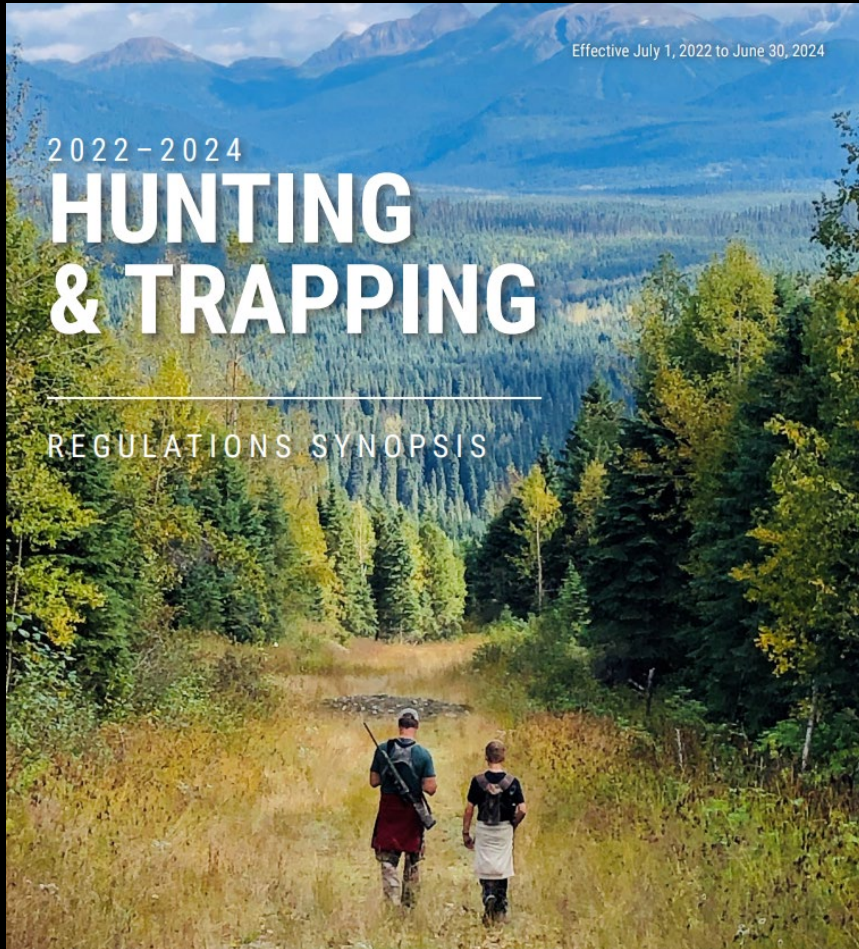
Let's keep CWD out of B.C.

Learn more at: www.gov.bc.ca/chronicwastingdisease

How to prevent CWD spread?

- Increase awareness – reduce risk
- Implement *Wildlife Act* regulations
- Catch it early with testing





Regulation Update

IT'S UNLAWFUL

To Possess any part of a Cervidae (caribou, deer, elk, moose), that was killed outside of BC, other than (1) edible meat of the four quarters, loins, neck and ribs, or (2) the hide, antlers and skull plate if, before being brought into BC, the part is cleaned in a manner that removes all tissue.

* See updated Synopsis online*



Why is early detection important?

- Prevent spread to new areas
- Prevent contamination of environment
- Increased success of management

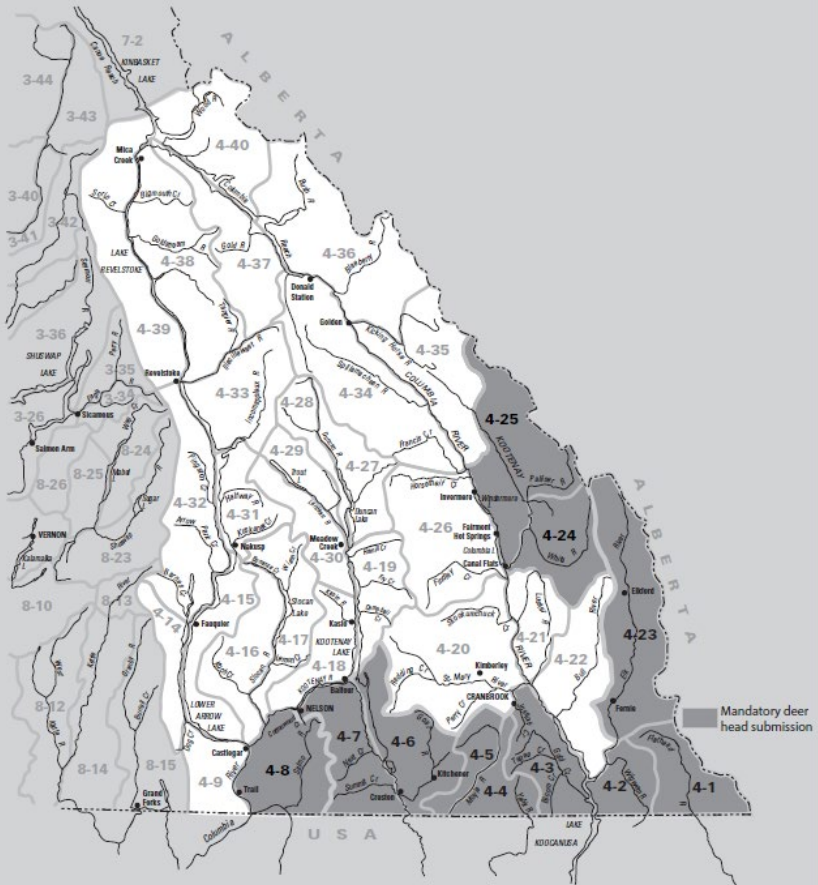


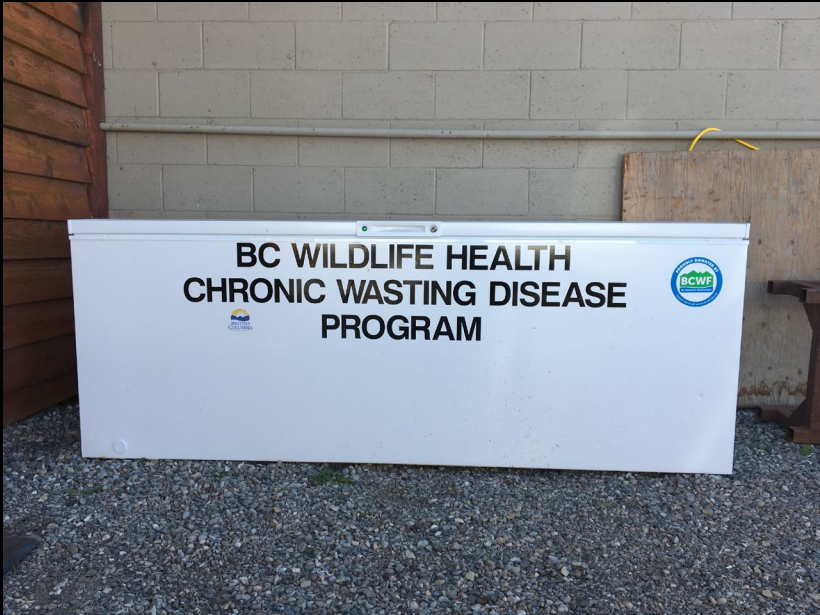
Hunting Licence Condition

- Mandatory submission of samples for testing
- White-tailed deer and mule deer
- Resident and non-resident licences
- Full head/antlers not required
- High risk area *Updated in April 2023*

MUs 4-1 to 4-8, 4-23 to 4-25

All hunting licence holders who harvest a white-tailed deer or mule deer, under the authority of a species licence, in Management Units 4-1, 4-2, 4-3, 4-4, 4-5, 4-6, 4-7, 4-8, 4-23, 4-24, 4-25 must submit samples for CWD testing.





How to submit a head for testing

- Voluntary in most areas / mandatory in risk areas
- Deer, elk, moose, caribou – over 1 year of age
- Remove antlers
 - At base or skull plate
 - Submit lower jaw (deer only)

CWD-7001 Eartag

NAME: _____

PHONE: _____

FWID # _____

SPECIES (check one):
 Mule Deer Elk Caribou
 White-tailed Deer Moose Other: _____

SEX: M F AGE CLASS: YRLG ADULT AGE ESTIMATE: _____

KILL DATE: _____

KILL LOCATION (MU &/or describe): _____

HOW KILLED: Hunted Other (describe): _____

Was this animal normal ? YES NO

If no, describe signs: _____

CWD-7001

BRITISH COLUMBIA

Instructions / freezer locations / test results:
www.gov.bc.ca/chronicwastingdisease



CWD Management

With Advisory Team and Working Group:

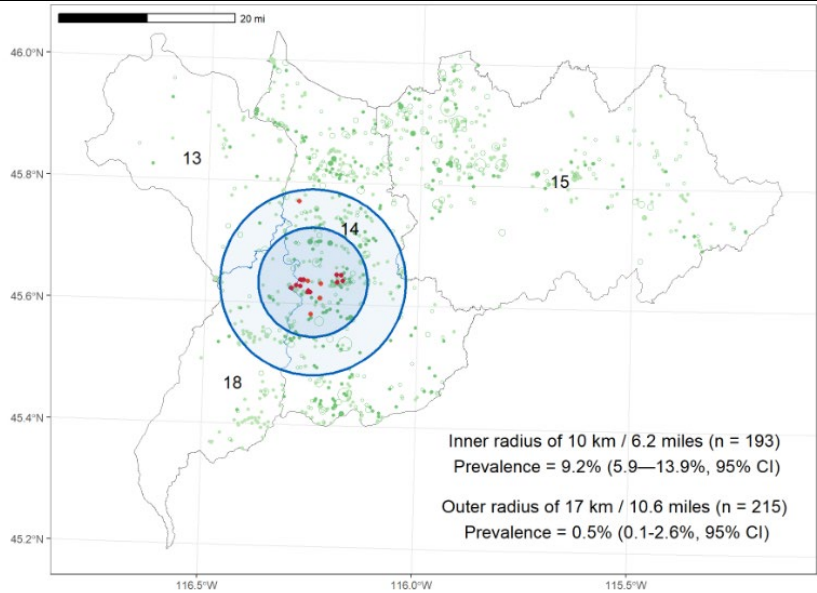
- Confirm facts
- Confirm objectives with partners
- Consider further actions:
 - Special hunts (additional tags for specific areas)
 - Adapted harvest strategies
 - Removals if high risk situations exist

Recommendations for Adaptive
Management of Chronic Wasting
Disease in the West



CWD Response Plan

- Initial Response Area (IRA) – 10 km radius
- Emergency actions under *Animal Health Act*
 - Carcass transport / disposal requirements
 - Mandatory testing / targeted sampling
 - Reduce attractants
- Determine which animals are most likely to be infected



Recommendations for Adaptive Management of Chronic Wasting Disease in the West





Staying ahead of CWD

How can you help?

- Understand the risks
- Help to spread the word
- Submit deer, elk, moose samples for testing
- Host a freezer / workshop / webinar

