

Chronic Wasting Disease

The Facts

- Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) is a “prion” disease that attacks the central nervous system
- The only species susceptible to CWD are members of the Deer Family (aka: Cervids)
 - So far CWD has been found in Mule Deer, White-tail Deer, Elk and Moose
 - CWD is not transmissible to other ungulates or domestic animals by natural means
 - There is no evidence that CWD is transmissible to humans
- Transmission occurs through close animal contact and contact with CWD contaminated soils
- CWD is fatal in all cases; there is no treatment or vaccine.
- CWD is not a naturally occurring disease
- Once CWD is established it is very difficult to contain and manage – Prevention is the key!

The Risks

Experts say there are 2 ways CWD may enter BC

- **By natural animal movement**
 - Chances are this would happen very slowly
 - BC is considered at LOW RISK for the natural introduction of CWD
- **By human importation of infected animals or parts**
 - This is a very real threat
 - If you hunt outside of BC understand the risks associated with bringing a potentially infected carcass back with you
 - If a carcass is disposed of in the bush, after it rots, infective material can remain active in the soil for years capable of infecting BC cervids
 - It is safe to bring trophy materials and meat back – leave the high risk material which includes; brain, spinal cord, eyes, lymph nodes & spleen
 - Saskatchewan and Alberta do have CWD in deer and elk – but only in some areas

The BC CWD Surveillance Program

- If CWD is introduced, the sooner we find it, the better chance we'll have to contain and manage it
- Early detection and accurate harvest location info will allow management over a smaller landscape
- We are asking hunters to submit harvested deer, elk and moose heads to be tested

Drop Off Locations for Heads

Peace Region

North Peace Rod & Gun Club, FSJ
Peace Taxidermy, Hwy 29
Rocky Mountain Taxidermy, Pouce Coupe
Russell's Custom Meat Cutting, Chetwynd
Ministry of Environment, FSJ
Ministry of Environment, Dawson Creek

Kootenay Region

Ministry of Environment, Cranbrook
Cliff's Meat, Kimberley
Backcountry Meats, Fernie
Rick's Fine Meats, Cranbrook
COS Ministry of Environment, Invermere

If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact:

*The BC CWD Program
(250) 953-5140*