



CWD Program Updates 2013

NEW REGULATION

On the advice of wildlife health experts, the BC Wildlife Federation and others, the Province recently passed new regulations that prohibit possession of the head, hoof, hide, spinal column, internal organ including testicles or mammary gland of any deer, elk and moose (cervids) killed outside of British Columbia. Possession of an out-of-province cervid hide, antler, or part of a skull is permitted, **providing they have been treated in a way that removes all tissues – this means no large chunks of meat or brain are attached.**

The purpose of prohibiting possession of these parts is to reduce the risk of Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) being introduced into B.C. We believe there is a low risk for natural introduction of the disease into B.C. from live infected animals, but research shows a very real threat exists through human transport of infected animals. If infected animal parts are disposed of on the ground, the CWD prion material can bind to the soil and will stay infective virtually forever. This is believed to be the most significant way to transmit the disease long distances and could result in CWD becoming established in B.C.

WHAT SHOULD YOU DO IF YOU HARVEST A CERVID OUTSIDE OF B.C.?

Meat: It is recommended that meat be de-boned or processed prior to removal from the jurisdiction where it was killed. Only transport those parts of the animal that you intend to consume or are legally required to retain for transport or possession purposes.

Antlers and Trophy Animals: If you want to keep antlers, remove them, any soft tissue and the connecting bone plate from the remainder of the skull and soak in 2% bleach. If you want to keep the hide, all tissue must be removed before being possessed in B.C.

Contact your taxidermist before your hunting trip and discuss with them what kind of mount you want and the parts required for your mount. Compliance with B.C. CWD regulations and ensuring that everything you need to provide to your taxidermist to have the mount you want is easily achieved.

DO NOT dump carcasses. Leave all prohibited parts at the kill site.

HUNTER AND COMMUNITY OUTREACH

Highway Signs

We are actively working on a public outreach campaign that includes roadside signs near the BC-Alberta border crossings. Our CWD Technical Working Group agreed that this signage will go far in informing the public of the new CWD regulations and reminding hunters of the threat associated with bringing cervid carcasses back into B.C.

Here is the sign design. These signs have been installed in the Peace Region near Dawson Creek and the Kootenay Region near Sparwood (both near the Alberta border – leaving the province).

