

Regional Tribal CWD Surveillance Program

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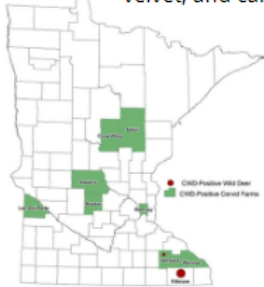
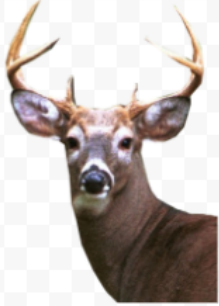
Goals:

- Develop consistent CWD surveillance for tribally hunted subsistence species
- Limit the work load, administrative burden, and costs for tribal natural resources departments
- Encourage tribal hunter participation
- Reduce lead toxicity in people and animals
- Prevent the spread of CWD and monitor cervid populations
- Continue program long-term with federal funding and a few leaders
- Develop tribal CWD working group and experts

Chronic Wasting Disease in Deer: What hunters should know and how to get involved

What is chronic wasting disease (CWD)?

- A deadly disease in cervids, such as deer and moose, that affects the brain and nervous system, caused by a contagious protein (prion)
 - Similar to mad cow disease, scrapie in sheep, and Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease in humans
 - It spreads from direct contact, body fluids and antler velvet, and can stay in the environment for years



As of 2018, CWD has been found in farmed or wild deer in these MN counties
(Photo: Winona Post)

How do you know if a deer has CWD?

- You often can't. It can take 2-5 years for a deer to look sick, they can appear healthy and still carry CWD
Symptoms can include:
 - Being very skinny, loss of muscle
 - Drooling or salivating a lot
 - Unusual behavior such as:
 - Not being afraid of people
 - Stumbling, trembling
 - Drooping head or ears

Are people at risk for CWD?

- It is unclear if people can get CWD, but currently it is NOT recommended to eat venison from sick or CWD positive deer
- The riskiest parts of a deer include:
 - Brain
 - Spinal cord
 - Spleen
 - Lymph nodes

Wear gloves and avoid these organs as much as possible!

You can have your deer tested for CWD, to protect your family and help monitor the health of our deer
In exchange, you will be given a **free box of copper ammunition**

Contact the **Fond du Lac Resource Management Division** for more information

Making the Switch to Copper Bullets: Protecting your family and our environment from lead poisoning

What happens when you hunt using lead or copper bullets?

- Lead bullets shatter on impact, spreading tiny fragments through most of the animal's body, including the meat and guts
- Copper bullets stay together and mushroom out on impact, and will more easily go through bones



A copper bullet on the left and a lead bullet on the right after a shooting demonstration (Photo: Paul A. Smith / Milwaukee Journal Sentinel)



X-ray of an animal shot with lead, notice how far the bright white spots of metal spread in the body
(Photo: The Scavenger Hunt)

How are eagles hurt by lead?

- Eagles will scavenge gut piles left behind by hunters, and are very sensitive to lead
 - It only takes 2 shotgun pellets to kill a bald eagle



What happens if your family eats lead fragments in meat?

- At certain levels in the blood, lead can be very toxic to people
- During pregnancy it can cause low birth-weight babies, premature births, miscarriages, and stillbirths
- In babies and children under 6, even small amounts can cause lifelong learning disabilities, and stunted growth

There's no safe amount of lead during pregnancy or children under 6

Deer hunters: bring us your deer heads for a FREE box of lead-free copper bullets by contacting the Fond du Lac Resource Management Division



Mechanism

- Begin surveillance for 2020 hunting seasons
- Collect heads from tribal hunter harvested deer and moose
- Incentivize head submission with copper ammunition
- Report back to hunters and tribal natural resources agencies
- Work with UMN partners to develop CWD education and outreach materials and CWD management plans for tribes

Funding

- Tribal Wildlife Grant \$ 199,917
 - Targeted for MN tribes
 - Contract employee and UMN researcher
 - Possible freezer purchases
 - Copper ammunition approved
- USDA APHIS CWD grant \$167,500
 - Targeted for WI and MI tribes
 - GLIFWC and Sault tribe leading
 - Consistent data collection and processing



2020 pilot project

1. Grand Portage

2. 1854 Treaty Authority

3. Fond du Lac

4. Red Lake

5. Mille Lacs

6. Shakopee Mdewakantan

7. Lower Sioux

8. Prairie Island

9. Leech Lake

Next steps:

- Contract folks will reach out
- Freezer purchases
- Weekly calls to determine head collection needs
- Head pickups as needed
- Reporting back to hunters and tribal bios
- Copper ammunition order after the hunting season
- Distribute back to hunters
- Solicit new leaders?
- Refine and start over again for next year