

CWD SURVEILLANCE IN MONTANA

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Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) is a fatal neurological disease of cervids. Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks has conducted surveillance for CWD since 1998. During 2007-2008, surveillance was conducted in the eastern portion of Montana near the borders of Wyoming and Canada where CWD has been detected in free-ranging deer and elk. Samples from over 1450 deer, elk and moose were collected and tested. The prion associated with CWD was not detected among samples collected. Samples consisted primarily of hunter-harvested animals ($n = 1381$), road kills ($n = 81$) and symptomatic animals ($n = 15$). A total of 177 elk (*Cervus elaphus*), 1060 mule deer (*Odocoileus hemionus*), 239 white-tailed deer (*O. virginianus*) and one moose (*Alces alces*) have been tested. A total of 11,777 deer, elk and moose have been tested since 1998 with no evidence of CWD in Montana's free-ranging populations. Montana has also adopted a management plan should CWD be detected in wild cervids. The recommended alternative presented in the record of decision was discussed.