

CHRONIC WASTING DISEASE: NATIONAL AND STATE IMPLICATIONS^{TWS}

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Chronic wasting disease (CWD) has affected wildlife management programs nationwide. In some states, allocation of expenditures for CWD management has been detrimental to funding other important wildlife management programs. The presence of CWD in a state may also reduce hunter participation thereby reducing the effectiveness of one of wildlife management's most effective tools, the big game hunter. The long-term effect of CWD on wildlife populations is still being evaluated. While Montana has not found CWD in its free ranging wildlife populations, we expect surveillance efforts at some point to identify the disease within our borders due to our proximity to states and provinces where CWD has been diagnosed. What is the current state of knowledge about CWD: its distribution, pathology, epidemiology, transmission, management, and control? What is Montana FWP doing to prevent CWD or to prepare to manage it when it is found within our borders? Current results from national and state surveillance programs as well as considerations for management of CWD were presented.