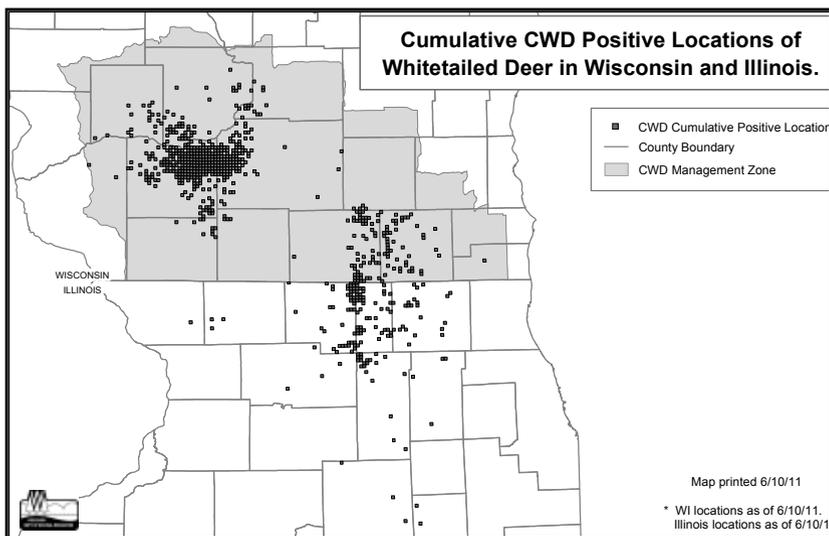


Chronic Wasting Disease Update

Wisconsin has intensively monitored chronic wasting disease (CWD) for nine years. Between 2002 and March 2011, we tested over 166,000 free-ranging deer, of which 1,570 have tested positive for CWD. All of the positive cases have been found within the current CWD Management Zone (CWD-MZ). Wisconsin has two separate cores of disease infection, one in the southwest part of the state, one in the southeast. The southeast CWD outbreak is contiguous with a CWD area in northern Illinois where 326 CWD positive deer have been found since 2002 (see map below).



CWD Prevalence in Wisconsin

Since 2002, CWD prevalence within our western monitoring area has shown an overall increasing trend in all sex and age classes. During the past nine years, the trend in prevalence in adult males has risen from about 8 percent to over 16 percent and in adult females from about 3 percent to approximately 7 percent. During that same time, the prevalence trend in yearling males has increased from about 2 percent to about 6 percent and in yearling females from less than 2 percent to about 4 percent. We continue to see similar trends in the eastern monitoring area as well, albeit at lower prevalence levels. We continue to find that disease prevalence is higher in males than in females and higher in adults than in yearlings. It is important to keep in mind that annual prevalence estimates are subject to sampling variation and that trends over time give us better information. These annual monitoring data are important for Wisconsin's understanding of CWD distribution and prevalence.

2011 CWD Sampling in Wisconsin

We will continue to sample deer within the CWD-MZ, including both the southwestern and southeastern core infection areas, to track changes in both CWD prevalence and distribution. The exact locations of sampling within the CWD-MZ, as well as any possible locations outside of the CWD-MZ will be available at registration and sampling stations, and on our website, prior to the opening of the 2011 archery season.

CWD in North America

As of 2011, 15 states and provinces have identified CWD within their free-ranging cervid (deer, elk, moose) herds. In some of those 15, CWD has been detected in only a handful of deer, while in others, vast geographic areas and large numbers of animals are affected.

In Colorado and Wyoming, states where CWD has infected wild deer for several decades, recent studies have documented high prevalence rates (20-40%) and lower survival of CWD-infected deer when compared to uninfected deer. In Wyoming, high prevalence rates (~35%) have been identified across extensive geographic areas (>4,000 square miles). Researchers suggest that CWD may be limiting deer numbers in these populations. Examining CWD in other states helps us anticipate the future impacts of CWD in Wisconsin. This knowledge will assist us in making the best management choices for our state.

Successfully managing CWD in Wisconsin will require a sustained effort over many years, necessitating cooperation and communication among the DNR, hunters, agricultural agencies, landowners, farmed-cervid producers, and the many citizens of the state who benefit from a healthy deer herd. Although successful CWD management is very challenging for everyone involved, the alternative of letting the disease spread uncontrolled is much worse. Without a joint effort, I believe the long-term future of deer hunting in Wisconsin could be in jeopardy. As we learn more about CWD, we will strive to make the best decisions for the current and future benefit of both Wisconsin's deer and the people who value them. For information on our current plan for CWD in Wisconsin, please see our recently adopted Response Plan at dnr.wi.gov; search for 'CWD plan'.

Thank you for your role in helping to manage CWD over the past nine years. Wisconsin is very fortunate to have citizens with such a great conservation ethic and appreciation for the natural world. Hunters are the cornerstone of conservation and wildlife management and your help and assistance is greatly appreciated.

Davin Lopez
CWD Coordinator

Check your deer's CWD test results

Check the CWD result of your deer by searching for 'CWD results' on the DNR's website, dnr.wi.gov

Why should people care about CWD?

CWD is an issue for the entire state, not just southern Wisconsin.

- Without appropriate management, CWD will spread across the state.
- Based on current knowledge, including information on disease progression from western states where CWD has been present for a longer time, CWD poses a significant threat to the long-term welfare of Wisconsin's deer herd.
- A healthy deer herd is critical for the preservation of hunting traditions. Wisconsin has nearly 700,000 deer hunters who have harvested an average of 440,000 deer annually during the past decade.
- Deer hunting contributes more than 7 million days of recreation every year.
- Deer hunting annually generates more than \$500 million dollars in retail sales and over \$1 billion in total impact to the state's economy.
- For a summary of CWD information including common misconceptions please visit our website at dnr.wi.gov and search for 'CWD misconceptions'.

Venison and CWD What Hunters Should Know

Information from the Wisconsin Division of Public Health

Chronic Wasting Disease is a fatal disease that affects the nervous system of deer, elk, and moose. The disease is caused by an abnormal protein called a prion, which can survive cooking temperatures. Prions concentrate in certain tissues, such as the brain, spinal cord, lymph nodes, and spleen, and are present in lower concentrations in other tissues, such as muscle. The U.S. Centers for Disease Control state that there is currently no scientific evidence proving that CWD can cause disease in humans. However, in the interest of safety, this organization advises that people not consume meat from deer, elk, or moose which test positive for CWD.

In keeping with this recommendation, the Wisconsin Division of Public Health recommends that venison from deer harvested inside the CWD Management Zone not be consumed or distributed to others until CWD test results on the source deer are known to be negative.

Venison from multiple deer should be kept separate and labeled before freezing. For more information, call the WI Department of Health Services at (608) 267-9003 or see <http://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/communicable/CWD/index.htm>.

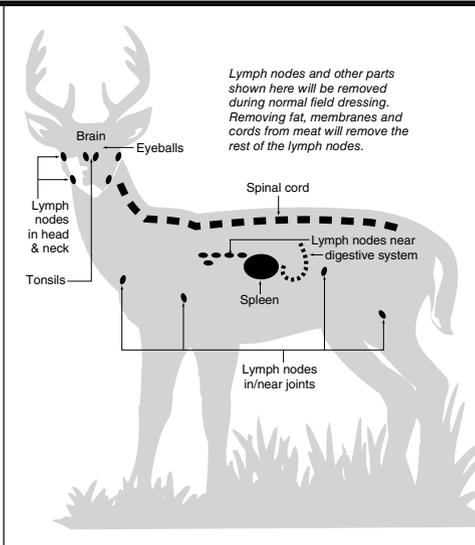
Safe Handling of Deer

General Precautions

- Do not eat the eyes, brain, spinal cord, spleen, tonsils, or lymph nodes of any deer.
- Do not eat any part of a deer that appears abnormal.
- If your deer is sampled for CWD testing, wait for test results before eating the meat.

Hunters

- **Wear rubber or latex gloves** when field dressing carcasses.
- **Bone out** the meat from your animal.
- **Remove** all internal organs.
- **Minimize the handling** of the brain, spinal cord, spleen, and lymph nodes.
- **Do not use** household knives or utensils.
- **Use equipment** dedicated to field dressing only.
- **Thoroughly clean knives and equipment.** Use a 50/50 solution of chlorine bleach and water to soak all butchering tools for one hour and to wipe down all countertops and work areas.
- **Request** that your animal be processed individually and not combined with meat from other animals.
- **Avoid use of saws.** Do not cut through the spine or skull except to remove the head. Use a knife designated only for this purpose.



State-Owned and Managed Lands

This section refers to rules for all lands and property owned by or under control of the DNR. This includes lands under easement to or leased by the DNR, but **does not** include lands enrolled in Managed Forest Law or Forest Crop Law programs. See the section on page 39 for rules regarding these properties.

It is illegal to:

- hike or snowshoe on designated cross-country ski trails when the trails are snow covered.
- hunt or possess a firearm or bow in a wildlife refuge or possess a firearm, air gun, slingshot, or bow in a state park, state fish hatchery, or within 100 yards of a state campground, picnic area, or within the exterior boundaries of a state recreational trail (except as posted open to hunting) unless it is unloaded and enclosed within a carrying case. A bow or crossbow may be unstrung or enclosed within a carrying case.
- pursue, drive, or chase animals on lands that are closed to hunting.
- use a ground blind during any open deer season or special deer hunt with firearms unless a **minimum of 144 square inches** of solid blaze orange or florescent blaze orange material is **visible from all directions**.*

Note: Blinds used for waterfowl hunting are exempt from this rule.

- build or use a ground blind or any elevated device unless it does not damage the tree and is completely removed from the property each day at the close of hunting hours.*

Note: Blinds used for waterfowl hunting do not need to be removed daily. See waterfowl regulations for details.

- leave a tree stand or ground blind unoccupied during legal hunting hours unless the owner's customer ID number or name and address have been attached in a manner that is visible and legible to a person on the ground or near entrance of ground blind.*

* **Except:** Ground blinds constructed entirely of dead vegetation found on the property do not need to be removed at the end of each day, do not need to display blaze orange, and do not need to have name and address displayed.

- damage trees. Cutting shooting lanes and use of screw-in tree-stands or steps are considered damaging and are illegal.
- possess any loaded or uncased firearm or air gun while within the exterior boundary of state-owned lands posted with Department signs in Dane, Dodge, Fond du Lac, Jefferson, Juneau, Kenosha, La Crosse, Milwaukee, Outagamie, Ozaukee, Racine, Sauk, Sheboygan, Walworth, Washington, Waukesha, and Winnebago Counties or on state forest lands in the Kettle Moraine or Point Beach State Forests, or State Recreation Areas, except as follows:
 1. while engaged in hunting in accordance with the open seasons listed on pages 6-9.
 2. while shooting at an established target range (this is the only target shooting permitted on these state lands).
 3. while training or trialing dogs under department license within designated areas.
- camp on any state lands except in designated campgrounds unless a special camp registration permit is obtained from the DNR prior to setting up camp.
- allow dogs to run on DNR lands from April 15 through July 31 unless the dog is on a leash no longer than 8 feet. This rule does not apply to Class 1 field trial grounds, DNR lands open to dog training, or training dogs to track bear after June 30. Also, there are exceptions for the training and trialing of dogs on raccoon and rabbits with a training license. See the *Wisconsin Dog Training and Trialing Regulations* (PUB-WM-444)

for more information, license requirements, and restrictions.

- operate any vehicle, including but not limited to snowmobiles, bicycles, trail bikes, and all-terrain vehicles except where their use is authorized by posted notice or permit. This prohibition does not apply to public roadways and trails held open to the public for the type of vehicle being operated. *Bicycles are permitted in all areas of the northern state forests and the Turtle-Flambeau and Willow Flowage Scenic Water Areas, except where posted against such use.*
- operate motor vehicles, including ATVs and snowmobiles, except in areas posted open to such use.

Finding Public Land Open to Hunting

The DNR website provides detailed information about public and public-access lands in your area. Go to dnr.wi.gov and click on the hunting link. Look for the 'Where to Hunt' link under the "Plan Your Hunt" subheading.

Federal Lands

Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest information:

Headquarters Offices—Park Falls: 715-762-2461, TTY 715-762-5701 and Rhinelander: 715-362-1300, TTY 715-362-1383.

Additional information and regulations may be found on the web at www.fs.fed.us/r9/cnnf/.

Notice: Contact the above offices for details about motorized access to these forest lands.

National Wildlife Refuge and Waterfowl Production Area Regulations

Portions of National Wildlife Refuges (NWR) and Waterfowl Production Areas (WPA) are open to hunting and trapping in accordance with state and federal regulations. Federal regulations will vary. **In order to avoid violating federal regulations**, contact the office of the NWR or WPA you will be hunting to get regulations **specific to that property**. **Additional information can be found at midwest.fws.gov.**

Whittlesey Creek NWR is open for archery hunting. For more information on rules and season dates, please contact Whittlesey Creek at 715-685-2678 or by email: whittleseycreek@fws.gov.

The following is a *partial* list of general NWR and WPA regulations. Blaze orange on ground blinds is currently not required, but it is recommended on these lands during gun deer seasons.

It is illegal to:

- Possess any firearm, bow, or other weapons unless engaged in legal hunting.
Note: Concealed weapons are illegal unless you are authorized by law to possess a concealed weapon in Wisconsin.
- Possess lead shot. **Note:** only non-toxic shot may be possessed for hunting game birds and animals, including wild turkey, on WPAs, Horicon NWR, Necedah NWR, and Upper Mississippi River National Wildlife and Fish Refuges (UMRNWFR). This rule does not apply to hunting small game mammals or deer with rifles and shotguns with a single projectile (slug).
- Leave spent shells on the ground. Spent shells are considered litter and must be removed. The federal citation for littering is \$125.00.
- Build or use a ground blind or any elevated device, unless it does not damage the tree (i.e., no use of screws, nails, etc.) **and** it is completely removed from the property each day at the close of hunting hours.

- Construct permanent blinds out of man-made materials. **Note:** portable blinds constructed of man-made materials are allowed, but must be removed from the property each day at the close of hunting hours.
- Possess alcoholic beverages while hunting.
- Camp or use overnight, horseback ride, or build campfires on WPAs.
- Shine wild animals at any time.
- Baiting of any sort on Fish & Wildlife Service managed lands is not allowed.

Horicon NWR—Mayville; WI 920-387-2658

Fox River NWR—(Marquette County) contact the Horicon office at 920-387-2658

Necedah NWR—Necedah; WI 608-565-2551

Trempealeau NWR—Trempealeau, WI; 608-539-2311

Whittlesey Creek NWR—Ashland, WI; 715-685-2678

Upper Mississippi River National Wildlife and Fish Refuge (UMRNWFR)

Winona; MN 507-452-4232

Leopold Wetland Management District (WMD)—Portage, WI; 608-742-7100.

Contact this office for information regarding WPAs in the southeast.

St. Croix WMD—New Richmond, WI; 715-246-7784.

Contact this office for information regarding WPAs in the northwest.

Tribal Lands

Special rules apply on tribal lands in portions or all of Ashland, Bayfield, Forest, Iron, Menominee, Oneida, Sawyer, and Vilas Counties. For more information, contact the tribal chairpersons.

Private Lands and Landowner Information

License Requirements: A landowner is required to have a license to hunt deer.

Liability: Under sec. 895.52 of the Wisconsin Statutes, landowners are generally immune from liability for injuries received by individuals recreating on their lands. This law provides liability protection to landowners for injury or death of individuals participating in outdoor recreation such as fishing, hunting, trapping, hiking, camping, boating, and berry picking activities on their land. This immunity does not apply when the landowner receives more than \$2,000 a year in income from the recreation activity or when the landowner acted maliciously with an intent to harm the recreator. There is also an exception for social guests invited specifically for an occasion on residential or platted property or property within 300 feet of a commercial building or structure. Courts have consistently interpreted this statute to protect landowners in furtherance of its purpose, which is to encourage landowners to allow others to recreate on their lands.

Trespassing: Landowners suspecting that individuals are trespassing on their property should **contact their local Sheriff's Department or other local law enforcement agency**. Conservation Wardens do not have the authority to investigate trespassing complaints. Any person convicted of trespassing is subject to a penalty of up to \$1,397.50. According to s. 943.13, of the Wisconsin Statutes, **it is illegal to:**

- enter land of another without the express or implied consent of the owner or occupant of the land. This includes railroad tracks and their adjacent property.
- enter or remain on land after having been notified by the owner or occupant not to enter or remain. A person has received notice from the owner or occupant if he or she has been notified personally, either orally or in writing, or if the land is posted.

Remember: although hunters are required to make a reasonable effort to retrieve

game they have killed or injured, hunters may not trespass to retrieve such game, even if the game was shot from outside the posted area. ***Ask first for permission.***

Farmer Antlerless Deer Carcass Tags: Eligible resident farm owners can receive one free Antlerless Deer Carcass Tag for each bonus Antlerless Deer Carcass Tag they purchase beginning at noon on August 20 for units that have carcass tags available. To qualify, a majority of the land on the farm must be used on a commercial basis and for an agricultural purpose to provide income during the year that the permit is valid. In addition, the farm must be located wholly or partially in the DMU for which the landowner is requesting the free tag. If there are joint owners or vendee names under a land contract, only one of the owners is eligible for the free Antlerless Deer Carcass Tag.

CWD Landowner Permits

For information about the CWD Landowner Permit Season, please see page 40.

Managed Forest Law and Forest Crop Law

This section refers to rules on private forest lands enrolled in either the Managed Forest Law or Forest Crop Law programs.

It is illegal to:

- build or use a ground blind or any elevated device unless it does not damage the tree and is completely removed from the property each day at the close of hunting hours.*
- damage trees. **Note:** Cutting shooting lanes and use of screw-in tree-stands or steps are considered damaging and are illegal.*
- operate any vehicle, including but not limited to snowmobiles, bicycles, trail bikes, and all-terrain vehicles except where their use is authorized by posted notice or permit.*

* This does not apply to the owners of lands enrolled in the program or those who have the landowner's authorization. Doing so without authorization would be considered a trespassing violation.

Special Hunts

Many of the deadlines for special hunts occur prior to the publication of this pamphlet. If you are interested in these hunts, please note the deadlines for 2012.

Two-day Youth Gun Deer Hunt – October 8 and 9

- Open only to persons 10–15 years of age (resident or non-resident) who possess a gun deer license.
- Earn-A-Buck (EAB) restrictions do not apply statewide during the October 8-9 Youth Gun Deer Hunt, but youths may earn an EAB sticker for shooting an antlerless deer during the two-day Youth Gun Deer Hunt in CWD EAB units.
- The bag limit is **one** buck with a Gun Buck Deer Carcass Tag plus one additional antlerless deer per Antlerless Deer Carcass Tag valid for the Deer Management Unit the youth is hunting.
- In CWD units, a youth may use the free CWD Deer Carcass Tag to harvest and tag bucks or antlerless deer, but must follow EAB rules to use these tags to tag a buck.
- The youth may harvest a deer in any DMU statewide (including those portions west of the Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railroad that are not posted closed to hunting) except in state park and non-quota units.
- Allowable types of firearms are those authorized for the November gun deer season.
- Adults may not gun deer hunt during the two-day Youth Gun Deer Hunt, **except for adults who possess a valid disabled hunting permit and are hunting on a property**

sponsored for a disabled deer hunt and hunters hunting on an agricultural shooting permit.

- Youth hunters must be accompanied* by a parent or guardian (at least 18 years of age) even if the youth is 14 or 15 and holds a Hunter Education Certificate. * Accompanied means within visual **and** voice contact without the aid of any mechanical or electronic amplifying device other than a hearing aid.
- One adult may not accompany more than two youth hunters and all other hunting regulations apply **including blaze orange clothing requirements for all hunters, except waterfowl hunters.**
- Hunting mentorship rules apply to all youth ages 10-11, and to 12-15 year olds who have not completed hunter education. See page 12 for more information on the Hunting Mentorship Program.

CWD Management Zone Landowner Permit

- Landowners owning 5 or more contiguous acres in the CWD-MZ may hunt with a landowner permit during the landowner season on their property.
- Hunters may hunt on these properties with the purchase of the Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) hunter permit and written authorization from the landowner.
- Both landowner and hunter permits can be purchased for \$2 at any license sales location beginning December 1, 2011.
- Owners of multiple separate parcels will only receive one permit per DNR Customer Identification Number, and the permit will be valid on all of the parcels they own within the CWD-MZ.
- Permits are valid beginning January 9, 2012 and will expire on March 31, 2012.

Educational Hunts:

- **Buckhorn State Park and Wildlife Area:** Deer hunting is offered to novice hunters who complete a “Learn to Deer Hunt Workshop.” For applications and information regarding dates and fees, write or call Buckhorn State Park at W8450 Buckhorn Park Avenue, Necedah, WI 54646-7338; phone 608-565-2789. *Applications for 2012 are due July 15, 2012.*
- **Sandhill Outdoor Skills Center:** Deer hunting is offered to youth and beginner adults who complete a “Learn to Deer Hunt Workshop.” For dates and fees, write or call the Center at Box 156, Babcock, WI 54413; phone 715-884-2437. *Applications for 2012 are due May 31, 2012.*

Hunting on School Forest Land: A school board may decide to allow hunting for game in its school forest consistent with the open and closed seasons for game on adjacent land.

Gun Deer Hunt for Hunters with Disabilities: Oct. 1–Oct. 9, 2011. Interested disabled hunters who wish to participate in 2011 should contact the nearest DNR Service Center or disabled deer hunt sponsor before *September 1st*. The disabled deer hunt is available to disabled hunters who hold a Class A or C disabled permit, or to holders of a Class B permit that is issued for longer than one year and which authorizes hunting or shooting from a stationary vehicle. People who wish to sponsor a deer hunt *in 2012* must submit an application to their local wildlife manager by *June 1, 2012*. A list of sponsors for the 2011 gun deer hunt for hunters with disabilities can be found at *dnr.wi.gov*.

Badger Army Ammunition Plant: For hunting information send a self-addressed, stamped envelope to: Hunting Program, Badger Army Ammunition Plant, 2 Badger Road, Baraboo, WI 53910-5000.

Volk Field and Hardwood Range: For hunting information send a self-addressed, stamped business envelope to:

Attn: Natural Resources Management, Volk Field ANGB, 100 Independence Drive, Camp Douglas, WI 546218-5001. Hunting regulations are revised annually.

Fort McCoy Military Reservation: Hunting information can be found under Recreation Opportunities at www.mccoy.army.mil or by calling the Permit Sales Office at 608-388-3337.

Apostle Islands (Deer Management Unit 79): Permits are required to participate in the Oct. 1-31 muzzleloader season and the Sept. 17-30 and Nov. 1-Jan. 8, 2012 archery season. Contact the Apostle Islands National Lakeshore for information on specific island openings and closings, accessibility, and required permits and tagging options. Madeline and Long Islands are open to regular statewide seasons.

Contact information:

Email: APIS_resource_issues@nps.gov

Mail: Superintendent, Apostle Islands National Lakeshore,
415 Washington Avenue, Bayfield, WI 54814

Phone: 715-779-3397

Wisconsin Deer Donation 2011

Since the deer donation program began in 2000, hunters have donated nearly 77,000 deer which were processed into over 3.4 million pounds of ground venison. Hunters, you can continue to help feed needy people throughout Wisconsin this fall by taking four simple steps:

1. Field dress the deer and register it at a Wisconsin DNR registration station prior to donating the deer.
2. Call first! Contact one of the participating processors before dropping the deer off to verify the processor has space to accept your deer.
3. Drop deer off at a participating processor by February 1, 2012. Donate the entire deer to receive the processing for free (head and or/antlers may be removed for mounting).
4. When dropping your deer off at a processor, please sign the simple log sheet indicating your desire to donate the deer.

The 2011 deer donation program will begin accepting deer after August 1. **Hunters may make voluntary donations to help pay for the costs of deer processing when they buy their hunting license.** Since 2002, over 46,000 hunters have donated over \$147,000 to help pay for venison processing for food pantries. Last year hunters donated 3,606 deer. Please visit our website at dnr.wi.gov and search for 'deer donation' for updates on participating processors.

Thank you for your interest and good luck hunting!

Ask First and Say Thanks!

Wisconsin landowners appreciate those people who ask permission to hunt and say thanks afterward. This builds important landowner-hunter trust. Remember, entering private lands without permission is illegal and creates a negative image for all hunters.