

CWD: What To Know Before You Go!

Consider the following recommendations when hunting an area known for CWD (taken from <http://cwd-info.org/recommendations-for-hunters/>):

1. Do not shoot, handle or consume any animal that is acting abnormally or appears to be sick. Contact your state game and fish department if you see or harvest an animal that appears sick.
2. Wear latex or rubber gloves when field dressing your deer or elk.
3. Bone out the meat from your animal. Don't saw through bone and avoid cutting through the brain or spinal column (backbone).
4. Minimize the handling of brain and spinal tissues.
5. Wash hands and instruments thoroughly after field dressing is completed.
6. Instruments, cutting boards, and other items used for processing should be soaked for 5 minutes in a 40% solution of household bleach to inactivate prions. However, the items must be completely clean with absolutely no tissue or organic matter present for this to be effective.
7. Avoid consuming brain, spinal cord, eyes, spleen, tonsils and lymph nodes of harvested animals. (Normal field dressing coupled with boning out a carcass will remove most, if not all, of these body parts. Cutting away all fatty tissue will remove remaining lymph nodes.)
8. Avoid consuming the meat from any animal that tests positive for the disease.
9. If you have your deer or elk commercially processed, request that your animal is processed individually, without meat from other animals being added to meat from your animal.

Here's a brief breakdown of the state-by-state status and regulations regarding CWD:

Arizona (Information obtained from <https://www.azgfd.com/arizona-game-and-fish-department-enacting-changes-to-protect-arizonas-elk-and-deer-from-chronic-wasting-disease/>)

- Arizona currently reports that CWD has not yet been detected in the state.
- Measures aimed at helping keep it that way are as follows:
 - Hunters from out of state may only bring the following animal parts into Arizona according to the following requirements of Arizona Game and Commission Rule R12-4-305:
 - Meat that is boneless or has been commercially butchered and packaged
 - Finished taxidermy mounts
 - Skulls that are mounted or clean skulls/skull plates without any meat or soft tissue
 - Antlers that are hard-horned or velvet antlers that have been taxidermied
 - Hides without any meat or soft tissue
 - Teeth without any tissue attached

California (Information obtained from <https://wildlife.ca.gov/Conservation/Laboratories/Wildlife-Investigations/Monitoring/CWD#554372533-what-is-california-doing> and California Code of Regulations)

- California currently reports that CWD has not yet been detected in the state.
- Measures aimed at helping keep it that way are as follows:
 - It is unlawful to import, or possess any hunter harvested deer or elk (cervid) carcass or parts of any cervid carcass imported into the State, except for the following body parts:
 - portions of meat with no part of the spinal column, brain or head attached (other bones, such as legs and shoulders, may be attached).
 - hides and capes (no spinal column, brain tissue or head may be attached).
 - clean skull plates (no brain tissue may be present) with antlers attached.
 - antlers with no meat or tissue attached, except legally harvested and possessed antlers in the velvet stage are allowed, if no meat, brain or other tissue is attached.

- finished taxidermy mounts with no meat or tissue attached (antlers in the velvet stage are allowed if no meat, brain or other tissue is attached).
- upper canine teeth (buglers, whistlers, ivories).

Colorado (Information obtained from the 2018 “Colorado Chronic Wasting Disease Response Plan”)

- CWD was first detected in 1967.
- Colorado's CWD Response Plan explains that, “For many years, CPW had regulations specific to the transportation of carcasses to minimize the movement of prions around the state. In 2008, the Colorado Parks and Wildlife Commission struck these regulations and replaced them with a revised Commission policy statement on CWD (Appendix V). The new policy on CWD removed restrictions on carcass transportation and emphasized education efforts on the proper disposal of deer and elk carcasses as the primary strategy to minimize risks for spreading CWD via carcasses.”
- “The risk of CWD spread via transport of carcasses appears small, especially when compared to the risk of introduction via the natural or human-assisted movement of living, infected animals. Thus, carcass transport and disposal safeguards should not be so onerous that they impede hunter participation in affected units. Education on proper disposal of deer and elk carcasses should be the primary strategy to minimize risks for spreading CWD via carcasses.”
- Chronic wasting disease (CWD) testing for deer (bucks and does) is mandatory and free for all rifle season hunters who have harvested in the following game management units (GMUs): 1, 2, 6, 10, 16, 17, 21, 25, 26, 30, 31, 32, 34, 35, 40, 43, 44, 47, 48, 49, 50, 52, 53, 54, 55, 56, 57, 58, 59, 60, 63, 66, 67, 68, 70, 71, 72, 73, 74, 75, 76, 77, 78, 79, 80, 81, 82, 83, 110, 111, 118, 119, 123, 124, 128, 129, 133, 134, 135, 136, 141, 142, 143, 144, 145, 147, 161, 171, 201, 411, 444, 471, 481, 500, 501, 511, 512, 521, 551, 561, 581, 591, 681, 682, 711, 741, 751, 771 and 791.
- Hunters who have harvested deer in any GMUs other than those listed above, or harvested any elk or moose (in all GMUs) may also voluntarily submit their animal for testing for a fee of \$25 per animal.
- Free voluntary deer CWD testing will also be provided to hunters who have harvested a deer during any seasons other than rifle or season choice (includes muzzleloader, archery, youth and other special seasons such as damage vouchers or disease management hunts) in the same (mandatory testing) GMUs listed above.

Idaho (Information obtained from <https://idfg.idaho.gov/cwd/laws>)

- Idaho currently reports that CWD has not been detected in the state.
- Measures aimed at helping keep it that way are as follows:
 - Urine Ban- Idaho bans the use of natural cervid urine for big game hunting, which includes urine from deer, elk, moose, reindeer and caribou.
 - Out-of-State Carcass Import Ban- The state bans importing a carcass or any part of a wild deer, elk or moose from another state, province in Canada or any other country with a documented case of CWD.
Exemptions to this ban include:
 - Meat that is cut and wrapped
 - Quarters or deboned meat that does not include brain or spinal tissue
 - Edible organs that do not include brains
 - Hides without heads
 - Upper canine teeth
 - Ivories, buglers or whistlers
 - Finished taxidermy
 - Dried antlers
 - Cleaned and dried skulls or skull caps

Montana (Information obtained from <http://fwp.mt.gov/fishAndWildlife/diseasesAndResearch/diseases/chronicWastingDisease/management.html>)

- CWD was first detected in 2017.
- Montana reports the presence of CWD in four different management zones: Northern, Libby, Yellowstone, and Southern.
- The general rules are as follows:
 - “To prevent the spread of CWD from infected areas of Montana to other parts of the state, the whole carcass, whole head, brain, or spinal column from any deer, elk, or moose harvested within a CWD Management Zone may not be removed from that Management Zone unless the animal has tested negative for CWD.”
 - Animal parts that CAN be removed from a CWD Management Zone include:
 - Meat that is cut and wrapped or separated from the bone
 - Hides with no heads attached

- Quarters or other portions of meat with no part of the spinal column or head attached
- Skull plates, antlers, or clean skulls with no meat or tissue attached
- Upper canine teeth
- Head, partial body, or whole-body mounts prepared by a taxidermist
- Special Regulations also exist for the Moffat Bridge Special CWD Hunt Area and the Libby CWD Zone, which include:
 - skull plates or antlers with no meat or tissue attached or skulls that have been boiled and cleaned to remove flesh and tissue
 - All deer harvested within the Moffat Bridge Special CWD Hunt Area on any license must be checked and sampled within 3 days of harvest.
 - All deer, elk and moose harvested within the Libby CWD Management Zone must be checked and sampled within 3 days of harvest.

Nebraska (Information obtained from <http://outdoornebraska.gov/cwd/>)

- CWD was first detected in 2000.
- Nebraska now reports that 49 counties have detected CWD in free ranging herds.
- Guidelines include:
 - If you remove the skull cap with antlers attached, the saw should be cleaned and disinfected with a 50/50 solution of chlorine bleach and water. This saw should not be used to cut through any edible portions of meat on the carcass.
 - If you keep the entire skull (for a European mount), you should insure all flesh and soft tissue, including brain matter, is removed. Wear rubber or latex gloves while doing this, and clean the skull by soaking it in a 50/50 solution of chlorine bleach and water.
 - If you wish to transport the entire skull or anything more than a cleaned skull cap into another state, contact your local state wildlife agency to determine if carcass transportation regulations apply to your area or state.

Nevada (Information obtained from http://www.ndow.org/Nevada_Wildlife/Health_and_Disease/Chronic_Wasting_Disease/)

- Nevada currently reports that CWD has not yet been detected in the state.
- CWD regulations include:
 - It is now unlawful for you, your agent, or employee to knowingly bring into Nevada or possess the carcass or any part of the carcass of any elk, mule deer, white-tailed deer, moose, reindeer, caribou, or fallow deer which were obtained in another state, territory or country, EXCEPT
 - It is lawful for you, your agent, or employee to bring into Nevada the following parts of the carcass of any of the animals listed above
 - Wrapped meat or quarters, with no part of the spinal column, brain tissue, or head attached.
 - The hide or cape with no part of the spinal column, brain tissue, or head attached.
 - The clean skull plate with antlers attached and no brain tissue attached.
 - The antlers with no meat or tissue other than antler velvet attached.
 - The taxidermy mount with no meat or tissue other than antler velvet attached.
 - The upper canine teeth including, without limitation, the bugler, whistler, and ivory teeth.

New Mexico (Information obtained from

<http://www.wildlife.state.nm.us/conservation/invasive-species-and-diseases/chronic-wasting-disease/>)

- Since 2002 CWD has been detected in both free-ranging deer and elk.
- The Department has designated the entire Game Management Units 34, 28 and 19 as Chronic Wasting Disease Control Areas. Previously, only portions of some units were designated as control areas. Department rules allows hunters who take a deer or elk within a control area to transport only certain portions of the carcass outside the boundaries of the Game Management Unit from which it was taken. Those portions include:
 - Meat that is cut and wrapped, either commercially or privately.
 - Quarters or other portions of meat with no part of the spinal column or head attached.
 - Meat that has been boned out.
 - Hides with no heads attached.

- Clean skull plates with antlers attached. Clean is defined as having been immersed in a bath of at least one part chlorine bleach and two parts water, with no meat or tissue attached.
- Antlers, with or without velvet, attached to skull plate with no meat or tissue attached.
- Upper canine teeth, also known as “buglers,” whistlers,” or “ivories.”
- Finished taxidermied heads.

North Dakota (Information obtained from <https://gf.nd.gov/wildlife/diseases/cwd#transport>)

- CWD has been detected since 2009.
- CWD regulations include:
 - High-risk portions of the carcass (brain, soft tissue of the head, spinal column) cannot be transported outside of deer, moose, or elk hunting units where CWD has been detected.
 - They also cannot be transported into North Dakota from other states or provinces where CWD has been detected.
 - Plan ahead. Be prepared to quarter a carcass, cape out an animal, or clean a skull in the field, or find a taxidermist or meat locker within the unit who can assist you.

Oregon (Information obtained from <https://myodfw.com/articles/cwd-what-hunters-can-do>)

- Oregon currently reports that CWD has not yet been detected in the state.
- CWD regulations include:
 - If you harvest a deer, elk, moose or caribou in any other state or Canadian province, don’t bring home parts of the animal known to harbor the disease, namely eyes, brains, spinal columns, lymph nodes, tonsils and spleens.
 - Hunters who bring illegal parts into Oregon will have those parts confiscated and may be liable for the cost of incinerating them.

South Dakota (Information obtained from <https://gfp.sd.gov/2020-cwd-regulations/>)

- CWD has been detected in free ranging herds since 2001.
- CWD regulations include:
 - Whole or partial cervid carcasses and head with antlers attached may not enter this state unless delivered to a licensed taxidermist, a game processor, or to the hunter’s domicile. Cervid carcasses passing through the state are exempt from this section.

Utah (Information obtained from <https://wildlife.utah.gov/chronic-wasting-disease.html>)

- CWD has been detected since 2002.
- CWD regulations include:
 - Ban on importation of hunter harvested animal parts from areas where CWD has been found. May import meat that is cut and wrapped, meat with no part of the head or spinal column attached, boned out meat, hides with no heads attached, skull plates with antlers attached and free of meat and tissue, upper canine teeth and finished taxidermy heads.
 - Non-residents transporting harvested deer, elk, or moose carcasses through Utah may do so if they do not stay in Utah more than 24 hours, do not leave any part of the animal carcass in Utah, and do not have their deer, elk, or moose processed in Utah.
 - No ban on baiting.

Washington (Information obtained from <https://wdfw.wa.gov/species-habitats/diseases/chronic-wasting>)

- Washington currently reports that CWD has not yet been detected in the state.
- To reduce the risk of spreading CWD, if you harvest deer, elk, or moose in states or provinces with confirmed CWD only the following items may be imported to Washington:
 - Meat that has been de-boned in the state or province where it was harvested and is imported as boned-out meat.
 - Skulls and antlers, antlers attached to the skull plate, or upper canine teeth (bugler, whistlers, ivories) from which all soft tissue has been removed.
 - Hides or capes without heads attached.
 - Tissue imported for use by a diagnostic or research laboratory.
 - Finished taxidermy mounts.

Wyoming (Information obtained from <https://wgfd.wyo.gov/Wildlife-in-Wyoming/More-Wildlife/Wildlife-Disease/CWD-in-Wyoming-Wildlife/Carcass-Disposal>)

- CWD has been detected since 1985.
- Now found across the majority of the state.
- To minimize the possibility of transmission, Wyoming's regulations require deer, elk and moose hunters transport only the following items within Wyoming from the site of the kill:
 - Whole carcasses can be transported to a camp, private residence for processing, a taxidermist, a processor, or a CWD sample collection site in

Wyoming provided that the head and all portions of the spinal column remain at the site of kill or such parts are disposed in any approved landfill or approved incinerator in Wyoming.

- Cut and wrapped meat
- Edible portions with no portion of the spinal column or head attached
- Cleaned hide without the head attached
- Skull, skull plate or antlers that have been cleaned of all meat and brain tissue
- Teeth
- Finished taxidermy mounts