Chronic Wasting Disease 2006 Management Program

Last year, hunters submitted over 4,600 deer heads for Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) testing. In 2005, 36 new positive cases were found in five areas in the province, the majority from the South Saskatchewan River near Saskatchewan Landing Provincial Park. Since the disease was detected in wild deer in 2000, a total of 14 white-tailed deer and 89 mule deer have tested positive for CWD.

The goals of the CWD management program focus on herd reduction in six infected areas, including a new area west of Leader, intensive surveillance in zones adjacent to infected areas and detection in all other areas of the province.

There is no scientific evidence to indicate that CWD has ever infected humans. Research in the area is growing and there is much more to learn about this disease. As a precautionary measure, Saskatchewan Health suggests that all animals taken from Herd Reduction Areas (HRAs) be tested for CWD. In addition, consumption of meat from an animal confirmed positive for CWD or any other disease, is not recommended.

As part of the intensive surveillance effort, the department requires samples from zones 5, 8 to 14, 19, 23 to 26, 43, 45 to 47, 50, 55, 62, 63, 67 and 68, Saskatchewan Landing Provincial Park and Fort a la Corne Wildlife Management Unit. Please make a special effort to submit mule deer and white-tailed deer heads from these zones for CWD testing. It is also important to report sick animals or animals behaving abnormally to your nearest SE office.

Testing for CWD

- Heads from adult deer taken from anywhere in the province will be tested free of charge; fawns will not be tested.
- When submitting a deer head taken with a regular or draw licence, individuals
 must provide the following: hunter licence number, hunter surname, hunter given
 name, hunter phone number, zone where the animal was harvested, kill date,
 location of harvest (legal land location ie. section, township, range, meridian or
 GPS coordinates will only be accepted), species and sex of deer.
- When submitting a deer head taken with a CWD permit, individuals must provide the following: hunter Wildlife Habitat Certificate (only required if additional CWD Permits are requested by hunter), hunter permit number, hunter surname, hunter given name, hunter phone number, zone and herd reduction area where the animal was harvested, kill date, location of harvest (legal land location ie. section, township, range, meridian or GPS coordinates will only be accepted), species and sex of deer.
- Samples with incomplete or incorrect information will not be accepted or tested.
- Antlers must be removed.
- Deer heads must be submitted in a leak-proof plastic bag.
- Freeze samples as soon as possible

- The deadline for submission of heads to department offices or private check stations is January 15, 2007.
- For test results, please refer to the Canadian Cooperative Wildlife Health Centre website: wildlife.usask.ca/cwd (do not use the prefix www.). Please use the five digit Sample Tracking Number, given to you when you submit your deer head, to access your test results.

Herd Reduction Areas

- areas in the province where CWD has been found in wild deer. In these areas, reducing the deer population is necessary to control the spread of CWD.
- there will be six HRAs in 2006 (click on blue links to see attached maps) HRA11 new for 2006
 - the area west of Leader near the forks of the South Saskatchewan and Red Deer rivers. This HRA was implemented after two positive cases were detected in the area during the winter of 2006
 - HRA14 includes all of WMZ 12, that portion of WMZ 13 east of the Lancer Ferry road (commonly referred to as Zone 13E) and that portion of WMZ 14 east of the Lancer Ferry road (commonly referred to as WMZ 14E) and will be expanded to include a portion of Zones 23 and 24 within approximately 10 km of the positive case detected near Riverhurst
 - HRA25 boundary will be the same as in 2005 and includes an area within approximately 10 km surrounding the location of the positive case found near D'Arcy
 - <u>HRA46</u> boundary will be the same as in 2005 and includes portions of the Manito Sandhills south of Lloydminster
 - <u>HRA47</u> 2006 boundary will be the same as in 2005 and includes portions of zones 47 and 68
 - HRA50 2006 boundary will be expanded to include portions of zones 50 and 62 surrounding positive cases detected in the 2005-06 CWD Management Program
- To assist in reducing deer numbers in HRAs, hunters will be offered the opportunity to harvest additional deer using CWD permits.

CWD Permits

- CWD permits will be valid in HRAs only.
- CWD permits can only be issued to Saskatchewan residents.
- Hunters must present their 2006 Wildlife Habitat Certificate when applying for any CWD permit.
- CWD permits will be valid for both mule deer and white-tailed deer.
- CWD permits will be available free of charge from SE offices in Regina, Saskatoon, Prince Albert, North Battleford, Maple Creek, Meadow Lake, Moose Jaw, Melville, Swift Current, Loon Lake, Lloydminster, Pierceland, Leader, Outlook, Yorkton, Nipawin, Melfort, Kindersley and Saskatchewan Landing Provincial Park and select private vendors beginning October 16, 2006.
- CWD permits for HRA25 are only available from the Kindersley field office

- Three types of CWD permits will be available for use in HRAs; Antlerless CWD Permits will be valid for antlerless deer only, 3 Point or Less CWD Permits will be valid for antlerless deer or male deer with 3 or fewer points on one antler and Either-sex CWD Permits will be valid for any deer.
- In all HRAs, except HRA47, hunters will initially be issued one Antlerless CWD Permit and one 3 Point or Less CWD Permit; when the hunter has harvested and submitted the heads from animals taken under these permits, he/she will then be eligible for an Either-sex CWD Permit.
- In HRA47, hunters will initially be issued two Antlerless CWD Permits; when the hunter has harvested and submitted the heads from animals taken under these permits, he/she will then be eligible for an Either-sex CWD Permit.
- Hunters may obtain a maximum of two Either-sex CWD Permits.

Season Dates

- HRA11 November 20 to December 16
- HRAs 14, 25, 46 and 50 November 6 to December 16
- HRA47 October 16 to December 16

Vehicle Control Measures

- Hunters who have valid CWD permits in their possession while hunting in HRA11, HRA14 and HRA 25, during the above mentioned dates, are not permitted to operate or be a passenger in any vehicle off roads or trails unless they have landowner/lessee permission.
- Permission must also be obtained from the landowner or lessee to use a vehicle to retrieve game

To prevent hunter-landowner/lessee conflicts and to promote the success of the CWD management program always ask permission to hunt on private land and do not:

- drive over fields, pasture or any property without the consent of the landowner or lessee.
- waste game or otherwise leave edible game in the field.
- hunt or shoot within 500 meters of any occupied buildings or corrals unless authorized to do so.
- ignore "No Hunting", "No Trespassing" or vehicle control signs.
- leave gates open.

CWD Research

- Two research projects on deer movements are underway, one in the Manitou Sandhills, south of Lloydminster and another along the South Saskatchewan River from Douglas Provincial Park to Saskatchewan Landing Provincial Park.
- An important part of this research involves putting radio collars on several deer in each study area. **Please do not shoot any collared deer.**
- If a collared deer is observed, found dead or accidentally shot, please report the occurrence to the telephone number specified on the neck collar or the University of Saskatchewan at 1-888-966-5815.

• In addition, some deer will be tranquilized and implanted with ear tags. It is important that hunters contact 1-888-966-5815 prior to consuming meat from any tagged or collared deer. Hunters must also provide the tag number and the location where the deer was harvested.

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