



MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE, FISHERIES, AND PARKS

# CHRONIC WASTING DISEASE

REGULATIONS AND BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES

## 2018–2019 DEER HUNTING SEASON



Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) is caused by a contagious, fatal prion, or abnormal protein, that affects cervids such as white-tailed deer, elk, and mule deer. Prions associated with the disease are found throughout the body of infected animals, but are found in higher concentrations in the eyes, lymph nodes, and nervous tissues. For some animals, it may be a year or more before symptoms develop, which can include drastic weight loss (wasting), stumbling, listlessness, and other neurologic symptoms. Infected animals shed prions through saliva, feces, blood, and urine. Other animals can become infected through direct contact with an infected animal and through indirect contact from an infected environment. Once the disease occurs in an area, evidence demonstrates eradication is unlikely.

Management of Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) requires a long-term adaptive management approach that will be refined through new science and information. Current CWD response operations are focused on:

- Continued statewide surveillance to detect additional positives.
- Determining the prevalence and spatial distribution of CWD.
- Determining the origin of any CWD positive cervid.
- Applying management actions to limit the spread of CWD.
- Providing accurate and relevant information on CWD to the public, agency staff, affected governmental agencies, and other stakeholders.

## CWD BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES

The following Best Management Practices (BMP) are recommended for minimizing potential environmental and human exposure to Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) while handling carcasses and processing the meat from white-tailed deer. These BMPs are established on a foundation of abundant caution given the many unknowns regarding CWD. For more information about CWD, please visit [www.mdwfp.com/cwd](http://www.mdwfp.com/cwd).

## SUPPLEMENTAL FEEDING AND CARCASS TRANSPORTATION BAN

- **Supplemental feeding is banned in any CWD Management Zone (salt licks, mineral licks, and feeders).**

Direct contact with prions is the most effective means of transmitting CWD. Research indicates saliva may have the highest concentration of prions. Thus, to minimize concentration of deer and potential spread of CWD, supplemental feeding is banned within any CWD Management Zone.

- **Carcasses may not be transported outside of any CWD Management Zone.**

Research has shown that decomposed carcasses of infected animals can also contribute to transmission when prions bind to soil and plant material. Thus, movement of carcasses may introduce CWD into previously uninfected areas.

### GENERAL PRECAUTIONS

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- Inspect body condition of each deer at the time of harvest. Do not consume any part of animals exhibiting clinical symptoms of CWD, including extreme weight loss, excessive salivation, or erratic behavior.
- Please report any deer that appears to be diseased by completing a diseased deer report at [www.mdwfp.com/cwd](http://www.mdwfp.com/cwd) or call 1-800-BE-SMART.
- Avoid using natural deer urine attractants, as they may carry prions from infected deer. Hunters who prefer to use lures or attractants may wish to select an artificial or food based scent.
- To minimize direct contact with infectious prions, it is recommended to not establish feeders, bait sites, mineral sites, or otherwise cause unnatural concentration of deer.

### CARCASS TRANSPORTATION

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- Any harvested deer may be taken directly to a taxidermist or meat processor within a CWD Management Zone.
- Only the below products may leave the CWD Management Zone:
  - Cut/wrapped meat (commercially or privately)
  - Deboned meat
  - Hides with no head attached
  - Finished taxidermy
  - Antlers with no tissue attached
  - Cleaned skulls or skull plates (no brain tissue)

### CLEANING AND PROCESSING A HARVESTED DEER

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#### *Field Dressing:*

- Wear rubber or latex gloves when handling carcasses.
- When field dressing an animal, leave internal organs and inedible parts at the site of harvest.
- Avoid sawing through bone, spinal cord, brain, lymph nodes, or spleen.
- Store all portions of the animal to be transported in a container such as a cooler, bin, or bag that will not leak bodily fluids into the environment.

#### *Meat Processing:*

- Do not process a deer that appears to be diseased.
- Process all deer individually, package separately, and label uniquely.
- Debone meat from deer and remove all fat, connective tissue, and lymph nodes.
- Avoid sawing through bone, spinal cord, brain, lymph nodes, or spleen.
- Avoid eating/handling the eyes, brain, spinal cord, spleen, and lymph nodes.
- Limit the amount of bodily fluids going to an area, such as a floor drain, that cannot be properly sanitized after use.

#### *Disposal:*

- Deer parts should not be rendered for use in feed for other animals, or used as compost.
- Recommended disposal methods for unwanted portions of carcasses (bones, organs, etc.) are:
  - Leave at the harvest site;
  - Double-bag and send to an approved, lined landfill; or
  - Deep burial (8 feet or deeper).

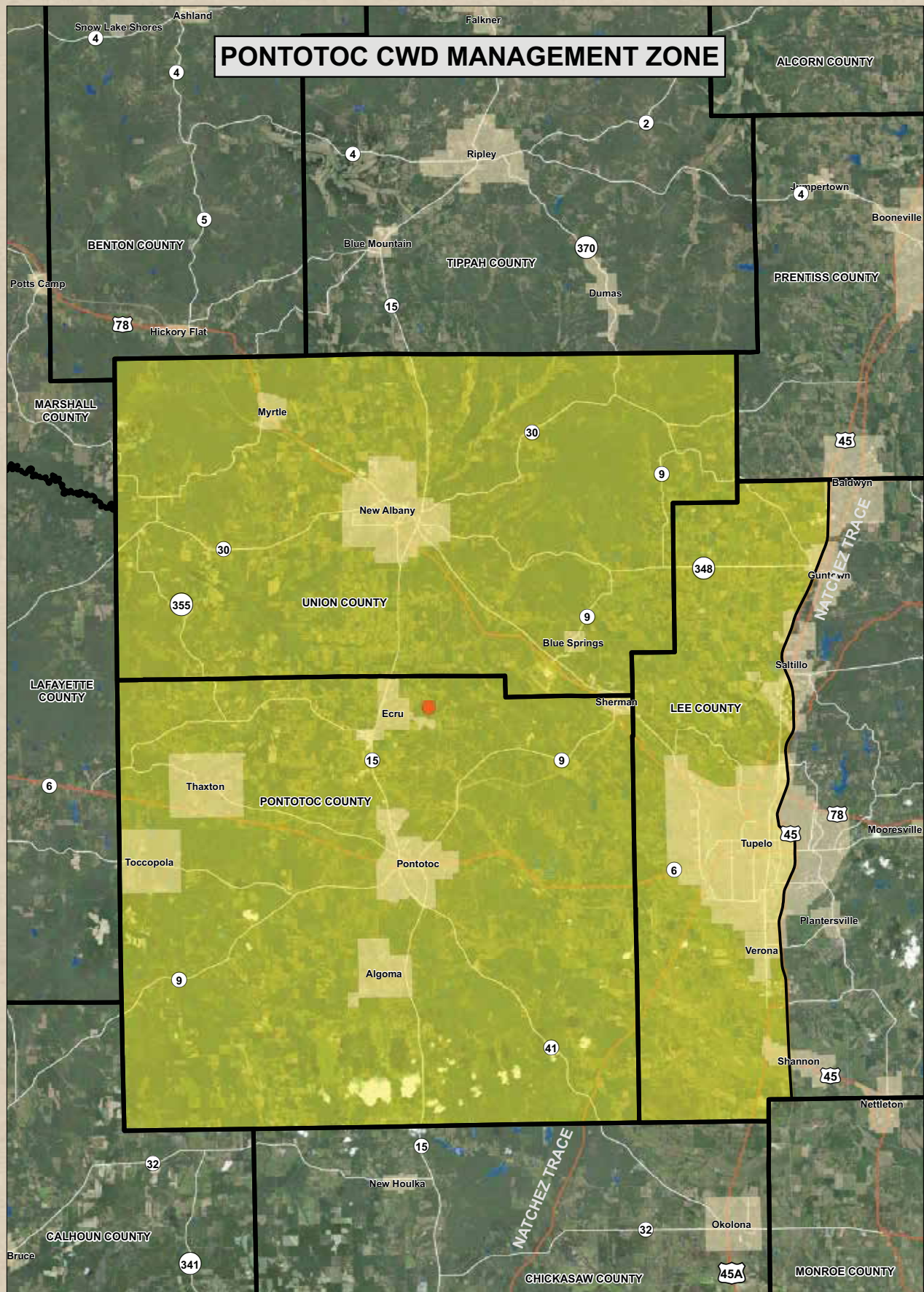
#### *Equipment Cleaning:*

- Clean processing equipment between each deer.
- Thoroughly sanitize all equipment and workstations with a 50:50 solution of bleach and water. Soak tools for one hour in the bleach solution, and then rinse thoroughly with hot water.









The area includes all portions of Union and Pontotoc counties, and all portions of Lee County west of Hwy 45.



# SAMPLE COLLECTION

**CWD Management Zone Check Stations:** MDWFP will staff check stations within the CWD Management Zone to collect samples during high-traffic dates from 9:00 a.m.–7:00 p.m.

## ISSAQUENA

- Dates: • Saturday, November 17  
• Friday, November 23  
• Saturday/Sunday, December 29/30, January 5/6

- Locations: • Onward Store  
• Junction of Hwy. 465 and 61 (boat ramp)

## PONTOTOC

- Dates: • Saturday, November 17 & 24, December 29, January 5  
• Friday, November 23

- Locations: • Ecu Volunteer Fire Department  
• Pontotoc County compound  
(6920 Hwy. 41 across from Prater's Grocery)

**Statewide Collection Sites:** MDWFP will establish collection sites across the state for the general public to deposit deer heads for testing. Freezers will be at each site for depositing deer heads.

## NORTH REGION

**North Region Office**  
457 CR 36  
Enid, MS 38927

**Charlie Capps WMA**  
98 Lake Rd.  
Rosedale, MS 38769

**Chickasaw WMA**  
770 Hwy 32 Ext.  
Houston, MS 38851

**Trace State Park**  
2139 Faulkner Rd.  
Belden, MS 38826

**Ecu City Maintenance Building**  
29 Main St.  
Ecu, MS 38841

**Elvis Presley Lake**  
72 CR 995  
Tupelo, MS 38804

**Malmaison WMA**  
126 Malmaison HQ Rd.  
Holcomb, MS 38940

**Upper Sardis WMA**  
1019 CR 251  
Etta, MS 38627

**New Albany Fairgrounds**  
112 Fairgrounds Circle  
New Albany, MS 38652

## CENTRAL REGION

**Black Prairie WMA**  
744 Fire Tower Rd.  
Crawford, MS 39743

**Mahannah WMA**  
1370 Anderson-Tully Rd.  
Redwood, MS 39156

**Caney Creek WMA**  
6373 West Moore Tower Rd.  
Forest, MS 39074

**Pearl River WMA**  
506 Hwy. 43 S.  
Canton, MS 39046

**Lake Tom Bailey**  
3224 North Shore Dr.  
Toomsuba, MS 39364

**Neshoba County Lake**  
10360 Road 1711  
Philadelphia, MS 39350

## SOUTH REGION

**South Region Office**  
(Mon–Fri 8:00 am–5:00 pm)  
1201 N. Clark Ave.  
Magnolia, MS 39652

**Purvis VFD**  
805 Main St.  
Purvis, MS 39475

**Oak Grove Station 2 FD**  
236 Old Okahola School Rd.  
Purvis, MS 39475

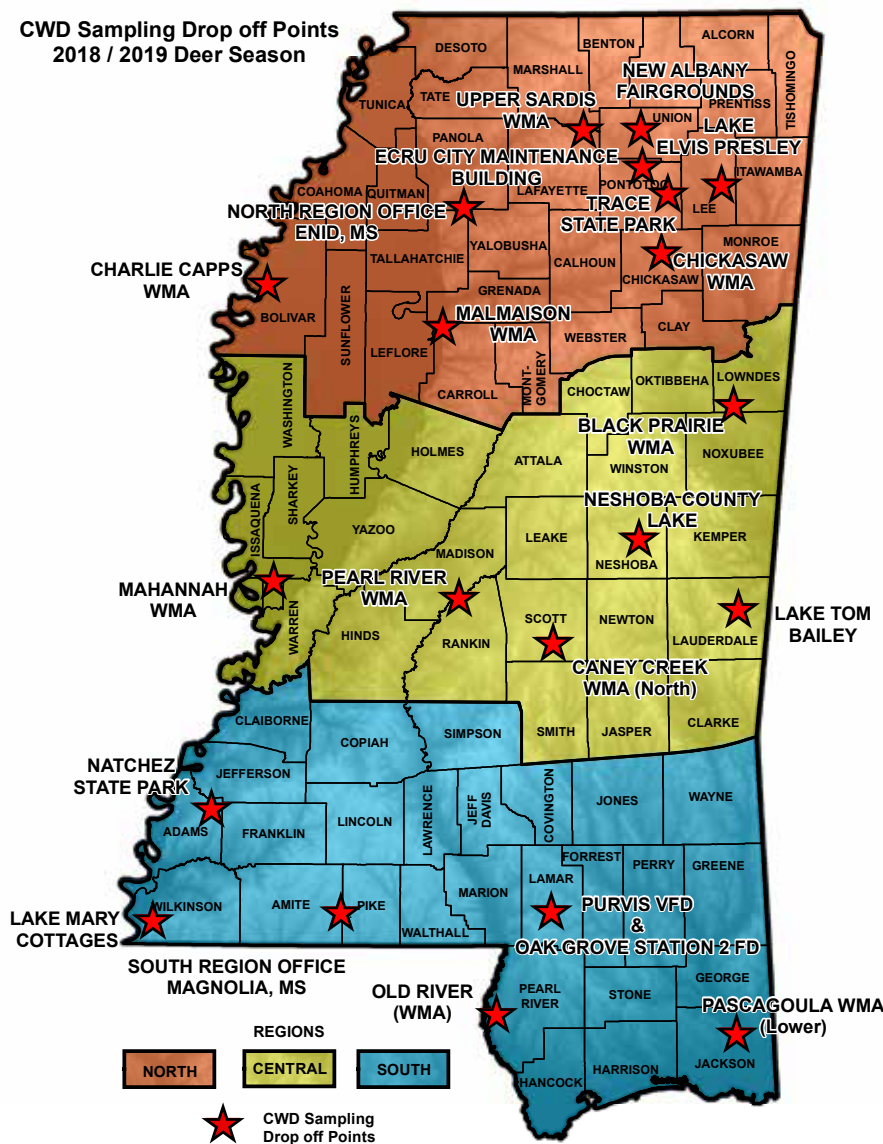
**Old River WMA**  
6377 Highway 43 North  
Poplarville, MS 39470

**Natchez State Park**  
230-B Wickliff Rd.  
Natchez, MS 39120

**Lower Pascagoula WMA**  
816 Wade Vancleave Rd.  
Moss Point, MS 39562

**Lake Mary Cottages**  
14932 MS-24  
Woodville, MS 39669

**CWD Sampling Drop off Points  
2018 / 2019 Deer Season**



October, 2018

Addressing conservation challenges, such as CWD, requires active involvement of those with a passion for our rich natural resources. A primary goal of CWD response and management efforts is to determine the geographic extent and prevalence of the disease. MDWFP asks hunters to aid in this effort by submitting deer for testing during the 2018–2019 white-tailed deer hunting season. Further, hunters and landowners can help monitor for CWD by actively looking for and reporting potential diseased or sick deer.

The test used to determine the presence of CWD requires a portion of the deer's brainstem or lymph nodes. Harvested animals should remain cool or be frozen until testing to reduce decomposition and provide accurate results.

#### Check Stations:

Hunters may bring the entire animal to the check station to have the sample pulled.

#### Drop-Off Locations:

Hunters should preserve the head with at least 6 inches of neck attached. Antlers may be removed before depositing head.



## DEER HEALTH OBSERVATION

If you observe a deer you suspect may be diseased or sick, report it to the Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries, and Parks at:

**1-800-BE-SMART**  
or  
**www.MDWFP.com/diseased**

#### SYMPTOMS

- ☒ Malnourished / Frail
- ☒ Excessive Salivation
- ☒ Not afraid of Humans
- ☒ Erratic Behavior

## CHRONIC WASTING DISEASE

[www.mdwfp.com/cwd](http://www.mdwfp.com/cwd)

1-800-BE-SMART

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Search MDWFP

Lymphatic and nervous tissue has the highest concentration of prions.

