

MISSISSIPPI COMMISSION ON WILDLIFE, FISHERIES, AND PARKS
MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE, FISHERIES, AND PARKS

Title 40: Wildlife, Fisheries, and Parks

Part 2: Wildlife

Part 2, Chapter 2: White-tailed Deer

RULE 2.9 CHRONIC WASTING DISEASE ZONE DELINEATION

In January of 2018, tests of a dead white-tailed deer confirmed that Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) was present in the native white-tailed deer herd in Mississippi. In February of 2018, an Executive Order of the Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries, and Parks (MDWFP) was issued, activating the Statewide CWD Response Plan developed by the MDWFP with the approval of the Commission on Wildlife, Fisheries, and Parks (Commission). The Executive Order was filed for notice under the Administrative Procedures Act; however, the actual Response Plan was made available for public review on the MDWFP website due to the size of the document. Since that time, based upon the lessons learned and data generated from the response to CWD, the MDWFP, with Commission approval, now seeks to promulgate certain aspects of CWD response as a rule or rules codified in the MISSISSIPPI ADMINISTRATIVE CODE, as follows.

A. Current Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) research indicates that reducing congregation of white-tailed deer and minimizing movement of infectious material is important for mitigating disease spread. To that end, the MDWFP has determined that certain “zones” shall be established, in proximity to the discovery of an infected deer, to restrict certain activities that will, in turn, aid CWD management, containment, and response efforts.

B. CWD Management Zones

1. CWD Management Zones shall be established using a no-less-than ten (10) mile radius from the location of any known CWD-positive detection.

2. Zone boundaries may be defined (to encompass a 10-mile radius area from the location of detection) using roads, county lines, waterways, or other definable geographic or terrain features, since arbitrarily drawn circles tend to create impractical and unusable delineations between the intense “management zone” and less-restricted “surveillance zones.”

3. Supplemental feeding, including establishing or adding to mineral licks, is banned within any MDWFP-defined CWD Management Zone.

C. CWD Surveillance Zone:

1. CWD Surveillance Zones shall be established using a no-less-than twenty-five (25) mile radius from the location of any known CWD-positive detection.

2. Surveillance Zone boundaries shall be established (to encompass a 25-mile radius from the location of detection) using county lines.

3. All carcass transportation regulations as promulgated in 40 MISS. ADMIN. CODE, Part 2, Rule 2.7, shall apply within the zones defined above.

4. Supplemental feeding may be allowed in portions of CWD Surveillance Zones that are not also within a CWD Management Zone.

D. The zone criteria set forth in this rule are subject to change and may be amended from time to time as dictated by data generated from the CWD response. Any amendments will be brought forward as provided by the Administrative Procedures Act and filed for inclusion in the MISSISSIPPI ADMINISTRATIVE CODE.

History: Promulgated June 2020.

Source: MISS. CODE ANN. §§49-1-29, 49-4-4, 49-7-58, and 49-7-58.2.