



MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT  
OF WILDLIFE, FISHERIES,  
AND PARKS

# CWD

## CHRONIC WASTING DISEASE

Regulations and Best Management Practices

# 2022/23

Deer Hunting Season



**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 2022–2023 white-tailed deer hunting season. 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.

Further, hunters and landowners can help monitor for CWD by actively looking for and reporting potential diseased or sick deer. For more information, visit [MDWFP.com/cwd](https://mdwfp.com/cwd).

# 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 [mdwfp.com/cwd](http://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. Only the below products may leave the CWD Management Zone:
  - Cut/wrapped meat (commercially or privately)
  - Deboned meat
  - Hides with no head attached
  - Bone-in leg quarters
  - Finished taxidermy
  - Antlers with no tissue attached
  - Cleaned skulls or skull plates (no brain tissue)
  - Hunters may transport a deer head to a permitted taxidermist participating in the CWD collection program. A CWD sample number must be obtained from the participating taxidermist prior to transporting the deer head outside of the MDWFP-defined CWD Management Zone.

## GENERAL PRECAUTIONS

- 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 on the MDWFP app, at [mdwfp.com/cwd](http://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.

## CLEANING AND PROCESSING A HARVESTED DEER

### 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:

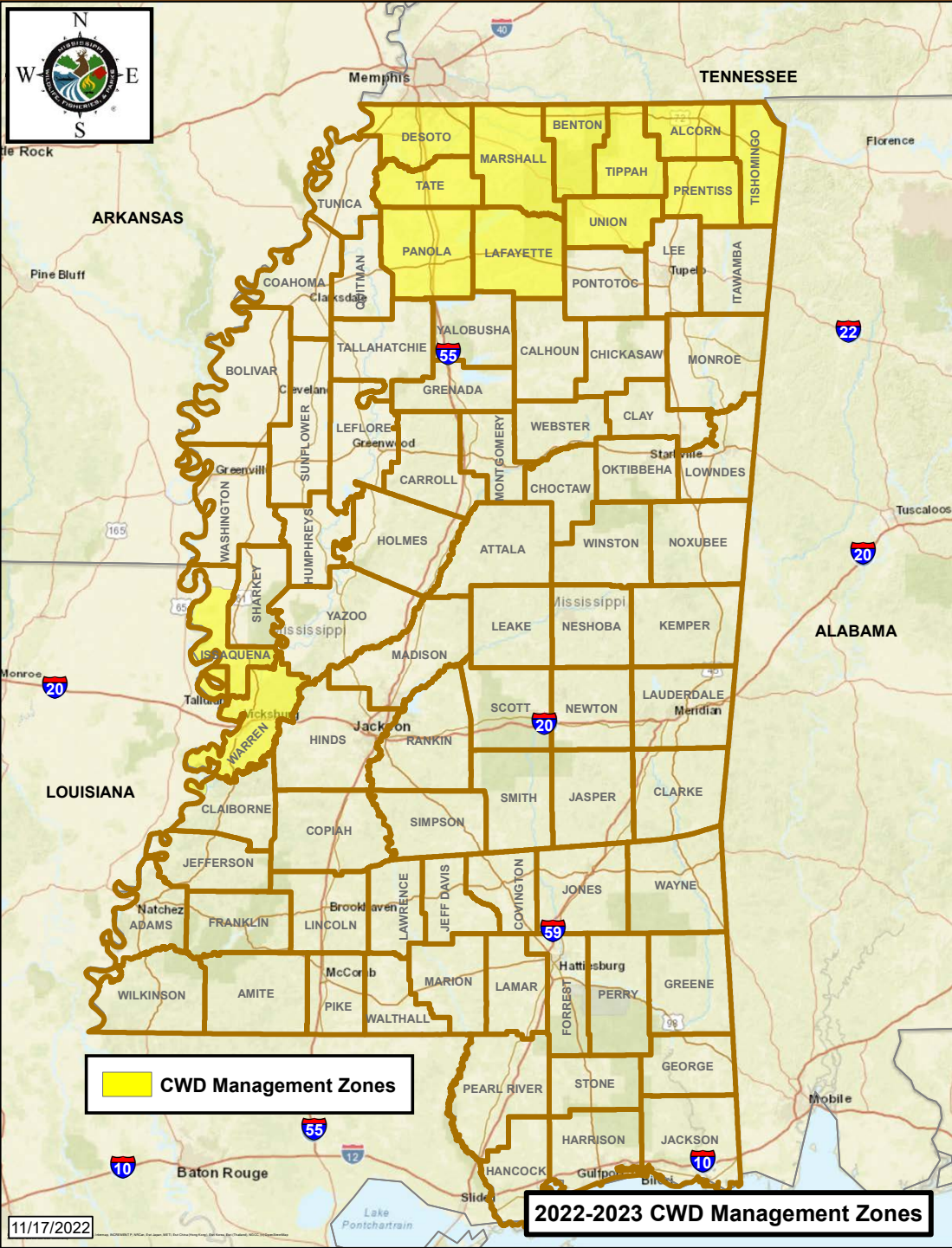
- Do not process a deer that appears to be diseased.
- Process all deer individually, package separately, and label uniquely.
- Debone meat from deer and remove all fat, connective tissue, and lymph nodes.
- Avoid sawing through bone, spinal cord, brain, lymph nodes, or spleen.
- Avoid eating/handling 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.



## CWD-POSITIVE DEER BY COUNTY, SINCE 2018

ALCORN COUNTY 1 POSITIVE	BENTON COUNTY 55 POSITIVES	ISSAQUENA COUNTY 2 POSITIVES	MARSHALL COUNTY 20 POSITIVES	PANOLA COUNTY 1 POSITIVE	PONTOTOC COUNTY 1 POSITIVE	TALLAHATCHIE COUNTY 1 POSITIVE	TIPPAH COUNTY 1 POSITIVE
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# CHRONIC WASTING DISEASE MANAGEMENT

Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) was first detected in Mississippi in February 2018 and is recognized as the primary threat to wildlife in the state. The CWD Management Plan establishes a framework for the Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries, and Parks to implement management strategies to prevent and mitigate the spread and transmission of CWD in Mississippi. Current management strategies are based on the best available science and with input from a variety of subject matter experts. The nature of CWD mandates a long-term, adaptable approach to management. To that end, below are changes for the 2022–2023 hunting season:

## CWD MANAGEMENT PLAN UPDATE


The updated Mississippi Chronic Wasting Disease Management Plan was approved by the Commission on Wildlife, Fisheries, and Parks during April 2021. Important changes include:

Following a confirmed CWD positive within an existing positive county or a new county, all counties within 10 miles of the positive, including the county containing the positive, will be placed in a CWD-MZ for a minimum of 3 years.





### CWD-POSITIVE DETECTION Management Zone (CWD-MZ)

Delineated using county boundaries.



Ban supplemental feeding of wildlife.





*Only bone-in leg quarters\**, deboned meat, antlers, cleaned skull or skull plates, finished taxidermy, cleaned teeth, hides and tanned products may leave the CWD-MZs.

Please refer to the carcass transportation ban section on page 2 for transporting to a permitted cooperating taxidermist.  
\*Change from 2020–2021 hunting season.

## 2022–2023 WHITE-TAILED DEER HUNTING SEASON

### DEER MANAGEMENT UNITS

*Rename “Deer Zones” to “Deer Management Units”*

Renaming “zones” to “deer management units” (DMUs) will minimize confusion with CWD-MZs.

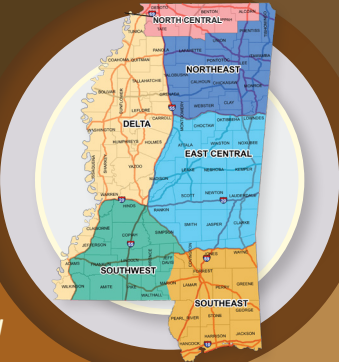
### NORTH CENTRAL DMU

*Establish the “North Central Deer Management Unit”*

DeSoto, Tate, Marshall, Benton, Tippah, and Alcorn counties.

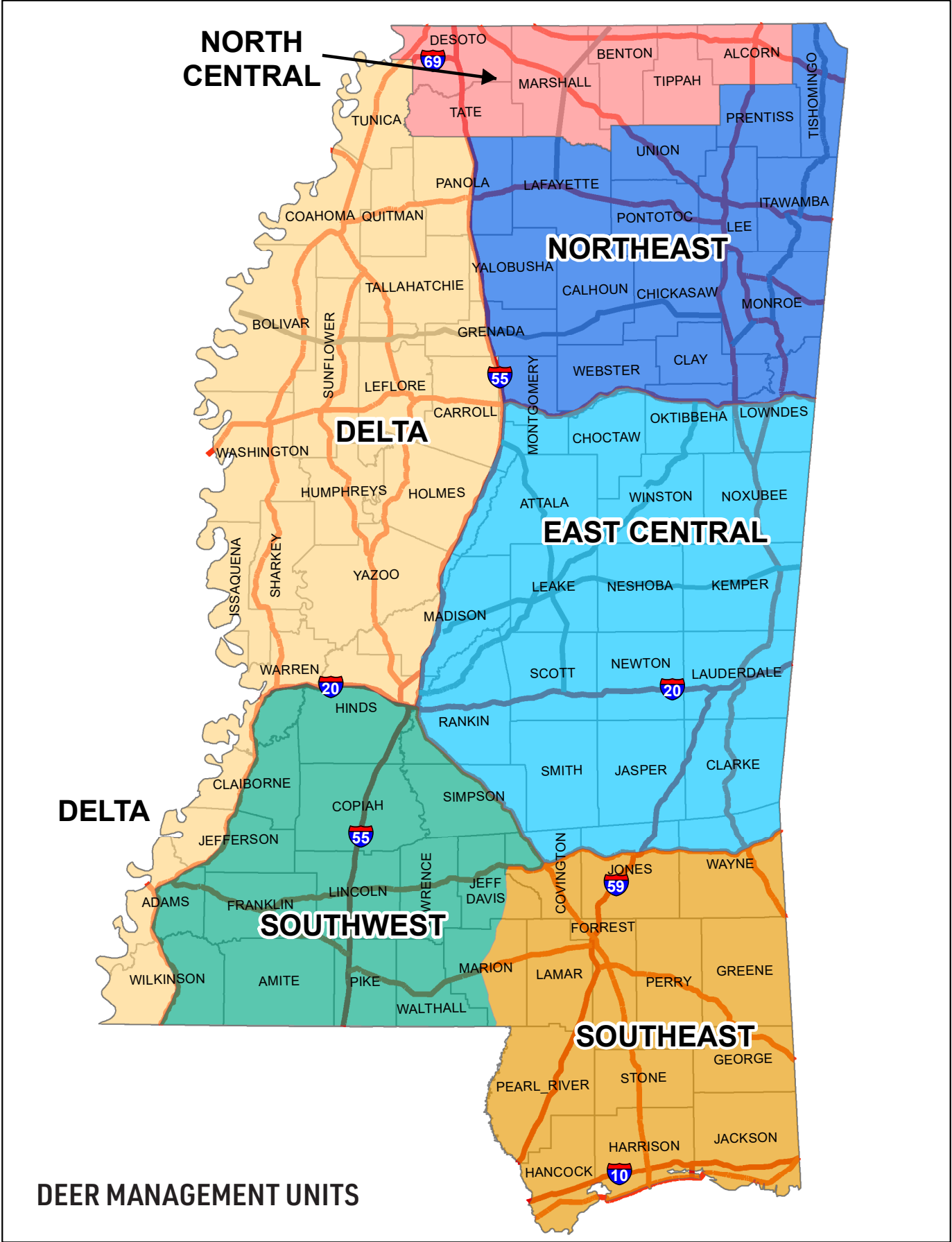
### PRIVATE LANDS within North Central DMU

- Increased buck bag limit from 3 to 4.
- No antler criteria for 4-buck bag limit.
- Increased antlerless bag limit from 5 to 10.



### HOLLY SPRINGS NATIONAL FOREST within North Central DMU

- 3-buck bag limit with no antler criteria.





# 2022–2023 STATEWIDE SAMPLE DROP-OFF SITES

MDWFP has established collection sites across the state for the general public to deposit deer heads for testing. All season long, freezers will be at each site for depositing deer heads.

Hunters should preserve the head with at least 6 inches of neck attached. Antlers and skull plate may be removed without affecting the lymph nodes used for testing. If antlers are not removed, they cannot be returned to the hunter.

- 1

Love VFD

7345 Hwy 51 S  
Hernando, MS 38632
- 2

Mt. Pleasant VFD

194 Mt. Pleasant Rd  
Red Banks, MS 38661
- 3

Wall Doxey State Park

3946 MS Hwy 7  
Holly Springs, MS 38635
- 4

Benton County 911 Dispatch

368 Ripley Ave  
Ashland, MS 38603
- 5

Walnut VFD

660 Main Street  
Walnut, MS 38683
- 6

MSU Extension Office

2200 Old Hwy 45 S  
Corinth, MS 38834
- 7

New Albany Fairgrounds

112 Fairgrounds Circle  
New Albany, MS 38652
- 8

Fire Station 1

401 McElroy Dr  
Oxford, MS 38655
- 9

Panola County EMS

100 MSG William J Ferrell Dr  
Sardis, MS 38666
- 10

O’Keefe WMA

O’keefe Rd  
Lambert, MS 38643
- 11

North Region Office

457 CR 36  
Enid, MS 38927
- 12

MDOT Maintenance HQ

32950 Hwy 32  
Tillatoba, MS 38961
- 13

Pontotoc Ag Center

430 CJ Hardin Jr Dr  
Pontotoc, MS 38863
- 14

Trace State Park

2139 Faulkner Rd  
Tupelo, MS 38826
- 15

Chickasaw WMA

770 Hwy 32 Ext  
Houston, MS 38851
- 16

Malmaison WMA

126 Malmaison HQ Rd  
Holcomb, MS 38940
- 17

Deviney WMA

171 Hughes-Ertle Road  
Indianola, MS 38751
- 18

Dahomey NWR

831 MS 446  
Boyle, MS 38730
- 19

Carroll County Sheriff’s Dept.

105c East Washington St  
Carrollton, MS 38917
- 20

American Legion Building

8243 Hwy 9  
Eupora, MS 39744
- 21

Trim Cane WMA

2025 North Jackson St.  
Starkville, MS 39759
- 22

Black Prairie WMA

744 Fire Tower Rd  
Crawford, MS 39743
- 23

Choctaw WMA

2121 Webster Rd  
Ackerman, MS 39735
- 24

Yockanookany WMA

28329 MS Hwy 12  
McCool, MS 39108
- 25

Holmes County State Park

5369 State Park Rd  
Durant, MS 39063
- 26

District 3 VFD

171 Old Benton Rd.  
Yazoo City, MS 39194
- 27

Mahannah WMA

1370 Anderson-Tully Rd  
Redwood, MS 39156
- 28

Phil Bryant WMA

11641 Hwy 465  
Vicksburg, MS 39183
- 29

LeFleur’s Bluff State Park

3315 Lakeland Terrace  
Jackson, MS 39216
- 30

Pearl River WMA

506 Hwy 43 S  
Canton, MS 39046
- 31

Fire Station 3

257 Gum Street  
Philadelphia, MS 39350
- 32

USDA Service Center

48 Millers Chapel Church Rd  
Macon, MS 39341
- 33

Collinsville VFD

11710 Nancy Drive  
Collinsville, MS 39325
- 34

Caney Creek WMA

6373 West Moore Tower Rd  
Forest, MS 39074
- 35

MSU Extension Office

2040 W Gallman Rd  
Hazlehurst, MS 39083
- 36

Natchez State Park

230-B Wickcliff Rd  
Natchez, MS 39120
- 37

Wilkinson County Sheriff

1389 U.S. Hwy 61 South  
Woodville, MS 39669
- 38

US Forest Service Office (Bude)

3085 U.S. Hwy 98  
Meadville, MS 39653
- 39

South Region Office

1201 N. Clark Ave  
Magnolia, MS 39652
- 40

Jeff Davis Lake

16 Lake Drive  
Prentiss, MS 39474
- 41

Bogue Homa Lake

149 Bogue Homa Lake Rd  
Laurel, MS 39443
- 42

MSU Extension Office

7128 Highway 198 East  
Lucedale, MS 39452
- 43

Purvis VFD

805 Main St  
Purvis, MS 39475
- 44

Pearl River County Fairgrounds

Hwy 26 West  
Poplarville, MS 39470
- 45

Lower Pascagoula WMA

816 Wade Vancleave Rd  
Moss Point, MS 39562
- 46

Bay St. Louis FD Station 2

9998 MS-603  
Bay St. Louis, MS 39520
- 47

Prentiss Co. Agri Center

2301 N 2nd St  
Booneville, MS 38829
- 48

MSU Extension Office

101 Westwood Ave  
Quitman, MS
- 49

MS Forestry Commission

1801 Highway 51 S  
Grenada, MS
- 50

Communication Specialist

760 Hwy 61 North  
Vicksburg, MS 39183
- 51

MSU Extension Office

2785 Simpson Highway 49  
Mendenhall, Mississippi 39114
- 52

Tishomingo County Fairgrounds

108 CR 107  
Iuka, MS 38852
- 53

Fulton Fire Department

604 South Adams St  
Fulton, MS 38843
- 54

MSU Extension Office

68 Collins Industrial Park Dr  
Collins, Ms 39428
- 55

MSU Extension Office

214 Main St  
Monticello, Ms 39654
- 56

MSU Extension Office

1060 Hwy 13 South  
Columbia, Ms 39429
- 57

MS State Dept of Health

903 Union Rd  
Tylertown, Ms 39667
- 58

Burnsville/ Yellow Creek Boat Ramp

Frontage Road (HWY 72)  
Burnsville, MS 38833
- 59

Hell Creek WMA
- 60

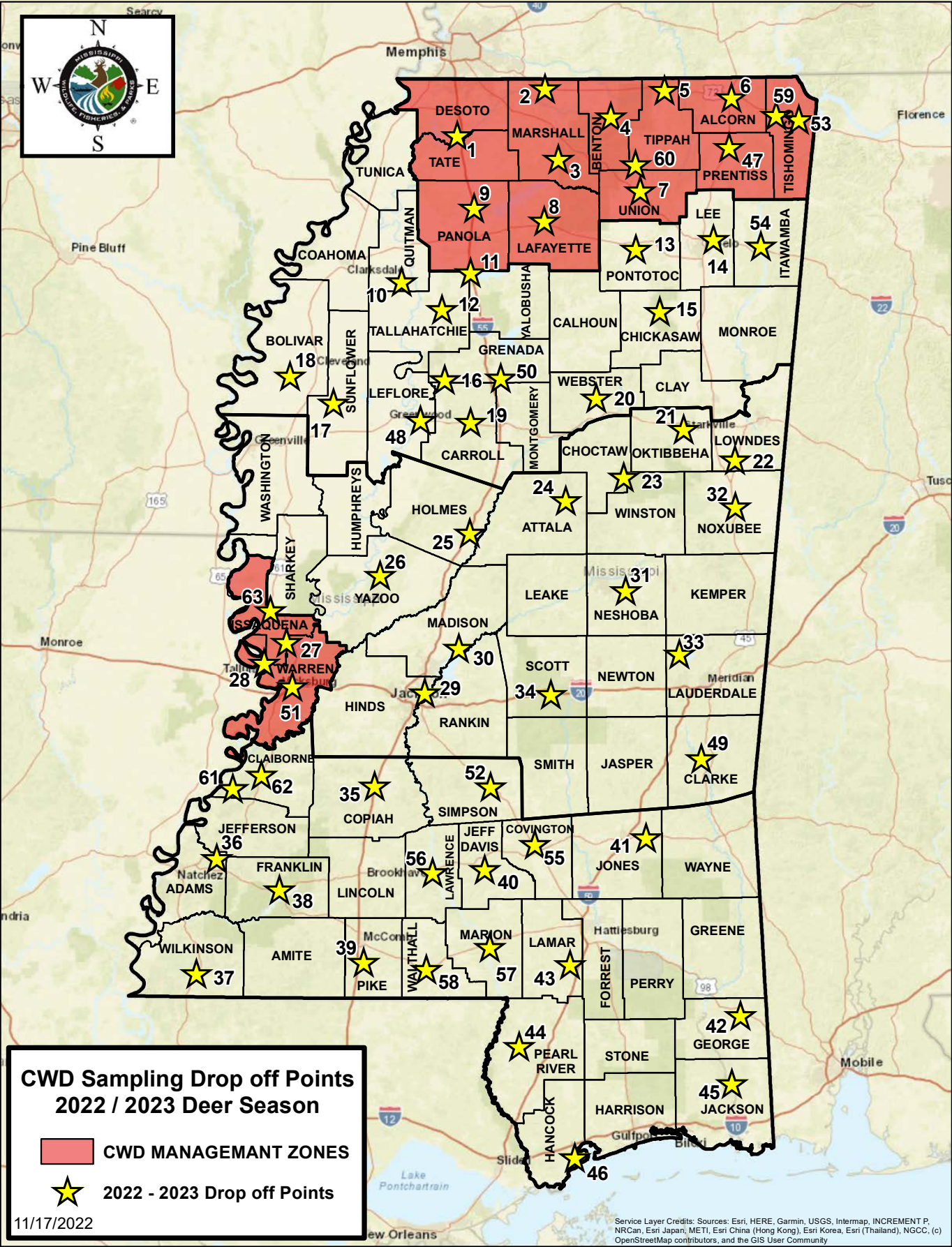
Canemount WMA
- 61

All Creatures Veterinary Hospital

1011 St. Mark Dr.  
Port Gibson, Ms 39150
- 62

Valley Park Community Center


64 Kelso Rd  
Valley Park, MS 39177







CWD is one of many conservation challenges that has arisen over the last century. Hunters are vital to successfully managing CWD and ensuring healthy white-tailed deer herds for future generations. MDWFP thanks all hunters for continuing to stay actively engaged in this conservation effort!



## 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](http://www.MDWFP.com/diseased)

**SYMPTOMS**

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Malnourished / Frail	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Excessive Salivation
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Not afraid of Humans	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Erratic Behavior

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MDWFP's Private Lands Program is ready to assist you in managing wildlife and habitat on your land. To learn more go to: [MDWFP.com/privatelands](http://MDWFP.com/privatelands)

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