



MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT
OF WILDLIFE, FISHERIES,
AND PARKS

CWD

CHRONIC WASTING DISEASE

Regulations and Best Management Practices

2025/26

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 2025-2026 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.

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.

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. mdwfp.com/cwd

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 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:

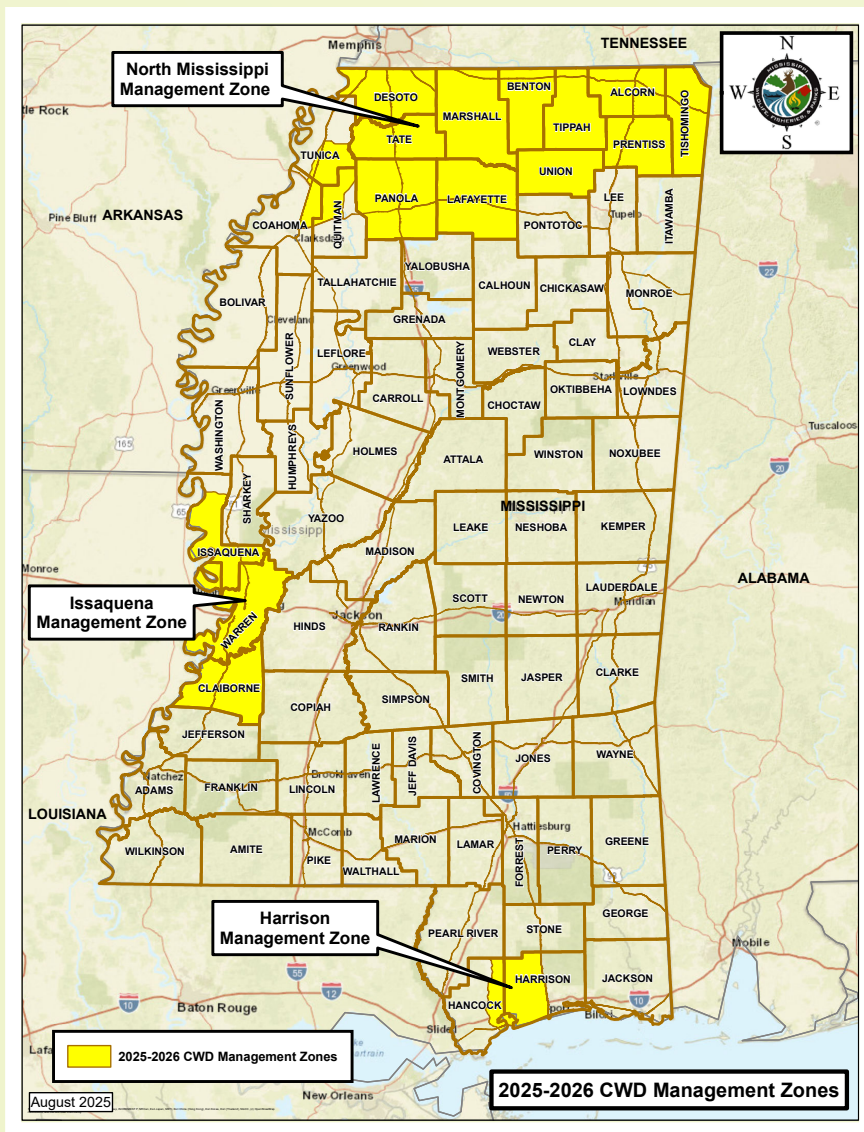
- Do not process a deer that appears to be diseased.
- Process all deer individually, package separately, and label uniquely.
- Debone meat from deer and remove all fat, connective tissue, and lymph nodes.
- Avoid sawing through bone, spinal cord, brain, lymph nodes, or spleen.
- Avoid eating/handling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



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.

HOW TO SUBMIT A CWD SAMPLE

CWD samples can be submitted through the drop-off freezer program or through participating taxidermists.

CWD-SAMPLING INFORMATION

90+ taxidermists participate with MDWFP to collect CWD samples. To locate a participating taxidermist near you, visit mdwfp.com/cwd.

This service is limited to customers of the taxidermists.

A map and list of CWD drop-off freezers is located on **pages 6 & 7**.



Test results are usually available with 2 weeks of sample collection. You can check CWD test results at mdwfp.com/cwd.



Please be sure to include **the head** and **6 inches of neck** with any deer to be sampled. Remove antlers before submission.

Antlers left at drop-off freezers cannot be returned.



Please refer to the carcass transportation ban section on page 2 for transporting to a permitted cooperating taxidermist.

VELVET SEASON

September 12-14, 2025

- Mandatory Reporting by 10 p.m.
- Mandatory CWD Sampling by Sept. 19
- One State-Legal Buck Bag Limit
- Archery Only
- Statewide

PRIVATE LANDS

within North Central DMU

- Buck bag limit is 4.
- No antler criteria for 4-buck bag limit.
- Antlerless bag limit of 10.

CWD DMAP

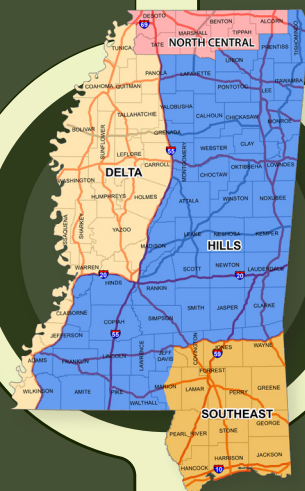
3-Mile-Tag Program

- Extra tags available for properties within 3 miles of a CWD detection.
- Allows any weapon during any open deer season.
- Mandatory CWD sampling.
- Apply online @ mdwfp.com/cwd

HOLLY SPRINGS NATIONAL FOREST

within North Central DMU

- 3-buck bag limit with no antler criteria.



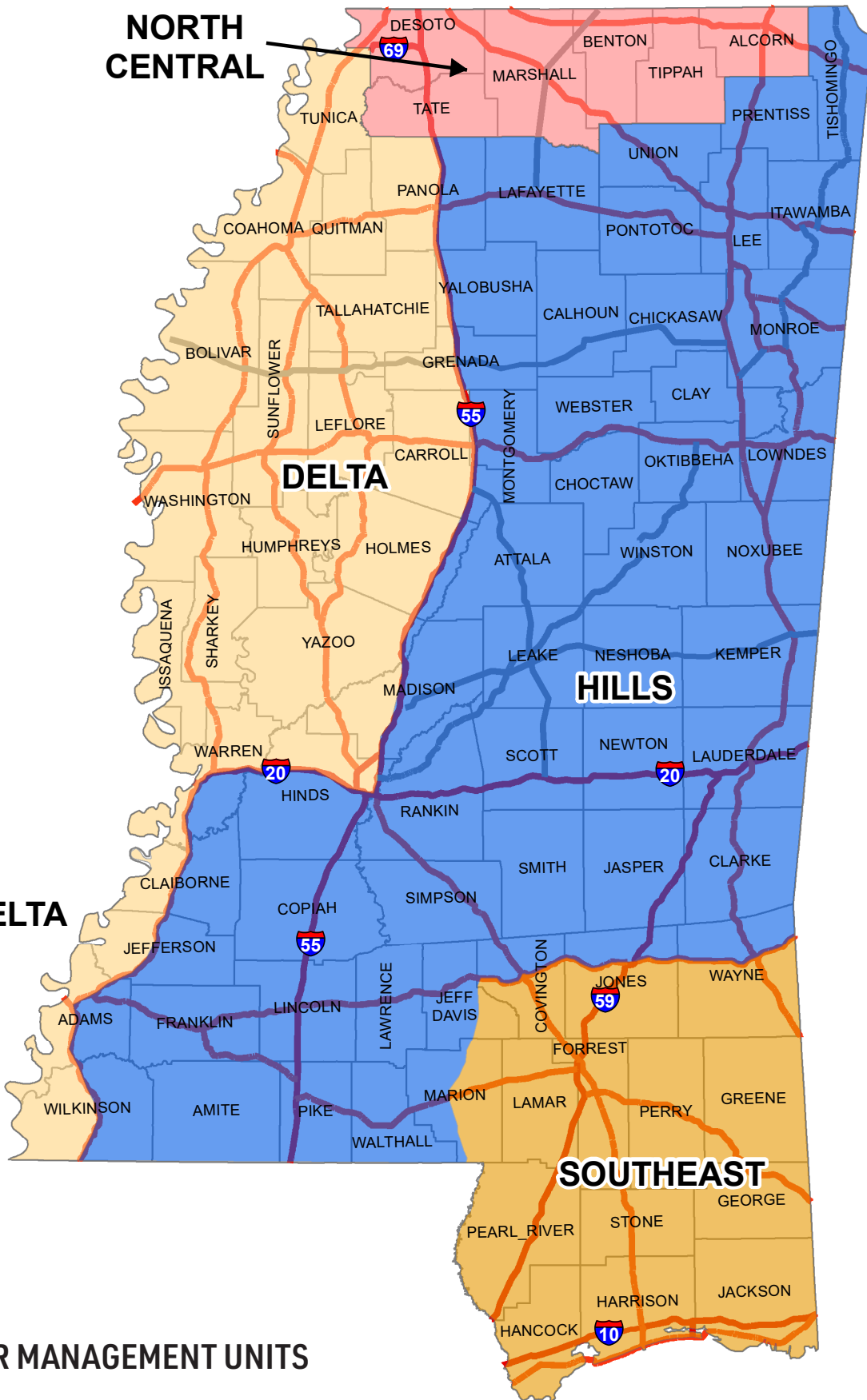
**NORTH
CENTRAL**

DELTA

HILLS

SOUTHEAST

DEER MANAGEMENT UNITS



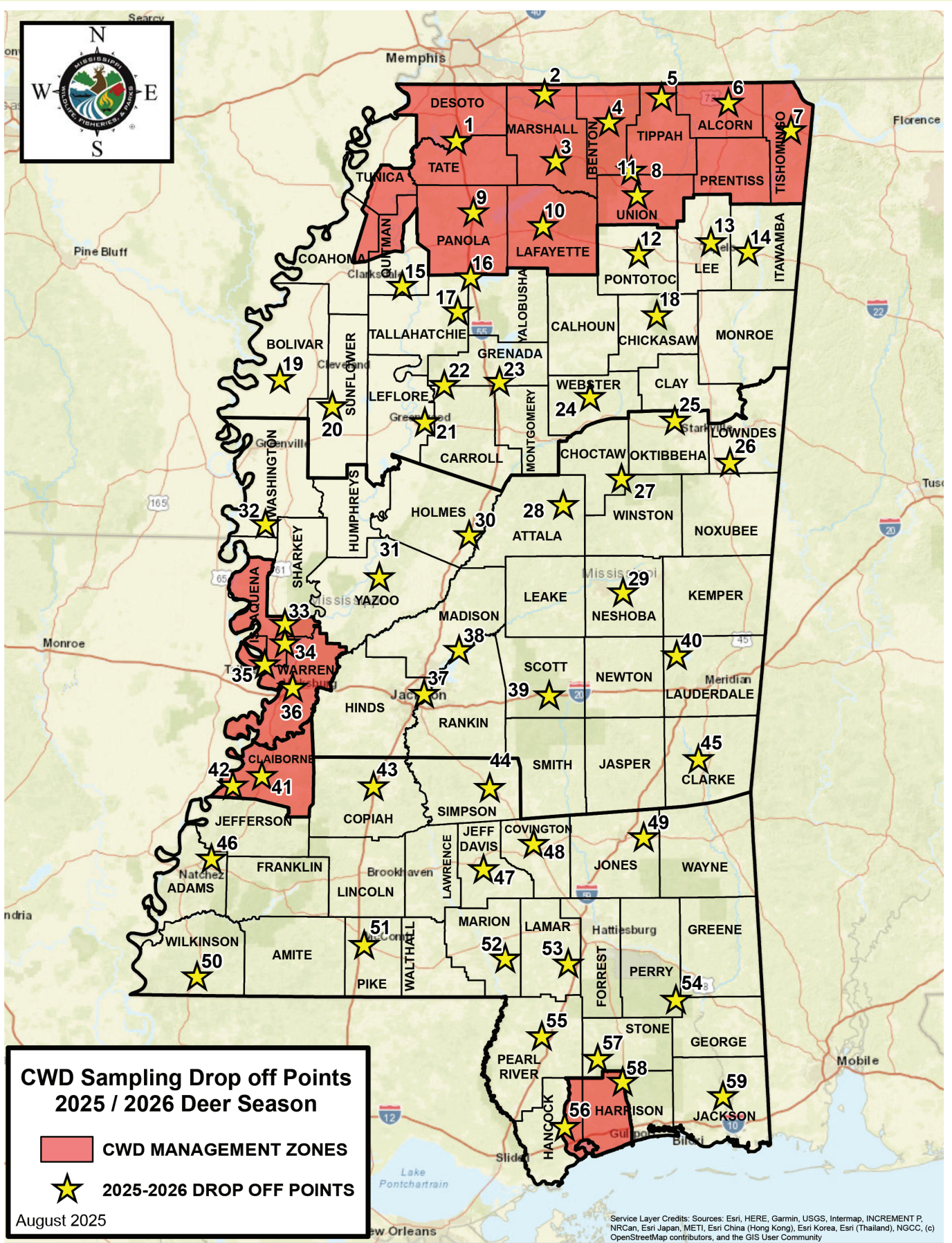
2025–2026 STATEWIDE SAMPLE DROP-OFF SITES

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
34.7526, -89.9913
- 2 Mt. Pleasant VFD**
194 Mt. Pleasant Rd
Red Banks, MS 38661
34.9561, -89.5226
- 3 Wall Doxey State Park**
3946 MS Hwy 7
Holly Springs, MS 38635
34.6630, -89.4647
- 4 Benton County 911 Dispatch**
368 Ripley Ave
Ashland, MS 38603
34.8326, -89.1813
- 5 Walnut VFD**
660 Main Street
Walnut, MS 38683
34.9405, -88.9013
- 6 MSU Extension Office**
2200 Old Hwy 45 S
Corinth, MS 38834
34.9125, -88.5465
- 7 Tishomingo County Fairgrounds**
108 CR 187
Iuka, MS 38852
34.7882, -88.2178
- 8 Hell Creek WMA**
4120 County Road 825
Myrtle, MS 38650
34.6199, -89.0644
- 9 Panola County EMS**
100 MSG William J Ferrell Dr
Sardis, MS 38666
34.4400, -89.8997
- 10 Fire Station 1**
401 McElroy Dr
Oxford, MS 38655
34.3800, -89.5318
- 11 New Albany Fairgrounds**
112 Fairgrounds Circle
New Albany, MS 38652
34.5127, -89.0329
- 12 Pontotoc Ag Center**
430 CJ Hardin Jr Dr
Pontotoc, MS 38863
34.2552, -89.0286
- 13 Elvis Presley Lake**
272 Road 995
Tupelo, MS 38826
34.3046, -88.6474
- 14 Canal Section WMA HQ**
5705 HWY 178w
Fulton, MS 38843
34.2614, -88.4511
- 15 O'Keefe WMA**
O'keefe Rd
Lambert, MS 38643
34.1165, -90.2735
- 16 North Region Office**
457 CR 36
Enid, MS 38927
34.1565, -89.9127
- 17 MDOT Maintenance HQ**
32950 Hwy 32
Tillatoba, MS 38961
34.0057, -89.9806
- 18 Chickasaw WMA**
770 Hwy 32 Ext
Houston, MS 38851
33.9861, -88.9356
- 19 Dahomey NWR**
831 MS 446
Boyle, MS 38730
33.7042, -90.9108
- 20 Deviney WMA**
171 Hughes-Ertle Road
Indianola, MS 38751
33.5876, -90.6361
- 21 Fire Department #4**
412 MS-7
Greenwood, MS. 38930
33.5209, -90.1514
- 22 Malmaison WMA**
126 Malmaison HQ Rd
Holcomb, MS 38940
33.6840, -90.0512
- 23 MS Forestry Commission**
1801 Highway 51 S
Grenada, MS 38901
33.6991, -89.7629
- 24 American Legion Building**
8243 Hwy 9
Eupora, MS 39744
33.6311, -89.2877
- 25 Trim Cane WMA**
2025 North Jackson St.
Starkville, MS 39759
33.5248, -88.8462
- 26 Black Prairie WMA**
744 Fire Tower Rd
Crawford, MS 39743
33.3396, -88.5618
- 27 Choctaw WMA**
2121 Webster Rd
Ackerman, MS 39735
33.2737, -89.1267
- 28 Yockanookany WMA**
28329 MS Hwy 12
McCool, MS 39108
33.1665, -89.4258
- 29 Fire Station 3**
257 Gum Street
Philadelphia, MS 39350
32.7744, -89.1215
- 30 Holmes County State Park**
5369 State Park Rd
Durant, MS 39063
33.0271, -89.9206
- 31 District 3 VFD**
171 Old Benton Rd.
Yazoo City, MS 39194
32.8411, -90.3840
- 32 Yazoo NWR**
728 Yazoo Refuge Rd
Hollandale, MS 38748
33.0700, -90.9778
- 33 Valley Park Community Center**
64 Kelso Rd
Valley Park, MS 39177
32.6335, -90.8709
- 34 Mahannah WMA**
1370 Anderson-Tully Rd
Redwood, MS 39156
32.5490, -90.8708
- 35 Phil Bryant WMA**
11641 Hwy 465
Vicksburg, MS 39183
32.4556, -90.9733
- 36 Communication Specialist**
760 Hwy 61 North
Vicksburg, MS 39183
32.3552, -90.8283
- 37 LeFleur's Bluff State Park**
3315 Lakeland Terrace
Jackson, MS 39216
32.3317, -90.1499
- 38 Pearl River WMA**
506 Hwy 43 S
Canton, MS 39046
32.5234, -89.9704
- 39 Caney Creek WMA**
6373 West Moore Tower Rd
Forest, MS 39074
32.3247, -89.5051
- 40 Collinsville VFD**
11710 Nancy Drive
Collinsville, MS 39325
32.4974, -88.8475
- 41 All Creatures Veterinary Hospital**
1011 St. Mark Dr.
Port Gibson, MS 39150
31.9675, -90.9802
- 42 Canemount WMA**
17059 Rodney Road
Port Gibson, MS 39150
31.9233, -91.1305
- 43 MSU Extension Office**
2040 W Gallman Rd
Hazlehurst, MS 39083
31.9252, -90.4073
- 44 MSU Extension Office**
2785 Highway 49
Mendenhall, MS 39114
31.9210, -89.8112
- 45 MSU Extension Office**
101 Westwood Ave
Quitman, MS 39355
32.0426, -88.7395
- 46 Natchez State Park**
230-B Wickcliff Rd
Natchez, MS 39120
31.6026, -91.2347
- 47 Jeff Davis Lake**
16 Lake Drive
Prentiss, MS 39474
31.5649, -89.8444
- 48 MSU Extension Office**
68 Collins Industrial Park Dr
Collins, MS 39428
31.6757, -89.5864
- 49 Bogue Homa Lake**
149 Bogue Homa Lake Rd
Laurel, MS 39443
31.7027, -89.0246
- 50 Wilkinson County Sheriff**
1389 U.S. Hwy 61 South
Woodville, MS 39669
31.0861, -91.3002
- 51 Pike County Co-Op**
105 Nehi Circle
McComb, MS 39648
31.2308, -90.4517
- 52 Marion County WMA**
652 Game Reserve Rd
Columbia, MS 39429
31.1741, -89.7327
- 53 Purvis VFD**
805 Main St
Purvis, MS 39475
31.1517, -89.4122
- 54 Leaf River WMA**
Forest Service Rd 353
McLain, MS 39456
30.9902, -88.8651
- 55 Pearl River County Fairgrounds**
124 Rodeo St
Poplarville, MS 39470
30.8329, -89.5474
- 56 Emergency Operations Center**
18333 MS-603
Kiln, MS 39556
30.4369, -89.4327
- 57 Little Biloxi WMA HQ**
Hickman Tower Rd
Perkinston, MS 39573
30.7337, -89.2635
- 58 Fire Station 8**
23560 Old Still Rd
Saucier, MS 39574
30.6325, -89.1384
- 59 Lower Pascagoula WMA**
816 Wade Vancleave Rd
Moss Point, MS 39565
30.5668, -88.6307

MDWFP also works with participating taxidermists to collect CWD samples. This option is for customers of the taxidermists only. For a list of participating taxidermists visit mdwfp.com/cwd





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

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