

ARIZONA GAME AND FISH DEPARTMENT

FY2013/2014 CHRONIC WASTING DISEASE REPORT Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration Act Fund

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ARIZONA GAME AND FISH DEPARTMENT

CHRONIC WASTING DISEASE FY2013/2014 REPORT

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Arizona Game and Fish Department (AGFD) has been surveying for chronic wasting disease (CWD) for the past 16 years. The Department continues monitoring efforts to verify that CWD has not entered the state. During the 2013/2014 collection season, a total 1372 samples were tested, all of which were negative for CWD. To date CWD has not been detected in Arizona.

This season the Department focused on further increasing sample size in areas of highest concern and placed less focus on the centralized units in the state. The areas of highest concern include the game management units (GMUs) on the northern (high risk) and eastern (high and medium risk) portions of the state. Samples collected along the northern border of the state accounted for 27.7% (n = 380) of samples tested and samples from the eastern border of the state accounted for 38.3% (n = 526).

The Department will continue CWD surveillance to annually confirm the absence of CWD in Arizona's elk and deer. If CWD is ever detected in Arizona, a response plan and subsequent management options are in place.

INTRODUCTION

Chronic wasting disease is a fatal neurologic disease affecting free-ranging and captive cervids and is characterized by progressive weight loss, abnormal behavior, and eventual death. Species affected include mule deer (*Odocoileus hemionus*), white-tailed deer (*Odocoileus virginianus*), elk (*Cervus elaphus*), and moose (*Alces alces*). Chronic wasting disease belongs to a group of diseases called transmissible spongiform encephalopathies (TSE). Chronic wasting disease is similar to scrapie in sheep and bovine spongiform encephalopathy (also known as mad cow disease) in cattle as well as variant Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease (vCJD) in humans. These disease syndromes are associated with the accumulation of abnormal prions, a cell regulation protein, in the brain of affected animals. Chronic wasting disease was first identified in captive deer in Colorado in 1967 and has since been detected in both captive and free ranging cervids in 22 states and 2 Canadian provinces. Currently, CWD is found in free ranging cervids in 19 states and 2 Canadian provinces. Arizona is currently a CWD-free state but it shares borders with three states where CWD occurs: Utah, Colorado, and New Mexico.

The Department began conducting CWD surveillance in 1998 and has since collected over 18,000 samples. Samples are acquired through four different processes: a reimbursement program established with taxidermy and meat processor businesses throughout Arizona; at the check station on the Kaibab Plateau; by regional personnel from hunter-harvested animals; and targeted surveillance.

OBJECTIVES

Surveillance

1. To conduct hunter-harvested and targeted surveillance of both deer and elk throughout the state of Arizona.
2. To increase surveillance efforts in areas bordering CWD-positive states in Region 1 (FOR1), Region 2 (FOR2), and Region 5 (FOR5) (Figure 1).
3. To increase sampling of cervids harvested outside of Arizona that are brought back into the state.

Communications

1. To disseminate agency messages through the news media, Arizona Game and Fish Department e-newsletters, web sites, and other electronic/print communications to the general public in order to promote understanding of agency actions, provide accurate information about CWD, and gain their cooperation in CWD sample collection.
2. To facilitate access to online CWD results.
3. To educate hunters about the change to Arizona Game and Fish Commission Rule R12-4-305.
4. To provide training as needed to Department personnel and outside entities on proper sample and data collection.
5. To inform the Department about CWD sample distribution in the state.

METHODS

Surveillance

Hunter-Harvested Sample Collection

Samples were obtained from hunter-harvested animals by several methods. On the larger deer hunts located in the Kaibab Plateau, Department personnel were present to immediately collect samples. During this sampling season, additional CWD collection efforts were made in FOR1 and FOR5 to help increase the number of samples collected along the border between New Mexico and Arizona. In addition, Department law enforcement personnel often collected CWD samples during their hunt patrol duties. Hunters could also directly submit heads of harvested animals to one of seven AGFD locations for testing.

As in previous years, samples were also collected from various meat processors and taxidermists throughout the state. We continued the program of reimbursing these businesses for their time in

tagging each head, filling out the data cards, and storing the heads until they could be processed or collecting samples and storing samples until they were picked up. In return for providing the head or sample along with the pertinent data (i.e. hunt number, GMU, date of kill, hunter name and phone number, species, and sex); the business received \$10 per head submitted. Some of the interested businesses have been provided training to collect samples which saves the program a considerable amount of time and money. The Wildlife Health Program enrolled one additional taxidermist in FOR1 to increase opportunities for obtaining samples from high risk areas and out-of-state. Along with asking businesses to focus more on collecting samples from the high risk areas, we also asked them to collect samples from harvested deer and elk from out-of-state and tribal lands. This year we increased compensation of animals harvested in states outside of Arizona to \$15 to encourage submission. The testing results of animals harvested out-of-state were communicated to the respective management agency.

Due to the discontinuation of federal grant programs, the Department collaborated with tribal wildlife management agencies to cover their CWD testing expenses. Samples collected by tribal wildlife management agencies were shipped to the Department or directly to Utah State University Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory for testing.

Targeted Animal Sample Collection

Wildlife managers in each region were instructed to collect fresh samples from deer and elk killed by vehicle collisions and to record pertinent information about where the animal was found. Wildlife managers were also responsible for responding to calls from concerned citizens regarding deer and elk that appeared ill or exhibited abnormal behavior. These animals were commonly euthanized via gunshot to the heart and lungs. Samples from roadkill specimens, those collected from animals displaying symptoms consistent with CWD, and those found dead of no apparent cause were grouped together as “targeted” cases.

A stretch of U.S. Highway 89 in Utah has historically been surveyed each year due to a large number of fatalities related to heavy migration of mule deer to and from Utah’s Paunsagaunt and Arizona’s Kaibab Plateau. These surveys were discontinued this year due to the construction of fencing along that stretch of highway. Utah Department of Transportation contract crews in collaboration with the Utah Division of Wildlife Resources installed 8 foot-high fences along an 11 mile stretch to prevent vehicular collisions. Underpasses and culverts are in place to allow movement underneath the highway by deer.

Sample Distribution

For the 2013/2014 sampling season, Arizona was divided into risk areas based on proximity to states where CWD has been found in wild cervid populations. This risk based approach was first implemented during the 2010/2011 sampling season and has replaced the previous biome-based approach for determining GMU sampling quotas. Game management units were grouped based on their locations and categorized as high risk, medium risk, and low risk (Figure 1). Within each risk area, rough population estimates of cervids (mule deer, white-tailed deer, and elk obtained from the Department’s survey data) were used to determine a sample size that would allow for the detection of a 1% prevalence of CWD at a 95% confidence interval. The desired sample sizes were 650 samples from high risk, 300 samples from medium risk, and 350 samples from low risk areas.

Diagnostics

In the 2013/2014 season, we contracted with Utah State University Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory (UVDL) to perform our testing. The medial retropharyngeal lymph node was the predominant sample collected and submitted for testing. Medial retropharyngeal lymph nodes are the preferred sample but when not obtainable the tonsil, parotid lymph node, or submandibular lymph node were collected and submitted. Testing was performed via the BioRad enzyme linked immunoabsorbent assay (ELISA) and any suspect cases were confirmed by immunohistochemistry (IHC).

Communications

Education articles and Department fliers composed by Department Information and Education employees were reviewed by Wildlife Health Staff for accuracy before publication and distribution. Hunters were informed about CWD as part of the Hunter Education curriculum, our Department webpage, news releases, inserts into hunting regulations, and fliers.

New data collection forms (head tag) were implemented, providing unique numbers for sample identification. This identification number (head tag number) was used to access CWD results through the Department webpage via an online web-link.

The Department educated hunters, taxidermists, and meat processors about the changes to Rule R12-4-305 through letters, postcards, and a statewide media news release.

At the start of the sample collection season, the CWD staff offered hands-on training sessions in sampling techniques to Department personnel. Training was also provided to college students who volunteered with the Department to collect CWD samples.

At the end of the sampling season, CWD staff generated a table detailing the number of deer and elk samples collected by Region and GMU. This table was posted on the Department U-drive (a Department-wide shared folder) and an email was sent to the appropriate Department staff notifying them of the report's availability.

RESULTS

Surveillance

Hunter-Harvested Sample Collection

We completed the bulk of our sampling by the end of January 2014. Of the 1372 samples collected, 1338 (97.5 %) of these came from hunter-harvested animals. The collection of these samples was accomplished by Department personnel and participating taxidermists and meat processors. The hunter-harvested samples came from Arizona, tribal lands, and out-of-state hunts.

On the larger deer hunts located in the Kaibab Plateau (FOR2), Department personnel were present and collected a total of 324 samples. In FOR1 and FOR5 Wildlife Health personnel were present to help increase the number of samples collected along the New Mexico border with

Arizona. Wildlife Health personnel and volunteers were present in FOR1 and FOR5 for a total of 11 elk and deer hunts and collected a total of 42 samples. Department law enforcement and regional personnel collected a total 173 hunter-harvested and 34 targeted samples. Department personnel as a whole collected 573 samples across the state.

The Wildlife Health program coordinated with 18 businesses during the 2013/2014 sampling season. Four taxidermists were enrolled during the 2012/2013 sampling season in the Tucson area to help increase collection of samples in high and medium risk areas in FOR 5. One additional taxidermist was enrolled for the 2013/2014 sampling season in FOR1 to help increase sampling in high risk areas and from animals harvested outside of Arizona. Taxidermists and meat processors collected a total of 799 samples which accounted for 58.2% of the samples collected.

The Department collaborated with tribal wildlife management agencies for testing samples collected on tribal lands. A total of 109 samples were collected by tribal wildlife entities. Testing for these samples was conducted at UVDL and was paid for by the Department, but they are not included in Table 1 as samples collected by the Department. However, an additional 16 samples were obtained from tribal lands by participating businesses and those samples are included in the Department's data.

A total of 60 hunter-harvested animals came from out-of state; 41 from New Mexico, 7 from Utah, 5 from Texas, 3 from Colorado, 2 from Nebraska, 1 from Wyoming, and 1 from Kansas. During the 2012/2013 sampling season, only 10 samples from deer and elk harvested outside of Arizona were sampled. This sampling season a six fold increase of out-of-state sampling occurred. All test results and hunt information have been provided to appropriate personnel in each state.

Targeted Animal Sample Collection

Targeted samples include roadkill specimens, animals displaying clinical symptoms of CWD that were euthanized, and animals found dead of no apparent causes. From around the state, Department personnel collected samples from 16 roadkill animals, 6 targeted animals, and 12 animals that were found dead. We are continuing to collect samples from targeted animals throughout the year.

Sample Distribution

The sampling quotas set forth for this season consisted of 650 samples from high risk areas, 300 samples from medium risk areas, and 350 samples from low risk areas. Overall we tested a total of 747 samples from our designated high risk areas, including 380 samples came from FOR2 on the Kaibab Plateau and 367 samples from FOR1 and FOR5 along the border with New Mexico. A total of 159 samples were tested in the medium risk areas and 390 samples were tested in the low risk areas. Tables 1 and 2 provide species breakdowns by counties and risk assessment areas, respectively. In addition, Figure 2 shows the number of samples collected in each GMU.

A focus of the past two seasons was to increase sample size in areas of highest concern and place less emphasis on the centralized units in the state, which had been a focus in past seasons. This has resulted in a decrease in the total number of samples tested, but an increase in the proportion

of samples from high risk regions (Figure 3). The percentage of samples obtained from high risk areas has been increasing over the past several sampling seasons, from a low of 32.1% in 2009/2010 to a high of 54.4% this past year (Figure 3). The samples collected along in the high risk areas on the northern border of the state during the current sampling season accounted for 27.7% (380 of 1372) of the total samples tested. Testing along the eastern border of the state accounted for 38.3% (526 of 1372) of the total samples tested which includes 367 samples from high risk areas and 159 samples from medium risk areas.

Diagnostics

During the 2013/2014 sampling season, we collected and tested 1372 samples. All ELISA results were negative (or no detection) for all the deer and elk tested. No suspect cases were reported so no IHC tests were conducted.

Communications

During the 2013/2014 reporting season, a total of 16 CWD documents (Appendices A, B, C, D, E, F, G, H, I, J, K, L, M, N, O, and P) were produced in the format of flyers, mailed letters, media news releases, booklet inserts, and articles in the Department's Wildlife News and Hunting Highlights E-newsletters. Table 3 details document type, distribution date, distribution method, and the number of documents distributed.

In order to gain cooperation from hunters in CWD sample collection, hunters were urged to submit samples for testing using 3 methods: in the 2013 Pronghorn Antelope and Elk Hunt Draw Information (Appendix A), in the 2013-2014 Arizona Hunting and Trapping Regulations (Appendix B), and through a statewide media news release (Appendix C).

The Department web page contains up-to-date and accurate information about CWD as well as details pertaining to the Department's surveillance program. The CWD Prevention, Detection, Response, and Management Plan is available on our website (http://www.azgfd.gov/w_c/research_cwd.shtml).

Hunters were able to check CWD results during the entire hunting season through the Department webpage via an online web-link. A new data collection protocol that required head tags with unique numbers for sample identification was used. A portion of the tag, which contained the head tag number and instructions for checking results, was torn off and given to the hunter (Appendix F). The online result access link was functioning for the entire hunt season allowing for hunters to view their results in a timely manner.

The change to Arizona Game and Fish Commission Rule R12-4-305 was put into effect 1 July 2013. This rule change is part an effort to prevent the introduction of CWD into the state. The new rule allows an individual who lawfully takes a cervid in another state or country to possess, transport, or import into Arizona only the following portions of the animal: boneless portions of meat, or meat that has been cut and packaged; clean hides and capes with no skull or soft tissue attached, except as required for proof of legality; clean skulls with antlers, clean skull plates, or antlers with no meat or soft tissue attached; upper canine teeth with no meat or tissue attached; and finished taxidermy mounts or products.

Three statewide media news releases (Appendices D, L, and M) were put out in July, September, and October to inform the public of the new rule. Taxidermist and meat processor businesses were further informed of this rule in addition to CWD testing efforts through 5 mailed letters (Appendices E, G, H, I, and J). Postcards were mailed to Arizona residents and outfitters hunting in Utah and New Mexico (Appendix K).

During the 2013/2014 reporting period, sample collection training to Department personnel was conducted on an “as needed” basis. Staff gave a presentation on proper sample collection and data recording, followed by an opportunity to remove samples from hunter-harvested elk and deer.

Members of the Wildlife Disease Association chapter from the University of Arizona and students from Northern Arizona University volunteered for the general deer hunt and junior deer hunt at Jacob Lake on the Kaibab. They were given the opportunity to learn sampling techniques and how to age and check-in harvested deer.

All collection data have been made available to Department personnel through access to the U-drive. An email was sent out informing Department personnel of its availability. This report will be made available in a similar manner.

FUTURE MONITORING EFFORTS

Monitoring efforts during the 2013/2014 season successfully detected no CWD in the 1372 samples tested. Department personnel will continue to sample targeted individuals throughout the remainder of the year and sampling efforts will resume this fall on hunter-harvested deer and elk.

Over half (54.5%) of the samples submitted for testing this year came from our designated high risk GMUs. The number of samples collected from the high (n = 747) and low risk (n = 390) GMUs exceeded the sampling quotas set forth this year, 650 and 350 respectively. However, the quota of 300 samples from medium risk GMUs was not met with only 159 collected.

The risk based approach will continue for the 2014/2015 sampling season. Efforts for sample collection in high risk GMU will remain the same as in previous years. However, efforts will be made to increase sample collection in medium risk areas based on GMUs with higher cervid densities. Efforts will also be made to increase sampling from animals harvested outside of Arizona. The Department will continue to work with taxidermists and meat processors this coming season and hunters will be urged to voluntarily submit samples from deer and elk harvested in the areas of high concern.

Table 1. Number of CWD samples collected and tested during the 2013/2014 season in each Arizona county separated by species.

Designated County ^a	Species			Total Samples Tested	Total Positive
	Elk	Mule Deer	White-tailed Deer		
Apache	86	10	2	98	0
Cochise	0	33	24	57	0
Coconino	135	426	11	572	0
Gila	43	19	38	100	0
Graham	0	49	31	80	0
Greenlee	60	44	18	122	0
La Paz	0	7	0	7	0
Maricopa	0	5	0	5	0
Mohave	2	26	0	28	0
Navajo	38	17	0	55	0
Pima	0	13	41	54	0
Pinal	0	15	12	27	0
Santa Cruz	0	7	46	53	0
Yavapai	1	23	12	36	0
Yuma	0	2	0	2	0
Out-of-state	32	20	8	60	0
Tribal Lands	7	4	5	16	0
Total	404	720	248	1372	0

^aIf a GMU crossed county boundaries, the county was designated by using deer/elk density estimates and GMU area.

Table 2. Arizona hunter-harvested and targeted CWD samples collected and tested by assessed risk area during the 2013/2014 sampling period.

	Species	Hunter-Harvested	Targeted ^a	Total Tested
High Risk - FOR 1	Elk	145	1	146
	Mule Deer	54	0	54
	White-tailed Deer	19	1	20
High Risk - FOR 2	Elk	0	0	0
	Mule Deer	378	2	380
	White-tailed Deer	0	0	0
High Risk - FOR 5	Elk	0	0	0
	Mule Deer	58	0	58
	White-tailed Deer	88	1	89
Medium Risk - FOR 1	Elk	37	0	37
	Mule Deer	15	2	17
	White-tailed Deer	0	0	0
Medium Risk - FOR 5	Elk	1	0	1
	Mule Deer	50	0	50
	White-tailed Deer	54	0	0
Low Risk	Elk	178	3	181
	Mule Deer	114	23	137
	White-tailed Deer	71	1	72
Tribal Lands	Elk	7	0	7
	Mule Deer	4	0	4
	White-tailed Deer	5	0	5
Out-of-state	Elk	32	0	32
	Mule Deer	20	0	20
	White-tailed Deer	8	0	8
Total		1338	34	1372

^aTargeted samples include roadkill specimens, animals displaying clinical symptoms of CWD that were euthanized, and animals found dead of no apparent causes.

Table 3. CWD communication documents produced in the 2013/2014 sampling period.

Document Type & Abbreviated Title	Distribution Date	Distribution Method	Distribution Number	Appendix
Statewide media news hunt regulations insert: <i>“Hunters can Help Monitor Arizona Elk Health – Submit Elk Heads for CWD Testing”</i>	Spring 2013	2013 Pronghorn Antelope and Elk Hunt Draw Information	Unknown	A
Statewide media news hunt regulations insert: <i>“Hunters can Help Monitor Arizona Deer Health – Submit Deer Heads for CWD testing”</i>	Spring 2013	2013-2014 Arizona Hunting and Trapping Regulations	Unknown	B
Statewide media news release: <i>“Chronic wasting disease not found in Arizona deer or elk”</i>	April 2013	E-mail and website posting	25,000 plus webpage visitors	C
Statewide media news release: <i>“New rules for bringing hunt-harvested deer and elk into Arizona”</i>	July 2013	E-mail and website posting	25,000 plus webpage visitors	D
Letter to area taxidermists and meat processors thanking them for their participation in the 2012/2013 sampling season, information regarding R12-4-305, and future participation	July 2013	Mailed letter	17	E
New CWD head tags used during the 2013/2014 sampling season	Fall 2013	Directly to hunter during sample collection	~1,300	F
Letter to area taxidermists concerning R12-4-305 and asking for CWD sample collection	August 2013	Mailed letter	131	G
Letter to area meat processors concerning R12-4-305 and asking for CWD sample collection	August 2013	Mailed letter	38	H
Letter to area taxidermists and meat processors concerning R12-4-305	September 2013	Mailed letter	169	I
Follow-up letter to area taxidermists and meat processors concerning R12-4-305	September 2013	Mailed letter	169	J
Postcard mailed to Arizona residents with out-of-state hunts and outfitters	September 2013	Mailed postcard	1,046	K
Statewide media news release: <i>“Hunters, meat processors and taxidermists: New rule for importing deer and elk harvested out of state to Arizona is now in effect”</i>	September 2013	E-mail and website posting	25,000 plus webpage visitors	L

Statewide media news release: <i>“New rule for importing deer and elk harvested out of state into Arizona is now in effect”</i>	October 2013	E-mail and website posting	25,000 plus webpage visitors	M
Letter handed out to hunters	October and November 2013	Handout	~ 250	N
Statewide media news release: <i>“CWD test results are becoming available”</i>	November 2013	E-mail and website posting	25,000 plus webpage visitors	O
Letter to area taxidermists and meat processors thanking them for their participation in the 2013/2014 sampling season and a certificate of appreciation	April 2014	Mailed letter	18	P

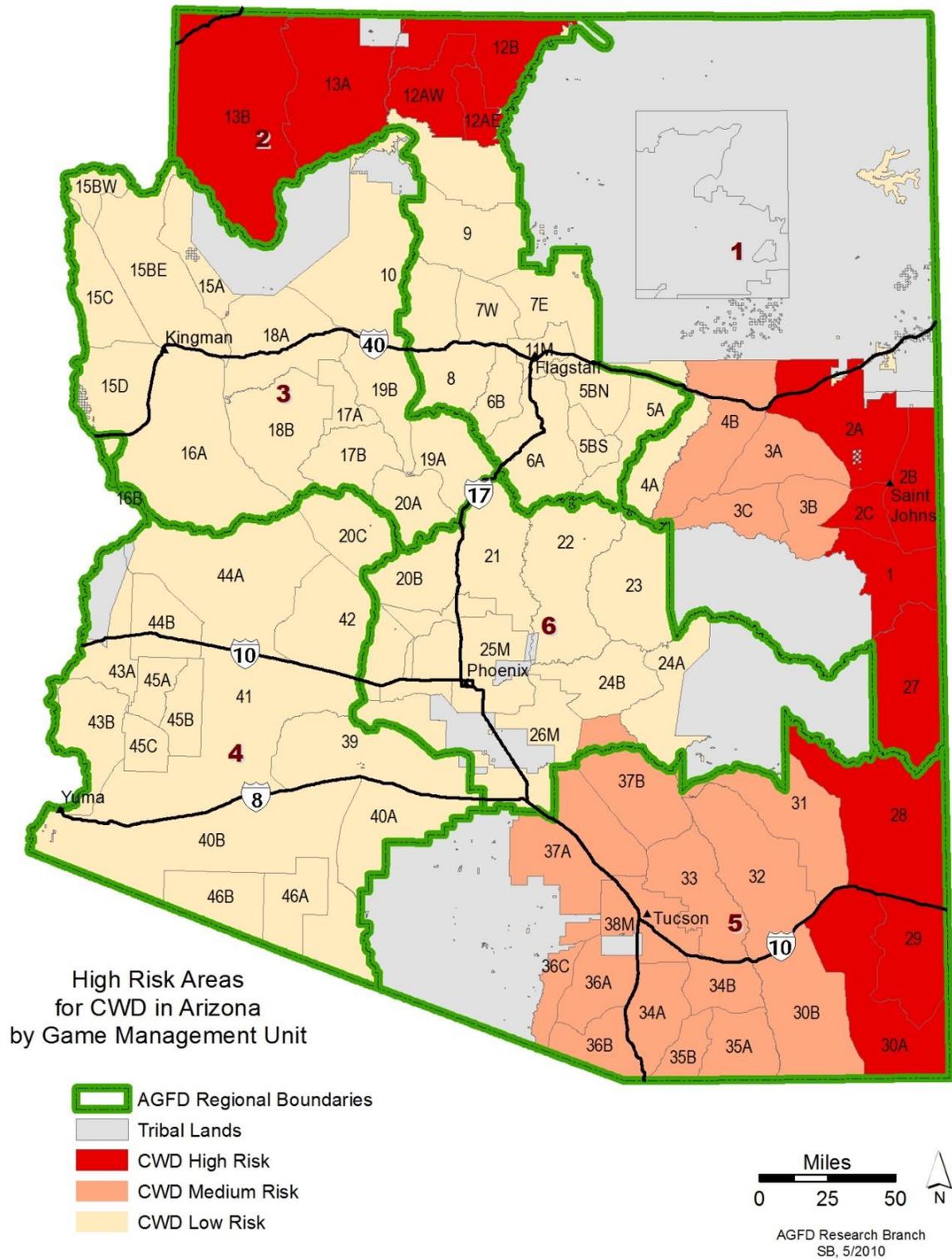


Figure 1. Map showing risk areas for CWD by game management units in Arizona.

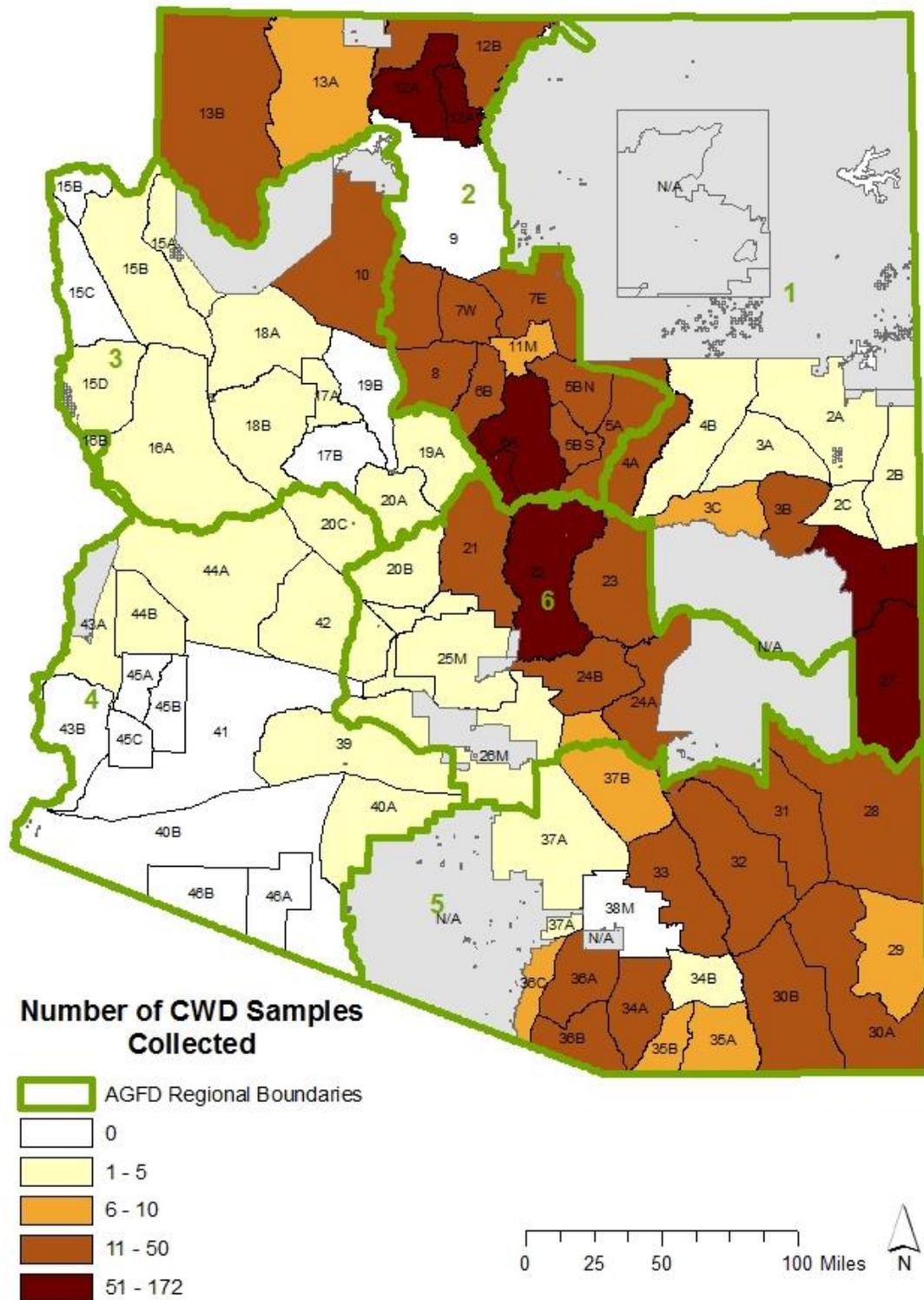


Figure 2. Map showing the number of CWD samples in each GMU during the 2013/2014 sample collection season. For animals harvested during hunts that took place in multiple GMUs, the total number of samples was divided between the possible GMUs.

CWD Samples Collected in Arizona 2009-2014

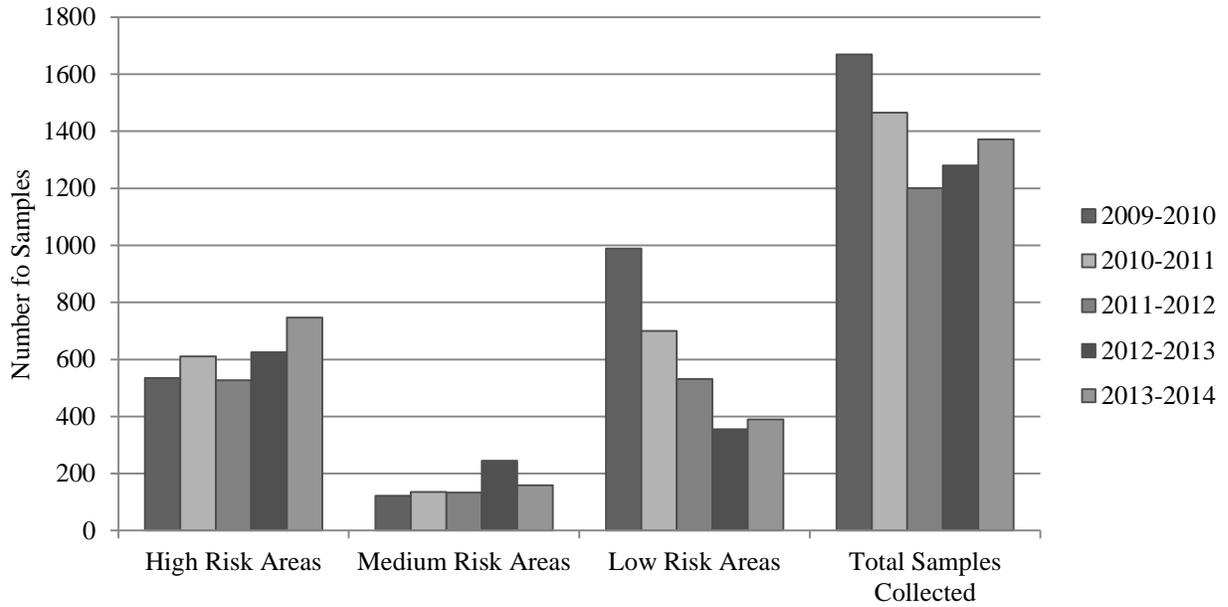


Figure 3. Number of CWD samples collected each sampling season since 2009 broken down by designated risk area.

Elk Hunts

Elk Notes continued:

- Creek; east on Hill Creek to the Lower Colorado River; east along the Lower Colorado River to Hobson Canyon; southeast along Hobson Canyon to FR 8070A (70A); east on FR 8070A (70A) to AZ Hwy 261; south on AZ Hwy 261 to FR 8070C (70C); east on FR 8070C (70C) to FR 285 (Water Canyon Road); north of FR 285 (Water Canyon Road) to School Bus Road in Eagar; east on School Bus Road to Main Street in Eagar; north on Main Street to AZ Hwy 260; west AZ Hwy 260 AZ Hwy 373. A map of the area will be mailed to successful draw applicants.
32. Flat Top Hunt Area in Unit 1 - That portion of Unit 1 beginning at the junction of Main Street in Springerville and U.S. Hwy 60; south on Main Street to School Bus Road in Eagar; west on School Bus Road to FR 285 (Water Canyon Road) in Eagar; south on FR 285 (Water Canyon Road) to FR 74/76; east on FR 74/76 to Forest Trail 607 (Saffel Canyon Trail); east on Forest Trail 607 to U.S. Hwy 191; southeast on U.S. Hwy 191 to Nutrioso Creek; north along Nutrioso Creek to U.S. Hwy 60; west on U.S. Hwy 60 to Main Street in Springerville. A map of the area will be mailed to successful draw applicants.
33. The following Pima County parks and preserves are open to hunting; A-7 Ranch in Units 32 and 33. Hunting in County Parks, opened by this Commission Order, is not permitted within ¼ mile of any developed picnic area, developed camp ground, shooting range, occupied building, boat ramp, or golf course. Developed areas do not include trails.
34. Areas of private property within municipal boundaries in this hunt area are closed to elk hunting during this hunt.
35. The elk hunting season in Unit 11M is closed within ¼ mile of an occupied residence or building within the Flagstaff corporate limits.
36. 38 North Hunt Unit - That portion of Unit 38 located north of U.S. Hwy 60.
37. Coal Creek Hunt Area in Units 27 and 28 - That portion of Units 27 and 28 beginning at the junction of the Arizona-New Mexico state line and the San Francisco River; southwest along the San Francisco River to U.S. Hwy 191; south on U.S. Hwy 191 to the three-way junction with AZ Hwy 75 and AZ Hwy 78; south on AZ Hwy 75 to Bitter Creek Road; east on Bitter Creek Road to the Arizona-New Mexico state line; north along the Arizona-New Mexico state line to the San Francisco River.
38. 6A North Hunt Unit - That portion of Unit 6A east of I-17 and north of FR 213 (Stoneman Lake Road).
39. 6A South Hunt Unit - That portion of Unit 6A east of I-17 and south of FR 213 (Stoneman Lake Road).
40. 6A West Hunt Unit - That portion of Unit 6A west of I-17. Be aware, this area has limited access.
41. Rogers Lake Coconino County Natural Area in Unit 6B is open to elk hunting; this area is closed to all vehicle access and is closed to motorized big game retrieval. Hunting is not permitted within ¼ mile of any occupied building, wildlife viewing platform, picnic area, or developed trailhead.
42. Individuals with permits for these hunts are eligible to purchase restricted nonpermit tags for the corresponding archery turkey population management seasons listed in Commission Order 26.

**Return Your Hunter
Questionnaire –
Your Tag Depends on It!
Submit your response
online or by mail.
[www.azgfd.gov/
huntersurvey](http://www.azgfd.gov/huntersurvey)**

Hunters can Help Monitor Arizona Elk Health – Submit Elk Heads for CWD Testing

Bring the head of your recently harvested elk to any Game and Fish Department office between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m., Monday through Friday (office addresses are listed on page 2). Department personnel will collect a tissue sample for Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) testing. Hunters that are successful in Units 1, 2, 3, 27, and 28 are especially encouraged to submit heads because these units are close to New Mexico, a state with infected deer and elk.

It is best if the head has been kept cool and is submitted within a day of harvest. The head may be placed in a garbage bag for delivery. You will be asked to provide information on approximately where the animal was harvested (within your unit) and where you can be reached (phone number) in case the test is positive. No CWD has been detected in Arizona's deer or elk to date.

CWD results can be found here:
<http://azgfdservices.com/cwdlogin.aspx>

Keep CWD out of Arizona

To protect Arizona's deer and elk herds from Chronic Wasting Disease, hunters are encouraged to take these voluntary precautions

when hunting deer or elk out-of-state, including:

- Do not bring the brain, intact skull, or spinal column into Arizona. The following elk or deer parts harvested out-of-state are OK to bring back into Arizona:
- Boneless portions of meat, or meat that has been cut and packaged without any portion of the spinal column;
- Clean hides and capes with no skull or soft tissue attached;
- Antlers, clean skull plates or skulls with antlers attached with no meat or soft tissue remaining;
- Finished taxidermy mounts or products; and,
- Upper canine teeth (buglers, whistlers, ivories) with no meat or tissue attached.

CWD is present in the neighboring states of Utah, Colorado and New Mexico, as well as many other popular hunting destinations for deer and elk. Some states have strict regulations governing carcass movement, so we encourage you to contact the wildlife agency where you travel for any applicable regulations.

Deer Hunts

Draw odds reflect an applicant's chance of receiving their first choice only and are computed without regard to bonus points.

2012 Drawing Odds & Success Rate						
Unit	Hunt Type	Date	Permits Authorized	1st & 2nd Choice	Draw Odds	Hunt Success
GENERAL DEER						
34B	Ant. MD	11/2-11/8	75	244	41	21
34B	Ant. MD	11/16-11/22	75	122	91	20
35A	Ant. WT	11/9-11/15	350	111	109	17
35A	Ant. WT	11/30-12/9	300	172	89	17
35A	Ant. WT	12/18-12/31	40	472	11	47
35A	Ant. WT	10/26-11/1	300	230	95	35
35B	Ant. WT	10/26-11/1	425	319	99	28
35B	Ant. WT	12/18-12/31	40	472	4	54
35B	Ant. WT	11/9-11/15	425	328	109	25
35B	Ant. WT	11/30-12/9	350	341	92	20
36A	Ant. WT	10/26-11/1	450	314	95	26
36A	Ant. WT	11/9-11/15	500	244	109	25
36A	Ant. WT	11/30-12/9	400	218	95	25
36A	Ant. WT	12/14-12/31	40	448	10	20
36A (jr.)	Antlered	10/12-10/10	50	183	37	48
36A	Ant. MD	11/18-11/22	325	589	89	16
36A	Ant. MD	11/2-11/8	300	770	53	21
36A (jr.)	Antlered	11/23-11/20	150	145	95	27
36B	Ant. WT	11/30-12/9	750	393	109	22
36B (jr.)	Antlered	11/23-11/20	125	96	109	20
36B	Ant. WT	11/9-11/15	800	499	94	22
36B	Ant. WT	12/14-12/31	40	658	8	81
36B	Ant. WT	10/26-11/1	800	611	87	32
36B	Ant. MD	11/2-11/8	150	533	45	24
36B	Ant. MD	11/16-11/22	150	265	90	20
36C	Ant. WT	11/30-12/9	175	216	82	27
36C	Ant. WT	10/26-11/1	175	187	100	43
36C	Ant. MD	11/2-11/8	180	261	52	27
36C	Ant. MD	11/18-11/22	180	287	80	21
36C	Ant. WT	11/9-11/15	175	171	90	27
36C	Ant. WT	12/14-12/31	175	672	19	42
37A	Ant. MD	11/16-11/22	75	271	49	31
37A	Ant. MD	11/2-11/8	75	317	33	35
37B	Antlered	11/18-11/22	450	1884	70	19
37B	Antlered	11/2-11/8	450	1466	50	10
39/40	Antlered	10/26-11/1	150	686	35	15
39/40	Antlered	11/2-11/8	200	573	70	14
41	Antlered	11/2-11/11	500	1216	50	16
42 (jr.)	Antlered	11/23-12/2	75	138	92	24
42	Antlered	11/2-11/11	250	727	59	10
43/44	Antlered	11/2-11/11	500	1104	65	10
45	Antlered	11/2-11/11	275	586	70	20
MUZZLE LOADER						
38	Antlered	10/26-11/4	180	233	48	18
38	Antlered	11/9-11/15	275	344	94	23
12A East	Antlered	10/26-11/4	50	518	4	42
15	Antlered	10/26-11/1	200	234	109	32
15 (jr.)	Antlered	11/23-12/2	20	45	14	53
16A (jr.)	Antlered	12/21-12/31	25	83	39	65
26B	Antlered	10/26-11/1	150	93	109	15
33	Antlered	11/16-11/22	200	75	109	11
34A	Antlered	11/16-11/22	75	83	90	13
35	Antlered	12/14-12/31	50	276	21	60
35	Antlered	11/2-11/8	50	94	86	14
39/40/41/42	Antlered	12/14-12/31	50	602	10	25
ARCHERY						
3A/3C	Antlered	8/24-9/13	200	266	91	14
12A/12B	Antlered	8/24-9/13	700	1255	60	17
13A	Antlered	8/24-9/13	30	571	8	54
13B	Antlered	8/24-9/13	25	525	6	40

Jr. = Juniors-only hunt

Hunters can Help Monitor Arizona Deer Health – Submit Deer Heads for CWD Testing

Bring the head of your recently harvested deer to any Game and Fish Department office between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m., Monday through Friday (office addresses are listed on page 2). Department personnel will collect a tissue sample for Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) testing. Hunters that are successful in Units 1, 2, 3, 27, 28, 29 and 30A are especially encouraged to submit heads because these units are close to New Mexico, a state with infected deer and elk.

It is best if the head has been kept cool and is submitted within a day of harvest. The head may be placed in a garbage bag for delivery. You will be asked to provide information on approximately where the animal was harvested (within your unit) and where you can be reached (phone number) in case the test is positive. No CWD has been detected in Arizona's deer or elk to date.

CWD results can be found here:
<http://azgfdeservices.com/cwdlogin.aspx>

Keep CWD out of Arizona

To protect Arizona's deer and elk herds from Chronic Wasting Disease, new regulations have been placed on movement of animal parts into the state.

Effective July 1, 2013, hunters are required to take these precautions when hunting deer or elk out-of-state:

- Do not bring the brain, intact skull, or spinal column into Arizona.

The following elk or deer parts harvested out-of-state are OK to bring back into Arizona:

- Boneless portions of meat, or meat that has been cut and packaged;
- Clean hides and capes with no skull or soft tissue attached;
- Antlers, clean skull plates or skulls with antlers attached with no meat or soft tissue remaining;
- Finished taxidermy mounts or products; and
- Upper canine teeth (doggers, whistlers, ivories) with no meat or tissue attached.

CWD is present in the neighboring states of Utah, Colorado and New Mexico, as well as many other popular hunting destinations for deer and elk. Some states have strict regulations governing carcass movement, so we encourage you to contact the wildlife agency where you travel for any applicable regulations.

Appendix C. Article posted on the Arizona Game and Fish Department website (8 April 2013) and in Wildlife News (19 April 2013).

From AZGFD.gov

Chronic Wasting Disease not found in Arizona deer and elk

Posted in: **News Media**

By

Apr 8, 2013

The Arizona Game and Fish Department has concluded another sampling season for chronic wasting disease (CWD). The disease was not detected in any of the 1,277 deer and elk tested.

"We are very appreciative of the hunters, taxidermists, and meat processors who provided us with samples this season," said Carrington Knox, wildlife disease biologist. "Collection of samples from hunter-harvested deer and elk is crucial to our efforts to monitor for CWD."

CWD is a neurodegenerative wildlife disease that is fatal to cervids, including deer, elk and moose. Due to the long incubation period, animals may not have any visible signs of the disease in the early stages of infection. In the later stages, changes in behavior and appearance occur. Symptoms may include progressive weight loss, tremors, lack of coordination, excessive salivation and urination, listlessness, abnormal head posture, and drooping ears.

It is a naturally occurring prion disease belonging to a group of diseases called transmissible spongiform encephalopathies (TSEs). Other TSEs are bovine spongiform encephalopathy (mad cow disease) in domestic cattle, scrapie in sheep and goats, and variant Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease (vCJD) in humans. No evidence has been found to indicate that CWD affects humans, according to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control.

CWD was first identified in captive deer in Colorado in 1967 and has since been detected in both captive and wild cervids in 22 states and two Canadian provinces. Currently, it is found in free-ranging cervids in 18 states and two Canadian provinces. Arizona Game and Fish began testing for CWD in 1998 and has to date tested over 17,000 samples. The continued vigilance of hunters is essential for the department's effective surveillance of CWD in deer and elk.

Testing will resume this fall and, as in past hunting seasons, Game and Fish will be asking for hunters' assistance in submitting deer or elk heads for free CWD testing. Heads can be brought to any Game and Fish Department office between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. Monday through Friday. Hunters who are successful in Game Management Units that border Utah or New Mexico are especially encouraged to submit heads. Deer from these areas of the state have the greatest potential for initial detection of CWD.

For more information on CWD, visit www.azgfd.gov/cwd. Information is also available from the Chronic Wasting Disease Alliance at www.cwd-info.org, and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention at www.cdc.gov.

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Appendix D. Article posted on the Arizona Game and Fish Department website and in Wildlife News.

From AZGFD.gov

New rules for bringing hunter-harvested deer and elk into Arizona

Posted in: **News Media**

By

Jul 9, 2013

As part of the efforts to prevent the introduction of chronic wasting disease (CWD) into the state, the Arizona Game and Fish Department has implemented new rules for hunters and other members of the public who wish to bring cervids (deer, elk and moose) harvested from another state into Arizona. The new rules, which are part of the department's amended Article 3 rules that took effect July 1, specify that an individual who lawfully takes a cervid in another state or country may possess, transport, or import into Arizona ONLY the following portions of the animal:

- Boneless portions of meat, or meat that has been cut and packaged;
- Clean hides and capes with no skull or soft tissue attached, except as required for proof of legality;
- Clean skulls with antlers, clean skull plates, or antlers with no meat or soft tissue attached;
- Upper canine teeth with no meat or tissue attached; and
- Finished taxidermy mounts or products.

Hunters and others who plan on bringing any harvested deer, elk or moose back into Arizona should take the following precautions:

- Bone out the meat and package it (either commercially or privately); do not cut into the spinal cord or remove the head; do not quarter (or other method) the carcass with any of the spinal column or head attached.
- Do not bring the brain, intact skull, or spinal cord back into Arizona.
- If you wish to take the antlers attached to the skull plate, thoroughly scrape and clean tissue from the skull plate using a knife or brush and bleach. Thoroughly clean all utensils afterwards with bleach. Sawn-off antlers, with or without velvet, do not need further treatment.
- Animal skins or capes without skull or soft tissue attached do not need any further treatment.
- Upper canine teeth of elk ("ivories") with no meat or tissue attached do not need further treatment.
- Finished, taxidermied heads do not require further treatment.

Chronic wasting disease is a neurological wildlife disease that affects cervids (deer, elk and moose). To date, no evidence has been found to indicate that CWD affects humans but research is continuing, according to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control.

Arizona Game and Fish has been monitoring for the presence of CWD in the state since 1998 and has tested 17,000 samples since that time. Although testing has not found CWD to be present in Arizona, it is in the neighboring states of Utah, New Mexico and Colorado. The new rules are another safeguard to try to keep it out of Arizona.

For more information on CWD, visit www.azgfd.gov/cwd or www.cwd-info.org.

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Appendix E. Letter to area taxidermists and meat processors thanking them for their participation in the 2013/2014 sampling season.



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DEPUTY DIRECTOR
TYE GRAY



July 22, 2013

Dear *Name of Business*,

I would like to thank you again for your participation in the Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) Surveillance Program for the 2012/2013 collection season. We really appreciate the time and effort that you put forth in sample collection and are hoping to receive your collaboration again during the 2013/2014 collection season. We know that many of you are concerned about the change to Arizona Game and Fish Commission Rule R12-4-305 which allows the importation of the following portions of cervids legally harvested in another state: boneless meat, packaged meat, cleaned hides and capes, cleaned skulls or skull plates free of tissue, antlers, finished taxidermy mounts or products, and upper canine teeth free of tissue. This rule was instituted to prevent the introduction of CWD by hunters bringing in an infected carcass from a positive state, processing it themselves, and then improperly disposing of infected scraps and nervous tissue. We know that your licensed business must meet Arizona Department of Agriculture standards for handling animal waste and that it does not represent a risk for the introduction of disease. Because this is the first year for the rule, we will be focusing on education. Officers will be enforcing the rule in a manner which will have minimal impact on your business. If you do receive a carcass from out of state for processing or mounting, please dispose of the scraps in a licensed and regulated landfill according to the landfill or waste management company's protocols for animal carcasses.

This season we will be simplifying the data collection process. Only crucial hunter information will be required (i.e., hunter name, phone number, hunt and permit numbers, and GMU). The only additional information needed will be species and date of harvest. The new data cards can be attached directly to the head until samples are collected or turned in with the samples if you are collecting the samples yourself.

Arizona Game and Fish Department will continue to place greater emphasis on sample collection from the high and medium risk Game Management Units (GMU). We encourage you to collect samples from all animals received from our areas of high risk and those brought in from other states. We will continue providing reimbursement for your time at \$10/sample and completed data card. As an added incentive, we will pay an additional \$5 for a total of \$15 for each completed data card and corresponding sample collected from an animal harvested outside of Arizona.

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CWD Cooperator
July 22, 2013
Page 2

Please let me know if you are interested in participating in the CWD Surveillance Program during the 2103/2014 season. Feel free to contact me via email or phone if you are willing to participate this coming season and if you have any questions or comments concerning the program.

It is only with the assistance of businesses like yours that we will be able to successfully achieve this program's goals. Thank you again for your support of the CWD Surveillance Program and helping to verify that Arizona remains CWD free.

Sincerely,

Carrington Knox
Wildlife Disease Biologist
Arizona Game and Fish Department
cknox@azgfd.gov
Office: 623-236-7674
Cell: 602-568-5363

Appendix F. New CWD head tag used during the 2013/2014 Sample Collection Season. The bottom perforated section was torn off and given to the hunter to retrieve CWD test results online.



Arizona Game and Fish Department

Chronic Wasting Disease Surveillance

Hunt Information
 GMU: _____ Hunt #: _____
 Harvest Date: _____ Permit #: _____

Hunter Information
 Name: _____
First Last
 Phone Number: () _____

Animal Information

Species	Age	Sex
<input type="checkbox"/> Mule Deer	<input type="checkbox"/> Juvenile (<1.5 years)	<input type="checkbox"/> Male
<input type="checkbox"/> Elk	<input type="checkbox"/> Sub-adult (1.5 to 2.5 years)	<input type="checkbox"/> Female
<input type="checkbox"/> WT Deer	<input type="checkbox"/> Adult	

Write age in years

<u>Surveillance Method</u>	<u>Collector</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> Hunter Harvested	Business: _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Roadkill	Name: _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Found Dead	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Targeted	_____


1000000

Head Tag Identification Number


1000000



Arizona Game and Fish Department

Chronic Wasting Disease Surveillance

Sample Collection
 Date: _____
 Check if sampled by head collector
 Business: _____
 Name: _____

Sample Collected

<input type="checkbox"/> RPLN
<input type="checkbox"/> SMLN
<input type="checkbox"/> PLN
<input type="checkbox"/> Tonsil
<input type="checkbox"/> Obex

Place CWD Sample ID Sticker Here

Comments

Chronic wasting disease test results can be found online at
 <<http://azgfdeservices.com/cwdlogin.aspx>>.

Enter the Head Tag Identification Number to view results.
 Please allow several weeks after sample collection for results to be available online.

More information about CWD can be found at <www.azgfd.gov/cwd>.

Appendix G. Letter to area taxidermist concerning R12-4-305 and asking for CWD sample collection.



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DEPUTY DIRECTOR
TY E. GRAY



August 26, 2013

Dear Licensed Taxidermist,

We know that you may be concerned about the change to Arizona Game and Fish Commission Rule R12-4-305 which allows the importation of only the following portions of cervids legally harvested in another state: boneless meat, packaged meat, cleaned hides and capes, cleaned skulls or skull plates free of tissue, antlers, finished taxidermy mounts or products, and upper canine teeth free of tissue. This rule was instituted to prevent the introduction of CWD into Arizona by hunters bringing in an infected carcass from a positive state, processing it themselves, and then improperly disposing of infected scraps and nervous tissue. We know that your licensed business must meet Arizona Department of Agriculture standards for handling animal waste and that animals processed by you do not represent a risk for the introduction of disease. If you do receive a carcass from out of state for processing or mounting, please dispose of the scraps in a licensed and regulated landfill according to the landfill or waste management company's protocols for animal waste.

Because this is the first year for the rule, we will be focusing on education. Officers will be enforcing the rule in a manner that will have minimal impact on your business, and hunters will be allowed to bring carcasses directly to you for processing or mounting. The language developed in R-12-4-305 was very specific for enforcement purposes. If the educational approach doesn't promote the desired level of voluntary compliance stricter enforcement action may be required in the future.

The Department recognizes that natural animal movement could result in the introduction of CWD and we conduct surveillance for CWD during the hunts every year. Department personnel collect samples at check stations, at regional offices, and in the field when contacting hunters. We have also asked taxidermists and game meat processors to provide assistance on a voluntary basis. We provide reimbursement for their time at a rate of \$10 per sample and completed data card. As an added incentive, we will pay an additional \$5 for a total of \$15 for each completed data card and corresponding sample collected from an animal harvested outside of Arizona. We encourage collection of samples from all animals received from our areas of high risk (see

AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY REASONABLE ACCOMMODATIONS AGENCY

Taxidermist or game meat processor
August 26, 2013
Page 2

attached map or if the hunter requests testing. Please let us know if you are interested in participating in the CWD Surveillance Program during the 2103/2014 season by contacting Carrington Knox, Wildlife Health Biologist at cknox@azgfd.gov or 623-236-7674.

If you have any questions regarding the changes to R12-4-305, please call or send me an email.

Sincerely,



Anne Justice-Allen
Wildlife Health Specialist
Arizona Game and Fish Department
ajustice-allen@azgfd.gov
623-236-7351

Appendix H. Letter to area meat processors concerning R12-4-305 and asking for CWD sample collection.



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DIRECTOR
LARRY D. VOYLES
DEPUTY DIRECTOR
TY E. GRAY



August 26, 2013

Dear Game Meat Processor,

We know that you may be concerned about the change to Arizona Game and Fish Commission Rule R12-4-305 which allows the importation of only the following portions of cervids legally harvested in another state: boneless meat, packaged meat, cleaned hides and capes, cleaned skulls or skull plates free of tissue, antlers, finished taxidermy mounts or products, and upper canine teeth free of tissue. This rule was instituted to prevent the introduction of CWD into Arizona by hunters bringing in an infected carcass from a positive state, processing it themselves, and then improperly disposing of infected scraps and nervous tissue. We know that your licensed business must meet Arizona Department of Agriculture standards for handling animal waste and that animals processed by you do not represent a risk for the introduction of disease. If you do receive a carcass from out of state for processing or mounting, please dispose of the scraps in a licensed and regulated landfill according to the landfill or waste management company's protocols for animal waste.

Because this is the first year for the rule, we will be focusing on education. Officers will be enforcing the rule in a manner that will have minimal impact on your business, and hunters will be allowed to bring carcasses directly to you for processing or mounting. The language developed in R-12-4-305 was very specific for enforcement purposes. If the educational approach doesn't promote the desired level of voluntary compliance stricter enforcement action may be required in the future.

The Department recognizes that natural animal movement could result in the introduction of CWD and we conduct surveillance for CWD during the hunts every year. Department personnel collect samples at check stations, at regional offices, and in the field when contacting hunters. We have also asked taxidermists and game meat processors to provide assistance on a voluntary basis. We provide reimbursement for their time at a rate of \$10 per sample and completed data card. As an added incentive, we will pay an additional \$5 for a total of \$15 for each completed data card and corresponding sample collected from an animal harvested outside of Arizona. We encourage collection of samples from all animals received from our areas of high risk (see

AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY REASONABLE ACCOMMODATIONS AGENCY

Taxidermist or game meat processor
August 26, 2013
Page 2

attached map or if the hunter requests testing. Please let us know if you are interested in participating in the CWD Surveillance Program during the 2103/2014 season by contacting Carrington Knox, Wildlife Health Biologist at cknox@azgfd.gov or 623-236-7674.

If you have any questions regarding the changes to R12-4-305, please call or send me an email.

Sincerely,



Anne Justice-Allen
Wildlife Health Specialist
Arizona Game and Fish Department
ajustice-allen@azgfd.gov
623-236-7351



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DEPUTY DIRECTOR
TY E. GRAY



September 3, 2013

Dear Taxidermist or Game Meat Processor,

We know that you may be concerned about the change to Arizona Game and Fish Commission Rule R12-4-305 which allows the importation of only the following portions of cervids legally harvested in another state:

- boneless meat,
- packaged meat,
- cleaned hides and capes,
- cleaned skulls or skull plates free of tissue,
- antlers,
- finished taxidermy mounts or products,
- upper canine teeth free of tissue.

This rule was instituted to prevent the introduction of CWD into Arizona by hunters bringing in an infected carcass from a positive state, processing it themselves, and then improperly disposing of infected scraps and nervous tissue. We know that your licensed business must meet Arizona Department of Agriculture standards for handling animal waste and that animals processed by you do not represent a risk for the introduction of disease.

Because this is the first year for the rule, we will be focusing on education. Officers will be enforcing the rule in a manner that will have minimal impact on your business, and hunters will be allowed to bring carcasses directly to you for processing or mounting. If you do receive a carcass from out of state for processing or mounting, please dispose of the scraps in a licensed and regulated landfill according to the landfill or waste management company's protocols for animal waste.

The Department recognizes that natural animal movement could result in the introduction of CWD and we conduct surveillance for CWD during the hunts every year. Department personnel collect samples at check stations, at regional offices, and in the field when contacting hunters. We have also asked taxidermists and game meat processors to provide assistance on a voluntary basis. We provide reimbursement for their time at a rate of \$10 per sample and completed data card. As an added incentive, we will pay an additional \$5 for a total of \$15 for each completed data card and corresponding sample collected from an animal harvested outside of Arizona. We encourage collection of samples from all animals received from our areas of high risk (see

Taxidermist or game meat processor
September 3, 2013
Page 2

attached map or if the hunter requests testing. Please let us know if you are interested in participating in the CWD Surveillance Program during the 2103/2014 season by contacting Carrington Knox, Wildlife Health Biologist at cknox@azgfd.gov or 623-236-7674.

If you have any questions regarding the changes to R12-4-305, please call or send me an email.

Sincerely,



Anne Justice-Allen
Wildlife Health Specialist
Arizona Game and Fish Department
ajustice-allen@azgfd.gov
623-236-7351



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LARRY D. VOILES
DEPUTY DIRECTOR
TY E. GRAY



September 9, 2013

Dear Taxidermist or Game Meat Processor,

As a follow up to our earlier letter about the change to Arizona Game and Fish Commission Rule R12-4-305 which allows the importation of only the following portions of cervids legally harvested in another state:

- boneless meat,
- packaged meat,
- cleaned hides and capes,
- cleaned skulls or skull plates free of tissue,
- antlers,
- finished taxidermy mounts or products,
- upper canine teeth free of tissue.

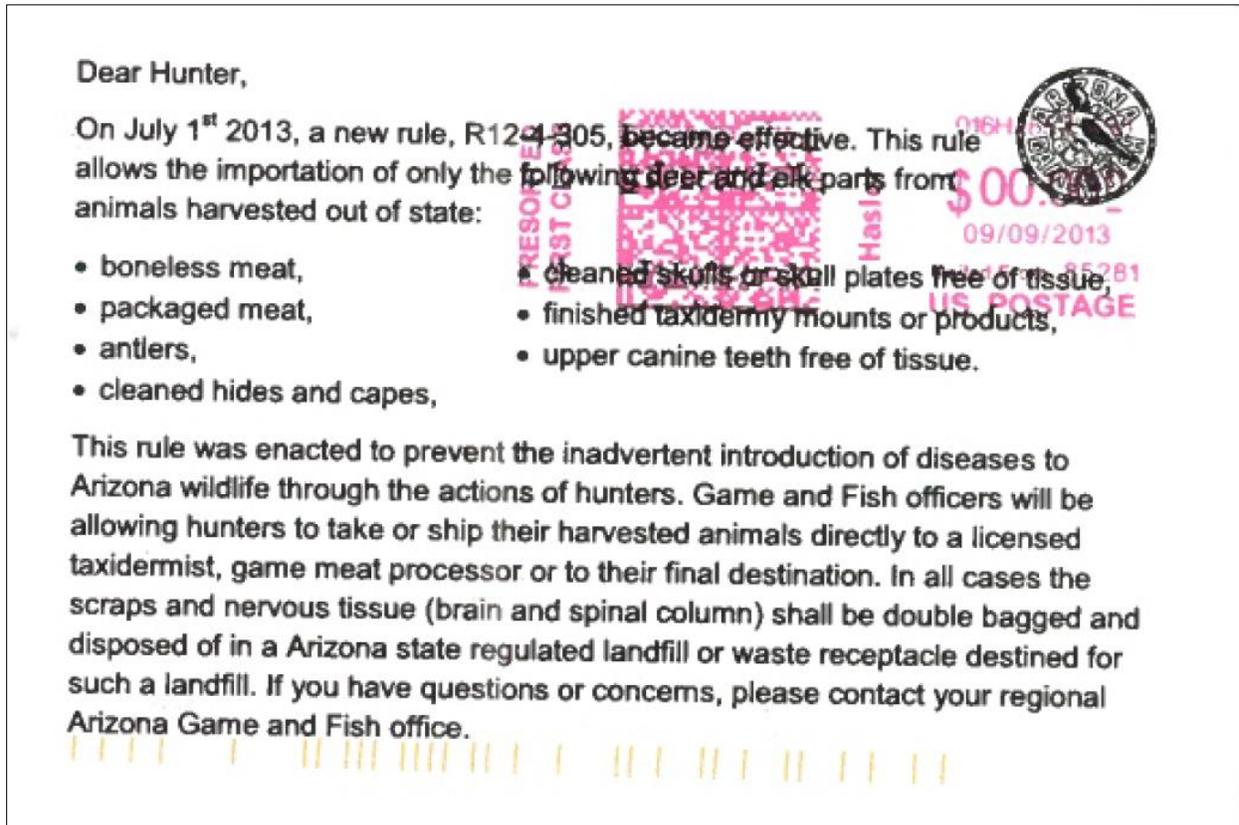
This rule was instituted to prevent the introduction of CWD into Arizona by hunters bringing in an infected carcass from a positive state, processing it themselves, and then improperly disposing of infected scraps and nervous tissue. If you do receive a carcass from out of state for processing or mounting, please dispose of all of the scraps in a licensed and regulated landfill according to the landfill or waste management company's protocols for animal waste. At a minimum, all materials should be double bagged before submitting them to the landfill or a waste management company for pickup. To facilitate proper disposal of potentially infected animal waste, we are providing you with a list of Arizona Department of Environmental Quality solid waste disposal sites.

If you have any questions regarding the changes to R12-4-305, please call or send me an email.

Sincerely,

Anne Justice-Allen
Wildlife Health Specialist
Arizona Game and Fish Department
ajustice-allen@azgfd.gov
623-236-7351

Appendix K. Postcard mailed to Arizona residents with tags in New Mexico (n = 387), Arizona residents with tags in Utah (n = 414), and outfitters that hunt in New Mexico and Utah (n = 245).



Appendix L. Article posted on the Arizona Game and Fish Department website and in Wildlife News.

Hunters, meat processors and taxidermists: New rule for importing deer and elk harvested out of state to Arizona is now in effect

Posted in: **News Media**

By

Sep 24, 2013

A new rule went into effect this summer regulating the importation of hunter-harvested deer and elk to Arizona from out of state. It was adopted to prevent the inadvertent introduction of chronic wasting disease and other diseases to Arizona wildlife through the actions of hunters bringing their harvested deer or elk into the state. The rule is part of the department's amended Article 3 rules which recently went into effect.

Under the new rule, only the following animal parts of deer and elk taken out of state may now be brought into Arizona:

- Boneless meat
- Packaged meat
- Antlers
- Cleaned hides and capes
- Cleaned skulls or skull plates free of tissue
- Finished taxidermy mounts or products
- Upper canine teeth free of tissue

Because this is the first year the rule is in effect, some hunters, meat processors and taxidermists may encounter challenges. Initially, Arizona Game and Fish officers will focus primarily on education efforts.

Hunters entering Arizona with lawfully harvested deer or elk from another state will be allowed to take or ship them directly to a licensed taxidermist, or game meat processor. In every case, the scraps and nervous tissue (including brain and spinal column) must always be double-bagged and disposed of in an Arizona state-regulated landfill, or a waste receptacle designated for such a landfill. These landfills operate under the strict regulations of the Arizona Department of Environmental Quality, assuring that the potential for prion-contamination of the soil or water supply is eliminated.

The new rule is expected to have minimal impact on most Arizona meat processors and taxidermists, and hunters returning to Arizona with harvested animals to these types of businesses. Most processors receive only small quantities of meat from out of state, according to a recent survey. The involvement of taxidermist and meat processing businesses that handle imported nonresident cervids (deer and elk) diminishes substantially as the distance from the state border decreases.

Chronic wasting disease is a neurological wildlife disease that affects cervids (deer, elk and moose). To date, no evidence has been found to indicate that CWD affects humans but research is ongoing, according to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control.

The Arizona Game and Fish Department has been monitoring for the presence of CWD in the state since 1998 and has tested 17,000 samples since that time. Although testing has not found CWD to be present in Arizona, it has been found in the neighboring states of Utah, New Mexico and Colorado. Arizona's new rules are an additional safeguard to keep the disease out of Arizona.

For more information on CWD, visit www.azgfd.gov/cwd or www.cwd-info.org.

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Appendix M. Article posted on the Arizona Game and Fish Department website and in Wildlife News.

From AZGFD.gov

Wildlife News - Oct. 4, 2013

Posted in: **Wildlife News**

By

Oct 4, 2013

New rule for importing deer and elk harvested out of state into Arizona is now in effect

A new rule went into effect this summer regulating the importation of hunter-harvested deer and elk to Arizona from out of state. It was adopted to prevent the inadvertent introduction of chronic wasting disease and other diseases to Arizona wildlife through the actions of hunters bringing their harvested deer or elk into the state. The rule is part of the department's amended Article 3 rules which recently went into effect.

Under the new rule, only the following animal parts of deer and elk taken out of state may now be brought into Arizona:

- Boneless meat
- Packaged meat
- Antlers
- Cleaned hides and capes
- Cleaned skulls or skull plates free of tissue
- Finished taxidermy mounts or products
- Upper canine teeth free of tissue

Because this is the first year the rule is in effect, some hunters, meat processors and taxidermists may encounter challenges. Initially, Arizona Game and Fish officers will focus primarily on education efforts.

Hunters entering Arizona with lawfully harvested deer or elk from another state will be allowed to take or ship them directly to a licensed taxidermist, or game meat processor. In every case, the scraps and nervous tissue (including brain and spinal column) must always be double-bagged and disposed of in an Arizona state-regulated landfill, or a waste receptacle designated for such a landfill. These landfills operate under the strict regulations of the Arizona Department of Environmental Quality, assuring that the potential for prion-contamination of the soil or water supply is eliminated.

The new rule is expected to have minimal impact on most Arizona meat processors and taxidermists, and hunters returning to Arizona with harvested animals to these types of businesses. Most processors receive only small quantities of meat from out of state, according to a recent survey. The involvement of taxidermist and meat processing businesses that handle imported nonresident cervids (deer and elk) diminishes substantially as the distance from the state border decreases.

Chronic wasting disease is a neurological wildlife disease that affects cervids (deer, elk and moose). To date, no evidence has been found to indicate that CWD affects humans but research is ongoing, according to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control.

The Arizona Game and Fish Department has been monitoring for the presence of CWD in the state since 1998 and has tested 17,000 samples since that time. Although testing has not found CWD to be present in Arizona, it has been found in the neighboring states of Utah, New Mexico and Colorado. Arizona's new rules are an additional safeguard to keep the disease out of Arizona.

For more information on CWD, visit www.azgfd.gov/cwd or www.cwd-info.org.

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Appendix N. Example of letter handed out to hunters in FOR1 and FOR5 during 11 separate deer and elk hunts.



ARIZONA GAME AND FISH DEPARTMENT

CHRONIC WASTING DISEASE SURVEILLANCE

If you are successful in harvesting an elk we are looking for your help. As part of the Department's on-going Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) Surveillance Program, we will be working in the field this weekend contacting hunters. If you successfully harvest an elk, we would like to take a sample to test for CWD.

While CWD has not yet been found in Arizona it is present in the neighboring states of Utah, Colorado and New Mexico. This makes your help with monitoring extremely important.

If you harvest a deer please contact me at 602-568-5363. We will be working in the area until the 18th and are able to meet you at any location most convenient for you.

You can also go to any of the Regional offices for sample collection.

- Region 1: 928-367-4281
- Region 2: 928-774-5045
- Region 5: 520-628-5376
- Region 6: 480-981-9400

CWD is a neurodegenerative wildlife disease that is fatal to cervids, which include deer, elk and moose. Clinical symptoms include loss of body weight or emaciation, excessive salivation, increased drinking and urination, stumbling, trembling, and behavioral changes such as listlessness, lowering of the head, and repetitive walking in set patterns. CWD is fatal to deer and elk; however, there is no evidence that it poses a risk to humans, according to both the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the World Health Organization.

Here are some guidelines when out in the field:

- Don't harvest any animal that appears to be sick or behaves oddly. Call the Arizona Game and Fish Department at 1-800-352-0700 if you see an animal that is very thin, has a rough coat, drooping ears and is unafraid of humans.
- When field-dressing game, wear rubber gloves and minimize the use of a bone saw to cut through the brain or spinal cord (backbone). Minimize contact with and do not consume brain or spinal cord tissues, eyes, spleen, or lymph nodes.
- Always wash hands thoroughly after dressing and processing game meat.

For more information about chronic wasting disease, visit www.azgfd.gov/cwd or www.cwd-info.org

If you submit a sample for testing, results are available online at www.azgfd.gov/cwd, by clicking the "Chronic Wasting Disease Test Results" link on the right side of the page.

Thank you,

Carrington Knox
Arizona Game and Fish Department
www.azgfd.gov
602-568-5363

Appendix O. Article posted on the Arizona Game and Fish Department website and in Wildlife News.

From AZGFD.gov

CWD test results are becoming available

Posted in: **News Media**

By

Nov 26, 2013

PHOENIX – The veterinary diagnostic laboratory recently notified the Arizona Game and Fish Department that testing supplies had been back-ordered and results were pending for Chronic Wasting Disease samples. Those test results are now becoming available and are being posted online. Results of CWD sample tests are being posted as they become available at [**www.azgfd.gov/cwd**](http://www.azgfd.gov/cwd) (click on the “Chronic Wasting Disease Test Results” link on the right side of the page).

For more information about chronic wasting disease, visit [**www.azgfd.gov/cwd**](http://www.azgfd.gov/cwd) or [**www.cwd-info.org**](http://www.cwd-info.org).

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Appendix P. Letter to area taxidermists and meat processors thanking them for their participation in the 2013/2014 sampling season and a certificate of appreciation.



THE STATE OF ARIZONA
GAME AND FISH DEPARTMENT

5000 W. CAREFREE HIGHWAY
PHOENIX, AZ 85086-5000
(602) 942-3000 • WWW.AZGFD.GOV

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JAMES R. ANMONS, YUMA
DIRECTOR
LARRY D. VOYLES
DEPUTY DIRECTOR
TY E. GRAY



April 8, 2014

Dear **Name of Business**:

I would like to thank you for your participation in our Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) Surveillance Program during the 2013/2014 collection season. We have submitted 1,372 deer and elk samples for testing, all of which returned with results indicating no detection of CWD. We are happy to report that Arizona is still a CWD-negative state.

Participating meat processors and taxidermists collected 816 samples this season. These samples accounted for almost 60 percent of the total samples collected throughout the state. The Arizona Game and Fish Department could not obtain adequate statewide surveillance without the assistance of meat processors and taxidermists, for which we are very appreciative.

This year there was a change to Arizona Game and Fish Commission Rule R.12-4-305. The rule was instituted to prevent the introduction of CWD by hunters bringing in an infected carcass from a positive state. This year area taxidermists and meat processors collected 60 samples from elk and deer harvested in states outside of Arizona. We appreciate your help in insuring that samples are collected from these individuals and that animal carcasses are disposed of at a licensed and regulated landfill.

We are pleased to present you with the enclosed certificate of appreciation.

I look forward to working with you again next year and thank you again for your generous support of the CWD Surveillance Program.

Sincerely,

Carrington Knox
Wildlife Health Specialist
Research Branch Chief
Arizona Game and Fish Department
5000 W. Carefree Hwy
Phoenix, AZ 85086
www.azgfd.gov
602.942.3000
602.942.3000

cc: Research Branch Chief
Wildlife Health Specialist

AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY REASONABLE ACCOMMODATIONS AGENCY

ARIZONA GAME AND FISH DEPARTMENT

Certificate of Appreciation



presented to

Name of Business

*For your assistance during
the 2013-2014 Chronic
Wasting Disease Surveillance
Program.*

Carrington Knox, Wildlife Disease Biologist



Dr. Anne Justice-Allen, Wildlife Health Specialist