



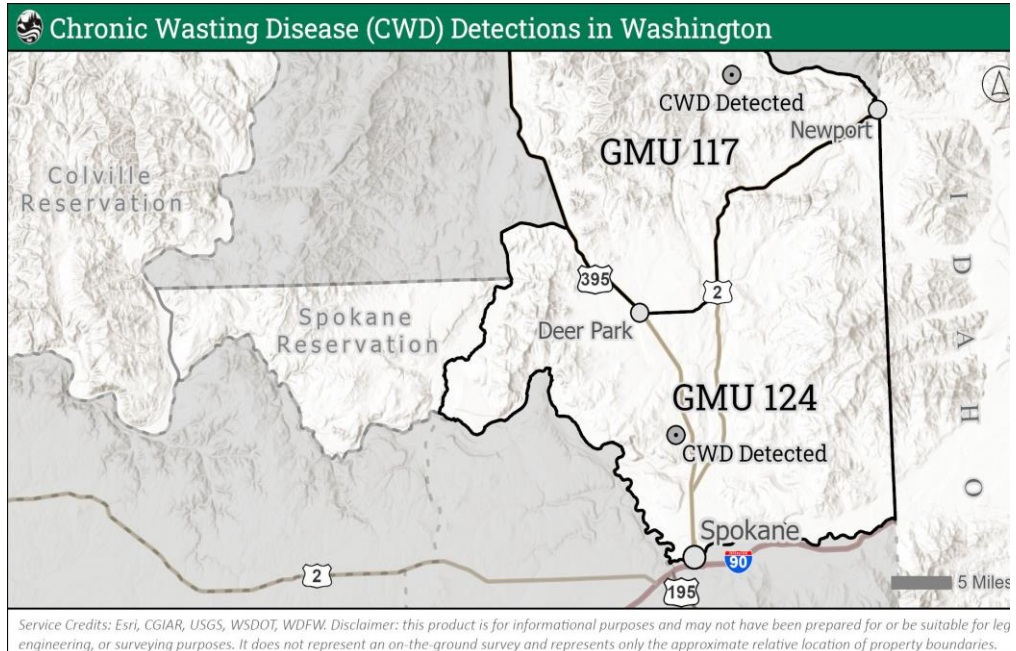
Most animals infected with CWD look healthy until the final stages of the disease. They can still infect other animals despite a lack of visible signs. Photo courtesy of Donald Campbell.

For more information on chronic wasting disease go to wdfw.wa.gov/cwd or scan the QR code.



Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) is in Washington! How you can help prevent its spread

Chronic wasting disease (CWD) was confirmed in white-tailed deer in Spokane County and Pend Oreille counties.



An outbreak of CWD in Washington could severely impact our deer and elk populations, which could in turn impact hunting opportunities, economies that rely on hunting revenue, and ultimately ecosystem health and resilience.

What is CWD?

CWD is a fatal neurologic disease of cervids- deer, elk, moose, and caribou. It is caused by infectious proteins that are transmitted from animal to animal or indirectly through environments. There is no cure for CWD. It can only be confirmed through testing of an animal's lymph nodes or brainstem tissue.

What is being done to stop or slow the spread of CWD?

With CWD confirmed in Washington, **testing for the disease is now required for all harvested or salvaged deer, elk, or moose in the Initial Response Area (IRA; GMUs 124, 127, and 130).** For information on how to have your deer, elk, or moose tested, scan the QR code below or go to wdfw.wa.gov/cwd. A CWD Management Plan is also available on the website that outlines WDFW's response to finding the disease in our state. In addition, WDFW is coordinating with other government agencies, tribes, and meat processors to collect samples to test.



Elk displaying clinical signs of CWD including wide-based stance, emaciation, and drooping ears and head.

Photo by Dr. Melia DeVivo, WDFW.

How can you help?

Make sure to stay up to date on the rules and regulations in the area you are hunting and salvaging animals by checking WDFW's regulations at <https://wdfw.wa.gov/hunting/regulations>. If you hunt or salvage roadkill, **it is mandatory to have your salvaged or harvested deer, elk, or moose tested if it originated from GMUs 124, 127, and 130. To prevent spreading prions that cause CWD, whole carcasses cannot be transported outside of the Transport Restriction Zone (TRZ; 100 series GMUs).** Check the website for information on how to properly transport and dispose of inedible parts. If you are notified by another state or provincial fish and wildlife agency that the animal you have harvested has tested positive for CWD, you have 24 hours to notify WDFW. WDFW will assist with disposal of any meat or parts not consumed. You can find all this information at www.wdfw.wa.gov/cwd

Health and Human Safety

CWD has not been shown to infect people, but research is still ongoing, and it is not known for certain if people can get infected with this disease. While CWD has not been associated with human disease, there is a theoretical risk to people who eat an infected animal. As a precaution, the Washington State Department of Health and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommend that people do not eat any animal that tests positive for CWD or appears to have CWD. WDFW and DOH also advise hunters to:

- Avoid harvesting any animal that appears sick or behaves strangely.
- Wear eye protection and disposable gloves while field dressing game.
- Thoroughly wash hands and equipment after processing carcasses.
- Minimize handling parts where the CWD prions accumulate including brain, spinal cord, eyes, spleen, pancreas, tonsils, and lymph nodes.
- Avoid cutting through bone, brain, or spinal cord.
- Disinfect processing tools by soaking in household bleach (>2% free chlorine) at a 40% solution (with water) for a minimum of 5 minutes. Remove any tissue pieces from tools before soaking and rinse tools after soaking.
- Safely discard inedible parts and any positive meat using one of the recommended methods listed on the WDFW website. Tissues from CWD-positive animals can contaminate the environment and infect other cervids. Do not dispose of infected materials on the landscape or feed to pets.

**If you see cervids that you suspect have
CWD, please report it at
wdfw.wa.gov/sickwildlife**