



Wyoming Game and Fish Department 2015 Chronic Wasting Disease Surveillance February 2016

Overview:

The Wyoming Game and Fish Department (WGFD) 2015 surveillance for chronic wasting disease (CWD) again focused on the western edge of the known endemic area. Sampling efforts were concentrated in the Green River, Jackson, Lander, and Pinedale Regions by utilizing hunter harvest, road-killed, and targeted (those showing signs of the disease) animals. Samples from other areas of the state were collected opportunistically. As in past years, sampling was also conducted in the historic endemic area of the Laramie Range; deer hunt areas (HAs) 59, 64 and 65, as well as elk HAs 6 and 7.

Hunter harvested deer, elk, and moose samples were collected at points of concentration, i.e., meat processors and check stations. Only retropharyngeal lymph nodes were sampled due to their ease of extraction and suitability as a diagnostic tissue. The WGFD used an enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay (ELISA) to analyze lymph node samples. All positive samples were confirmed on the ELISA, followed by additional confirmation with immunohistochemistry at the Wyoming State Veterinary Laboratory. Results were reported to hunters in less than three weeks of sample submission. Hunters could obtain results by accessing the WGFD's website and entering their unique identification number which was assigned when their animal was sampled. Hunters having deer or elk testing positive for CWD were also individually notified by a letter.

2015 Surveillance:

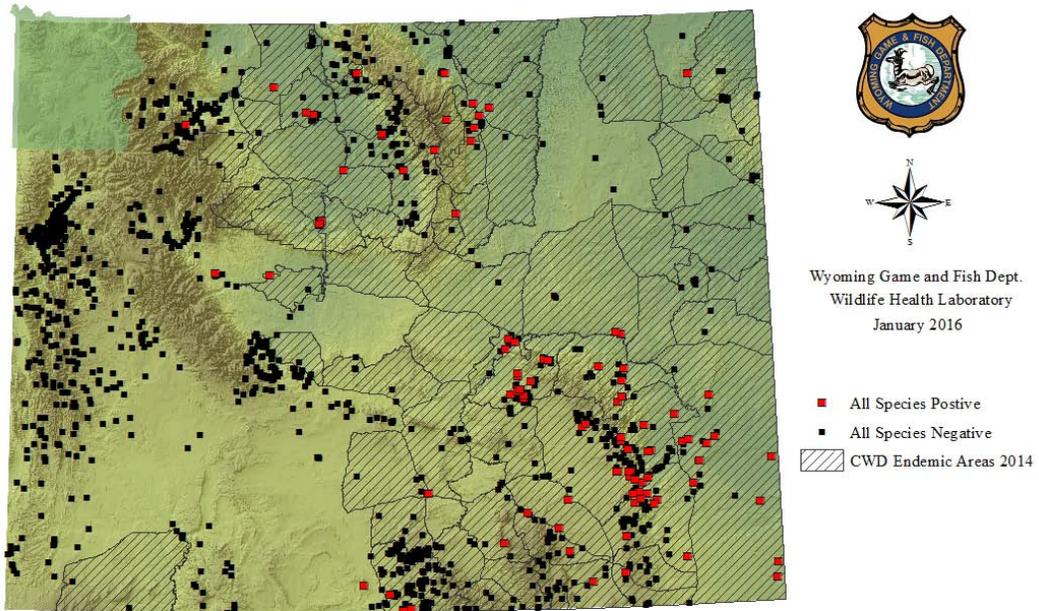
A total of 1,747 deer, elk, and moose samples were analyzed by the WGFD's Wildlife Health Laboratory in Laramie. Of these samples, 98 tested positive for CWD representing 65 mule deer, 12 white-tailed deer, and 21 elk (see table 1). Again in 2015, no moose tested CWD positive. This year's surveillance efforts identified five new deer hunt areas: HA 1 at Devil's Tower National Monument, HA 24 near Sheridan, HA 100 in the Baggs area, HA 112 near Cody, and HA 171 which encompasses most of the Wind River Indian Reservation. Four new elk HAs were also discovered in 2015 including; HAs 11 and 12 in the Snowy Range Mountains, HA 21 near Baggs, and HA 34 on the eastern slope of the Bighorn Mountains (see maps below). Of the 1,747 total samples received, 85% were derived from hunter-killed animals, 8% from targeted and 7% from road-killed deer, elk and moose. It should be noted that the majority of road-killed surveillance occurs outside of the known endemic area for CWD, while targeted animals are submitted from within as well as outside the endemic area.

For complete information on CWD in Wyoming please go to: <https://wgfd.wyo.gov/Wildlife-in-Wyoming/More-Wildlife/Wildlife-Disease/Chronic-Wasting-Disease>

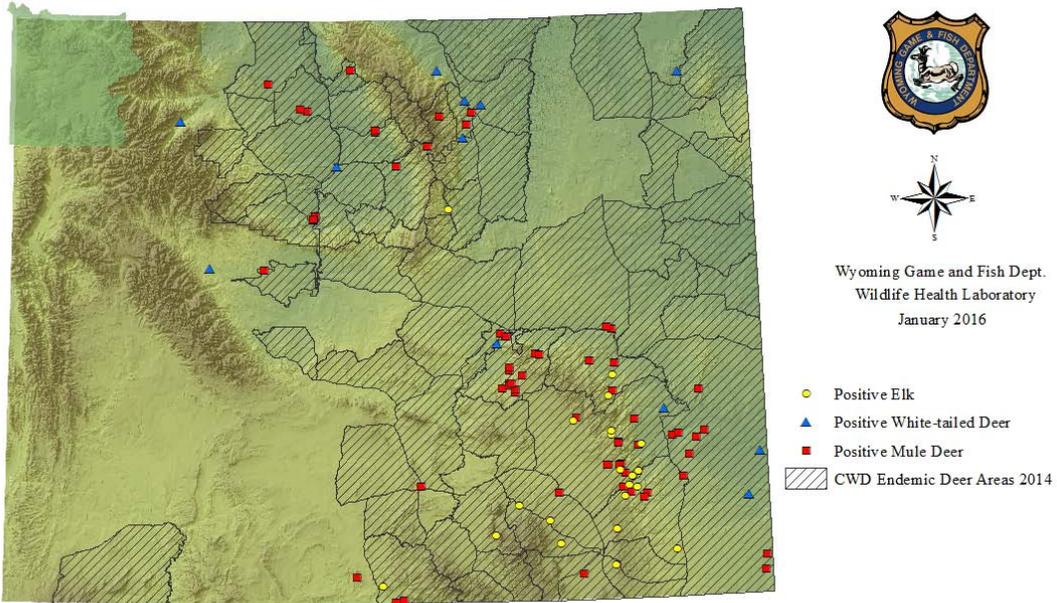
	Mule Deer		White-Tailed Deer		Elk		Moose		Total	
	Total	CWD Pos	Total	CWD Pos	Total	CWD Pos	Total	CWD Pos	Total	CWD Pos
Hunter-kill	788	48	90	3	605	16	5	0	1,488	67
Targeted	62	15	20	8	44	5	14	0	140	28
Road-kill	87	2	4	1	24	0	4	0	119	3
Total	937	65	114	12	673	21	23	0	1,747	98

Table 1. Distribution of samples and proportion of positives according to surveillance category

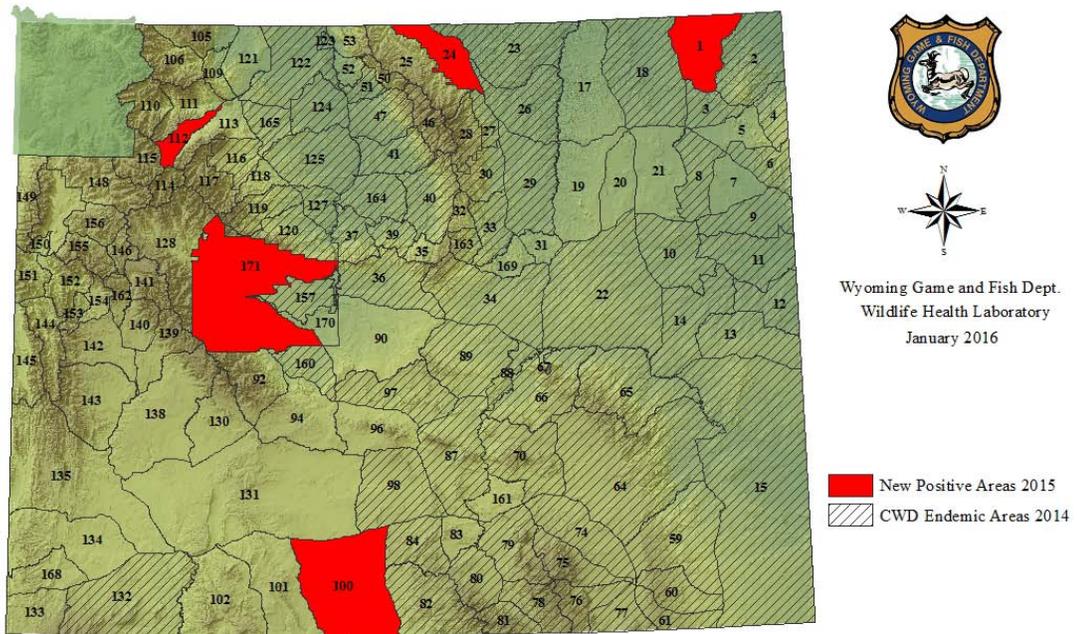
Wyoming Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) 2015 All Species: Positive and Negative



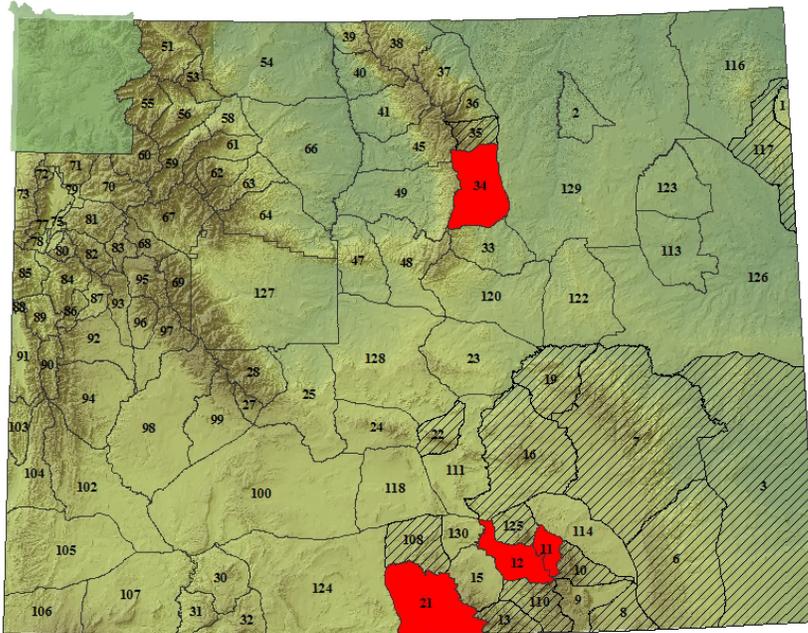
Wyoming Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) 2015 Positive by Species



Wyoming Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) 2015 Surveillance in Deer



Wyoming Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) 2015 Surveillance in Elk



Wyoming Game and Fish Dept.
Wildlife Health Laboratory
January 2016

-  New Positive Areas 2015
-  CWD Endemic Areas 2014