

Wyoming Game and Fish Department Chronic Wasting Disease Activities for 2012

Methods:

The Wyoming Game and Fish Department (WGFD) conducted surveillance for chronic wasting disease (CWD) in 2012 by focusing on the leading edge of the known endemic area. Sampling was concentrated in the Cody, Green River, Jackson, Lander (Dubois), and Pinedale Regions by utilizing hunter harvest, road-killed, and targeted animals. In addition, the historic endemic area (deer hunt areas 62 – 65, elk hunt area 7) was also surveyed in an effort to monitor prevalence levels over time.

Hunter harvested deer and elk 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 are tested twice on the ELISA and then confirmed with immunohistochemistry.

In general, results were reported to hunters in less than three weeks of sample submission. Hunters could obtain results by accessing the Department's web site and entering their unique identification number that was assigned when their animal was sampled. Hunters having deer or elk testing positive for CWD were also individually notified by letter.

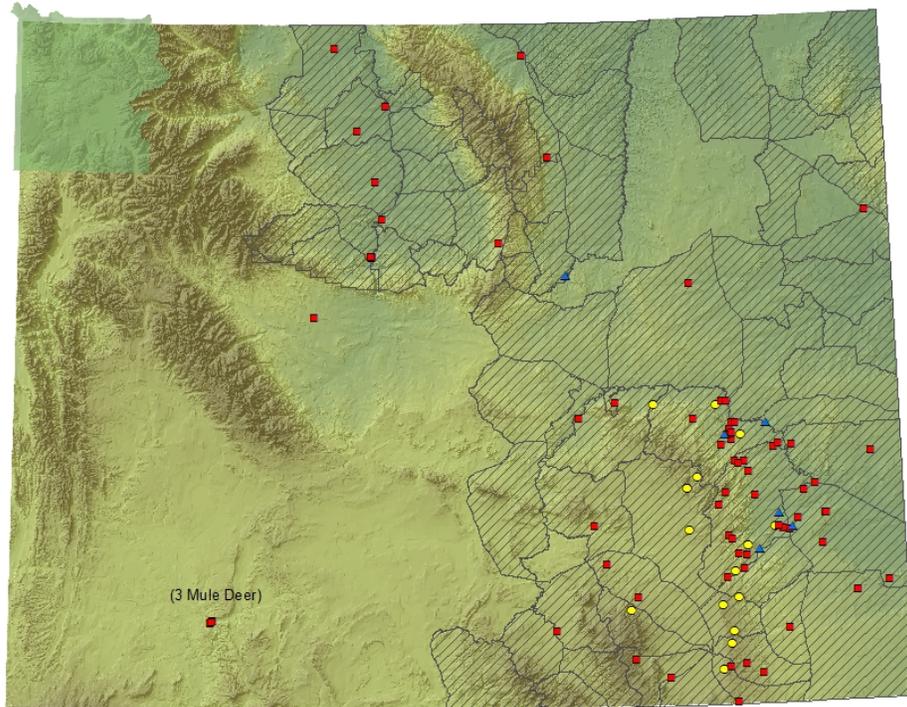
Results:

A total of 2,017 deer, elk, and moose samples were analyzed. Of these samples, 98 tested positive for CWD representing 78 mule deer, 6 white-tailed deer, and 14 elk. New cases of CWD were diagnosed in deer hunt areas 132 and 157, as well as elk hunt area 10. These hunt areas are all bordered by known positive areas or states and are most likely natural extensions of the endemic area.

Other Issues:

As of 2005, the Department incorporated moose into the CWD surveillance program. In 2012, we surveyed 50 hunter-killed, 12 targeted and 19 road-killed moose; all were negative for CWD. This disease has not been identified again in free-ranging moose since the initial case in 2008. For complete information on CWD in Wyoming please go to: <http://wgfd.wyo.gov/web2011/wildlife-1000282.aspx>

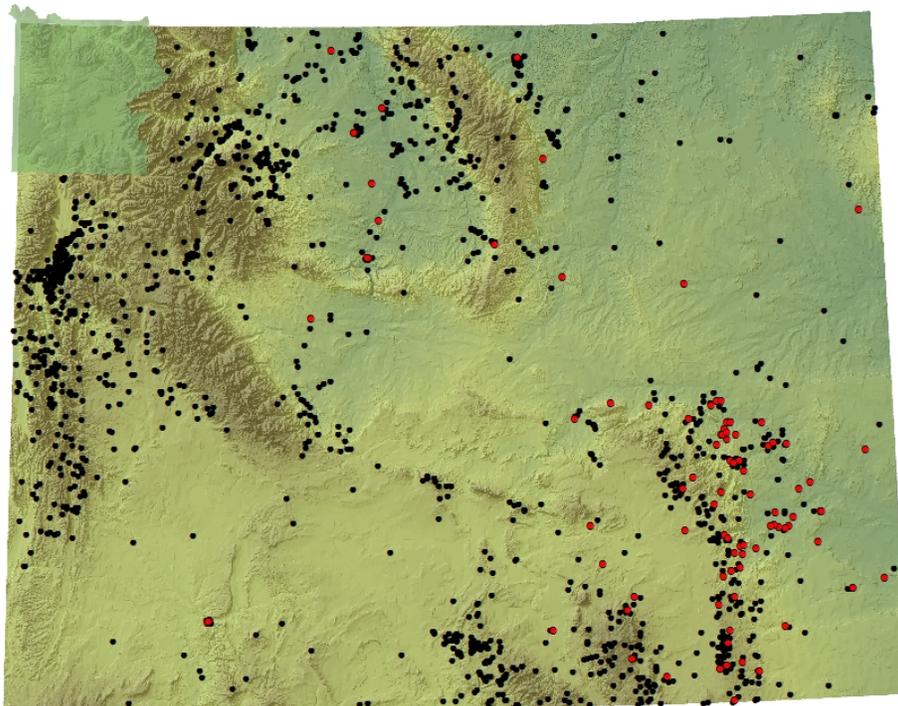
2012 Wyoming Chronic Wasting Disease Surveillance: Positives by Species



Wyoming Game and Fish Dept.
Wildlife Disease Lab
January 2013

- Positive Elk
- Positive Mule Deer
- ▲ Positive White-Tailed Deer
- Endemic Deer Areas

2012 Wyoming Chronic Wasting Disease Surveillance: All Species Positive & Negative



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- All Species Positive
- All Species Negative