



IDAHO FISH AND GAME GOLDSHEET

Date: November 7, 2024

Agenda Item No. 10

Agenda Item: Update on CWD Sampling & Strategy Revision *Bureau Chief Approval: SR*

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Background:

In 2016, IDFG's Wildlife Health Lab conducted a gap analysis on IDFG's Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) sampling and surveillance procedures to assist in the development of a Strategy for Chronic Wasting Disease Prevention, Detection, and Management for Idaho's Wild Cervids (Deer, Elk, and Moose). The gap analysis was completed in December of 2017 and a CWD Strategy Team formed soon after. The team presented the Strategy to the Commission in 2018, with an additional revision in 2021. The 2021 revision was completed before Idaho's first CWD detection in November 2021 (GMU 14). Since 2021, there have been CWD detections in three additional GMUs (Units 1, 18, & 23), each with different timing, species, population demographics, and seasonal habitat use patterns. In mid-2024, wildlife and communication staff were tasked with reviewing and updating the CWD Strategy, considering lessons learned in the previous two and a half years. Staff are in the process of incorporating recently published research on population level impacts, surveillance strategies, management, and a new section focusing on human dimensions in the revision of the Strategy. This informational presentation will overview the anticipated revisions to the Strategy and the planned timeline for its completion.

Statutory Authority and/or Policy Issues:

IDFG, under the direction of the Idaho Fish and Game Commission, is the designated authority for wildlife management in the state and is charged with the mission to preserve, protect, perpetuate, and manage all wildlife for the public interest. Idaho code §§ 36-104(b) and 36-201 (2023), authorize the Commission to adopt rules governing the classification, protection, importation, transportation, possession and sale of wildlife and wildlife parts of captive and free-ranging wildlife, including disease threats like Chronic Wasting Disease (IDAPA 13.01.06, "Rules Governing the Classification and Protection of Wildlife" and 13.01.10, "Rules Governing Importation, Possession, Release, Sale, or Salvage of Wildlife").



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Public Involvement Process:

Public will have the opportunity to comment on this topic at the Commission meeting public hearing. Department staff have also actively engaged the public in locales affected to date by positive CWD tests through a variety of public meeting opportunities.

Justification:

This agenda item is for Commission information on Chronic Wasting Disease and the actions the Department is taking to review and update the CWD Strategy.

Staff Recommendation:

This agenda item is for Commission information only.