

**Meeting Date:** March 16, 2023

**Agenda Item No. 12**

**Agenda Item:** Chronic Wasting Disease Update

**Bureau Chief Approval:** JR

**Prepared by:** Rick Ward, State Wildlife Manager

**Background:**

Samples collected from hunter-harvested deer and elk and other deer and elk found dead in Game Management Unit 14 resulted in 15 deer testing positive for chronic wasting disease (CWD) over the course of the 2022 hunting season. All positive samples were within approximately six miles of lower Slate Creek in Unit 14 in the Clearwater Region. With Commission direction, and in accordance with the *Idaho Department of Fish and Game 2021 Strategy for Chronic Wasting Disease*, Department staff began implementation of a control action in the Slate Creek drainage and adjoining drainages on February 13, 2023. The goal of this action is to reduce deer densities in and around the CWD focal area, thereby reducing the risk of spread.

Staff will present an update and results of the control action, including the total number of animals taken, a breakdown of species and sex, where the animals were taken, and CWD prevalence rate estimates within the control area.

**Statutory Authority and/or Policy Issues:**

Monitoring and management of chronic wasting disease is described in the *Idaho Department of Fish and Game 2021 Strategy for Chronic Wasting Disease*.

IDAPA 13.01.08.350.03 provides the Commission authority by proclamation or emergency hunt order to designate seasons.

**Public Involvement Process:**

N/A

**Justification:**

This agenda item is for Commission information on the status of chronic wasting disease in Idaho.

**Staff Recommendation:**

N/A . This agenda item is for Commission information.

