

Meeting Date: May 11, 2023

Agenda Item No. 9

Agenda Item: CWD Control Action Update
Unit 14 Landowner Appreciation

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 during the 2022 hunting season resulted in 15 deer testing positive for chronic wasting disease (CWD). All positive samples originated from 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 implemented a control action in the Slate Creek drainage and adjoining drainages on February 13 - March 30, 2023. The goal of this action was to reduce density of deer in and around the CWD focal area, thereby reducing the risk of CWD spread.

We removed 524 animals from the control area in Unit 14: 341 white-tailed deer, 175 mule deer, and 8 elk. Of those, 24 white-tailed deer and 3 mule deer tested positive for CWD. Additionally, 39 animals were removed from Unit 18 for sampling purposes and to inform staff on the spread of CWD. No deer or elk taken from Unit 18 tested positive for CWD.

Staff will present additional results of the control action at the meeting, including a breakdown of species and sex, where the animals were taken, and the CWD prevalence rate within the control area.

Staff will also recognize landowners within the control action area whose voluntary contributions to control efforts were invaluable to the success of the effort.

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.