

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Idaho Fish and Game Commission (Commission) and Idaho Department of Fish and Game (IDFG) are responsible for preserving, protecting, perpetuating, and managing Idaho's wildlife, including the continued supply for hunting, fishing, and trapping. Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) is an infectious and fatal disease with potential to negatively impact wild populations of cervids (elk, deer and moose) in Idaho. CWD currently occurs in Wyoming, Montana, and Utah, but IDFG's sampling program has not detected it in Idaho. The Commission has directed IDFG to prioritize reducing CWD impacts in Idaho through prevention, surveillance, and management of CWD should it occur.

A key objective of IDFG's 2015 Strategic Plan provides Commission Direction to "Eliminate the impacts of fish and wildlife disease on populations, livestock, and humans." The 2014 Elk and 2008 Mule Deer Management Plans also include objectives to reduce the potential disease impacts to elk or livestock, thereby maintaining healthy and productive populations.

IDFG's prior CWD plans included monitoring for CWD. Annual CWD surveillance has occurred in Idaho at hunter check stations since 1997, with 15,900 cervids (mule deer, white-tailed deer, elk, and moose) sampled from around the state, with no CWD detections to date.

This 2018 CWD Strategy:

- Incorporates the latest knowledge and practices for CWD detection and management.
- Recommends Commission administrative rule changes and IDFG actions to prevent introduction and spread of CWD in Idaho.
- Provides a framework for a statistically sound surveillance approach to detect CWD if it were present.
- Identifies potential Commission and IDFG actions to reduce the spread of CWD if it is detected in Idaho, based on reducing population density in free-ranging cervids and quarantine/removal at captive facilities.
- Provides a framework for internal and external communications regarding CWD.
- Identifies the roles of other state/federal agencies in addressing the animal health impacts of CWD, as well as responding to CWD-related public health questions and concerns.
- Commits to integrating the latest knowledge, research, and population modeling tools available for effective CWD prevention, detection, and management.

The 2018 CWD Strategy will replace all preceding CWD plans. IDFG will review the Strategy every 5 years or sooner, depending on Idaho's disease status and need.