

### November 19, 2019

Thank you to all of you who have contributed to our CWD sampling efforts! We collected 859 samples last week (11/6 - 11/12/2019) for a season total of 2591 samples since 04/01/2019. We continue to find new CWD suspects/positives, which are illustrated on the maps below. Existing or pending results are publicly available online (fwp.mt.gov/cwd).

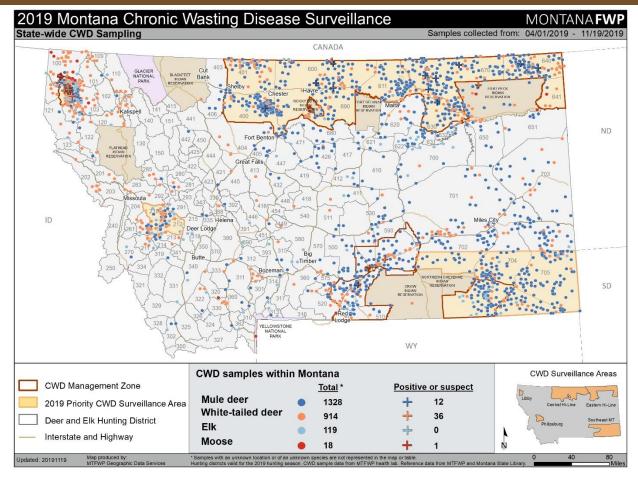
Below is a brief update on where we are with respect to our sampling goals, including maps and figures. We have also included a list of general reminders for those involved in sampling efforts. We will send weekly updates like this one throughout the general hunting season. **These results are considered preliminary.** 

Glen Doubek (227), Julie Herrick (182), Samantha Treece (172), John Randolph (167), Chrissy Webb (140), and Elizabeth Wyatt-Pescador (123) have collected the most samples this season! Thank you so much!

Thanks again, everyone. If anyone needs anything CWD-related, please contact John Thornburg (john.thornburg@mt.gov) or myself (ealmberg@mt.gov).

#### **General Reminders:**

- When removing scalpel blades, please use the orange blade removers.
- Please make sure all information is filled out on the cards at the time of data collection.
- Only send retropharygeal lymph nodes or obex to CSU for testing. They cannot reliably test parotid or submandibular lymph nodes.
- Keep your eye out for enlarged and puss-filled/abscessed lymph nodes. Please consult the 'Sick Animal Flowchart' for what to do with these samples or samples from other sick animals.
- Samples from symptomatic animals are still a state-wide priority.
- Please freeze the cryovials with genetic samples and desiccant.
- Please record "Hunter submitted [Location]" for any sample that a hunter has collected themselves, even if they drop it off at a regional office or check station. For example, "Hunter submitted R3 HQ".



# A. Weighted surveillance points earned across surveillance units

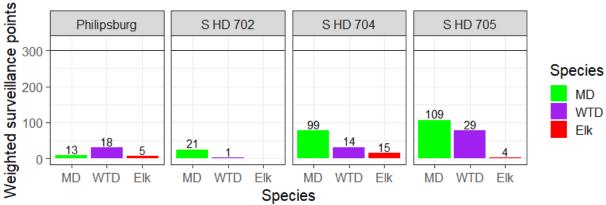


Figure A. Weighted surveillance points earned for mule deer (MD), white-tailed deer (WTD), and elk within each of the four minimum surveillance units, 2019. Under the weighted surveillance framework, different demographic groups (age, sex, or cause of death categories) of a species are assigned different point-values based on their relative risk of being infected and summed to a total point value. Our goal is

to reach 300 weighted surveillance points in mule deer to detect  $\geq$  1% prevalence with 95% confidence. The number of animals sampled is displayed above each bar.

## B. Samples collected within priority monitoring areas

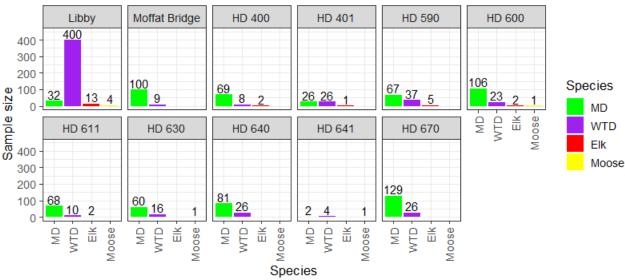


Figure B. Number of mule deer (MD), white-tailed deer (WTD), elk, and moose sampled for CWD testing within the priority monitoring areas around the state since April 1, 2019. "Libby" refers to the Libby CWD Management Zone, "Moffat Bridge" refers to the Moffat Bridge Special CWD Hunt Area, and HD 400 displays samples collected within hunting district 400 but outside of the Moffat Bridge Special Hunt Area. Our goal is to increase sampling across species, age, and sex-groups to improve estimates of prevalence. The sample size is displayed above each bar.

### C. Number of samples collected by collection site

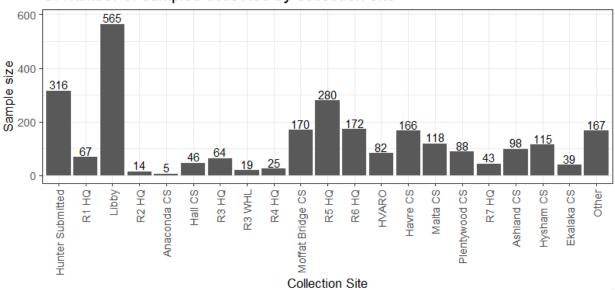


Figure C. Number of samples collected at various sampling locations, or collection sites, around the state. "Hunter submitted" is the number of sampled collected and submitted by hunters. "HQ" and "CS"



stand for headquarters and check station, respectively. "R3 WHL" stands for the Region 3 Wildlife Health Lab. "HVARO" stands for Havre Area Resource Office.

