

## CWD Stakeholder Group Meeting Notes

Location: Governor's Inn Hotel – Pierre, SD

Date: November 28, 2018

Time: 10:00 am – 5:00 pm (central time)

### ATTENDANCE

#### Stakeholders:

Sean Newberg-Quality Deer Management Association (QDMA)- Sioux falls  
Andy Vandel- High Plains Wildlife Association  
Jason Humphrey- SD Department of Transportation (DOT)  
Dr. Russ Daly- Veterinarian, SDSU Diagnostic Laboratory  
Dr. Mendel Miller- Assistant State Veterinarian, Animal Industry Board (AIB)  
Chris Hesla- SD Wildlife Federation  
Dave Eichstadt- Beadle County Sportsmen's Club  
Brad Hand- Landowner, Pierre  
Gary Romey- Landowner, Hot Springs  
Mike Jarding- SD Big Game Coalition, Hot Springs area  
Marshall Johnson; Regional Director Mule Deer Foundation  
Kerry Burns- US Forest Service, Biologist, Custer  
Rob Goodman- Oglala Sioux Parks & Recreation, Biologist, Pine Ridge  
Tom Krafka- Black Hills Sportsman Club; Sportsmen Against Hunger (SAH)  
Derick Wenck- SD Taxidermy Association  
Cody Warne- Landowner, Pierre  
Lane Cammack- SD Elk Breeders Association  
Greg Schroeder- Wind Cave National Park (WICA)  
Ron Fowler- Sportsmen Against Hunger  
Jim Wendte- SD Department Environment and Natural Resources (DENR); Waste Management  
GFP Commission, Jon Locken, Commissioner

**GFP staff:** Chad Switzer, Josh Delger, Trenton Haffley, Andy Lindbloom, Steve Griffin, Andrew Norton, Nathan Baker, Jim McCormick, Joe Keeton, Jacquie Ermer, Ron Skates, Kevin Robling, Secretary Kelly Hepler

#### Via phone:

Charles Rokusek- I29/90 Sportsman Club  
Chuck Blaine- SD Deer Farmers Association  
Chad Lehman-SDGFP

### WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

#### **Chad Switzer- GFP Wildlife Program Administrator**

-Welcome and Introductions; reviewed objectives and why we are all here  
-Chronic wasting disease (CWD) is a priority for the Department and is identified in GFP Strategic Plan.  
-We want input from the group on the Action Plan, outreach and education, regulatory considerations.  
-Reminder a lot of information regarding CWD has been shared and is available to the group via Google Drive site and on GFP's website at <https://gfp.sd.gov/chronic-wasting-disease/>.

Timeline: Switzer passed out tentative timeline: draft plan to public mid-February; ask Commission for adoption of plan for implementation in April of 2019; aggressive timeline; will keep this stakeholder group intact and engaged.

QUESTION: Why April 2019 deadline? If we wait longer, will we get additional data that could help?

ANSWER: This is a Department priority and GFP Executive Team decided on this timeline; we've been monitoring for years and we know we have an issue; we want to focus on slowing the spread; we have information/data to be proactive now.

QUESTION: How long has internal workgroup been working on this?

ANSWER: Staff have been informally working on CWD plan since July of 2018.

Objectives and Outcomes: Switzer went through workgroup objectives and expected outcomes; the group has no regulatory authority; group will help provide suggestions and thoughts regarding CWD Action Plan; notes from this meeting will be shared with Commission and put on website; reminded everyone that there will be differences of opinions today and ask everyone to be respectful of others.

**PRESENTATIONS** (presentations will be sent by PDF's to stakeholders and made available on website):

#### **SD GAME FISH & PARKS**

##### **Andy Lindbloom- GFP Senior Big Game Biologist**

-Overview of disease- prion

-Disease transmission- direct and indirect

-Disease Impacts- high prevalence rates equate to high mortality rates thus impacting population growth as a whole.

-Disease distribution- wild and captive cervids; in SD first documented in 1997 in a captive elk facility; found in wild deer in 2001 and other captives since.

-Summarized surveillance efforts of wild deer and elk

QUESTION: Are animals still infectious when disease is in incubation stage?

ANSWER: Yes.

QUESTION: Are the studies mentioned in the presentation in high prevalence rate areas?

ANSWER: Yes, some were.

QUESTION: What is generating hunter harvest testing? Is the hunter calling a conservation officer?

ANSWER: All elk hunters received a letter requesting CWD sample (voluntary in Black Hills units) and provided a list of drop off locations; testing of deer and elk from Custer State Park was mandatory this year.

QUESTION: How long does it take to get test result?

ANSWER: About a week, providing labs have adequate supply of testing kits and have normal workload.

QUESTION: Is there a difference between male and female prevalence or susceptibility? Males move more so is their prevalence rate higher?

ANSWER: We get more cows turned in so prevalence seems higher; some research has shown buck deer has higher prevalence rate, but current data not as obvious in bull elk.

QUESTION: Is CWD passed on to offspring in utero?

ANSWER: Possibly, but the significance of that method of transmission is not fully known.

### **SD ANIMAL INDUSTRY BOARD**

**Dr. Mendel Miller- Assistant State Veterinarian (Department of Agriculture; SD Animal Industry Board)**

-Described legal authorities of the Animal Industry Board.

-Authority over captive cervids/non-domestic mammals through codified law via legislative process.

-Board approves imports; regulates breeding, housing, etc.- apply for permit, includes animal inventory and inspection of facility; require marking of cervid (official ID and visual ID); must be confined from free-roaming cervids; GFP notified if permittee requesting a large fenced area (must not enclose any wild cervids within fence); different types of permits (e.g., entry, temporary, dealer or auction, possession, zoo).

QUESTION: Can the average sportsman see the identification marker on captive cervid?

ANSWER: Visual ID is usually a cattle tag in the ear.

QUESTION: Is there a provision for double fencing?

ANSWER: No; we evaluate each facility case by case.

### **WIND CAVE NATIONAL PARK (WICA)**

**Greg Schroeder- Chief of Resource Management**

-CWD history at WICA- 2002 first detection; adjacent to original positive captive facility.

-Have been conducting a series of research projects- elk movement and survival rates.

-Adult female elk prevalence rate went from 3% in 2005 to 10% by 2011; very high elk densities within WICA.

-WICA tried reducing elk population via moving some out of park and lethal removal.

-Testing results indicated a prevalence difference within the Park, "East elk" and "West elk"; elk on east side stayed in park; elk on west side moved in/out of park and used more of landscape.

-Currently, 14% prevalence and no elk growth in WICA.

-WICA received funding to continue radio collaring elk for next 3-4years; committed to continue research to maintain prevalence at or below 10%.

-WICA has an aggressive approach to find and detect CWD- actively looking for sick animals, test any dead animal find; remove 100% of any carcass find in field and take to incinerator.

QUESTION: Who does testing for WICA?

ANSWER: Colorado State University.

QUESTION: How long can you wait to pull sample on carcasses?

ANSWER: Couple days in summer, longer in winter; brain stem usually protected in vertebrate.

QUESTION: What are the different samples from in the studies?

ANSWER: Some carcasses from lion kills, 50-60 elk collared per year.

QUESTION: Are there plans to cull elk this winter again?

ANSWER: We plan to do aerial survey this week to get population information, then we'll make a determination if need to cull.

QUESTION: Has anyone tested the soil under a carcass?

ANSWER: Not at WICA, but other states have.

QUESTION: Is the soil different on East and West side of WICA?

ANSWER: Don't know for sure but can look into that.

QUESTION: Is Park high fenced?

ANSWER: Yes on west side; elk movement has been restricted since 2016.

QUESTION: Any plans to remove/test soil?

ANSWER: Not at this time with all the cultural resources; we do remove carcass and high risk parts though.

QUESTION: Are you tracking age of animal?

ANSWER: Yes, we keep track of ages; not necessarily seeing any differences in ages, but also not a large enough sample size to necessarily detect age differences at this time.

QUESTION: What did you learn about reducing prevalence rates in other states?

ANSWER: Michigan has recently found CWD and are trying to reduce population but they don't know effects yet; Wisconsin has reduced populations but prevalence is still increasing, they also have a high deer density in WI compared to SD; Illinois has culled in certain areas and seemed to keep prevalence down in the small area but that still didn't stop the spread; once you have it, you have it, so try to keep prevalence down and limit or reduce the spread of CWD.

QUESTION: I'd like more information about testing and results. I heard that results are either positive or not positive- and not actually negative?

ANSWER: The test actually gives you a number; a color is generated if prions are present; machine reads color change/gradient; testing kit has a cutoff number to determine what is considered positive; no test is 100%.

QUESTION: If two lymph nodes and an obex are submitted, what is actually tested?

ANSWER: The lymph nodes are usually tested first, obex is backup on initial reactor; ELISA test is quicker and picks up positives; gold standard is obex but takes longer to test; material is saved until testing finished/confirmed.

COMMENT by Greg Schroeder: of the 262 elk tested in WICA... not one looked sick at the time.

COMMENT by Ron Skates: thanked Steve Griffin for providing training to tribes, tribes have mixed feelings about testing because some are afraid of what they might find, other tribes want to be aggressive with testing.

QUESTION: What is the possibility of a field test that hunter can use?

ANSWER: Not available at this time; there are rigorous testing standards and requirements.

QUESTION: What is deer population in WICA?

ANSWER: Pretty low in park, ~200 white-tailed deer and ~200 mule deer

Chad Switzer reminded group of the top 2 objectives for Action Plan:

1. Limit spread
2. Outreach and communication

### **CARCASS TRANSPORTATION (INTER & INTRA- STATE)**

**Steve Griffin (GFP Big Game Biologist) and Jim McCormick (GFP Regional Conservation Officer Supervisor)**

Handout- Map of Rules of Interstate Transport of High Risk White-Tailed Deer Carcass Parts

-Question for the group: How do we reduce potential spread to other areas of SD, or to other states?

-Most states currently have regulations about what they accept and don't accept from a state or from a known CWD area; SD does not currently restrict high-risk parts.

QUESTION FOR GROUP: Should SD have transportation restrictions?

*Interstate transportation*- Example would be a harvested deer coming from Colorado and to South Dakota or simply moving through South Dakota.

*Intrastate transportation*- Example would be a harvested deer from Black Hills area (known CWD area) being transported back home to Brookings (not known CWD area).

Comment: We don't know how many prions it takes to cause infection.

Current SD laws: Tagging and transportation rules; we currently have transportation tag that goes on hind leg; Transport rule- animal ID is required; accompanied with tagged leg (any deer/elk), for antlerless need head or sex organ attached to hind quarter.

QUESTION: Where does the material (carcass, gut pile) end up? Taxidermist? In the field? At landfill? Back forty?

QUESTION: Are road kill getting tested?

ANSWER: Not currently; maybe possibility in future; must coordinate with SD Department of Transportation and associated contractors; many coordination challenges to overcome, but not impossible.

QUESTION: What is does it mean to have a clean skull cap?

ANSWER: Must remove tissue, but don't need to boil out.

**QUESTION FOR THE GROUP TO CONSIDER: How practical is it to put restrictions on hunters and what restrictions should we put on?**

### **GROUP DISCUSSION/COMMENTS:**

-There is a lack of CWD knowledge with general hunter; especially those who process animal themselves; where do you dispose of animal? Etc;

-GFP did send an email out to all big game hunters this fall with some information, including disposal; information is available on GFP website;

-Wisconsin has "donate a dumpster" program;

-Approved landfill (interactive map available on GFP website with information available on each landfill)- prion is still there but it stays buried in the landfill- required to have minimal cover every day at landfill;

- Bone-out in field- ok to leave carcass if harvested from a known CWD area, CWD is already there, we are more concerned about bringing high risk parts to areas unknown to have CWD;
- Need to get the word out about how to bone out deer/elk;
- If animal is in very late stages of disease, prion has been found in meat;

QUESTION: So how much trouble is it or what can we expect from hunters? Will we lose hunters? Compliance?

ANSWER: Speculate that we'd probably have a higher non-compliance rate than actually lose hunters. Discussed some of the similarities with aquatic invasive species program and regulations.

QUESTION: How compliant are folks now with AIS (aquatic invasive species)?

ANSWER: Improving with education and law enforcement.

QUESTION: What should a hunter do with "trophy" animals harvested within endemic area? Take directly to Taxidermists? But then process meat themselves?

QUESTION: How does it work if hunters "pass through" state with a carcass.

ANSWER: Hunter must follow SD transportation rules if they hunted in SD, but then have to follow their state of origin rules when bringing carcass back home; burden on hunter to know rules; hopefully all states eventually come together on transportation rules; a lot education and outreach needed; most states have at least "high risk part" restrictions.

QUESTION/DISCUSSION: Why would we want anyone bringing carcass back from a known CWD area? Do we just say no high risk parts regardless if state has CWD (red on map)? Or have restriction only if known CWD state (orange on map)? More confusing for hunter and law enforcement to keep track of known CWD "units" in other states, rather just do whole state; we don't know level of testing by unit in other states or if a state even tests for CWD;

If we went with most restrictive (Red)- what are biggest hurdles? Inconvenience to hunters  
Pros? Easier to keep track of instead of individual units; unintentional spread.

Cons? Could lose hunters, inconvenience, meat processors/taxidermists may lose business.

QUESTION/IDEA: For intrastate transportation- what if we just say no transporting high risk parts of deer that was harvested west river to east river?

COMMENT: WICA- moving elk out of park into Custer State Park (CSP) few years ago probably wasn't good idea; yes hindsight is 20/20; at the time known prevalence rates between WICA and CSP were similar; now WICA is using lethal removal and restricting movement.

Everyone here is concerned; want to manage spread best we can; should we increase surveillance area?

QUESTION: Does GFP staff pull samples for anyone that stops in?

ANSWER: We are not set up for that yet statewide; someone suggested to train volunteers to pull samples. GFP is now paying for test results from any hunter who wants to test a deer or elk harvested from anywhere within the state. This information was recently shared with hunters and the sampling information is available on GFP's website.

QUESTION: Do we know what the risk level is, i.e., how many hunters process their own animal and what do they do with the carcass after processing? This would be the group to focus on getting information shared with.

Education, Education, Education!

QUESTION: What do we think would be level of voluntary compliance if more hunters were actually informed of risk? Do we let this play out and see or make mandatory disposal and transportation rules?

SUGGESTION/QUESTION: Could we intensely monitor by hunting unit? For example, sample unit X one year and Unit Y another year. Based on agreed upon sample effort, GFP staff will design sampling effort to produce statistically valid data for management purposes.

### **CARCASS DISPOSAL- Group Discussion**

-Education and informing

-Inform hunters and others on how to dispose of carcass responsibly

-Interactive map of approved landfills is available on website

-Is it too inconvenient for a traveling hunter to dispose carcass or parts properly?

COMMENT: A hunter needs to know that it would put “own area” at risk if just dump “out in your back forty”.

Commissioner Locken commented that the GFP Commission wants a proposal regarding carcass transportation.

### **COMMUNICATION, EDUCATION, & INFORMATION**

**Emily Kiel, SDGFP Communications Director**

-This is more than public outreach; it is strategic communication

-Saying right thing, right time, to right people

-Move beyond social media, more than one-time event

-Started this past November with targeted email to big game hunters

-Core messaging ideas- want does the group think are the core messages?

-Carcass disposal- head and spine- risk

-Why is it relevant to “Joe Hunter”?

-people have to see, feel impacts

-how impact next generations

-go ask your neighbors what they want to know

-Specific tactics for communications for issues management

-Use GFP website as an information hub; FAQs, voluntary deer/elk submissions; brief statements why it’s important for each target group; cross promotion with partners; develop short “how to” videos – e.g. how to debone; print ads; public broadcasting; take-over marketing which means wrapping trailers, gas station pumps, or tail gates; social media marketing; sponsored ads; targeted emails;

SUGGESTION: Have a short video on elk/deer application page; sport shows; hashtag

-Values- Why should hunters and non-hunters care?

-What are barriers?

-How do we reach all hunters?

-Trust and Confidence

-There are folks that do not believe CWD is a real disease; believe it is a non-issue.

- This is long-term issue
- Target audiences
  - Need those people who will listen, will spread the word, and help control the spread of disease through their actions.
  - Resident, nonresident, landowners, taxidermists, non-hunters, landfill managers, meat processors, food pantries, state agency partners, tribal agencies, legislators, captive cervid industry, others?
  - It used to be people had to hear a message at least 7 times before they change behavior or be part of social movement; now it's 3x as much because of all the information being thrown at them; scanning instead of fully reading; headlines matter.
  - One-on-one conversations are great

Dave Eichstadt Comment- He plans to share information from today with sportsmen group; grassroots effort.

Marshall Johnson Comment- He will work with Mule Deer Foundation to reach out various ways; articles in their magazine, etc.

-Even "healthy" looking animals should be tested; in two years it could look sick or be dead.  
 SUGGESTION: Incorporate CWD information into HuntSafe and archery education programs. Will it be a fear factor concern; perhaps kids can educate or help change behavior of parent or mentor.

QUESTION: Those that wait 20 years for elk tag and now it comes back positive and Center for Disease Control says don't eat; can they get replacement tag?

ANSWER: If positive for CWD, GPF can reinstate preference points and would be eligible to reapply following year if submit whole animal back to GFP; Steve Griffin calls each hunter whose animal tested positive, he explains his/her options at that time.

#### DISCUSSION/SUGGESTIONS:

- WICA targeted removal effort, participants had to go through a training and instruction; explained to them "why" we are doing this lethal removal now.
- We should develop a consistent message for sportsmen's groups and others to carry on.
- Can we trickle message through industry like Kuiu, Sitka, etc? Currently not saying much about it but Quality Deer Management Association, Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation and Mule Deer Foundation are talking a little more and suggested to get their "celebrities" to talk about it; podcasts; YouTube; CWD

#### Education Challenge

- Facts about CWD brochure
- Need to make it easier to find CWD info on website; have a headline on main page
- highlight CWD on application page
- CWD article for popular magazines- e.g., Safari Magazine, Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation
- No one leader or source nationally; desire to send same message

\*Please send education and communication ideas to Switzer or Kiel



## **CAPTIVE CERVIDS**

### **Dr. Mendel Miller- Department of Agriculture- Animal Industry Board (AIB)**

- 1997- CWD in captive cervid; SD is first state in nation to document in captive elk
- 1999-2000- national surveillance program
- 2003-2012- rule making

-SD had 7 captive cervid herds 1997-2002; 590 elk in those herds; depopulated; 123 of those were positive.

-From 2005-2012, average 500 elk per year tested; after 2012 about 60 tested because federal rules changed and was voluntary (must test if want CWD-free certified herd, necessary for interstate movement); state AIB did not continue with mandatory mostly because lost federal funding.

In SD- 2000- 77 facilities permitted for cervids (elk or deer)  
2012- 40 facilities permitted for elk, but higher number of animals than previous  
2018- 45 facilities permitted for elk

-28 states now have CWD herd certification programs; SD was very first state to have approved CWD herd certification; can move animals within state without herd certification, just not between states.

-Since 2016, 26 herds in US have confirmed a CWD positive; not in SD but we can trace animals back to some of those positive areas in other states; no reliable live tests so relying on history of herd testing from mortalities. Currently, AIB cannot trace animals in South Dakota back to positive herds, however they have received captive cervids (mostly deer) from states that have turned up positive for CWD.

-Wisconsin requires double fencing yet, but still seeing positive herds pop up.

QUESTION: Does a hunter-harvested elk from a captive facility have to be tested?

ANSWER: Voluntary, but if want to maintain herd certification status they'll need to test.

## **GAME PROCESSING**

### **Steve Griffin- SDGFP Big Game Biologist**

- Some processors are regulated by AIB, some by USDA, some not regulated
- Trying to get in touch with as many processors as we can
- One of biggest processors in the state is the hunters themselves
- What is best way to educate and inform processors?

QUESTION: What are restrictions on processing plants for disposal?

ANSWER: There are various levels of processing plants thus different restrictions; AIB inspected facilities are the custom lockers and slaughter- regulations for offal disposal- must go to landfill or rendering plant; challenge is those facilities that don't add beef or pork to wild game processing because AIB doesn't regulate. GFP compiled a list of known processors, including the "Mom & Pop" processors; but know this is not 100% complete list; how do we reach everyone?

**ACTION:** Contact SD Department of Revenue for possible list of mom and pop processors.

-Sportsmen Against Hunger works with about 40 licensed and permitted processors

SUGGESTION: Those that do-it yourself; we need to educate and inform the hunter.

QUESTION: What happens with rendered parts?

ANSWER: Rendered carcass can possibly be reused for feed (e.g. dogfood); renderers can't take beef specified risk material because of bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE) concerns; renders don't take sheep; renders likely not knowingly taking wild game.

QUESTION: What about wash water?

ANSWER: Likely most using sanitary sewer; but what if don't have access to sanitary sewer? Likely a low risk when spreading wash water on ground; what can we do if apply it to land? Should get a permit from SD Department of Environment and Natural Resources to land apply any wash water.

QUESTION: When a hunter brings a deer to a meat processor, is a person guaranteed to get "their deer" meat back or does it get mixed with others?

ANSWER: Depends, but most likely mixed with others during main harvest season.

QUESTION: Is meat edible if animal tests positive?

ANSWER: There is no evidence either way; but recommend don't eat if it's known positive; error on safe side; prions have been found in the meat during the late stages: basically anywhere blood flow but highest risk is spinal and brain.

QUESTION: Does scrapie in sheep infect people?

ANSWER: No.

COMMENT: Sportsmen Against Hunter (SAH) worked with a processor in Black Hills area; processes in batches of 5 deer so if one turns up positive only throw out 5 deer instead of 25.

QUESTION: SAH- do they require mandatory testing?

ANSWER: SAH will be discussing this topic at their upcoming annual board meeting.

## **SOUTH DAKOTA TAXIDERMISTRY ASSOCIATION**

### **Derick Wenck- President**

-Want to work together on rules or restrictions

~200 taxidermists in SD; GFP does license taxidermists (\$15 permit)

-Want to ensure proper disposal, Best Management Practices

QUESTION: What about individuals who do their own European mounts?

ANSWER: Education is the key

QUESTION: Is there secondary market for bones?

ANSWER: Not really; a few use for art.

QUESTION: Any risk with CWD and antler sheds?

ANSWER: Haven't found any risk with shed antlers; calcified.

QUESTION: How would a carcass transportation rule affect taxidermist?

ANSWER/DISCUSSION: Hunter would have to find taxidermist quickly to cape out before transporting; could increase business for some but also may overload a taxidermist too; could take business away from some too; location, location, location.

### **BAITING & FEEDING/MINERAL & SALT STATIONS**

-Currently, GFP does have some rules in place for baiting- where and when for hunters.

QUESTION: Where *can* you bait?

ANSWER: A person may not establish, utilize, or maintain a bait station during certain times of the year; mainly hunting seasons.

QUESTION: What about folks who feed wildlife?

ANSWER: No regulations for those non-hunters that are feeding; some city ordinances.

COMMENT: A lot of people are feeding deer and will be a big issue; wildlife viewing; recreational feeding; deer that feed off of bird feeders; etc.

QUESTION: How do we deal with distiller's grain? Stored feed? Food plots? Bait vs feeding? "Zone of influence".

COMMENT: Need to inform about potential risks of wildlife feeding; disease spread; recreational feeders.

COMMENT: Legislation would be needed for feeding restrictions.

COMMENT: Those opposing will ask- show us the data that bait pile contributes to spread of CWD; don't necessarily have direct evidence with CWD, but is common knowledge that deer congregate; diseases spread in general when animals congregate.

### **SCENTS & LURES**

**Josh Delger – SDGFP Regional Terrestrial Resources Supervisor**

-Need to consider natural scents and lures as potential threat, albeit likely a low threat.

-Some states (~10) do have bans on urine based lures; do allow synthetic lures.

QUESTION: Is the ban because of urine itself or because thought is that lures may congregate deer?

ANSWER: More the urine itself. Prions have been confirmed in urine.

-Most manufacturers are part of a certification program; urine coming from certified herds.

QUESTION FOR GROUP: Should we consider a ban or restriction on scents and lures?

-Maybe if SD goes restrictive on transportation then maybe we restrict natural lures

-Encourage hunters to *not* put *lure on ground*

-Should we educate hunters to use synthetic lures? And proper use and disposal of lures?

### **DISEASE SURVEILLANCE (voluntary vs mandatory submission of samples)**

**Steve Griffin/Andy Lindbloom- SDGFP**

Handout- statewide sampling efforts for mule deer, white tailed deer, elk

-Deer sample sizes vary across state

-Hunter harvest: Primary focus has been elk in Black Hills- voluntary

-Hunter harvest: Mandatory testing for deer and elk harvested in Custer State Park in 2018

-Sick animal surveillance- most of East River submissions are from sick animals

-Low compliance with voluntary submission; decent compliance for cow elk hunters

QUESTION/DISCUSSION FOR GROUP: How can we make sample submission convenient for hunter?  
Voluntary vs mandatory?

- GFP worked with AIB for voluntary TB sampling from hunters- ~600 letters sent out to Tripp County hunters and only received one deer head.
- Drop off sites need to be at very convenient locations
- Mandatory for does? Voluntary for bucks? Female only sampling will require a larger sample size based on research and could take many years to achieve desired sample size. Samples that include males would reduce sample size needed.
- Currently a hunter can fill out transportation permit (available at drop off location) if they leave doe head at drop off site.
- Can we have check stations? Who mans the station? Students? Volunteers? Staff?
- Tried "manned drop off stations" in the past, but didn't see much participation.
- CWD info is included with tag, but a lot of hunters don't read the "other info" included in their envelope with license.

QUESTION: Can we sample road kills?

QUESTION: Do we sample to determine prevalence rate which takes a lot larger sample size? Or just do presence/absence?

QUESTION: Will GFP take certain management actions or regulations based on certain prevalence rates? What's the trigger or magic number?

ANSWER: This will be determined in the action plan.

QUESTION: Can we cycle through units for surveillance? For example, pick certain units each year to sample and then switch units every couple years; can have the unit scheduled for sampling to "pop up" on screen when applying for license.

COMMENT: If want prevalence rate then need mandatory test, but also have to consider harvest rate and number of licenses in some units; may not even have enough animals to test.

QUESTION: How do you enforce mandatory? What would fine (\$\$) be?

COMMENT: WICA doesn't calculate prevalence rate every year, we might need to do surveillance over several years in order to get a prevalence rate.

QUESTION: Can we pay processors and/or taxidermists to save and tag heads?

ANSWER: Yes, we do that now; put ear tag in with hunter name, license #, and unit; \$3/head; some processors are really good about it, others not so much. Might take more money to get higher participation.

QUESTION: Do we spend our money on determining prevalence rate or rather spend money on presence/absence data? What would we do if we find we have 3% vs 5% vs 15% prevalence rate? What would trigger be to lethally kill deer 10%? 15%? 20%?

QUESTION: What would roadkill distribution look like?

ANSWER: Currently roadkill are only picked up by contractors on state roads and only few county roads; don't have contractors in all parts of the state; would need to pay more for contractors to tag and GPS location.

QUESTION: How do we get more buck samples? Especially from taxidermists?

ANSWER/SUGGESTION: Maybe work with taxidermists more since they already have to record hunter's info; would need to compensate somehow (\$\$); do we pull sample without hunter's consent? i.e, taxidermist pull sample without hunter knowing or consenting? Does taxidermist have them sign a form when drop head off?

SUGGESTION: Give hunter a pre-stamped zip-tie with license number for them to put through ear when drop off head.

**Should we have restrictions on INTERSTATE TRANSPORTATION? (22 stakeholders voted)**

7- Red (no high risk parts regardless of CWD status of exporting state)

15- Orange- no high risk parts from a state with CWD

0- Yellow- no high risk parts from a unit within a state that has CWD

0- Green- no rules restricting transportation of high risk parts

\*colors are based on a map handed out earlier in meeting

-Wrap up & adjourn for the day

-Notes will be sent out to group for review

-Please send any additional thoughts or ideas you may have to Chad Switzer (or the whole group)- call or email

-Will share draft plan with group

THANK YOU FOR ATTENDING AND PARTICIPATING TODAY!