

# CHRONIC WASTING DISEASE & SPREAD

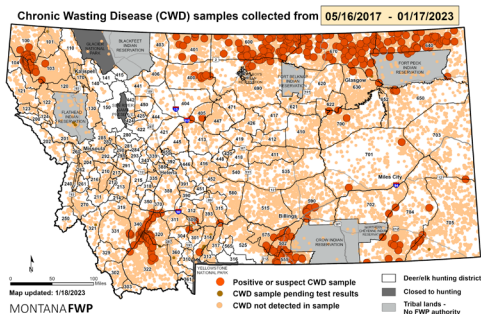
Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) is a fatal neurological disease of elk, deer and moose. There is no known cure. The disease can be spread by animal to animal contact and through animal contact with an infected environment.

## Tribal Impacts

CWD can directly reduce overall herd populations and pose a risk to food sovereignty, cultural and spiritual practices. Tribal peoples are at an increased risk of exposure to CWD due to traditional and cultural uses of animal parts.

## Distribution

CWD has been identified less than 40 miles from the Flathead Reservation boarder and is present in many off-reservation aboriginal treaty hunting areas. See a real-time map of CWD in the State by visiting this webpage: <https://fwp.mt.gov/conservation/chronic-wasting-disease/in-montana>



## About Us

From time immemorial, the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes have relied on their homeland and the fish and wildlife it produced.

It is the mission of the CSKT Wildlife Management Program to protect, enhance and manage wildlife species and habitats to provide viable populations of all native wildlife species on the Flathead Indian Reservation for use by generations of today and tomorrow.

## Contact Us

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Confederated Salish & Kootenai Tribes  
Division of Fish, Wildlife, Recreation & Conservation



# CHRONIC WASTING DISEASE

Managing CWD with Tribal member hunters

# CWD Symptoms

It takes 16 months for an infected animal to begin showing symptoms, which is why it is **very** important to submit **all harvested animals for CWD testing** to help the CSKT Wildlife Management Program detect and respond to CWD as early as possible.

Symptoms of sick animals may include:

- **Dramatic weight loss**
- **Stumbling and lack of coordination**
- **Droling**
- **Drooping ears**
- **Excessive thirst**
- **Lack of fear of people and awareness of surroundings**



## How can we help prevent the spread of CWD?



Testing deer samples helps us know if CWD is present and allows us to better respond and manage the disease and its spread. Hunter Sampling Kits are available for hunters to pick-up and collect lymph nodes themselves and return them to our office for submission. Hunters can also drop off a head (with part of the upper neck attached) for biologists to collect the sample.

**408 6<sup>th</sup> Ave East, Polson**

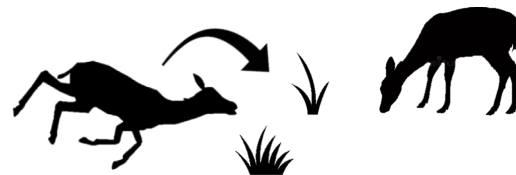
## DIRECT TRANSMISSION

CWD may be directly transmitted to deer, elk or moose via direct contact with an infected animal



## INDIRECT TRANSMISSION

Deer, elk and moose can also become infected when they touch prions in soil or grass contaminated with the feces, urine, saliva or decomposed tissue of a CWD infected animal. These prions can last in the soil for up to 2 years!



## HUNTER SAFETY

There have been no documented cases of CWD causing disease in humans, however, the CDC and WHO advise against consuming any animal known to be infected with CWD. It is important for hunters to have **each of their harvested animals tested** for CWD before eating.

- Wear rubber gloves and eye protection when field dressing game animals
- Don't use kitchen utensils or household knives for field dressing game animals
- Minimize handling of brain and spinal tissues until animal is tested for CWD and results are negative
- Wash hands thoroughly after field dressing
- Avoid cutting through bones or spinal column
- Bone deer or elk (remove meat from bone and spinal column)
- Remove all fat, membranes and connective tissue from the meat

# STOP THE SPREAD

Help minimize the spread of CWD on Tribal Lands:

- **DO NOT** dump carcasses in the woods.
- Dispose of carcasses and unused parts at a Class II landfill, similar to household trash.
- If harvesting off-reservation in areas with known CWD, leave the head and spinal column in the field (*unless bringing the head to our office for testing*).
- Report sick animals to Tribal Wildlife

Download a copy of our CWD Surveillance and Emergency Response Plan and learn how to keep our herds safe by visiting [csktnrd.org/wildlife](http://csktnrd.org/wildlife)

