



COLORADO

Parks and Wildlife

Department of Natural Resources

Colorado Chronic Wasting Disease Advisory Group

May 16th 2018 Meeting

Hampton Inn Denver West Golden

17150 West Colfax Ave, Golden, CO 80101

9am-4pm

Members in attendance: Chris Journey, Craig McLaughlin, Dan Gates, Don Cook, JT Romatzke, Keith Roehr, Marie Haskett, Mark Leslie, Matt Dunfee, Matt Eckert, Troy Sweet, Reid DeWalt

Members absent: Marty Holmes

Technical advisors in attendance: Janet George, Julie Stiver (for Brian Dreher), Lauren Truitt, Marie Haas, Mike Miller, Travis Duncan, Wayne East

Technical advisors on phone: Brad Bannulis, Darby Finley (for Brad Petch), Lisa Wolfe, Mike Quartuch

Technical advisors absent: Scott Wait

Guests in attendance: Bruce Finley, Denny Behrens, Jennifer House, Sean Ford, Scott Cisco

Meeting Summary

Presentations: “When CWD Management Actions Should Be Taken” by Matt Eckert

Discussions: Management options homework assignment; when CWD management actions should be taken; additional CWD recommendations for consideration; CPW communication strategy

Key Points:

- Goal is to reduce prevalence in high prevalence herds to a low level, prevent prevalence from increasing in low prevalence herds, minimize spread of the disease, and to secure the long-term sustainability of our deer herds
- CPW may be able to incorporate strategies to increase hunter access according to “Future Generations Act” (PLO, youth, disability etc. tags) into the management options available as part of this response plan
- Hunter harvest is CPW’s primary management tool for controlling CWD
- Effort will be taken to manage CWD at smaller, targeted hotspot scales, but it is not possible to only harvest infected deer
- Suggestion made to use volunteers to spread educational messages on CWD

- Roadkill and animals dispatched by District Wildlife Managers (officers) are not included in CWD prevalence estimates
- The website specific to this CWD Advisory Group is live and accessible through CPW's main CWD website
- A 10% threshold of buck infection equals a 2.5% decrease in doe populations and would cause a population decline; 10% is the absolute highest threshold we should consider
- Suggestion made by Advisory Group to use a prevalence threshold that is less than 10% because that would mean the herd is already in a decline
- Suggestion made by Advisory Group to use the most scientifically supportable CWD prevalence threshold, which is not yet known.
- 1 year of mandatory testing has provided a statistically robust CWD prevalence estimate for 6 herds
- Multiple years of mandatory testing would not improve accuracy of prevalence levels but may improve public perception and credibility of the estimates
- Suggestion made by Advisory Group to retest the mandatory herds, so to create three years of consecutive estimates
- CPW does not have the resources to test the whole state every year and rotating herds every 4-5 years would be best to show changes in prevalence rates
- Proactive management actions should be taken before we lose control of CWD
- Management decisions will be based on a local level, and the statewide response plan will not be prescriptive other than setting a prevalence threshold for when to take action
- The minimum amount of time to see a change in prevalence is likely 3 years, though 5-10 years is more realistic

Follow-up Required:

- Create an educational press release to cattlemen's association about feeding issues (CCA, CLA, stock growers, wool growers, Farm Bureau, Ag Roundtable, CDOT)
- Create an educational brochure on CWD directed to specific audiences
- Discuss the creation of designated disposal sites at landfills
- Look into the possibility of adding incinerators
- Identify more ways to include CDOT (requiring testing roadkill would be too arduous and we don't want to lose that resource but they do handle a lot of carcasses)
- Create a list of future research ideas
- Consider a press release before every CWDAG meeting
- Matt Dunfee will send Lauren Truitt messages that the CWD Alliance organization has pulled together based from numerous questions they receive
- Create a series of workshops to present information to the public, starting in the Northwest. Host a meeting in Craig/Meeker to make people aware.
- Deliver a presentation on the Motherwell CWD management case study and public survey at the next meeting

- Consider incentivizing voluntary testing for D-07 to encourage higher testing rates for comparison with the 2017 mandatory testing results
- Draft segments of the Response Plan before next meeting