

Remember the Motherwell!

# CWD in northwestern Colorado (a brief early history)

deVergie, Bill  
Prenzlow, Dan  
Saturday, April 13, 2002 7:23 PM  
Office Manager  
FW: Deer-Motherwell Ranch Area- Meeker- Craig area.

From:  
Sent:  
To:  
Subject:

-----Original Message-----

From: **Velarde, Ron**  
Sent: Saturday, April 13, 2002 6:53 PM  
To: George, Russell  
Cc: McCloskey, Bruce; Prenzlow, Dan  
Subject: Deer-Motherwell Ranch Area- Meeker- Craig area.

1. A decision was made in Jan of 2002 that the DOW would de-populate all within the Motherwell fenced facility.
2. On Jan. through the 13th. the DOW conducted a public hunt within the wild deer and elk.
3. From Jan. 14 through the 31st, Motherwell ranch employees guided pu additional 50 wild deer and elk. All public deer and elk were tested for CWD.
4. From Feb. 1st through the 16th, DOW employees killed an additional from the ground and 33 wild deer and elk will killed from an helicopter tested for CWD.
5. Two positive CWD deer were found from within the compound, ki both cases. A decision was made to do sampling around the Motherw employees, with a goal of 300 animals.
6. On April 1, 2002, 16 division employees and 3 Wildlife Service e working through Wed. April 3, 2002, killed 308 deer within a 5-m Ranch from the ground and air and 7 from the facility.
7. O April 8, 2002, two more CWD positive were found from the Following guidelines from the NE Region, DOW personnel from from the vicinity of the two positive animals.
8. On April 11, after much discussion with Wildlife Protection s LT. the decision was made to make a surgical strike within the like before, but to kill as many wild deer and elk as possible, i from within the area.
9. On April 14, DOW staff and Wildlife Service personnel w

DIVISION OF WILDLIFE  
AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER  
Russell George, Director  
6060 Broadway  
Denver, Colorado 80216  
Telephone: (303) 297-1192



For Wildlife-  
For People

April 12, 2002

## CWD WILLIAM'S FORK - FACT SHEET

**WHO:** The Colorado Division of Wildlife (CDOW) and USDA APHIS - Wildlife Services (WS)

**WHAT:** The CDOW and WS will begin a surgical strike, site specific, to remove deer and elk located along the William's Fork River in GMU 12 and 13. All deer and elk removed will be tested for CWD.

**WHEN:** Deer and elk removal will begin on Monday April 15<sup>th</sup> and will continue through Friday April 19<sup>th</sup>, 2002.

**WHERE:** On public and private lands, within a 5 mile radius of the Motherwell Ranch which is located in Routt County approximately 18 miles east of Hamilton, CO. along Hwy 317 and Routt County Road 29.

**WHY:** In January and February 2002, over 330 deer and 40 elk were removed from inside the game fence of the Motherwell Ranch. Two of these deer tested positive for CWD. In April 2002, Another 311 deer were removed and tested within a 5mile radius of the Motherwell Ranch. Two of these additional deer also tested positive for CWD. The CDOW may have the opportunity to eliminate CWD by aggressively taking all deer and elk from the area surrounding the ranch enclosure. The CDOW is attempting to remove any deer and elk that could have possibly been exposed or infected with CWD in this area, prior to their natural spring migration. Many thousands of deer and elk will be moving through this area in the near future thus it is critical to remove animals that have been exposed immediately.

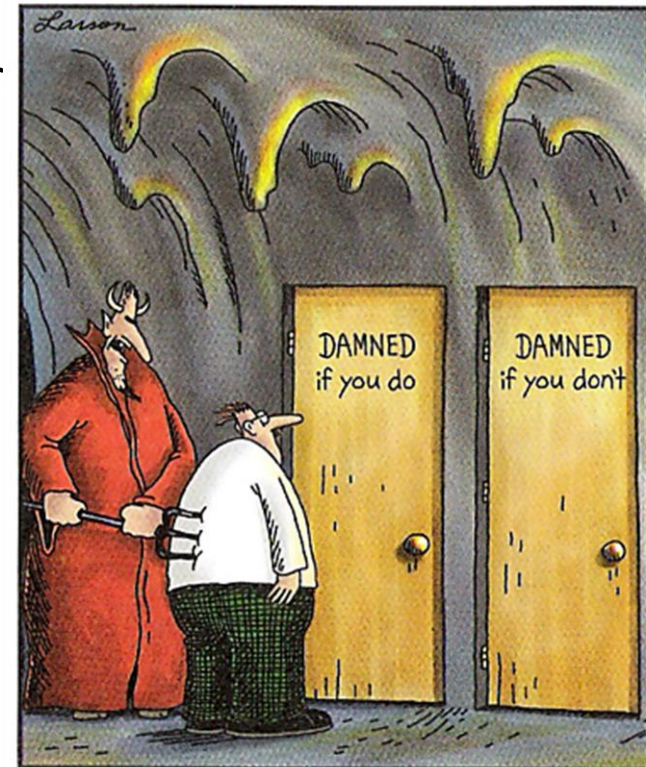
### ADDITIONAL FACTS:

- Disposal: The Colorado Department of Agriculture will incinerate all deer and elk carcasses on site at the Indian Run SWA.
- All animals removed will be tested for CWD.
- All carcasses will be removed from the field.
- WS will be using helicopters to aid the CDOW in removing deer and elk.

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES, Greg E. Walcher, Executive Director  
WILDLIFE COMMISSION, Rick Enstrom, Chair • Robert Shoemaker, Vice-Chair • Marianna Raftopoulos, Secretary  
Members, Bernard Black • Tom Burke • Philip James • Brad Phelps • Olive Valdez  
Ex-Officio Members, Greg E. Walcher and Don Ament

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- ❖ Oct-Nov '99 – D-07 harvest survey finds no CWD (0/434; mixed sex, SW focus)
- ❖ Jan-Feb '02 – 373 wild deer & elk entrapped in elk ranch killed (some tested)
- ❖ Jan '02 – CWD confirmed in 2 “Motherwell” deer
- ❖ Feb-Apr '02 – leadership opts for local culling
  - ❖ recommended for “new/emerging foci” elsewhere<sup>†</sup>



“C’mon, c’mon—it’s either one or the other.”

*“Every man has a right to his own opinion, but no man has a right to be wrong in his facts.”*

*Bernard M. Baruch, financier, ca. 1940s*

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Bill Owens, Governor  
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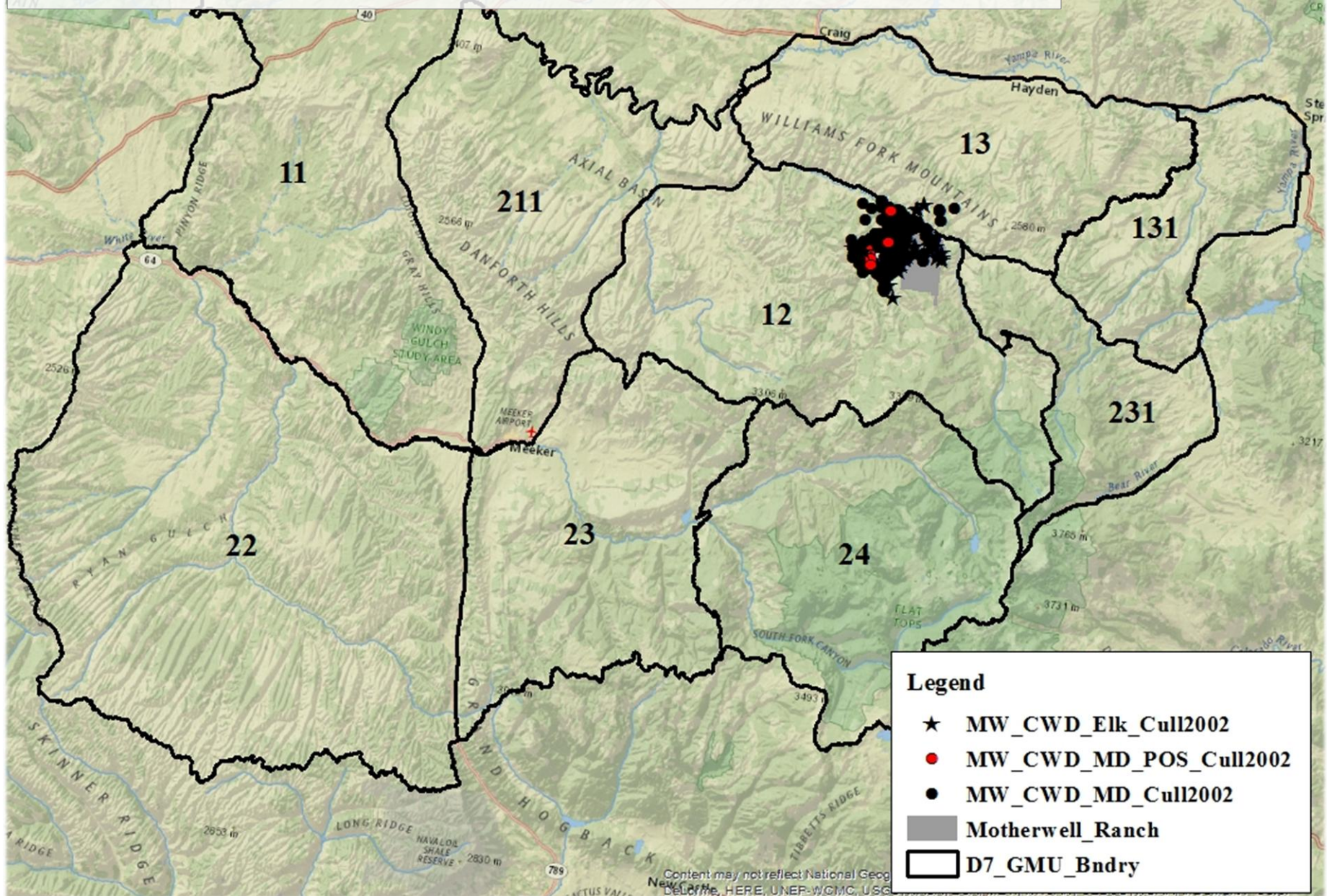
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- ❖ Feb-Apr '02 – leadership opts for local culling
  - ❖ recommended for “new/emerging foci” elsewhere†
- ❖ Apr '02 – 609 mule deer & 135 elk culled in Motherwell vicinity
  - ❖ 1/128 bucks (<1%) & 5/316 does (~2%) infected; no elk infected
  - ❖ number culled was ~1% of the estimated D-07 deer herd size in 2002 (609/60,871)

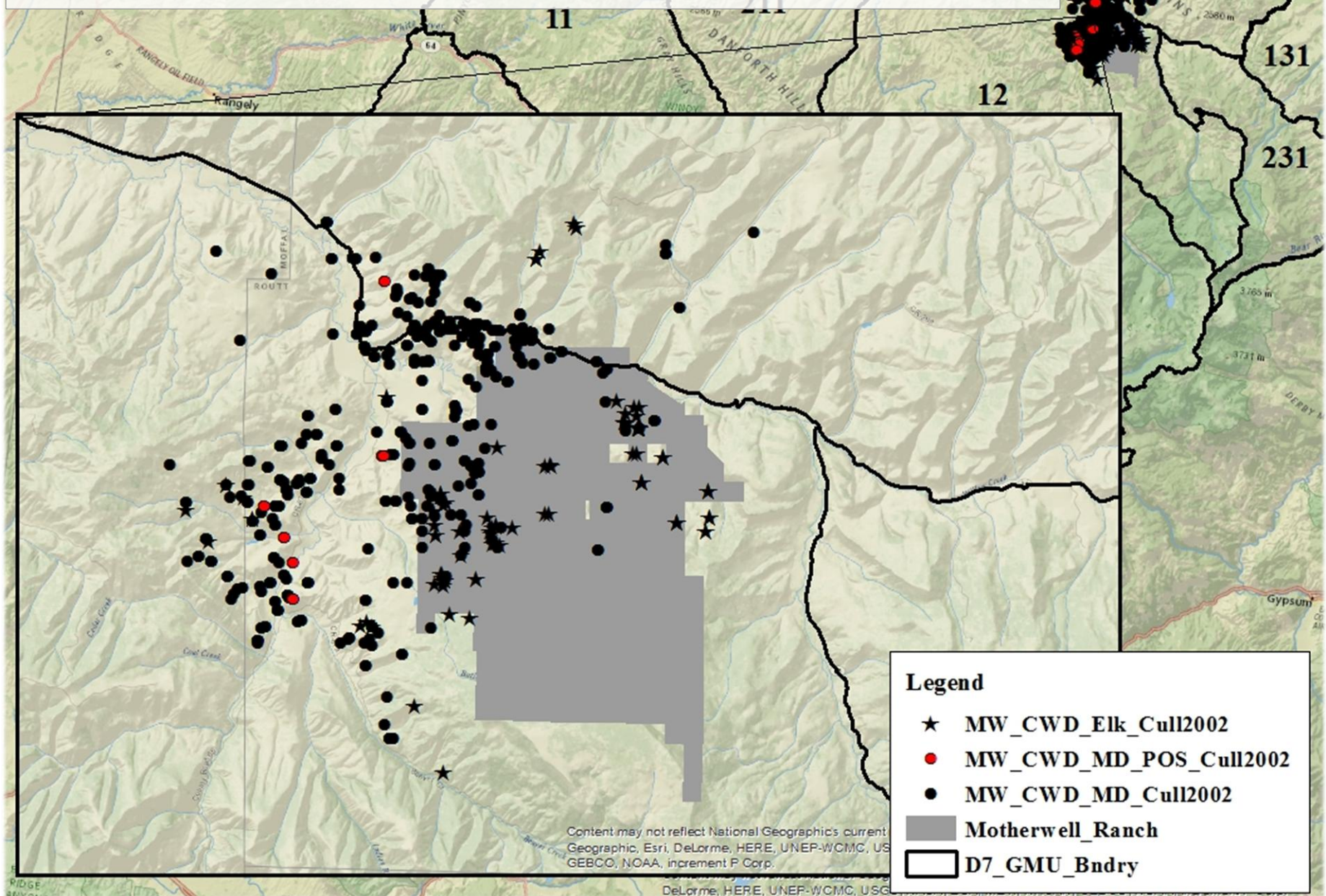
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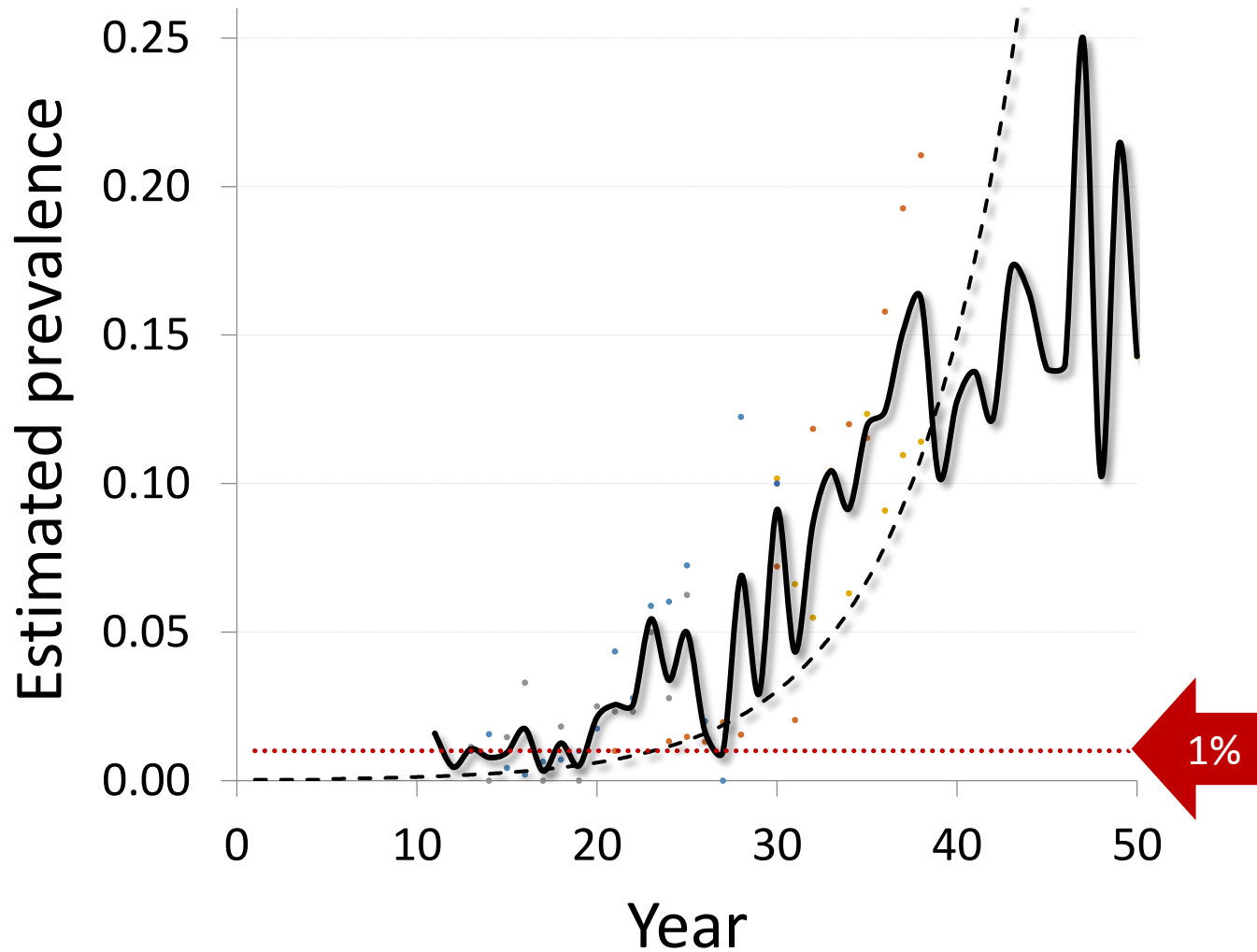
# Mule deer & elk culled in the Motherwell Ranch vicinity April 2002



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# Composite epidemic curve (field data vs. model)





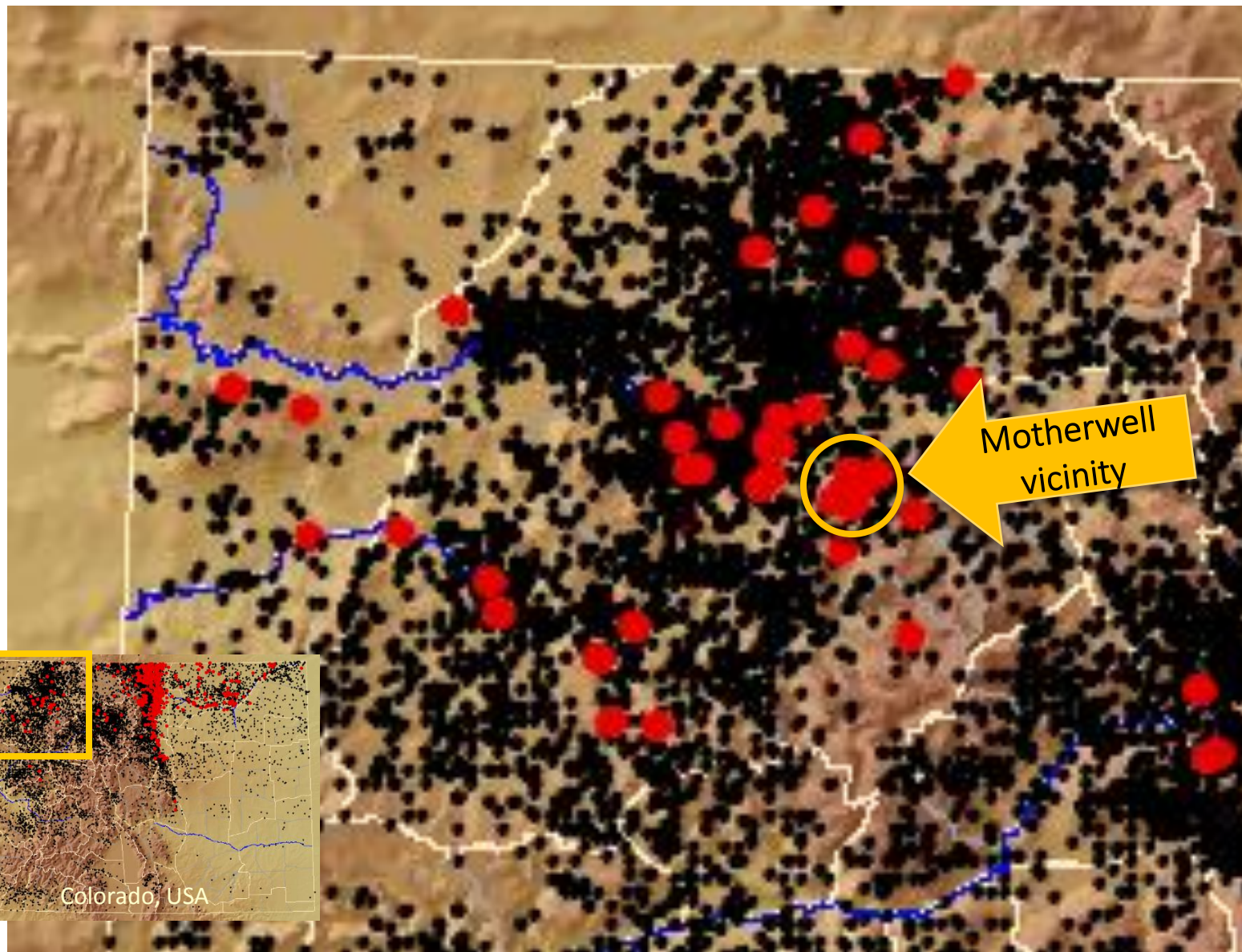
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  - ❖ number culled was ~1% of the estimated D-07 deer herd size in 2002 (609/60,871)
- ❖ Sep-Dec '02–'04 – harvest surveys reveal extent of northwestern “focus”
  - ❖ scattered cases throughout D-07 (~2%), D-02 (<1%), & several other DAUs

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# Minimum distribution of CWD in northwestern Colorado mule deer (1996–2004, all sample sources)



# A tale of two deer herds

## **White River herd (D-07)**

- ❖ Goal: eradication!
- ❖ Tactic: intensive but focal
- ❖ Duration: one shot
- ❖ Licensing trend: conservative
- ❖ Timing: increasingly early

## **Red Feather herd (D-04)**

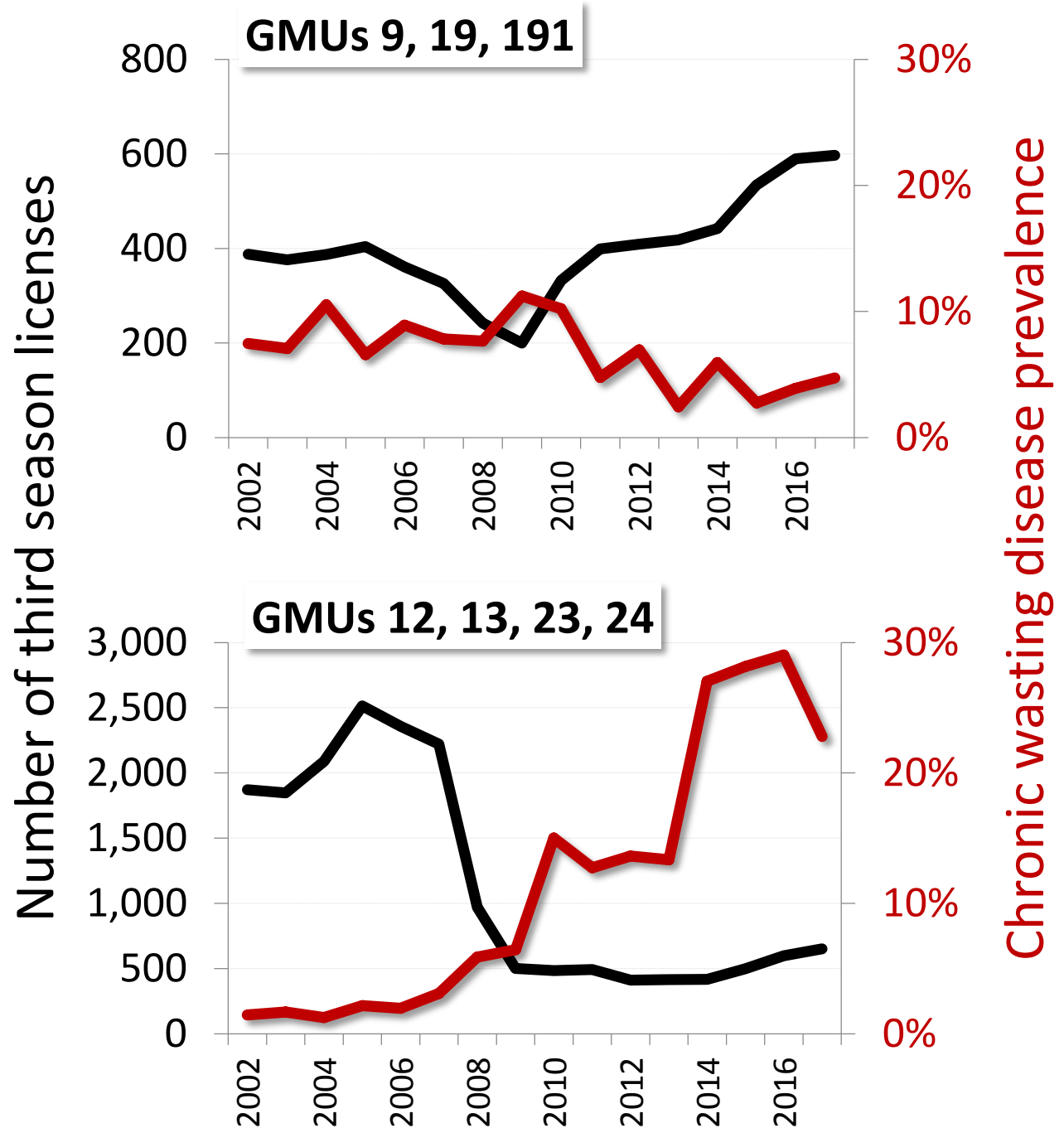
- ❖ Goal: suppression
- ❖ Tactic: extensive with focal
- ❖ Duration: ongoing (2000–05)
- ❖ Licensing trend: liberal(ish)
- ❖ Timing: proportional late

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# License & Prevalence Trends

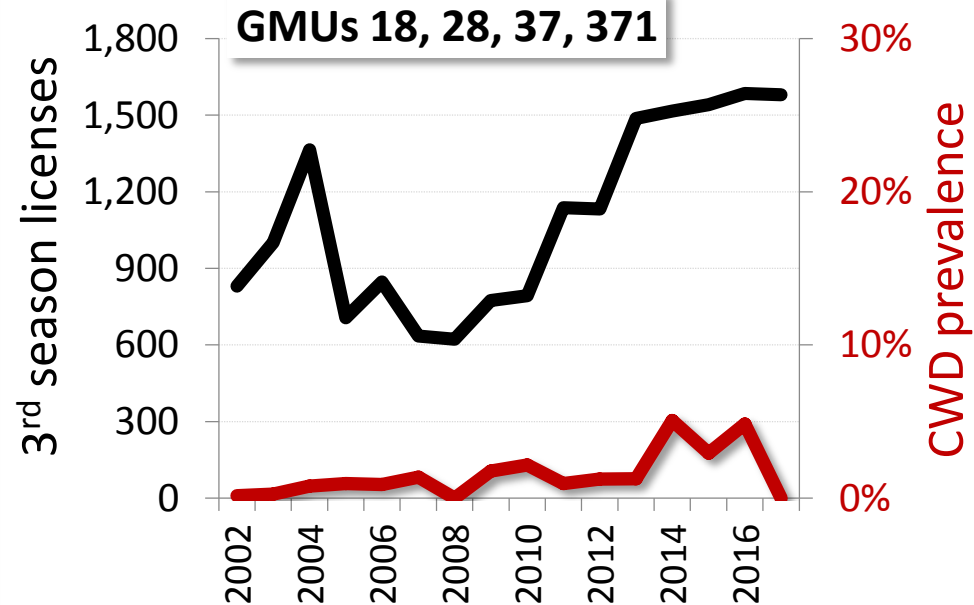
*Third season license numbers strongly affect prevalence in subsequent years.*



# OK, a tale of ~~two~~ three deer herds

## Middle Park herd (D-09)

- ❖ Goal: suppression
- ❖ Tactic: extensive (via harvest)
- ❖ Duration: ongoing
- ❖ Licensing trend: liberal(ish)
- ❖ Timing: proportional late



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How are they doing?

Middle Park (2017)

- ❖ Bucks:100 does (obs) – 40
- ❖ Fawns:100 does (obs) – 68 (!)
- ❖ Herd size trend: stable (> obj)

Red Feather (2017)

- ❖ Bucks:100 does (obs) – 39
- ❖ Fawns:100 does (obs) – 48
- ❖ Herd size trend: stable (> obj)

Remember the Motherwell.  
And also learn from it..

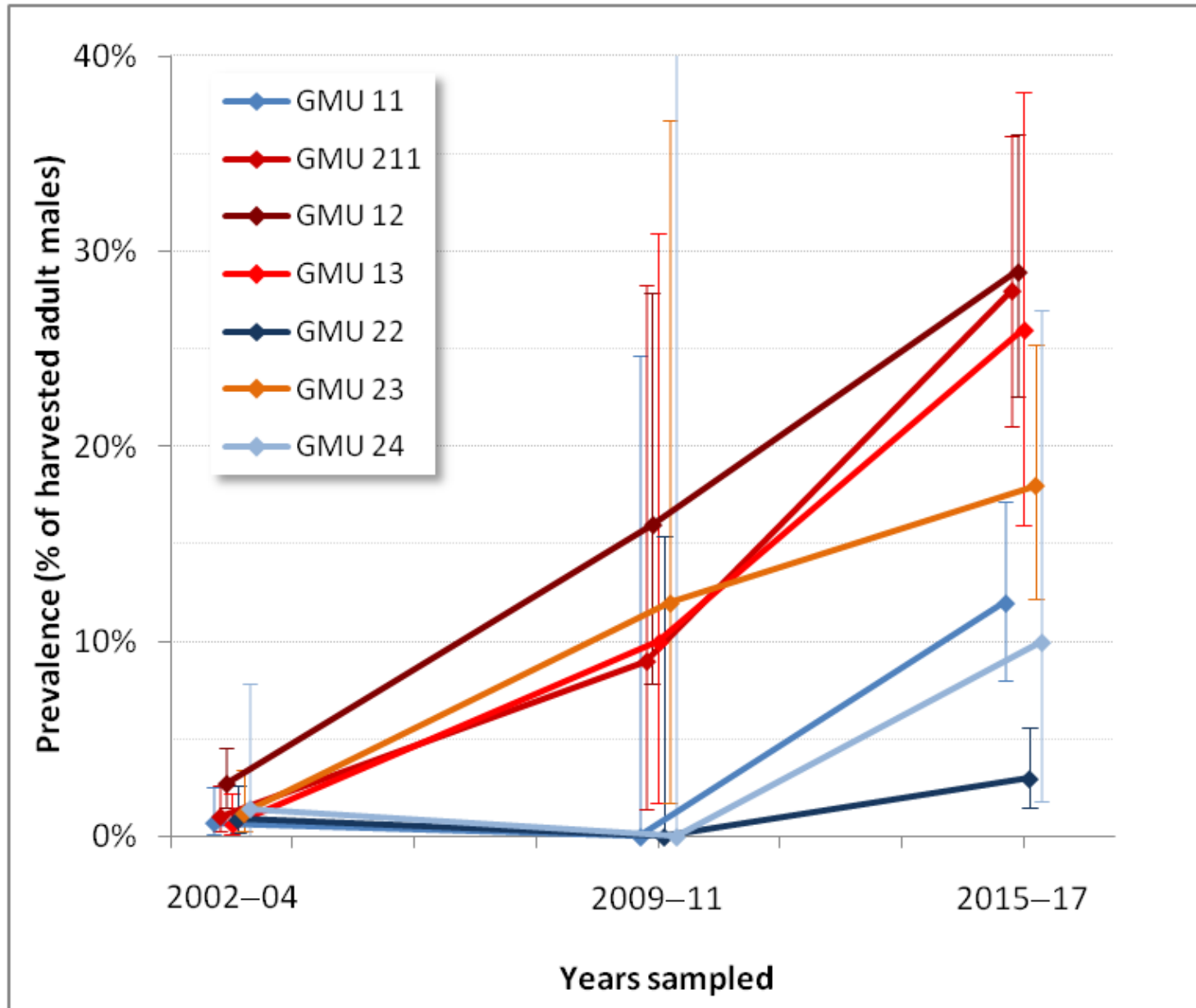
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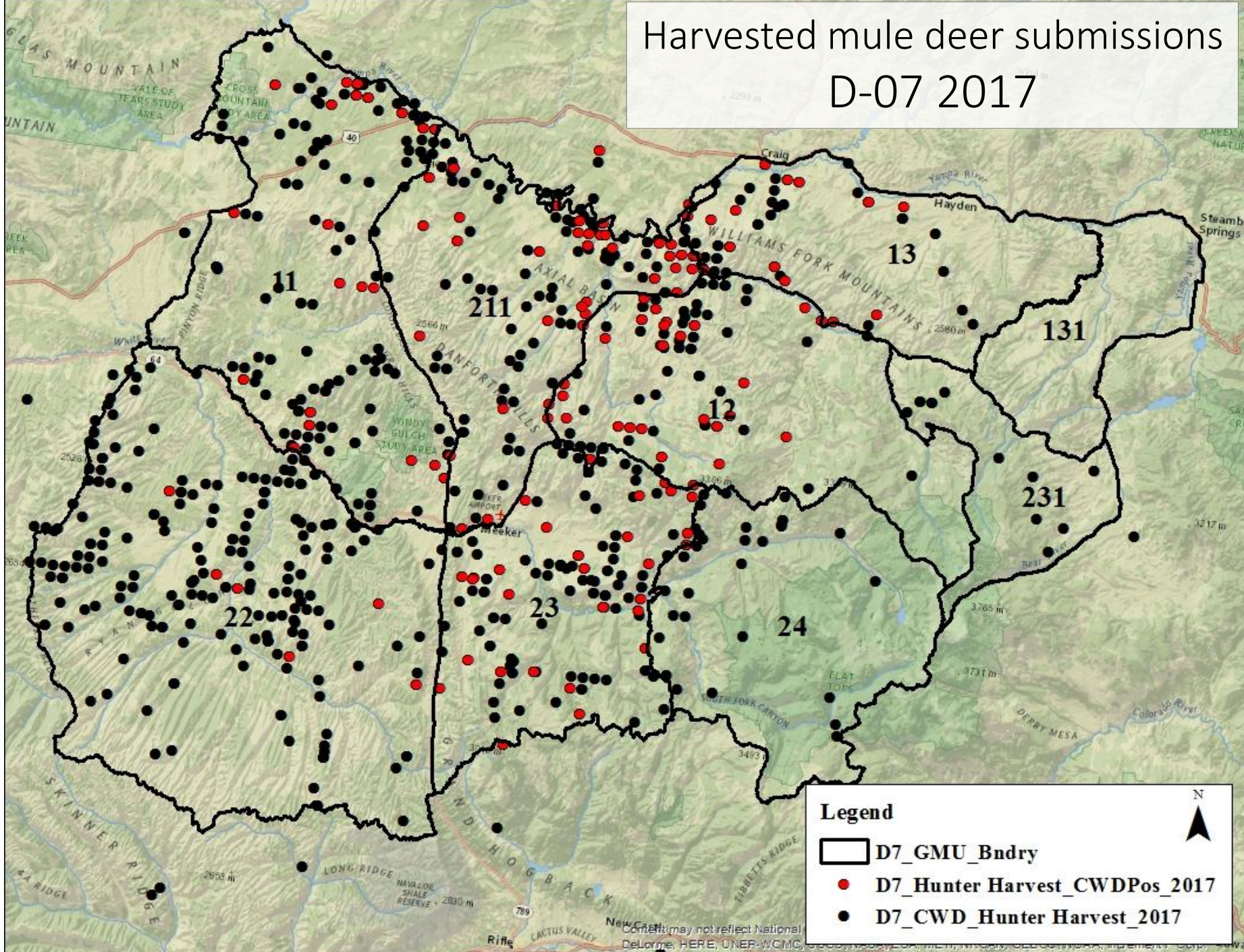




# Prevalence trends: White River mule deer herd (D-07)



# Harvested mule deer submissions D-07 2017



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DeLorme, HERE, UNEP-WCMC