



RICK SNYDER
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
LANSING



KEITH CREAGH
DIRECTOR

October 22, 2018

Dear Sportsman Coalition Member:

I'm sure you've heard by now, that we unfortunately have our first case of CWD in the U.P. It was confirmed last Thursday, October 17th. The deer was a free ranging 4.5-year-old doe taken on a damage control permit from an agriculture operation in southern Dickinson County. We've identified a CWD core area where our primary focus will be on testing as many hunter-harvested animals as possible. Our goal is to test 600 animals from the core area. There are no proposed changes to existing regulations for this hunting season, including no changes to the current U.P. baiting rules.

I have included a fact sheet concerning CWD in the U.P., please disseminate this information to others that might be interested

If you have any further questions you can contact the U.P.-CWD point person Craig Albright at (906) 789-8206 or me.

Sincerely,

John DePue
Wildlife Biologist
Wildlife Division
906-353-6651

Frequently Asked Questions:

Deer tests positive for chronic wasting disease in Dickinson County

Oct. 18, 2018

What is chronic wasting disease? Chronic wasting disease is a fatal nervous system disease found in deer, moose and elk – collectively called cervids. The disease attacks the brain of infected animals, creating small lesions, which result in neurologic symptoms. The disease is always fatal to animals that contract it. To date, there have been no reported cases of CWD infection in humans. Find out more at michigan.gov/cwd.

What is the status of CWD in the Upper Peninsula? A 4-year-old doe has tested positive for chronic wasting disease. The deer was killed in Dickinson County's Waucedah Township on a deer-damage shooting permit on an agricultural farm, about 4 miles from the Michigan-Wisconsin border. This event marks the first confirmation of chronic wasting disease in the Upper Peninsula.

Is the DNR banning deer baiting and feeding in this area? There are no current plans to ban baiting for the rest of 2018. The DNR will reserve a decision on feeding deer, pending the results of surveillance efforts. In addition, the DNR will discuss possible future response actions with U.P. hunters and other stakeholders to determine the best approach to fighting the disease in the region.

Is a mandatory deer check being established in the area? Not at this time. The DNR's primary focus for response is stepped-up testing and active surveillance to determine the extent of potentially infected deer. Mandatory deer checks may be required if enough heads are not collected for testing through voluntary deer checks and other means of collection, like road-killed deer.

How many deer heads does the DNR need? Based on population estimates in the area, the DNR needs to test 600 deer heads to determine the extent of CWD infection within a roughly 10-mile area set up around Waucedah Township in Dickinson County.

How can I help? Keep hunting and get your deer checked. Responsibly transport, process and dispose of your deer carcass. Find out about maintaining only proper carcass transportation into Michigan from out of state. Pass these tips on to other hunters. Visit michigan.gov/cwd to learn more.

Where can I get my deer checked? Deer may be checked, and the heads submitted for testing, at several locations. A listing is available at michigan.gov/deercheck. The DNR will be providing additional drop boxes for deer heads within the area, especially in convenient, high-traffic places.

Are other surveillance measures being taken? Yes. To help gather enough deer heads for testing, the DNR will be offering disease control permits to interested landowners who have more than 5-acres of land and are within 5-miles of the center of the surveillance-area. In addition, an ongoing DNR U.P. deer migration study will be adjusted to include the affected area within its boundaries. Deer will be collared in the area to better understand the movements of deer.

What does a CWD deer look like? Infected animals may not show any symptoms of disease for a long period of time, even years. The later stages of the disease in infected animals include loss of coordination, changes in behavior such as a loss of fear of humans or awareness of surroundings, loss of body condition and excessive drooling and salivating.

What should I do if I find a dead deer or very sick deer? Accurately document the location of the animal. Contact your local DNR Wildlife Office to report it or after business hours contact Report All Poaching hotline at 800-292-7800. Do not contact, disturb, kill, or remove the animal without DNR permission.

Is it safe to eat meat from CWD positive deer? How can we be sure there is no cross contamination in meat processing? It is not recommended to eat the meat from known CWD infected animals. Hunters located in CWD areas are advised to debone their meat and not to consume parts where prions will likely accumulate.

What should I do with the carcass? Off-site disposal (preferred): Take directly to an appropriate landfill or use your regular trash pick-up that will be taken to the landfill. On-site disposal: If necessary to bury carcass, do as close to the kill site as possible and deep enough to prevent scavengers digging it up. This method does not prevent future infections on that location but minimizes the chance of moving CWD prions across the landscape to areas that have not been infected.

If I submit my deer head for testing, how long does it take to get test results back? Depending on the time of the year, test results may take 7 to 14 business days.

What are the impacts of CWD? There is no treatment or recovery; it is always fatal. CWD on the landscape could significantly reduce the number of deer and/or depress older age classes, especially mature bucks. Therefore, CWD could negatively impact Michigan's hunting traditions. Michigan has about 600,000 deer hunters who harvest about 430,000 deer annually. Hunting generates more than \$2.3 billion annually to Michigan's economy. Without management of CWD, disease may spread across the state.

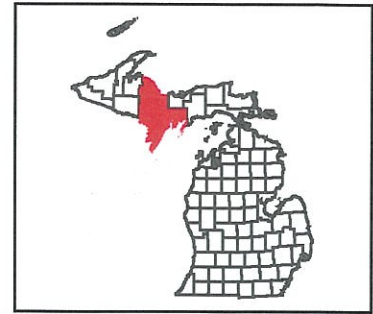
Where has CWD been found in Michigan? Since May 2015 when the first free-ranging CWD deer was found, CWD has been confirmed in deer from Clinton, Ionia, Ingham, Jackson, Kent, and Montcalm counties. CWD was also found in captive deer in Kent (2008) and Mecosta (2017) counties. Without appropriate management, the disease may spread to other areas of the state.

Is CWD transferable to cattle, pets, livestock, and other animals? Only members of the deer family are known to be naturally susceptible to CWD. Natural transmission to other animal species has never been documented.

Where did CWD first originate? Although the origin of CWD is unknown, it was first recognized in captive mule deer at wildlife research facilities in Colorado during the late 1960's. CWD was not actually identified as a Transmissible Spongiform Encephalopathy or TSE until the 1970's.

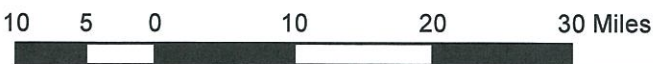
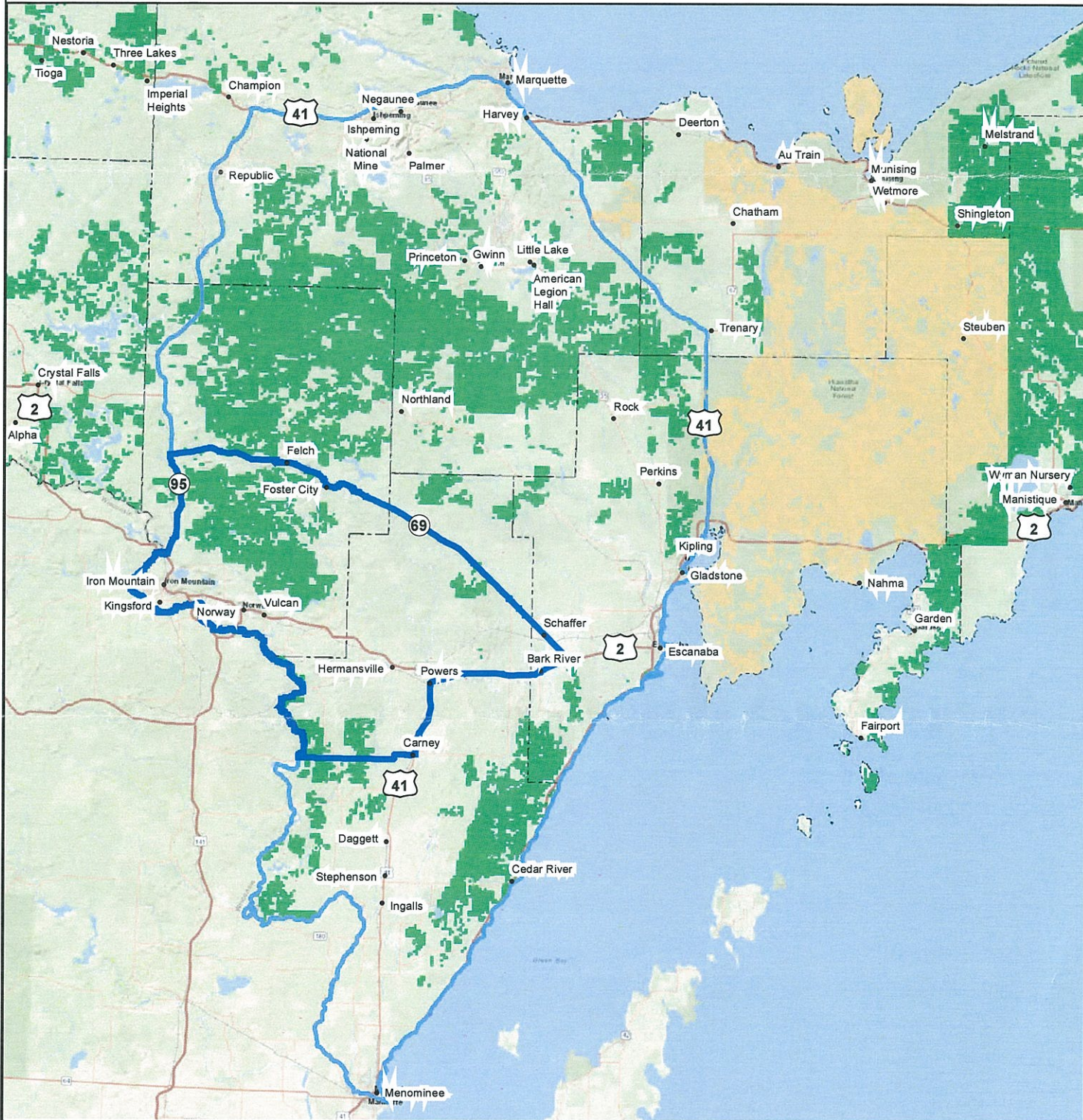


U.P. CWD Surveillance Areas



Legend

- Core CWD Area
- CWD Management Zone
- USFS Land
- UP Roads
- State Land



Date: 10/18/2018

