



Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks

Wildlife Division
1420 East 6th Avenue
PO Box 200701
Helena, MT 59620
November 19, 2013

Dear County Commissioners:

Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks (FWP) would like to make you aware of the draft Environmental Assessment (EA) addressing possible management actions in response to Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) in wildlife. The EA will be released today for public review. This is a rewrite of the original plan that has been in place since 2005 with the primary changes to that original plan being the removal of depopulation as an option and the addition of an adaptive management approach to disease management. This update reflects the research and management lessons learned from other areas already infected with CWD in wildlife.

FWP did not select a preferred alternative and will evaluate public comments prior to making a final decision. The final decision will likely be a combinations of several alternatives that provide some flexibility if CWD is ever detected. Alternative 1 through 4 assume that CWD continues to be absent from Montana while Alternative 4 though 8 outline various actions to be taken of CWD is ever detected in Montana's wildlife. FWP recognizes the dynamic nature of wildlife populations, ecosystems and human populations and acknowledges the need for equally dynamic and adaptive management strategies.

FWP encourages you to review and comment on the draft EA at the following link:
fwp.mt.gov/hunting/publicComments/2013CwdEa.html

If you have any specific questions about the draft EA, please feel free to contact Dave Risley at 406-444-7722 in the Wildlife Division or contact your local FWP regional wildlife manager.

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