

RECEIVED

NOV 20 2017



Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks

Rowell County Commissioners

--	--	--	--	--

Wildlife Division
PO Box 200701
Helena, MT 59620-0701
November 8, 2017

Dear Interested Person:

Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks (FWP) is requesting public review and comment on the following item. Supporting information on this item can be found on our website under "Opportunity for Public Comment" at fwp.mt.gov/hunting/ or directly by using the links below.

Montana's CWD Management Plan – Proposed

FWP has developed a three-part action-specific plan for surveillance for Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD), a management response to finding it, and a plan to inform the public about the disease, the risk it poses to Montana's wildlife, and the necessary actions to manage it. These specific actions are covered by Environmental Assessments of 2005 and 2013. Surveillance will sample animals at hunter check stations in areas where CWD is closest to our borders. Because we do not have enough money or staff to look for CWD everywhere in the state, we will annually rotate through high-priority areas in south-central, southeast and northern Montana. When CWD is found, we need to find out its prevalence in the local herd and the geographical extent of the infection. Since there are no reliable tests for live animals, we propose to use public hunting to sample animals in a Special CWD Hunt within about a 10-mile radius around the initial detection called the Initial Response Area (IRA). We may have to sample about 150 – 300-plus animals to accurately determine disease prevalence, depending on the size of the local herd. The plan also speaks to the long-term management of the area, which will depend on the prevalence and distribution found during the Special CWD Hunt. Perhaps the most important part is a public information plan to inform and educate hunters, landowners, political office holders and the public about the very real risk CWD poses to our wildlife and economy, and how we propose to manage it.

TO MAKE A COMMENT

For further clarification or additional materials, you may call the Wildlife Division office at 406-444-2612 or email at fwpwld@mt.gov. Comments will be accepted: online by using any of the links below; in writing sent to the address above; and by email to fwpwld@mt.gov.

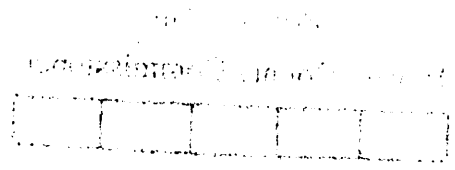
COMMENT PERIOD DEADLINE & FINAL ADOPTION MEETING

The proposed items will be accepting public comments until 5 p.m. Friday, December 8, 2017. Final consideration of the FWP CWD Management Plan proposed item is tentatively scheduled for the February 2018 Commission meeting.

✓ Montana's CWD Management Plan – Proposed

<http://fwp.mt.gov/fishAndWildlife/publicComments/2017/cwdMgmt.html>

NEW YORK



Wildlife Division
PO Box 200701
Helena MT 59620-0701

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Presort First Class
U.S. Postage
PAID
Helena, MT
Permit No. 89

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
RAVALLI COUNTY
215 S 4TH ST, SUITE A
HAMILTON, MT 59840-2853

JAHISP1 59840

