

Chronic Wasting Disease: Fall 2021 Season Update

Kelly Straka | MN Department of Natural Resources

February 6, 2022

Overview of CWD Surveillance Plan for Fall 2021

CWD Surveillance occurring in 6 areas of the state during fall 2021

All areas have mandatory sampling over opening weekend of firearms A and B seasons

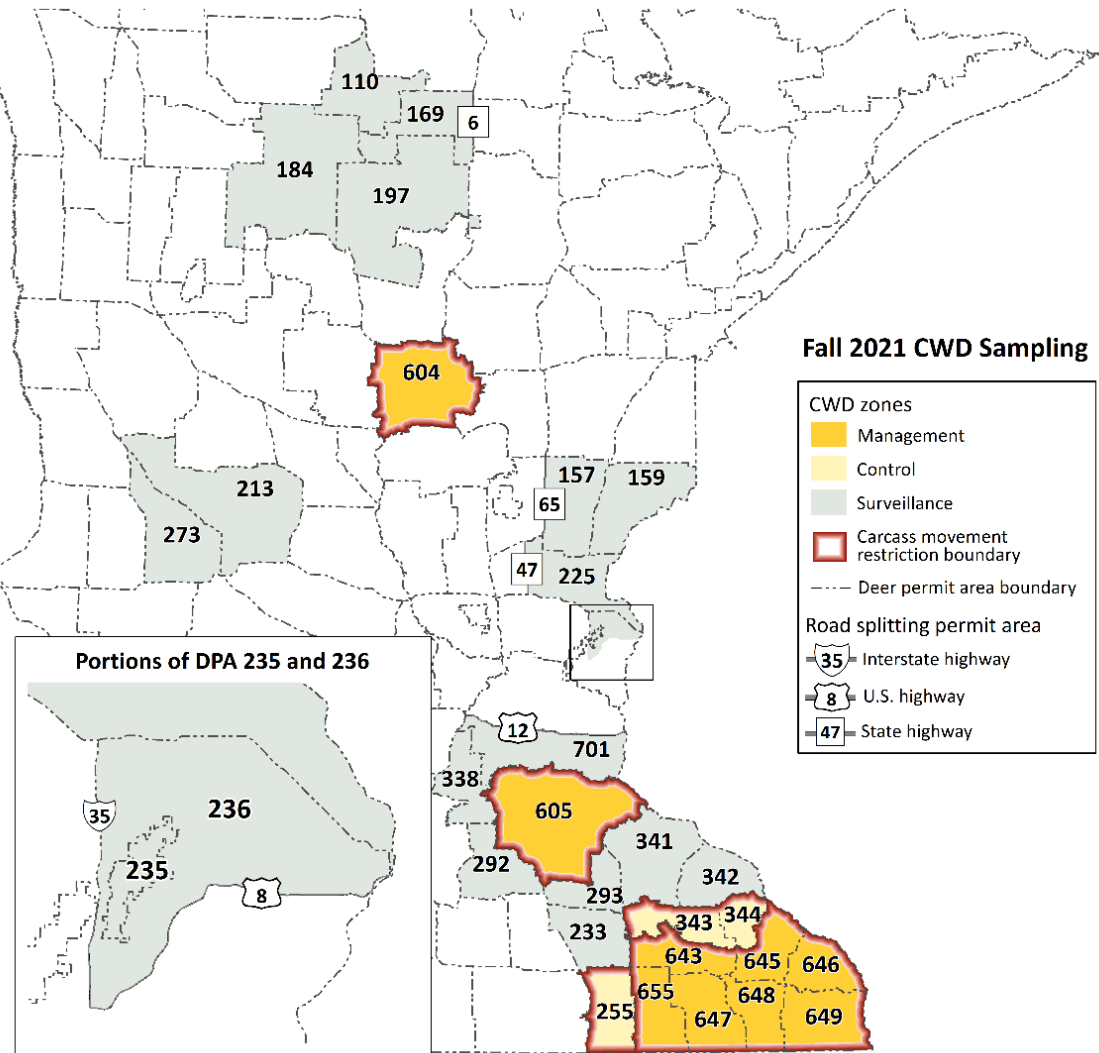
- With exception of DPAs 213/273, which are continuing a risk-based sampling model under a points scheme and working with vendors all hunting season

Management and Control Zones (orange and yellow) have voluntary self-service sampling stations available during all hunting seasons (as well as dumpsters to accommodate carcass movement restrictions)

Surveillance Zones (grey) have appointments available for hunters to get deer tested outside of opening weekend

Total expected deer/samples: 22,500

Total anticipated costs: ~ \$2 million ²

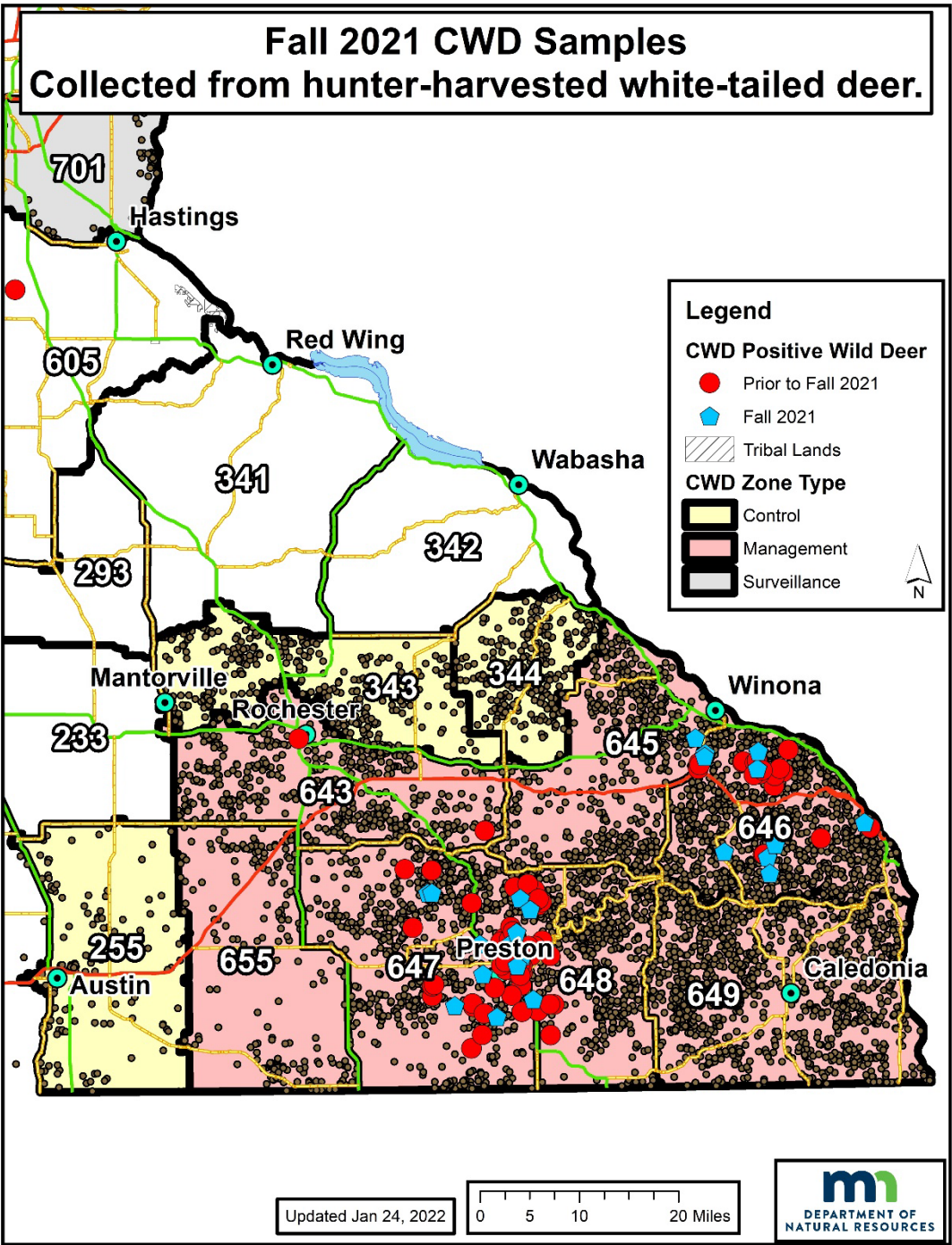


Brief Overview, CWD Sampling

Collection Method	Strategy	Number of Samples
Hunter-Harvested	Checkstation	7,082
	Headbox	5,500
	Sampling Partner	1,578
	Walk-in	140
	Other	39
	Total	14,339
Opportunistic	Reported Sick	19
	Vehicle Killed	210
	Found Dead	29
	Shooting Permit	189
		Total
	Grand Total	14,786

- Nearly 15K total samples have been collected since July 1, 2021
 - 31 new CWD detections
- ~\$1.38M in expenses thus far, from \$3.954M in CWD appropriations for FY22
- 224 DNR staff worked 21,645 hours
- 184 students worked from 13 colleges/universities across the state

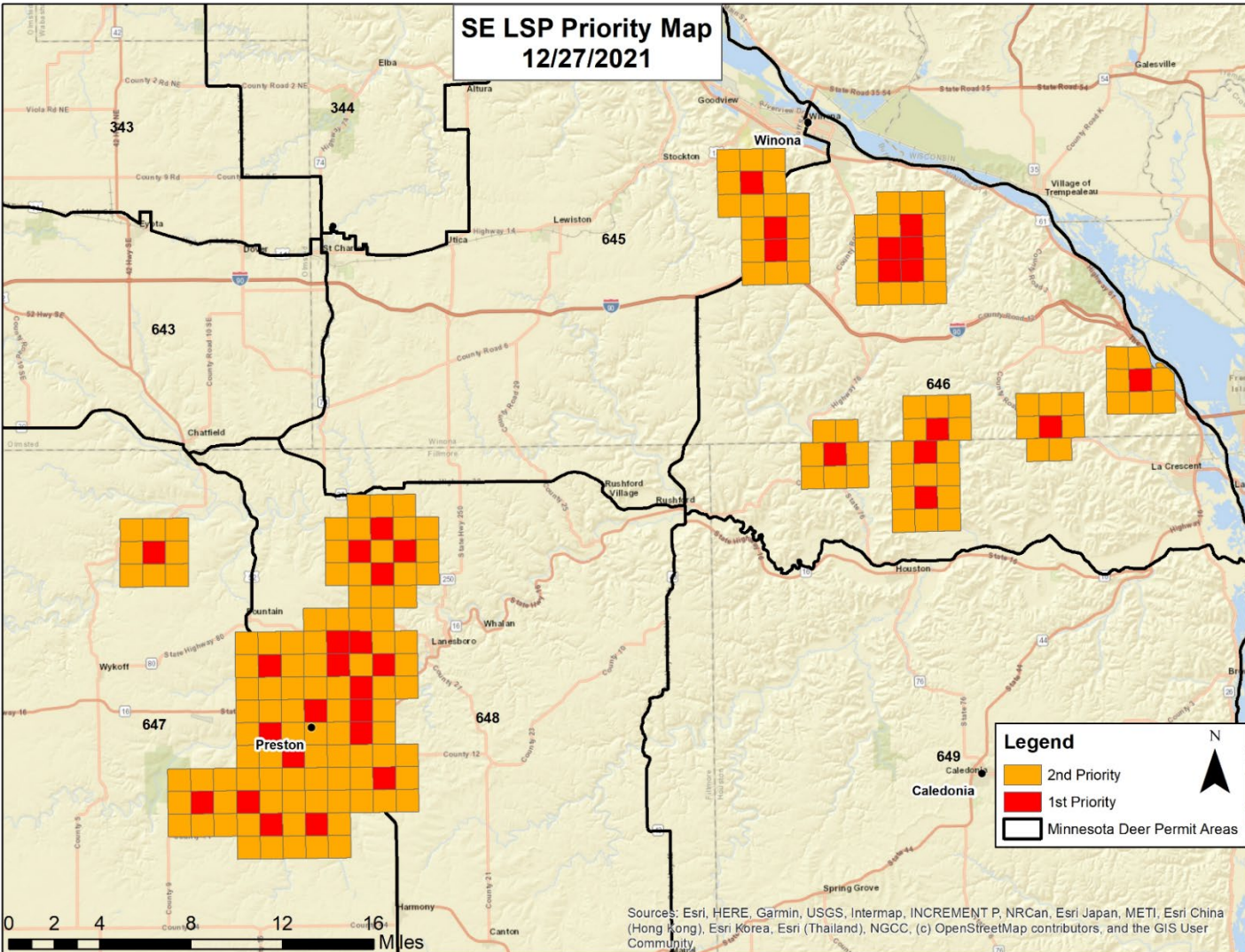
Southeast Management and Control Zone



Southeast	Mgmt Zone		Control Zone	
	Samples	Compliance	Samples	Compliance
Firearms Opening Weekend A;B (MANDATORY)	2,295; 702	91%; 81%	428; 82	64%; 67%
Outside firearms opener: archery, muzzleloader, remaining firearms (VOLUNTARY)	2,079	-	256	-
CWD Late Hunts (MANDATORY)	459	66%	53 (DPA 343 only)	62%
Total samples	5,535		819	

- 27 new detections of CWD in SE MZ
- Continuing to see infections in same areas

Southeast Management Zone

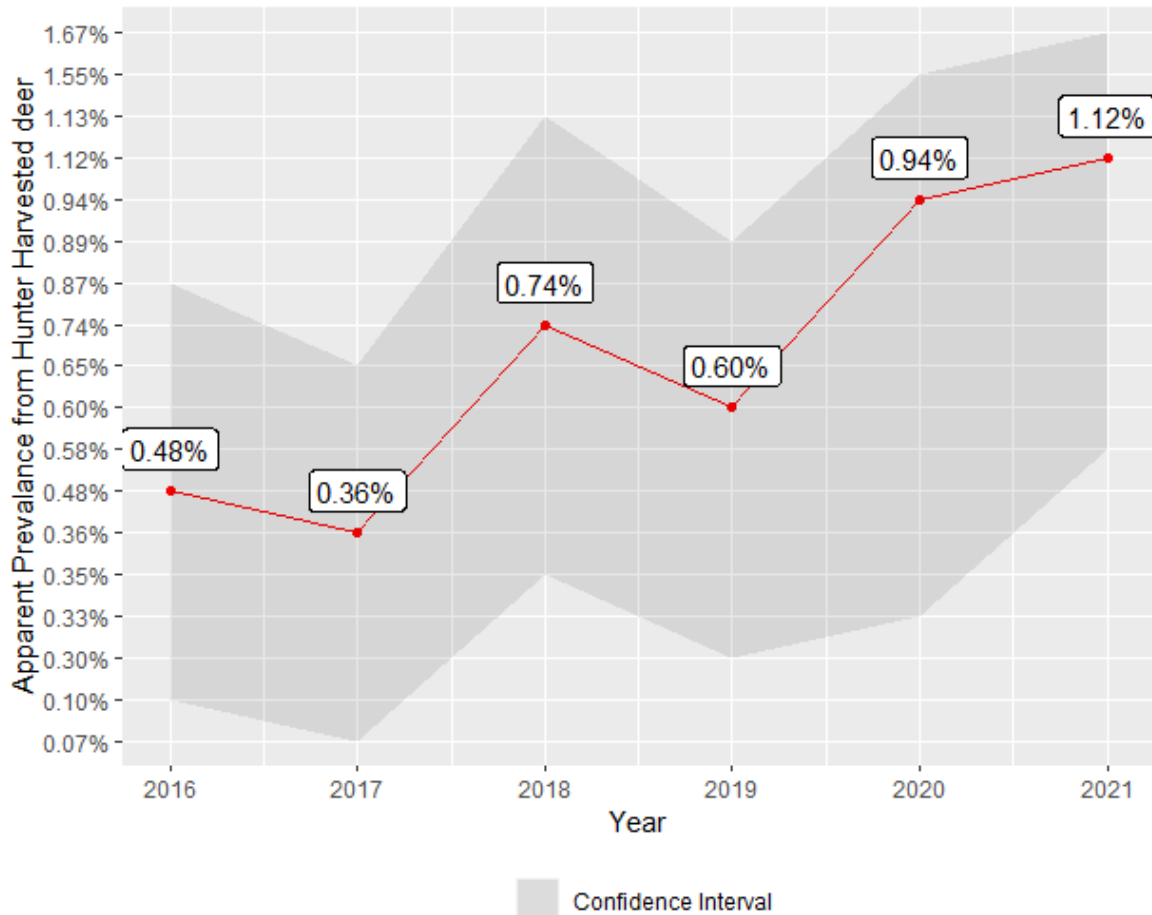


New Positives in SEMZ

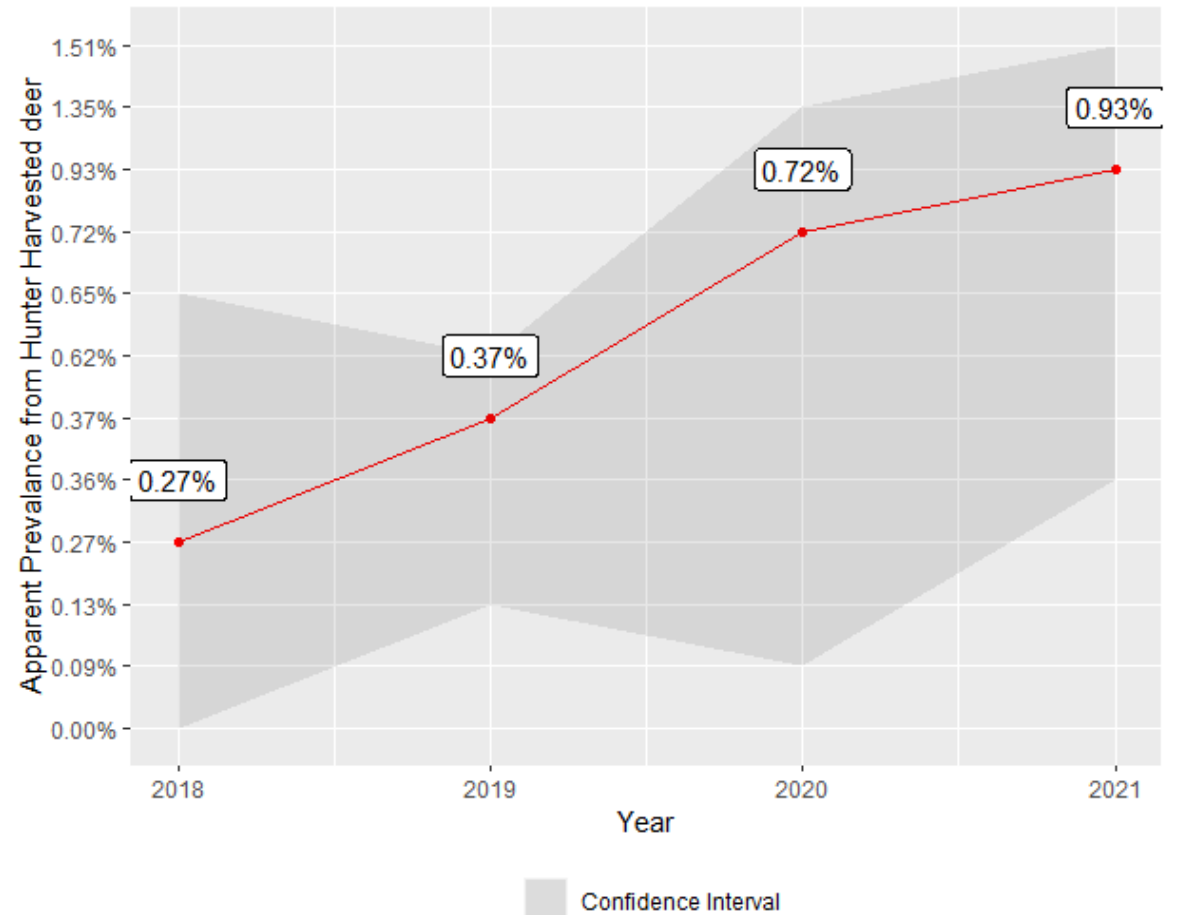
- 25 new positives during the fall
- 2 new positives during late hunts
- Winter work includes:
 - **Yes** Special Hunt (66% compliance, 459 samples)
 - **Yes** Landowner shooting permits
 - **Yes** USDA agency culling (primary focus)
- CWD Management efforts will continue indefinitely

CWD Prevalence in the Fillmore County Outbreak (DPAs 603/647/648) and the Winona County Outbreak (DPA 646)

Apparent Prevalence for Fillmore Outbreak (DPA 603/647/648)



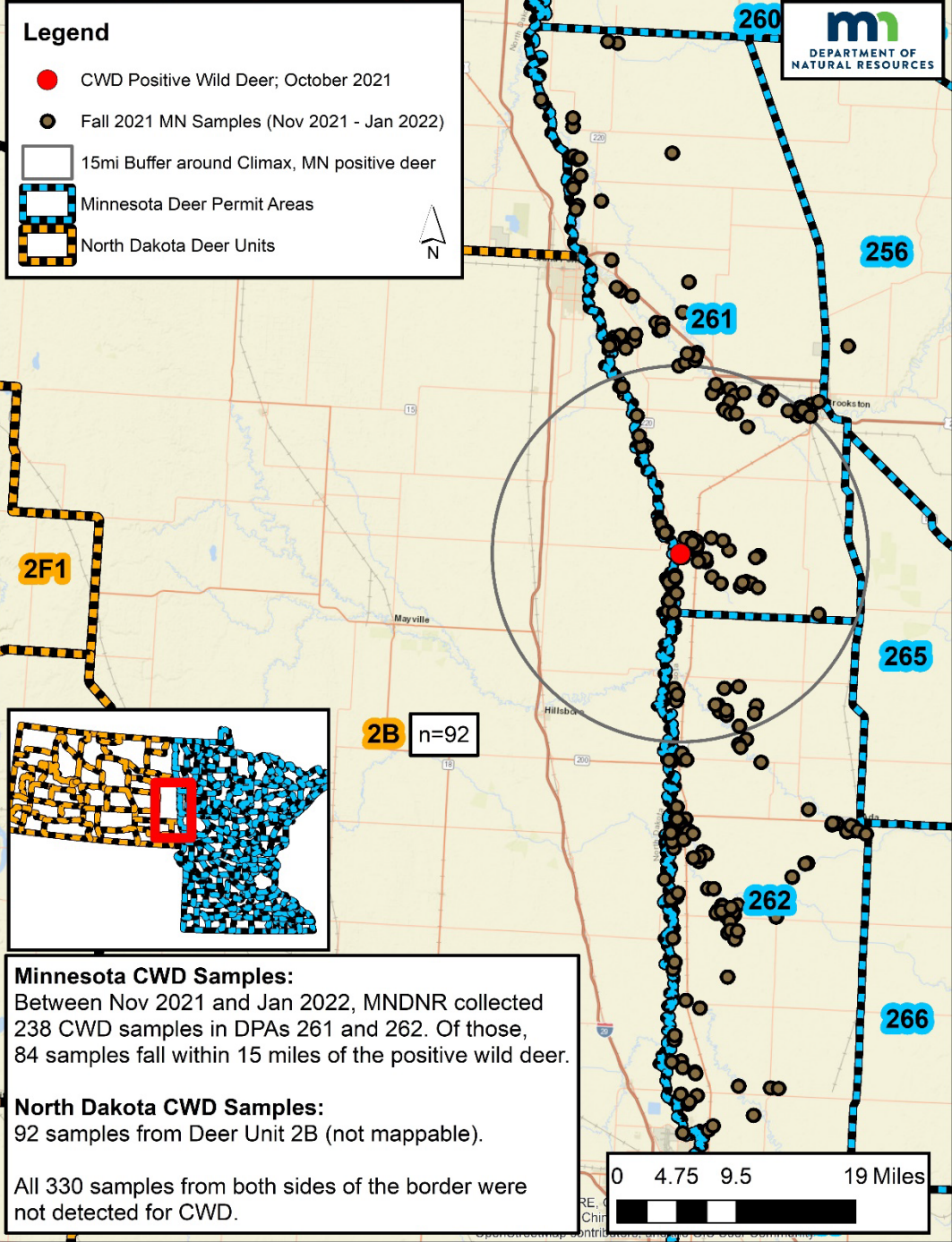
Apparent Prevalence for Winona Outbreak (DPA 646)



CWD Sampling Fall 2021 (Polk County)

Legend

- CWD Positive Wild Deer; October 2021
- Fall 2021 MN Samples (Nov 2021 - Jan 2022)
- 15mi Buffer around Climax, MN positive deer
- ▨ Minnesota Deer Permit Areas
- ▨ North Dakota Deer Units



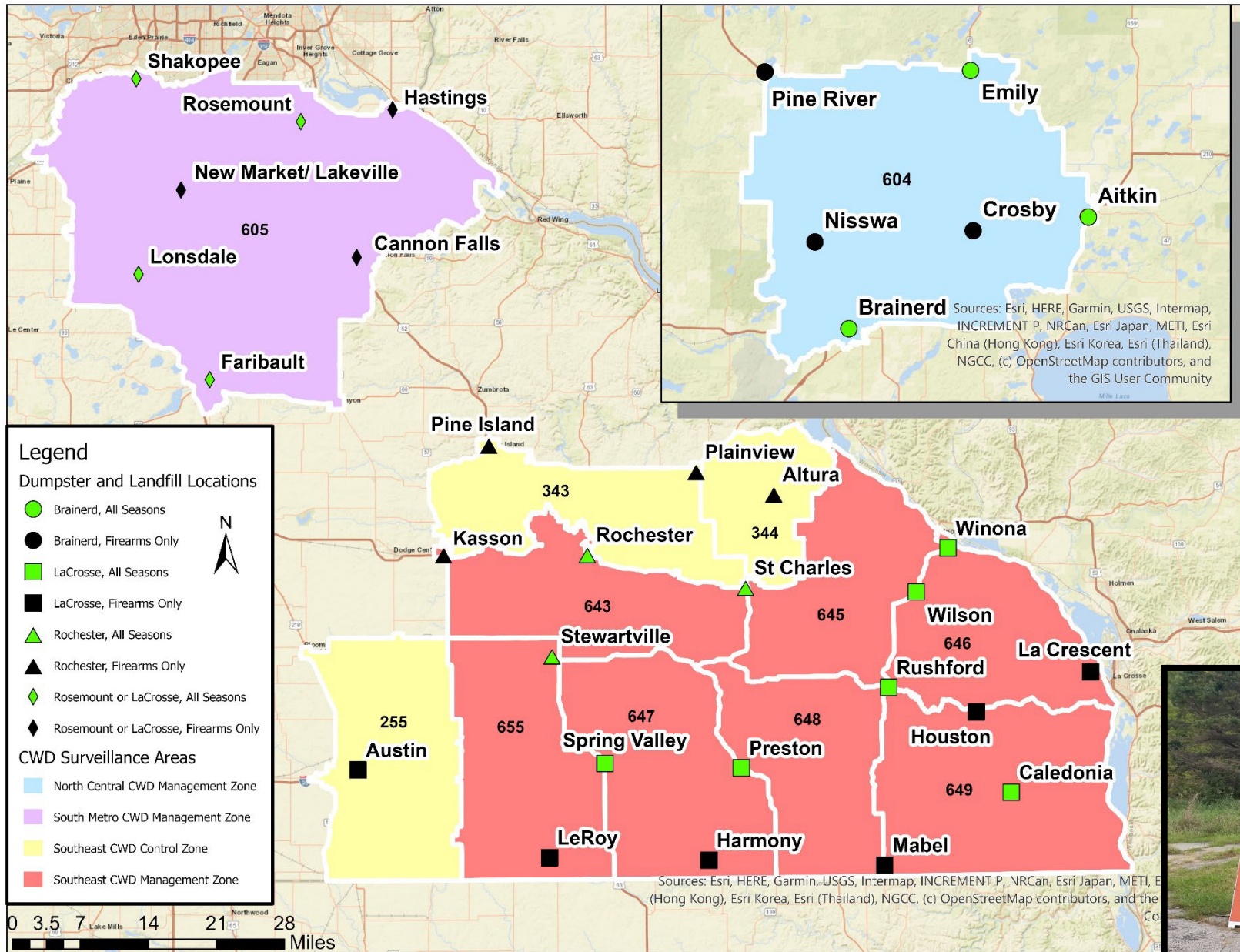
Minnesota CWD Samples:
Between Nov 2021 and Jan 2022, MNDNR collected 238 CWD samples in DPAs 261 and 262. Of those, 84 samples fall within 15 miles of the positive wild deer.

North Dakota CWD Samples:
92 samples from Deer Unit 2B (not mappable).

All 330 samples from both sides of the border were not detected for CWD.

- A hunter submitted his own samples for CWD screening and on 2-Nov; estimated as 2-yr old male
- Past CWD sampling occurred in early 2000s
- Closest wild positive in MN is Brainerd, about 190 miles away. Closest wild positive in ND is >200 miles away.
- Collected 238 samples on MN side, 84 samples of which are within 15 miles of the positive
- NDG&F collected 92 samples in hunt unit 2B (data only to unit level)
- All samples from both sides of the border were not detected!

Adopt-A-Dumpster Program

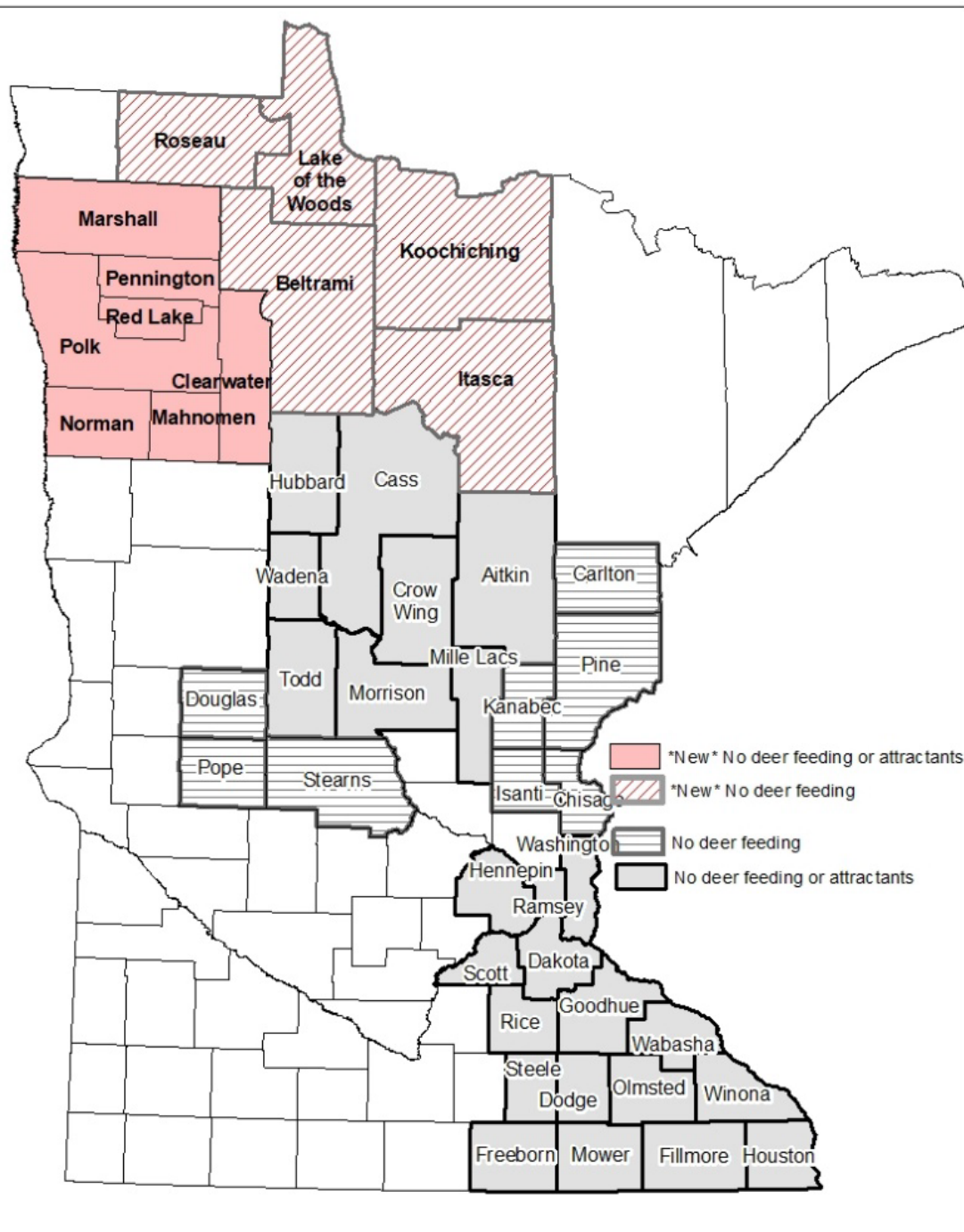


- Dumpsters were deployed at 32 sites this fall
- Only available in CWD Management and Control Zones (where we have the disease in the wild and carcass movement restrictions are in place)
- Landfill options are also in place in surveillance zones



CWD+ Carcass Disposition (n=146): 58% landfilled, 27% digested, 8% meat processor, 6% left on landscape, 1% other (buried/burned)

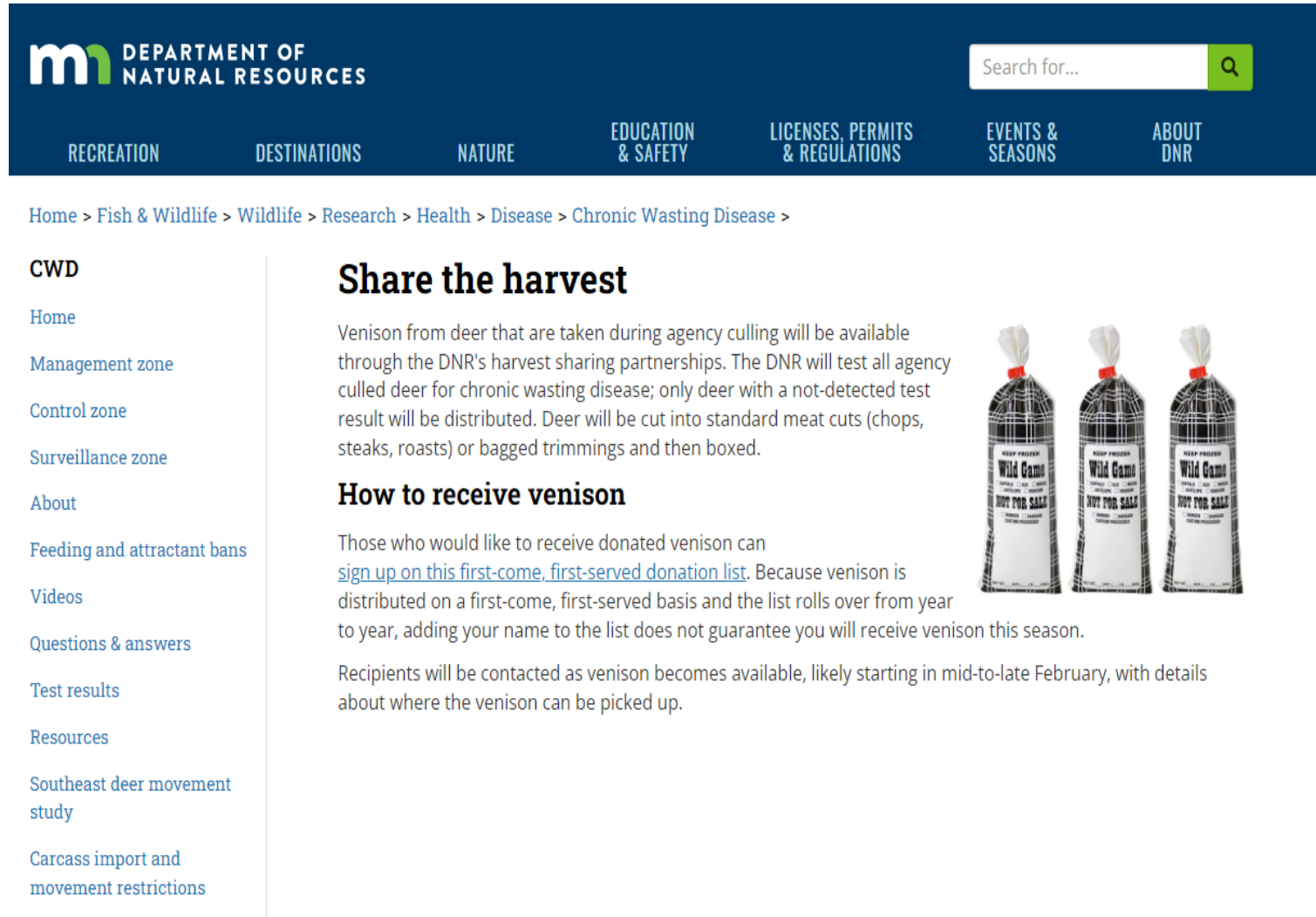
Expansion of Deer Feeding and Attractant Bans



- On Thursday, Dec 30th, the deer feeding ban was expanded to include 44 counties
- New counties were added in response to wild CWD-positive deer found in Polk county and a CWD-infected deer farm in Beltrami county
- To reduce disease transmission risk, expansion includes the county where the disease was detected as well as all surrounding counties
- In areas where disease has been confirmed in wild deer, attractants (salt, minerals, and urine) are also banned

Share the Harvest Overview

- All deer from agency culling goes to the public
- Anyone can sign up - <https://www.dnr.state.mn.us/cwd/share-harvest.html>
- Meat comes packaged in cuts:
 - Loin
 - Roast
 - Trim



The screenshot shows the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources website. The header includes the logo and navigation links: RECREATION, DESTINATIONS, NATURE, EDUCATION & SAFETY, LICENSES, PERMITS & REGULATIONS, EVENTS & SEASONS, and ABOUT DNR. A search bar is located in the top right. The main content area is titled 'Share the harvest' and includes a breadcrumb trail: Home > Fish & Wildlife > Wildlife > Research > Health > Disease > Chronic Wasting Disease >. Below the title is a paragraph explaining that venison from deer taken during agency culling will be available through harvest sharing partnerships, with a note that only deer with a not-detected test result will be distributed. To the right of this text are three bags of venison. Below the paragraph is a section titled 'How to receive venison' which states that recipients can sign up on a first-come, first-served donation list. A final paragraph notes that recipients will be contacted as venison becomes available, likely starting in mid-to-late February.


Share the harvest

Venison from deer that are taken during agency culling will be available through the DNR's harvest sharing partnerships. The DNR will test all agency culled deer for chronic wasting disease; only deer with a not-detected test result will be distributed. Deer will be cut into standard meat cuts (chops, steaks, roasts) or bagged trimmings and then boxed.

How to receive venison

Those who would like to receive donated venison can [sign up on this first-come, first-served donation list](#). Because venison is distributed on a first-come, first-served basis and the list rolls over from year to year, adding your name to the list does not guarantee you will receive venison this season.

Recipients will be contacted as venison becomes available, likely starting in mid-to-late February, with details about where the venison can be picked up.



Looking ahead to next fall

- Fall 2021 wrap-up
 - Waiting on final spending to determine cost and effort with hybrid model
 - Summarize effectiveness of the risk-based model compared to hybrid and others
- Draft recommendations for fall 2022 surveillance efforts
 - CWD footprint expanded to 7 areas: 4 CWD MZs, 3 SZs (EC and NW will shrink, SM SZ goes away, WC in final year)
 - Determine sampling goals and framework
 - Expand hunter service testing
 - Begin rule development, hunting regulations, staffing plans, etc.

Thank You Any Questions?

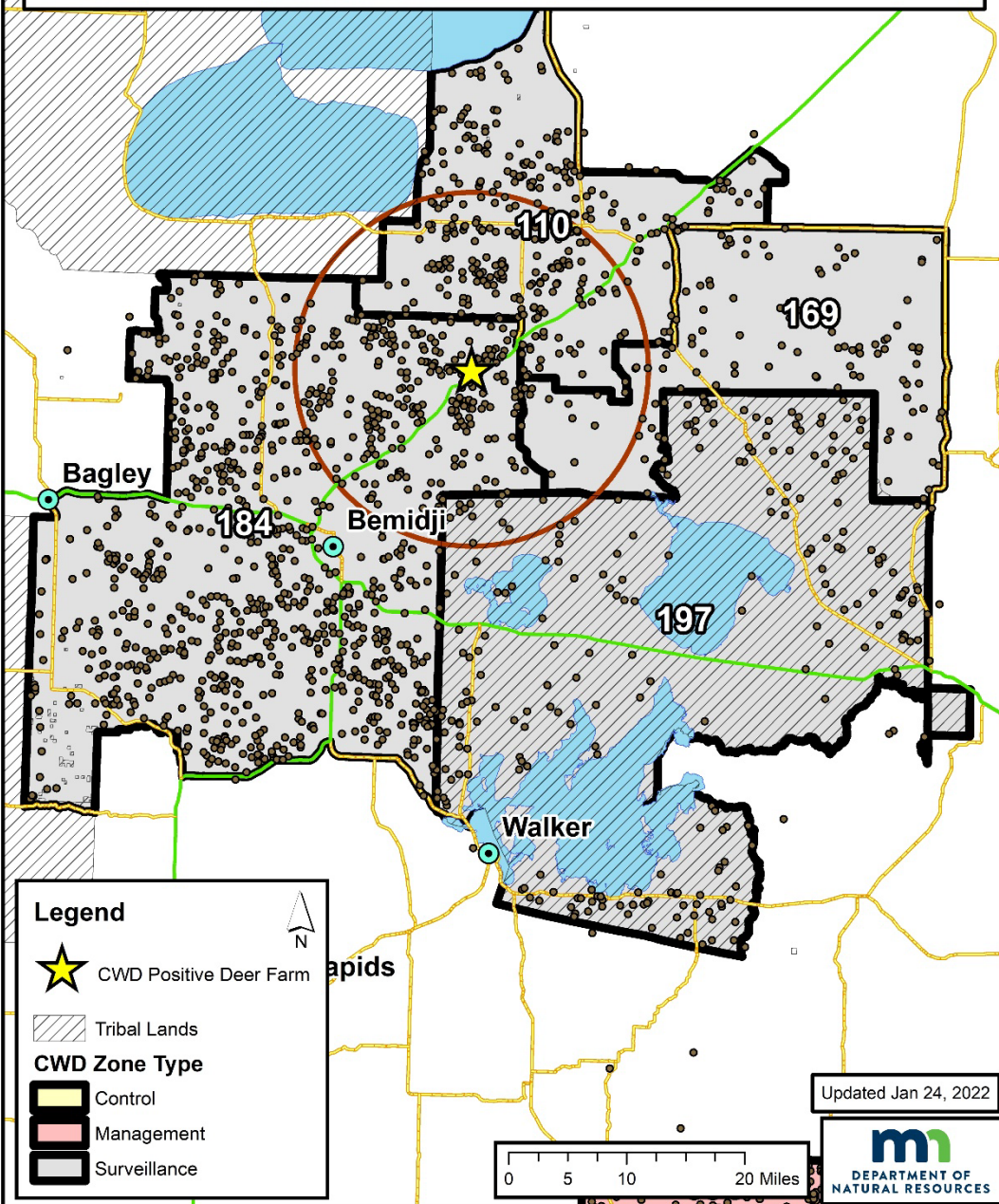
Kelly Straka DVM MPH

Wildlife Section Manager

Kelly.Straka@state.mn.us

Northwest Surveillance Zone (Beltrami County)

Fall 2021 CWD Samples
Collected from hunter-harvested white-tailed deer.

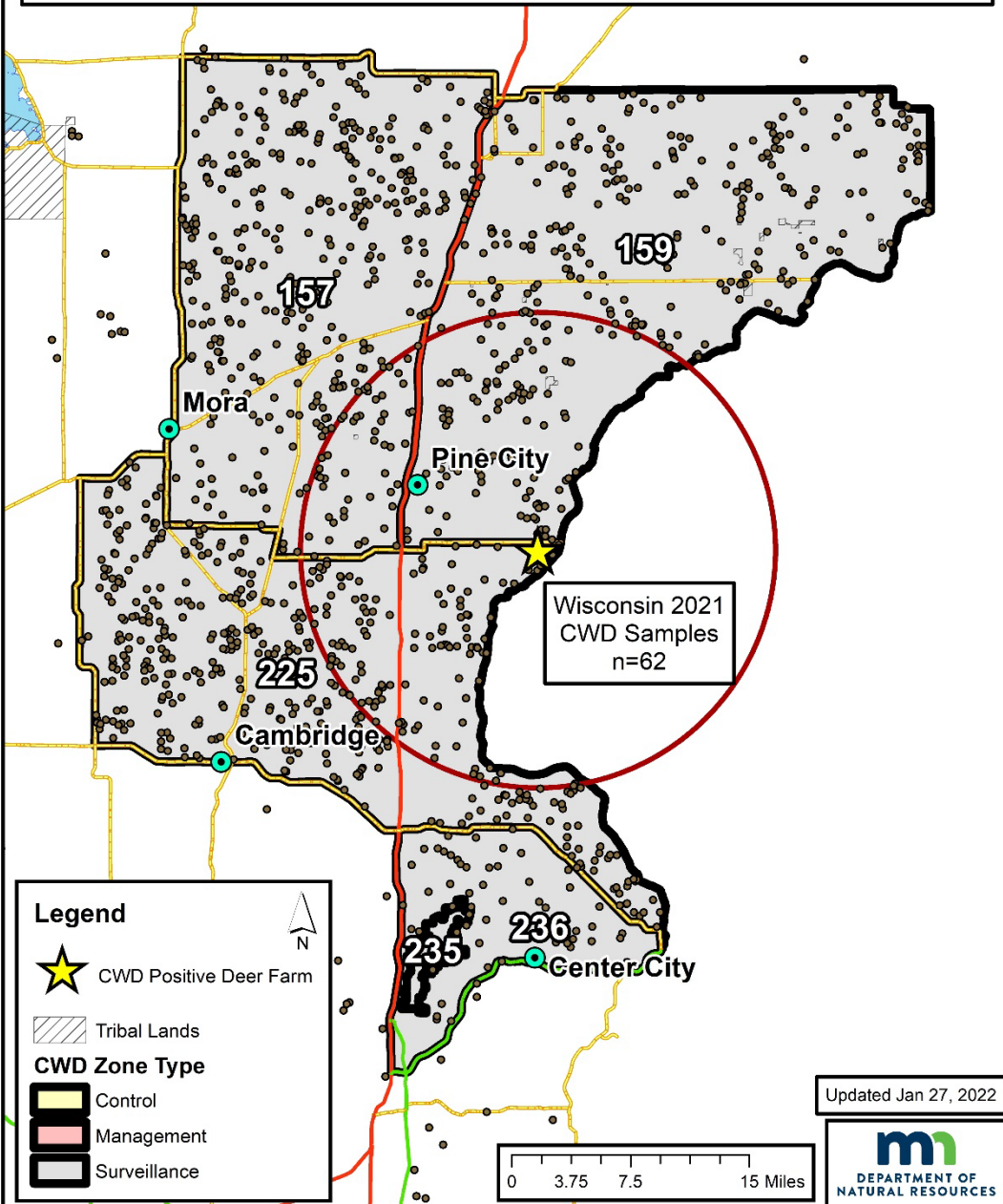


Northwest Surveillance Area Samples	Compliance	
Firearms Opening Weekend (MANDATORY)	1,702	75%
Outside firearms opener: archery, muzzleloader, remaining firearms (VOLUNTARY)	140	-
CWD Late Hunts (MANDATORY)	NA	-
Total samples	1,842	

- Goal: 1,800 samples
- 470 samples taken within 15mi of the positive deer farm
- No detections of CWD; no winter work

East Central Surveillance Zone (Pine County)

Fall 2021 CWD Samples
Collected from hunter-harvested white-tailed deer.

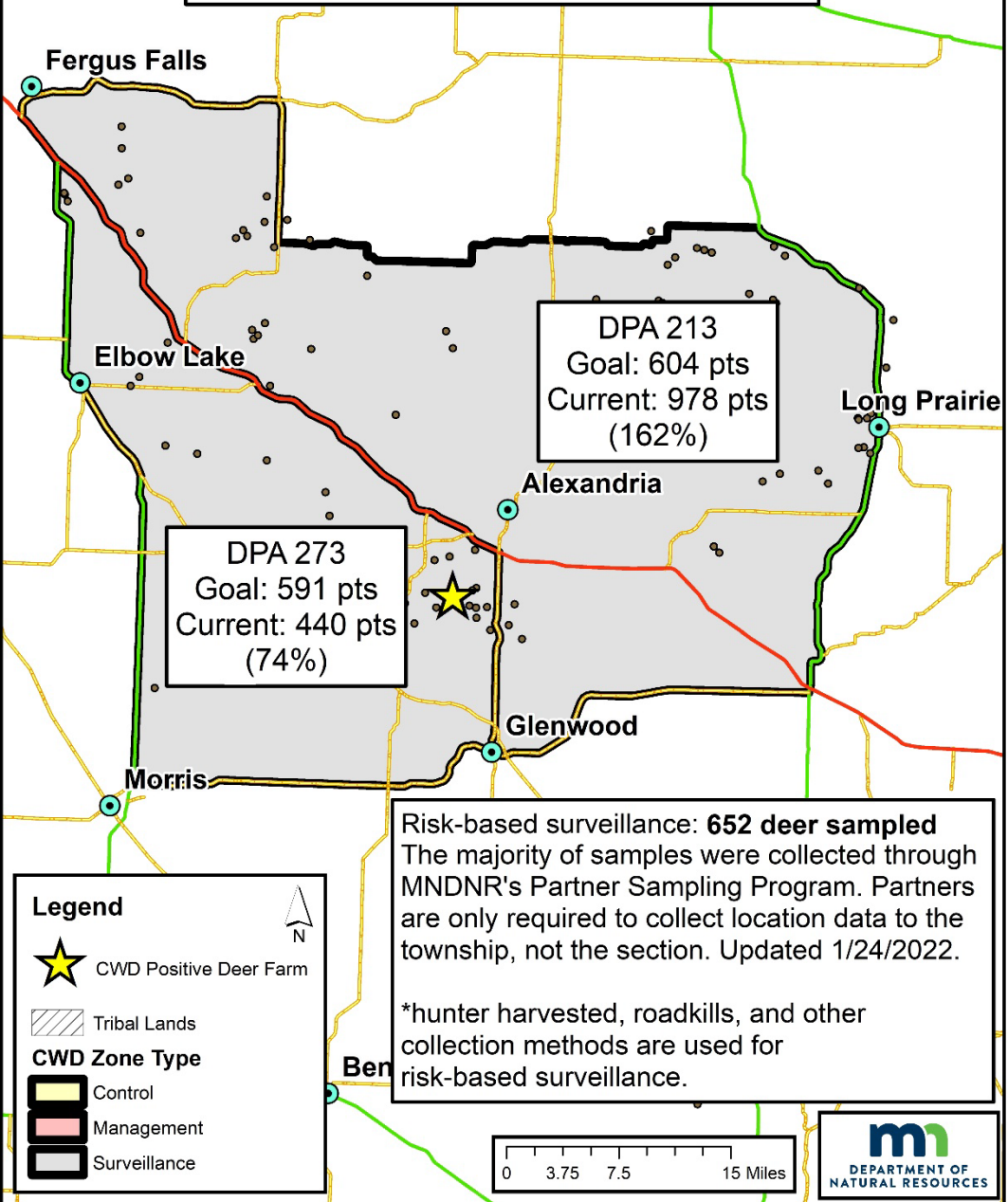


East Central Surveillance Area Samples	Compliance	
Firearms Opening Weekend (MANDATORY)	1,298	45%
Outside firearms opener: archery, muzzleloader, remaining firearms (VOLUNTARY)	87	-
CWD Late Hunts (MANDATORY)	NA	-
Total samples	1,385	

- Goal: 1,800 samples
- 282 samples taken within 15mi of the positive deer farm (on MN side)
- No detections of CWD; no winter work

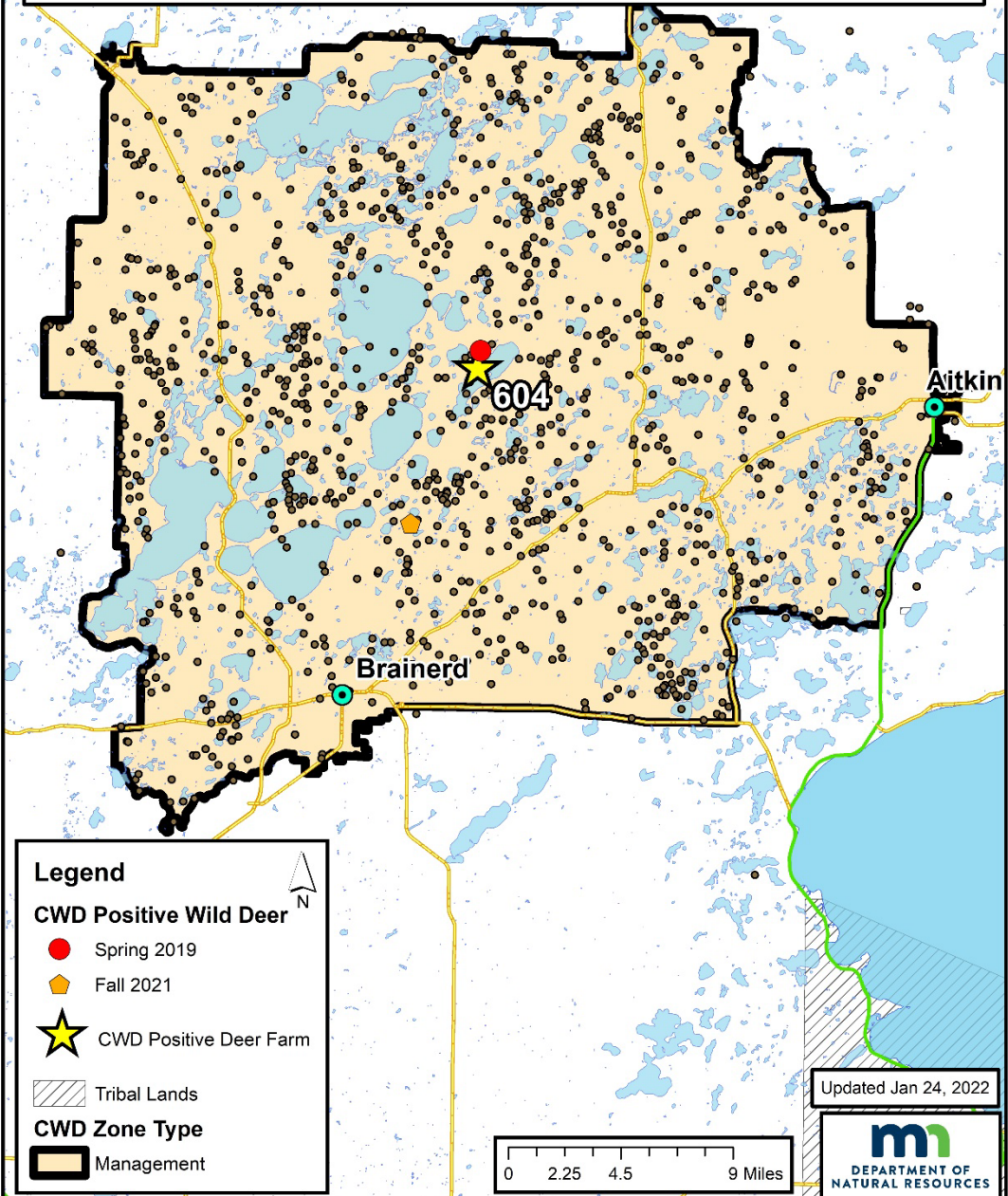
West Central Surveillance Zone (Douglas County)

Fall 2021 CWD Samples
Collected from white-tailed deer*



- Precautionary surveillance in response to CWD-infected cervid farm
 - 1 of 2 deer tested positive on this farm
- Voluntary testing until goal is reached
- Risk based Surveillance Model: Pilot Effort (2020-2022)
 - Samples collected are assigned points based on sample type (age/sex),
 - Yearling Male = 1 point; Adult Male = 3.2 points
 - Community reported sick deer = 33.3 points
 - Better detection probability with decreased samples. Still achieve our high-bar of 95-99% probability of detecting CWD if present at 0.5-1% of the deer population in this area.
 - Other states are using this method: Tennessee and Virginia
- Partner with taxidermists and meat processors to collect samples from hunter-harvested deer
- Fall 2021: Tested 652 deer, no CWD detected

Fall 2021 CWD Samples
Collected from hunter-harvested white-tailed deer.



North Central Management Zone (Crow Wing County)

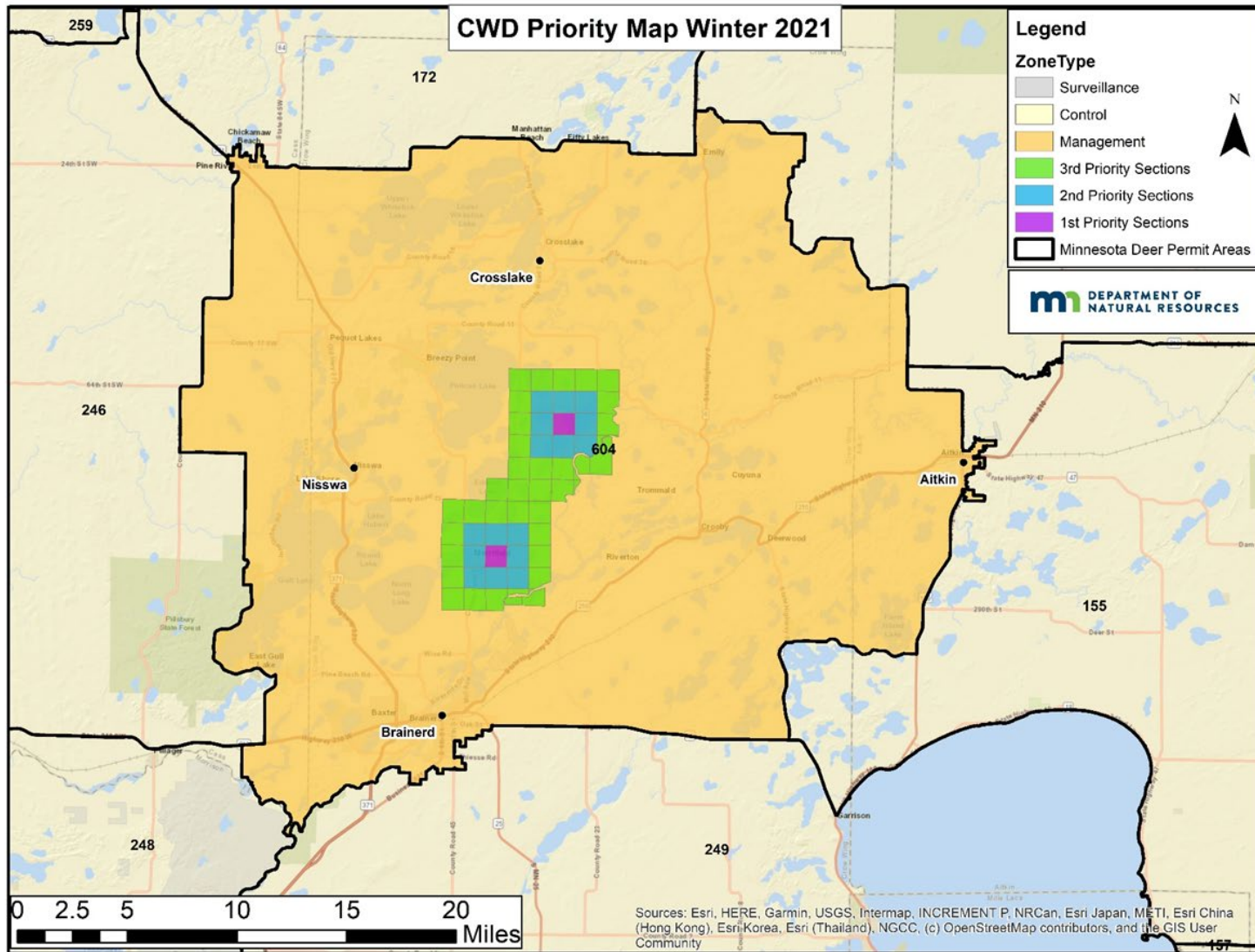
North Central Mgmt Zone Samples	Compliance	
Firearms Opening Weekend (MANDATORY)	786	73%
Outside firearms opener: archery, muzzleloader, remaining firearms (VOLUNTARY)	495	-
CWD Late Hunts (MANDATORY)	NA	-
Total samples	1,281	

- One new detection of CWD

Updated Jan 24, 2022

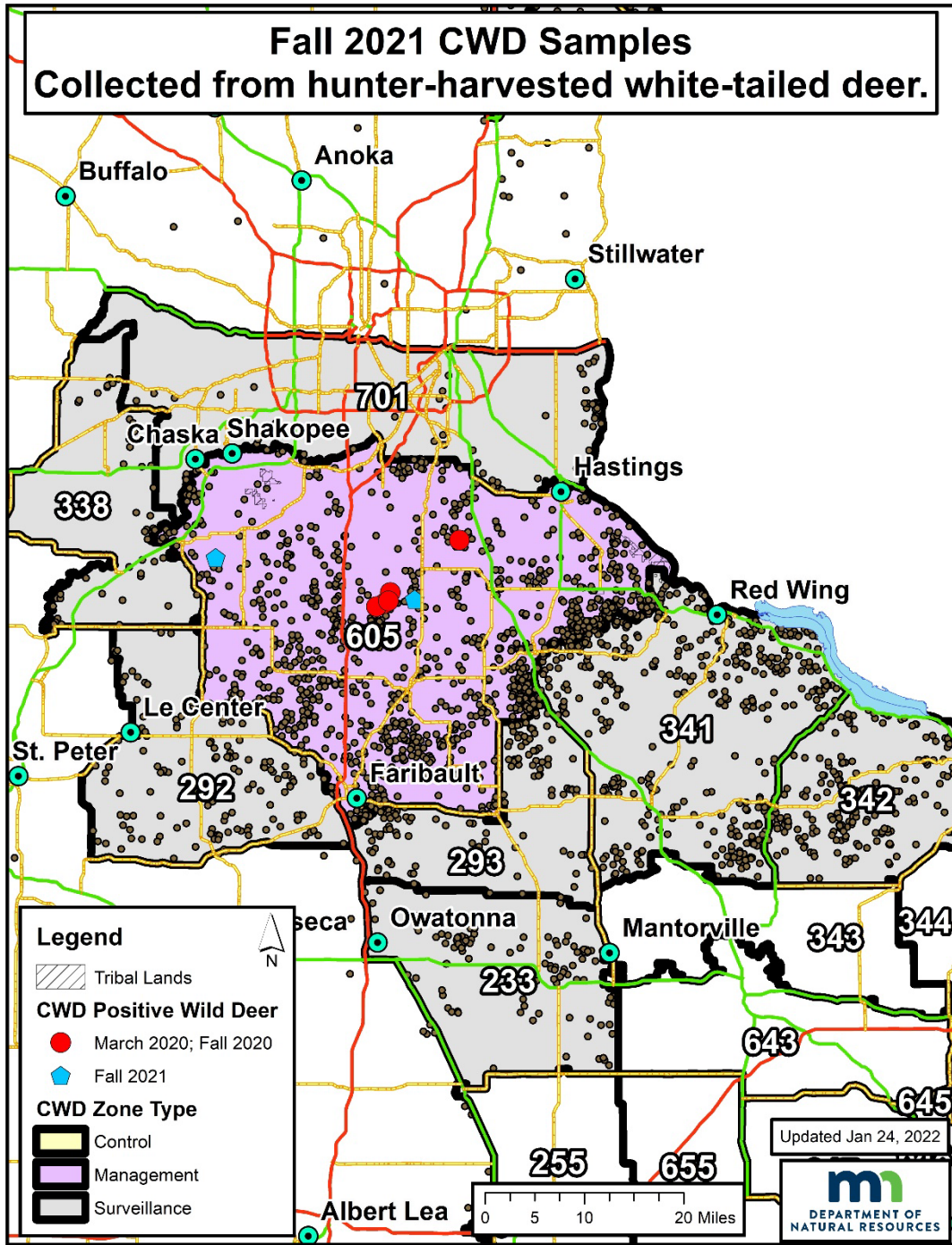


North Central Management Zone (Crow Wing County)



- Positives in DPA 604
 - 2019 = Adult doe (0.5mi from farm)
 - 2021 = Yearling buck (7.5mi from doe)
- Winter work includes:
 - **No** Special Hunt
 - **Yes** Landowner shooting permits
 - **No** USDA agency culling
- We have tested nearly 15,000 deer in this area from 2017-2021, high confidence CWD has not been persisting in this area.
 - 6,300 samples in DPA 604 boundary alone
- CWD Management efforts will continue through fall 2024

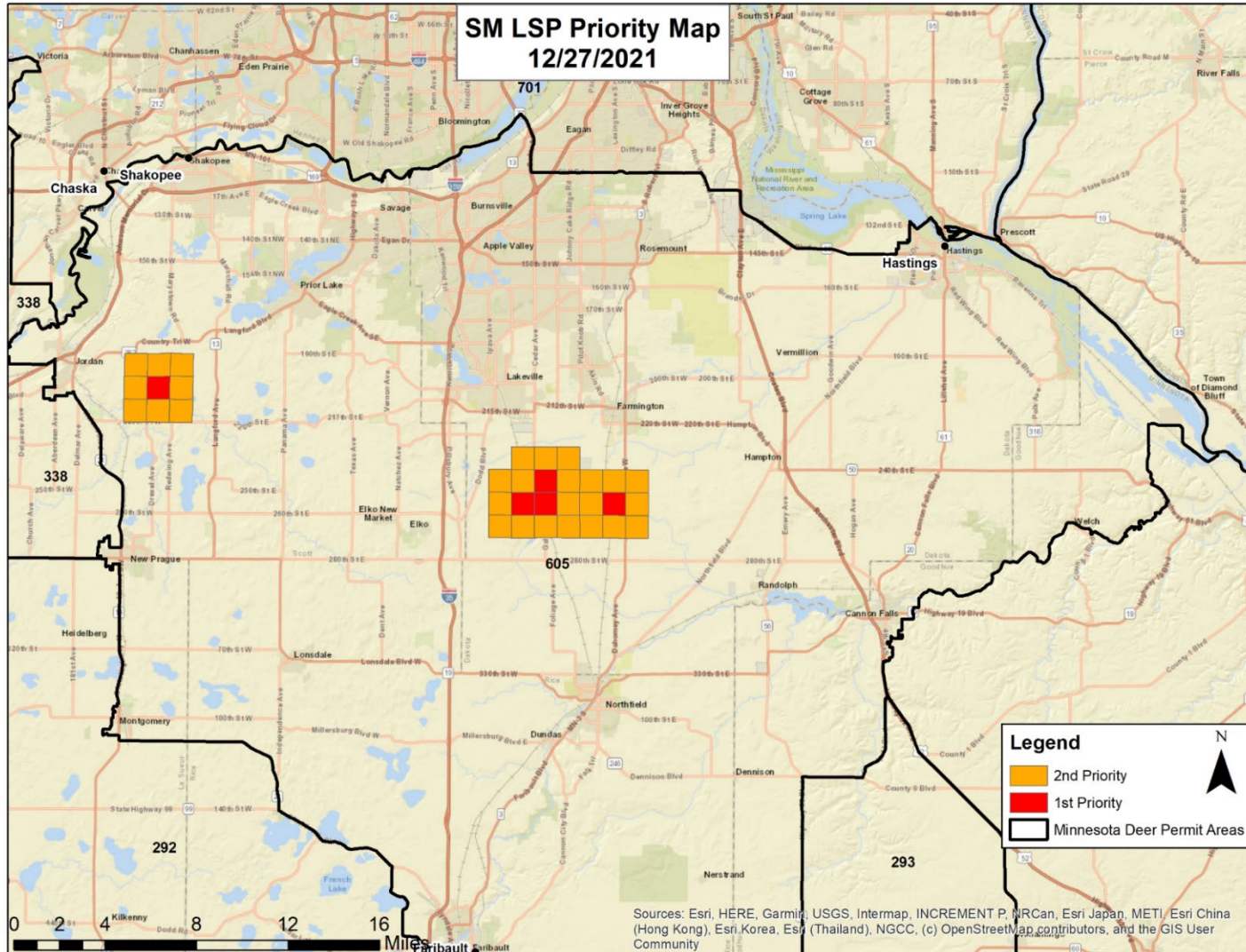
South Metro Management and Surveillance Zone



	DPA 605		Surv. Zone	
	Samples	Compliance	Samples	Compliance
Firearms Opening Weekend A;B (MANDATORY)	485; 57	88%; 65%	882; 140	45%; 37%
Outside firearms opener: archery, muzzleloader, remaining firearms (VOLUNTARY)	693	-	506	-
CWD Late Hunts (MANDATORY)	110	67%	NA	-
Total samples	1,345		1,528	

- 2 new detections of CWD in DPA 605
- No detections in South Metro Surv Zone

DPA 605 – SM Mgmt Zone (Dakota County)



New Positives in DPA 605

- 1st – adult female in area of previous infections (Chub Lake)
- Second, adult male >10mi to the west
- Winter work includes:
 - **Yes** Special Hunt (67% compliance, 110 samples)
 - **Yes** Landowner shooting permits
 - **Yes** USDA agency culling (secondary)
- CWD Management efforts will continue indefinitely

Landowner Shooting Permits

- Landowner Shooting Permits issued for use January 22-30
 - Focused area surrounding 3-miles in North Central and 2-miles from a positive in SM and SE.
 - CWD testing is mandatory
 - Unlimited bag, only on private land, only valid on specific parcels.
- Sent letters to notify landowners with 10+ acres of LSP and Agency Culling phases
 - SE: 984 letters
 - SM: 279 letters
 - NC: 452 letters
 - Total: 1,715 letters



Division of Fish and Wildlife
500 Lafayette Road, Box 20
St. Paul, MN 55155

December XX, 2022

Name
Address 1
City, State Zip code

Greetings,

The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (MN DNR) is reaching out to all landowners who own at least 10 acres within 3 miles of wild deer that have tested positive for chronic wasting disease (CWD) in deer permit area (DPA) 604. Our goal is to keep crucial landowners like yourself well informed on the status of CWD in our wild deer herd and provide an opportunity to participate in our ongoing efforts to manage the spread of the disease.

What is CWD?

Chronic wasting disease is a transmissible, always-fatal, degenerative brain disease caused by prions that affect cervids (members of the deer family including white-tailed deer, mule deer, elk, caribou and moose). In Minnesota, MNDNR is concerned about CWD in our wild white-tailed deer herd. CWD has been linked to population declines in white-tailed deer, mule deer and elk in multiple western states. Early research in Wisconsin has shown that deer with CWD are three times more likely to die than healthy deer.

CWD in Crow Wing County

As you are likely aware, CWD was detected in a wild deer in Crow Wing County in February 2019, during surveillance activities initiated after the detection of CWD in a farmed deer herd in the area. Unfortunately, after nearly 6,300 samples collected since that detection, we have detected the disease in a second wild deer harvested in November 2021. This deer was harvested approximately 7 miles southwest of the CWD positive deer detected in 2019.

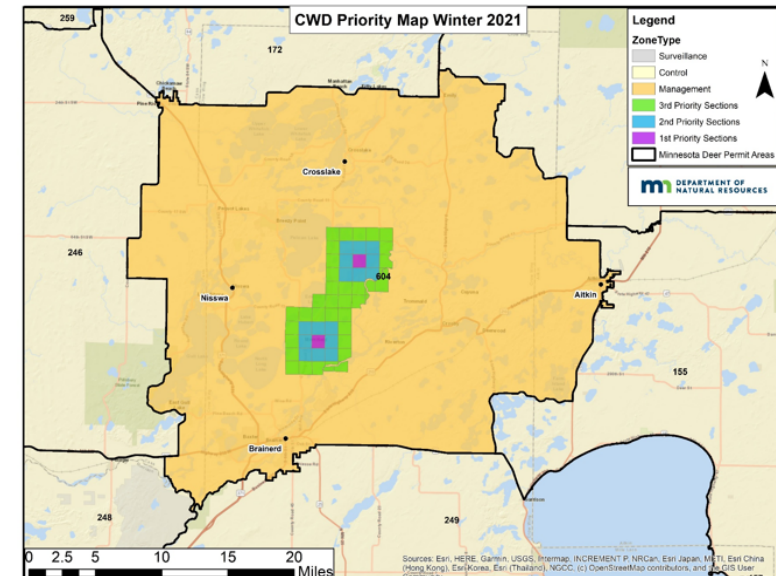
Upcoming Efforts

While the detection of a new positive deer during the 2021 firearms season is highly disappointing, it is important to keep in mind that we have a high degree of confidence that the disease prevalence in DPA 604 is very low. As a landowner in close proximity to where CWD has been detected, you are in a position to help in the effort to prevent the spread of this disease. The goal is to limit the number of potential interactions between infected deer and healthy deer by reducing densities in areas where the disease is known. Additionally, we are focusing management efforts in specific areas to remove CWD-positive deer from the landscape. Active management through deer removal in CWD-positive areas has been successful in other states, including Illinois and Missouri. Both of these states have maintained low CWD prevalence in their wild deer herds. Because of management actions like the ones listed below, we are continuing to keep disease prevalence at or below a 1% level in the deer population in areas of Minnesota where the disease was first detected near the Lanesboro/Preston area.

Landowner Shooting Permit: Along with this letter, you have received a permit that allows you to take an unlimited number of either-sex deer on your property from Jan. 22-30, 2022. Participating landowners or landowner designees who are successful in harvesting a deer will be required to submit the head from each harvested deer at a self-service sampling location. There will be harvest tags at each sampling location you will need to fill out. Participating shooters must have in their possession the included signed permit or a physical copy—both in the field and while transporting deer to the sampling station. Participating landowners or landowner designees are allowed to use any legal weapon, at the discretion of the landowner. This opportunity is **not** open to the public, nor can anyone utilize public land. Please see map below of the detailed area and included permit for more details on the Landowner Shooting Permit phase.

We respect your rights as a private property owner and recognize that your support and cooperation is critical to our collective success. Thank you in advance for your consideration and for your help with this important disease response. For more information, visit our website at mndnr.gov/cwd or give us a call at (218) 203-4323.

Sincerely,
Wildlife Health Program, Big Game Program, and Local Area Wildlife Staff
Minnesota Department of Natural Resources



Agency Culling – USDA WS

- Starts once LSPs end and goes until April 1st
 - That gives landowners the opportunity to remove deer first
- Focused area surrounding 2-miles of a positive
 - Goal of reducing density in localized area of known disease and remove positive deer off the landscape
 - All deer are tested
 - Deer are processed at a licensed processing facility
 - Positive deer are removed from processing facility, taken to UMN VDL – Digester
 - Once a not detected result is received harvested deer go back to the landowner or to the public
- Contract with USDA-WS
 - Work Initiation Document (WID) signed with accepting landowners
 - Only take place on agreeable landowner properties
 - Work takes place on private and public land
 - Shoot both mobile and stationary sites. Most of the work conducted at night with thermal imaging or FLIR
 - Bait is placed in removable tub
 - If a positive is found, bait and tub removed, site cleaned