



# **Report: Emergency Response to Disease Outbreaks in Wildlife**

Covering the Period July 1–September 30, 2020

As required by Minnesota Session Law 2019, 1<sup>st</sup> Special Session, Chapter 4

12/31/2020

## Report to the Minnesota Legislature

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Pursuant to Minnesota Statutes, Section 3.197, we estimate that it cost approximately \$190 to produce this report. This includes staff time for drafting and reviewing the report.

*Upon request, this material will be made available in an alternative format such as large print, Braille or audio recording. Printed on recycled paper.*

## DNR CWD Spending Legislative Report

This report fulfills the quarterly reporting requirement of Minnesota Session Law 2019, 1st Special Session, Chapter 4, Article 1, Section 3, Subdivision 6(b) “\$1,595,000 the first year and \$275,000 the second year are from the general fund, and \$1,125,000 the first year and \$1,675,000 the second year are from the game and fish fund for planning for and emergency response to disease outbreaks in wildlife.. The commissioner and board must each submit quarterly reports on the activities funded under this paragraph to the chairs and ranking minority members of the legislative committees and divisions with jurisdiction over environment and natural resources and agriculture.”

### CWD Activities, July 1–September 30 2020

The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) spent approximately \$324,000 during the first quarter of FY21 on Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD)-related activities (Figure 1 Tables 1 and 2). Figure 2 shows the areas of the state where chronic wasting disease surveillance of hunter-harvested deer in took place in 2020.

This spending includes the supplies and contracts necessary for sample collection efforts planned for fall 2020, salary for unclassified staff, printing of CWD informational materials, and diagnostic testing. New activities that occurred this past quarter include planning for fall 2020 CWD surveillance, the start of voluntary sampling concurrent with the archery season, and monitoring collared deer as part of the southeast deer movement study. A detailed list of activities includes:

- Collecting and submitting 298 samples for CWD testing:
  - Opportunistic samples (5 vehicle-killed deer, 7 sick deer, 8 found dead, 116 depredation permits, and 1 other): 137 samples. Collected statewide; none of these deer were CWD-positive.
  - Hunter-harvested samples: 161 samples. This includes 1 from the East Central, 33 from the North Central, 88 from the Southeast, and 39 from the South Metro CWD Surveillance Zones; none of these deer were CWD-positive.
- Ordering supplies for upcoming CWD sampling and establishing contracts for diagnostic testing, dumpsters, and student labor.
- Contingency planning for CWD sampling during the COVID pandemic. To reduce COVID-related risks to hunters and agency staff, we shifted our surveillance plan from a mandatory framework to a voluntary one. We constructed more than 100 self-service sampling stations and equipped 8 centralized extraction work sites in each CWD surveillance area for DNR staff to extract samples. Protocols were developed to ensure social distancing and other precautions were implemented to reduce the risk of coronavirus spread among hunters and DNR staff.
- Monitoring collared deer and completing data analyses on dispersal movements and home range as part of the southeast deer study. Staff also began planning for additional winter 2021 captures to deploy collars that were not deployed last year because of COVID constraints. More information on the study can be found here: [www.dnr.state.mn.us/cwd/deer-movement-study.html](http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/cwd/deer-movement-study.html).

In addition, communications were designed to increase participation in the voluntary CWD sampling program beginning in July with the release of the hunting regulations book. Increased communications and outreach has included the following activities:

- Extensive web-based information, including:
  - Continuous updates to our deer hunting webpages,
  - A new section of our deer hunting pages devoted to CWD, updates to our dedicated CWD webpages to provide hunters information about the resources available to them (including information about the process of submitting a sample), and
  - A new webpage to remind hunters of the importance of making a plan that highlights testing deer for CWD.
- Direct mailing of approximately 48,000 postcards about CWD testing to hunters in new CWD surveillance areas (east-central surveillance area, west-central surveillance area, and the south metro management zone and surveillance area);
- A series of news releases highlighting the importance of CWD testing in designated areas, including a CWD-specific release);
- CWD reminders in both weekly and monthly newsletters (i.e., Minnesota Wildlife Newsletter, Deer Notes);
- Virtual events on deer hunting topics, including CWD surveillance (e.g., Learn to Hunt videos, “First Day of Deer Camp”, media availability);
- Local outreach, including staff interviews with local newspapers and local radio stations, and paid advertisements in local newspapers;
- Daily social media posts about a variety of hunting topics, including CWD; and
- Fact sheets distributed to regional FAW staff, enforcement staff, and the information center to answer commonly asked questions.

Table 1. Chronic Wasting Disease Appropriation Allocation FY20-21.

Fund	FY20 Appropriated	FY21 Appropriated	Total App FY20-21
General Fund	1,595,000	275,000	1,870,000
Game and Fish-Emergency Response	1,125,000	1,675,000	2,800,000
Cervid Health—Adopt a Dumpster	50,000	-	50,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,770,000</b>	<b>1,950,000</b>	<b>4,720,000</b>

Figure 1. Quarterly spending activity of the Chronic Wasting Disease Appropriation Allocation FY20-21.

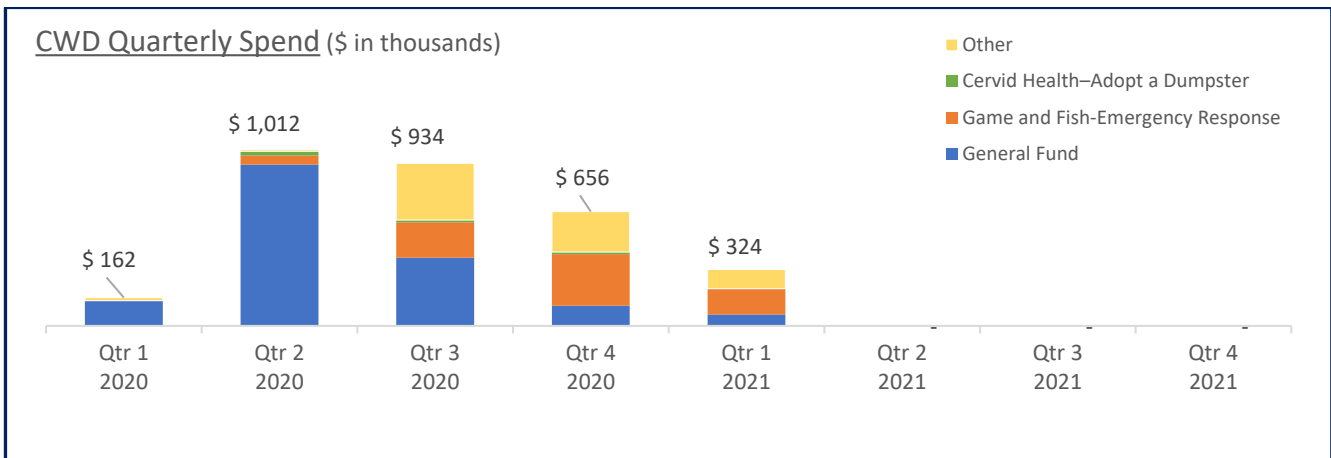


Table 2. Detailed spending by expense type for Chronic Wasting Disease Appropriation, July 1, 2019, through September 30, 2020.

Expense Type	General Fund	Game and Fish Emergency Response	Cervid Health– Adopt a Dumpster	Other**	Total Spend
Salary	677,196	28,478	-	495,354	1,201,028
CSU CWD Sample Testing	336,835	-	-	-	336,835
USDA-Culling Contract	-	200,000	-	95,209	295,209
Travel/Fleet	89,764	93,430	124	88,470	271,788
Supplies	107,965	93,593	-	4,069	205,626
Dumpsters	150,098	8,419	49,876	6,936	215,329
Contracts: CWD Tissue Sampling	103,330	-	-	-	103,330
CWD Attitude Survey	-	80,000	-	-	80,000
Meat Processor/Taxidermists	70,884	21,620	-	-	92,504
Equipment	25,216	41,406	-	-	66,622
Printing and Advertising	51,426	9,784	-	906	62,116
Deer Collars	-	52,859	-	-	52,859
Helicopter Deer Capture/Surveys	-	51,178	-	5,112	56,290
CWD Office Lease - Rushford	19,197	7,199	-	-	26,396
UMN CWD Testing (elk/moose)	1,896	-	-	-	1,896
Other	10,133	9,776	-	95	20,004
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,643,939</b>	<b>697,743</b>	<b>50,000</b>	<b>696,150</b>	<b>3,087,833</b>
<b>\$ Encumbered</b>	<b>831</b>	<b>24,537</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>11,969</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>% of Budget Spent</b>	<b>87.9%</b>	<b>24.9%</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>% of Budget Encumbered</b>	<b>0.0%</b>	<b>0.9%</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>% of Budget Spent/Enc</b>	<b>88.0%</b>	<b>25.8%</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>

\*\*Other includes Game and Fish Operating Account, Deer Management Account, Deer/Bear Account, Cervid Health Account, and Heritage Fund.

Figure 2. Areas for chronic wasting disease surveillance of hunter-harvested deer for fall 2020 in Minnesota.

