



Report: Emergency Response to Disease Outbreaks in Wildlife

Covering the Period January 1 –March 31, 2021

As required by Minnesota Session Law 2019, 1st Special Session, Chapter 4

12/9/21

Report to the Minnesota Legislature

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Pursuant to Minnesota Statutes, Section 3.197, we estimate that it cost approximately \$240 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.” (Table 1)

CWD Activities, January 1-March 31, 2021

The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) spent approximately \$770,000 during the third quarter of FY21 on Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD)-related activities (Figure 1, Tables 2 and 3). The spending this quarter primarily supported sample collection efforts including salary for full-time staff, fleet, diagnostic testing, and travel expenses in support of the targeted culling operation in southeast Minnesota (Table 2). A detailed list of activities includes:

- During the winter culling operation, we had 76 private landowners that gave us access to 14,296 private acres from within our 1st, 2nd, and 3rd priority focus areas within the southeast and south metro areas combined (Figure 2). Deer removal work was contracted to USDA-APHIS-Wildlife Services, and DNR staff processed all of the carcasses and collected samples for CWD testing.
- The targeted culling project removed a total of 542 deer in focus areas in the southeast and south metro combined. Of those, 5 confirmed CWD-positive deer were taken off the landscape. Removing these animals ends the shedding of prions and exposing additional deer to the disease, which is one goal of this effort to help keep prevalence of the disease at lower levels. Another goal of this effort is to reduce deer densities locally where CWD- positive deer have occurred, putting a break within the transmission cycle rate of this disease.
- We mailed a joint MNDNR/USDA-WS letter to the participating landowners in the culling effort. The letter contained a detailed report specific to their property as well as an overall update on project outcomes for management efforts against this disease.
- All culled deer that were not positive for CWD (537 deer) were processed at a local meat processor in Spring Valley and the venison was either provided to the cooperating landowners or given to the public through the Share the Harvest program.
- Additional samples were collected from each culled deer and provided to the University of Minnesota’s MNPRO team for development of faster diagnostic tests for CWD. The additional tissues provided to MNPRO included cranial lymph nodes, obex, tonsil, and muscle.
- Taxidermists and meat processors were contacted in all CWD surveillance areas and asked to participate in collection efforts during the fall of 2020. Participating businesses were offered \$5-15/sample (depending on number of tissues being collected). We had 240 taxidermists and meat processors enroll in the program. Of these, 42 vendors submitted a total of 1,469 samples. While a portion of those invoices were received during Q2 (\$1,670), the remainder were received and paid during Q3 (Table 2).

- The southeast deer movement study continues to monitor collared animals and conduct data analyses on dispersal movements and home range use. While no additional captures occurred this past winter, approximately 45 deer remain in the study and fees were incurred this quarter for the download of their location data. More information on the study can be found here: www.dnr.state.mn.us/cwd/deer-movement-study.html.
- Biologists conducting the forest deer study, aimed at understanding habitat requirements and drivers of population performance, monitored deer at two study sites in northcentral and northeast Minnesota. A helicopter capture contract was secured and 16 additional collars were deployed this past winter.

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 |
| Total | 2,770,000 | 1,950,000 | 4,720,000 |

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

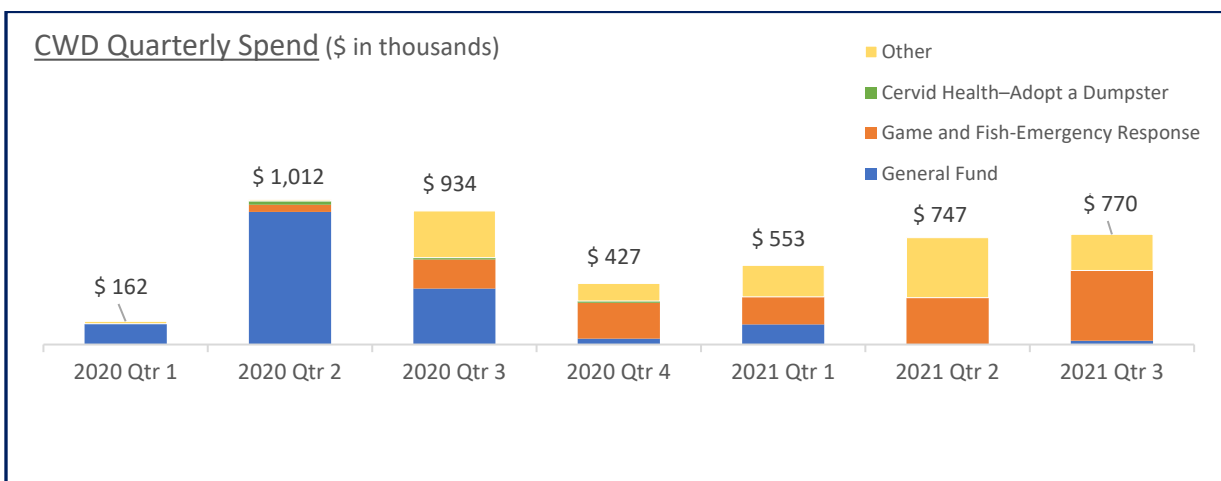


Table 2. Detailed spending by expense type for Chronic Wasting Disease Appropriation, FY21 Quarter 3 only, January 1 through March 31, 2021.

| Expense Type | General Fund | Game and Fish- Emergency Response | Other** | Total Spend |
|---------------------------------|---------------|---|----------------|----------------|
| Salary | - | 62,645 | 157,936 | 220,581 |
| CSU/UW CWD Sample Testing | - | 21,120 | 44,503 | 65,623 |
| USDA-Culling Contract | - | - | 373 | 373 |
| Travel/Fleet | - | 82,821 | 18,276 | 101,097 |
| Supplies | - | 9,009 | 24,791 | 33,800 |
| Dumpsters | - | 135,782 | - | 135,782 |
| Contracts: CWD Tissue Sampling | 27,023 | - | - | 27,023 |
| CWD Attitude Survey | - | - | - | - |
| Meat Processor/Taxidermists | - | 61,100 | - | 61,100 |
| Equipment | - | - | - | - |
| Printing & Advertising | - | 31,083 | - | 31,083 |
| Deer Collars | - | 6,663 | - | 6,663 |
| Helicopter Deer Capture/Surveys | - | 23,660 | - | 23,660 |
| Crow Wing Landfill | - | - | - | - |
| CWD Office Lease - Rushford | - | 4,799 | 2,400 | 7,199 |
| UMN CWD Testing (elk/moose) | - | - | - | - |
| Other | - | 51,402 | 4,438 | 55,840 |
| Total | 27,023 | 490,084 | 252,717 | 769,824 |

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

Table 3. Detailed spending by expense type for Chronic Wasting Disease Appropriation, July 1, 2019, through March 31, 2021.

| Expense Type | General Fund | Game and Fish- Emergency Response | Cervid Health- Adopt a Dumpster | Other** | Total Spend |
|---------------------------------|------------------|---|---------------------------------------|------------------|------------------|
| Salary | 677,196 | 125,305 | - | 992,415 | 1,794,916 |
| CSU/UW CWD Sample Testing | 337,681 | 42,420 | - | 118,280 | 498,381 |
| USDA-Culling Contract | - | 200,000 | - | 95,582 | 295,582 |
| Travel/Fleet | 89,915 | 232,448 | 124 | 112,210 | 434,696 |
| Supplies | 108,116 | 132,589 | - | 28,860 | 269,565 |
| Dumpsters | 100,098 | 252,470 | 49,876 | 6,936 | 409,380 |
| Contracts: CWD Tissue Sampling | 130,860 | - | - | - | 130,860 |
| CWD Attitude Survey | - | 98,000 | - | - | 98,000 |
| Meat Processor/Taxidermists | 70,884 | 84,390 | - | - | 155,274 |
| Equipment | 25,216 | 41,406 | - | - | 66,622 |
| Printing & Advertising | 51,426 | 67,797 | - | 1,708 | 120,931 |
| Deer Collars | - | 77,760 | - | - | 77,760 |
| Helicopter Deer Capture/Surveys | - | 74,838 | - | 5,112 | 79,950 |
| Crow Wing Landfill | 50,000 | - | - | - | 50,000 |
| CWD Office Lease - Rushford | 19,197 | 19,197 | - | 2,400 | 40,794 |
| UMN CWD Testing (elk/moose) | 1,896 | - | - | - | 1,896 |
| Other | 10,133 | 65,307 | - | 4,533 | 79,973 |
| Total | 1,672,618 | 1,513,927 | 50,000 | 1,368,036 | 4,604,580 |
| \$ Encumbered | 44,500 | 514,984 | - | 364,605 | - |
| % of Budget Spent | 89.4% | 54.1% | 100.0% | - | - |
| % of Budget Encumbered | 2.4% | 18.4% | - | - | - |
| % of Budget Spent/Enc | 91.8% | 72.5% | 100.0% | - | - |

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

Figure 2. Locations of deer culled during targeted efforts by USDA-Wildlife Services in southeast and south metro areas of Minnesota, Winter 2021.

