

Washington CWD Detection 2024

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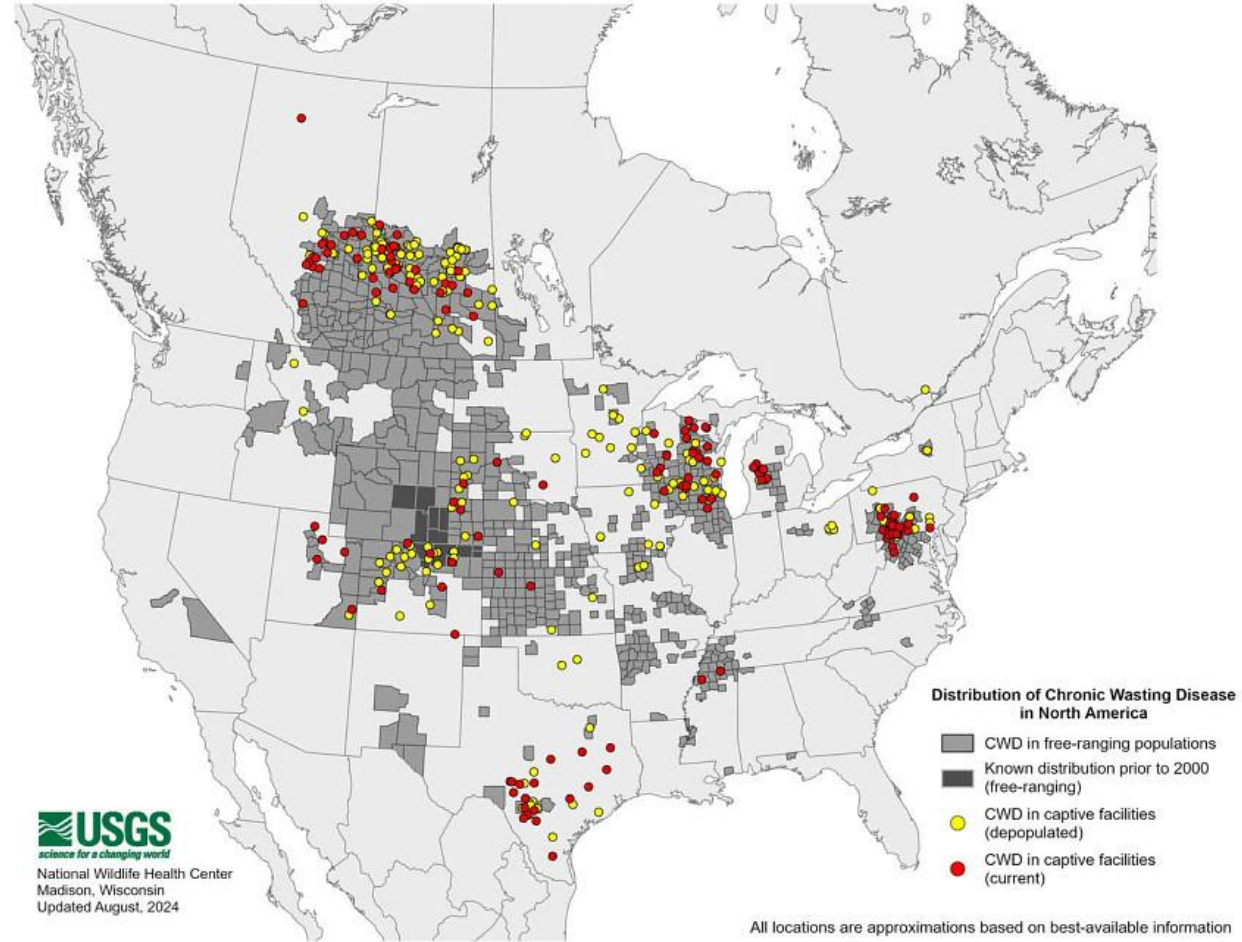
Outline

- What is CWD and history
- CWD plan
- Pre-detection surveillance
- Washington's first detection
- Near-term actions and emergency rules
- Key messages to public
- Long-term planning



What is Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD)?

- A transmissible spongiform encephalopathy, abnormal folding of prion proteins most commonly found in the nervous system and lymphatic tissues.
- Limited to cervids, deer family. In WA, deer, elk, moose. It's fatal in infected animals.
- Similar to Mad Cow Disease, but CWD not known to be transferable to people. Also similar to scrapie in sheep, known for centuries, and not believed to be transferrable to people.
- CWD is transferable from animal-to-animal contact and from prions in the environment.
- Around for decades in captive cervids
- First detected in wild cervids in 1967 in mule deer in Colorado
- Now in 35 states and 4 Canadian provinces



CWD Management Plan

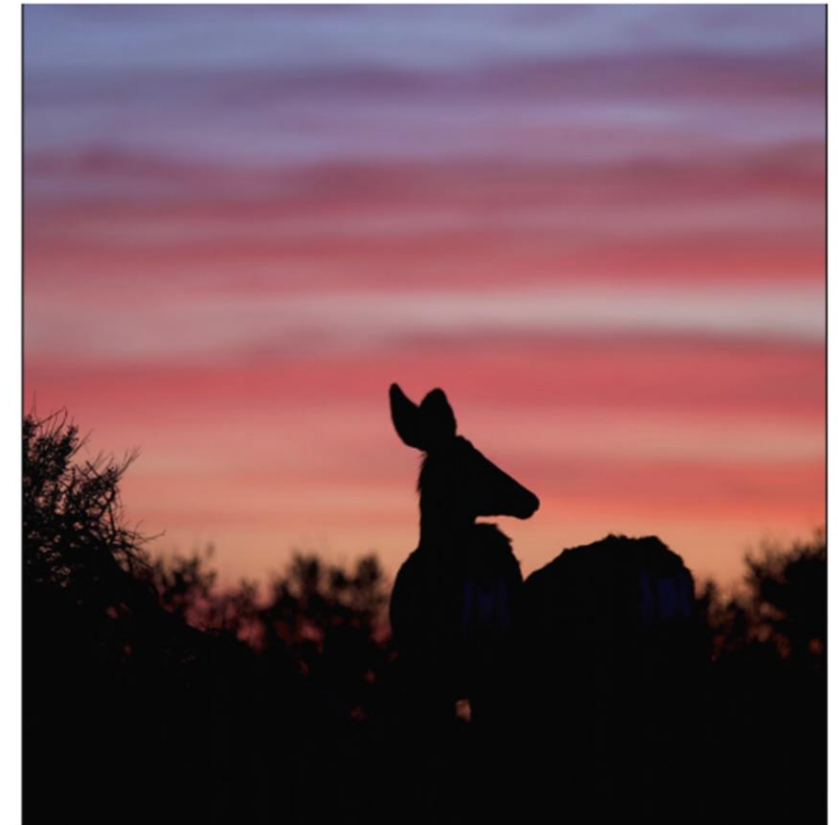
Adopted CWD Plan in December 2021

- Background of the disease
- Public outreach and communication
- Risk assessment and minimization
- Initiate pre-detection surveillance
- Initial Emergency Response*, strategies for:
 - Disease prevalence and distribution
 - Containment
 - Carcass disposal

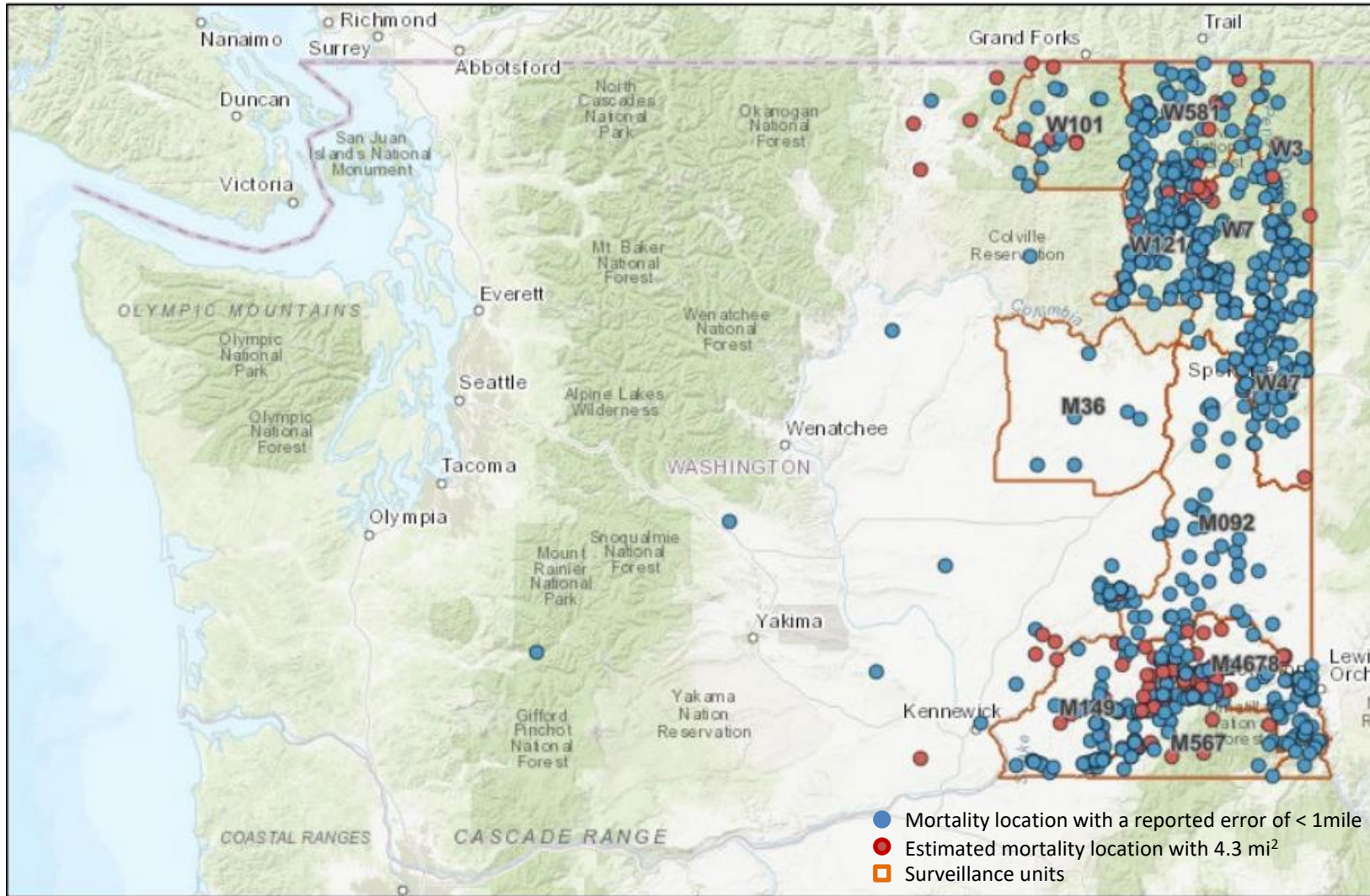
If CWD is detected, goal is to contain the disease



Washington State Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) Management Plan Amendment August 2024



Samples collected July 2023 to June 2024



Pre-detection surveillance

Opportunistically started in 1995

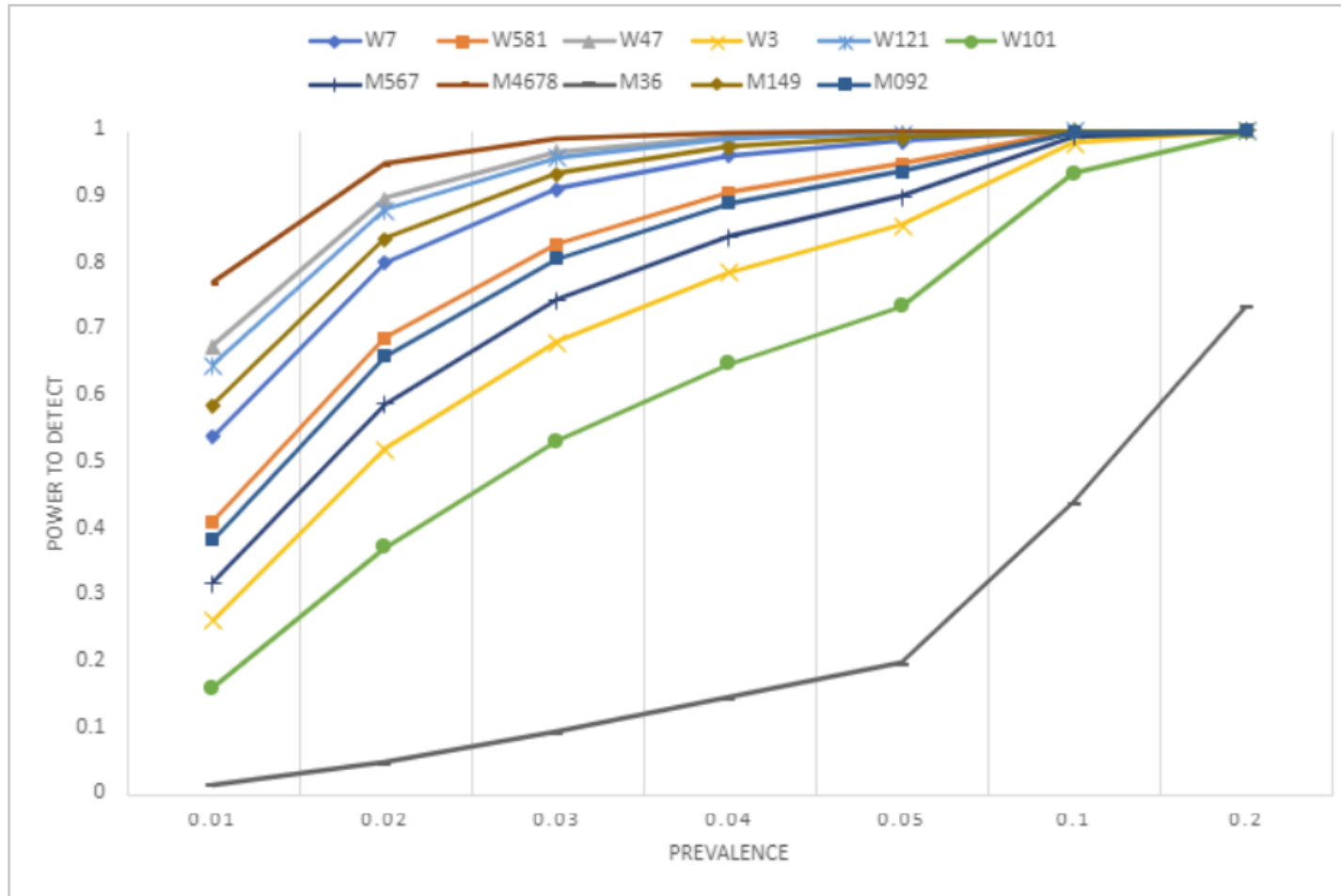
Initiated formal CWD disease surveillance program in 2021 focused in areas bordering Idaho.

Objective is early detection; 95% confidence in detecting disease at 1% prevalence.

Program has been voluntary and has not met sampling objectives.



Power to Detect CWD

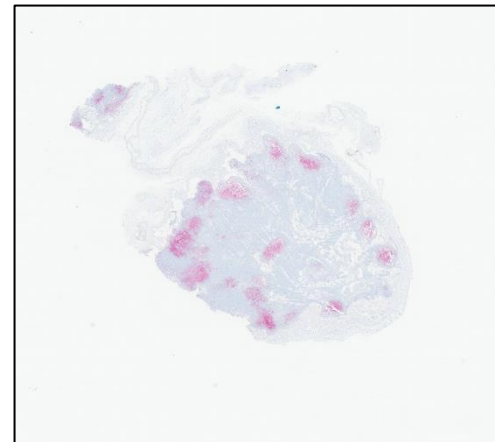
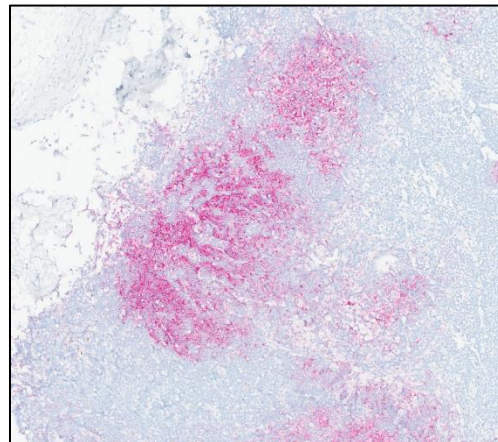


The power to detect chronic wasting disease (CWD) at a prevalence ranging from 1% - 20% within each CWD surveillance unit based on the number of deer (i.e., white-tailed deer and mule deer) samples collected during Surveillance Year 2023



Initial Detection

- One adult female white-tailed deer
 - GMU 124, Fairwood, north Spokane south of Waikiki Springs Unit
 - RP called in dead deer on property, sampled on February 28, 2024
 - Sample submitted to lab on July 15, 2024, with a batch of samples collected from February – July
 - WADDL contacted WDFW Friday, July 26th with result of ELISA test
 - WADDL ran IHC on the lymph node and confirmed it was positive





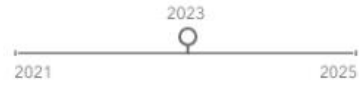
CWD Surveillance Admin Dashboard

Monitor and Edit CWD Surveillance and Direct to Agency Sampling

Data Filters

Once applied, the filter will update the map and all widgets with an asterisk (*) in the title

Surveillance Year (default 2024)
2023



Check Station
No check station selected

Collection Date
No date selected

Mortality Type
No mortality type selected

Sample / Animal ID
No sample ID selected

Who collected the sample
No one selected

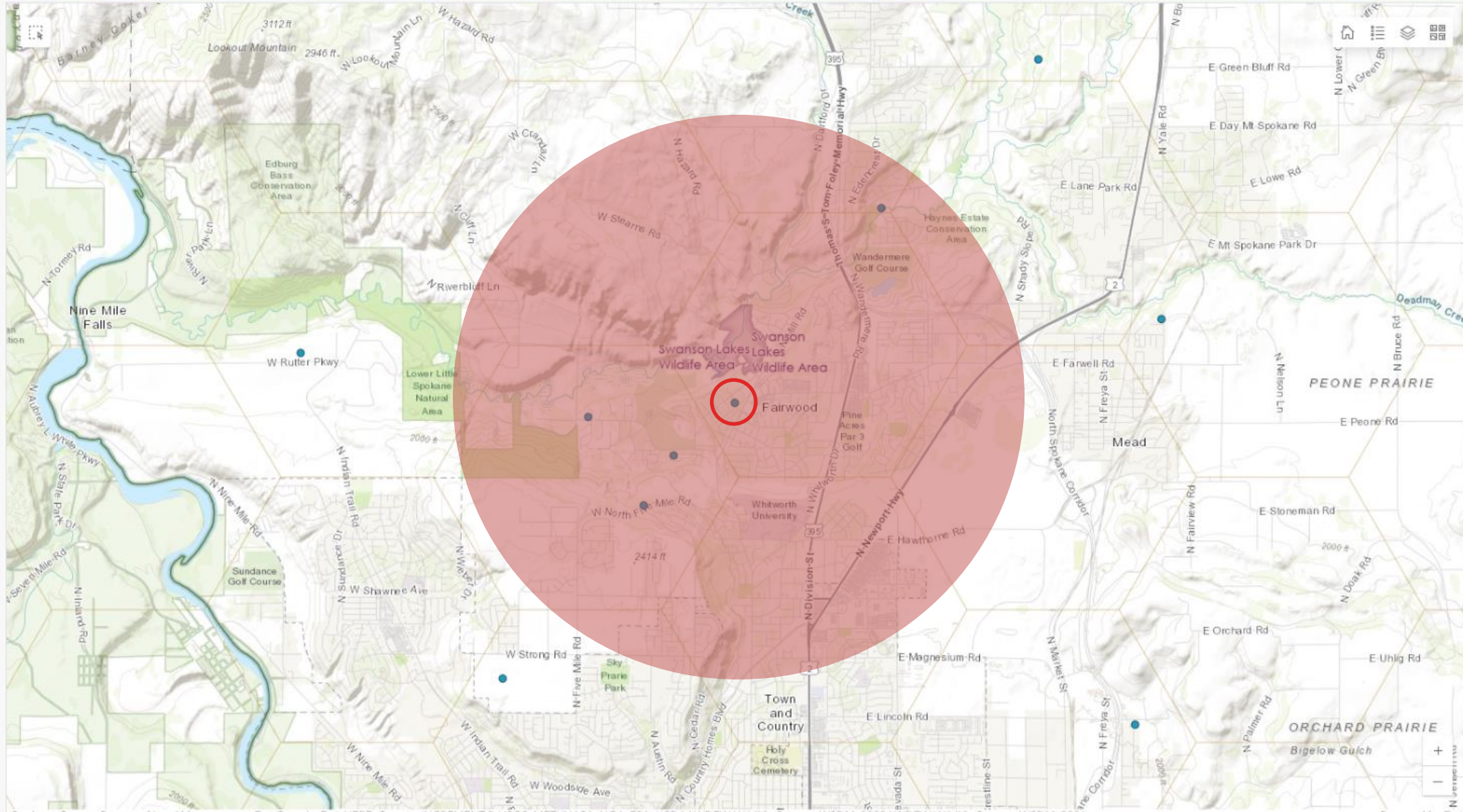
Species
No species selected

Sex
No sex selected

DOT Pit or Mortality Site
None

Affiliation
No affiliation currently selected

Was markill salvaged?

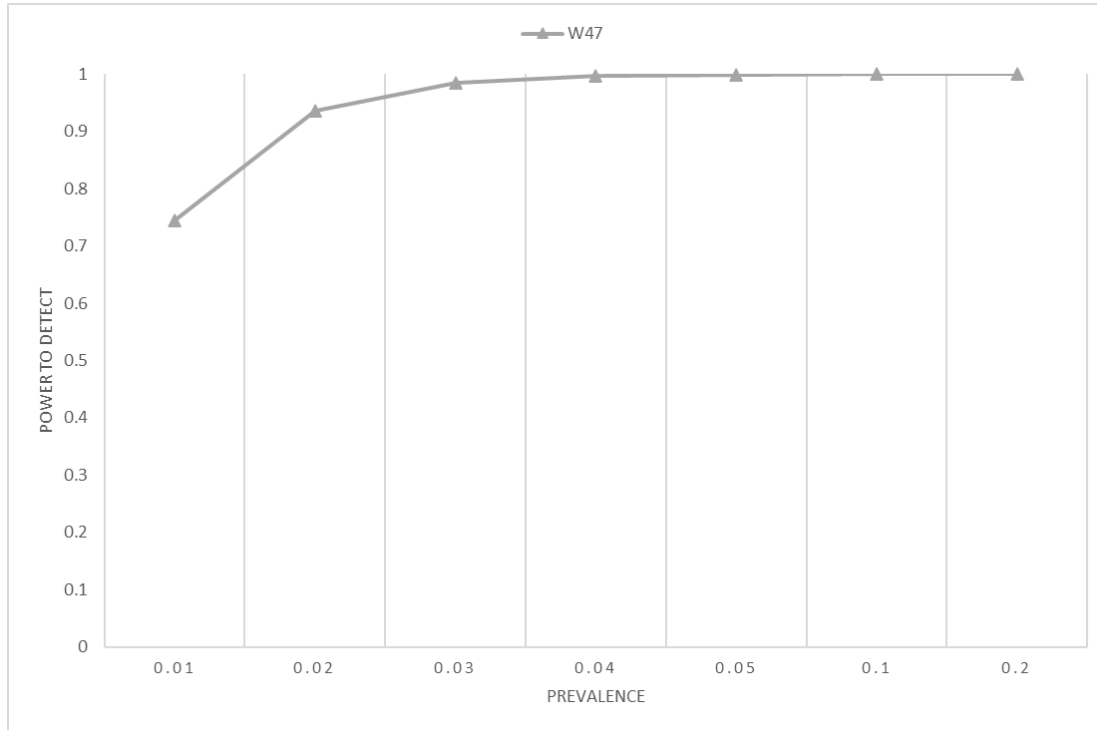


Spokane County, Bureau of Land Management, Esri Canada, Esri, HERE, Garmin, INCREMENT P, USGS, METI/NASA, NGA, EPA, USDA | WDFW-Wildlife Science-WSDM, 2022 | WDFW-Wildlife Science-WSDM, 2021

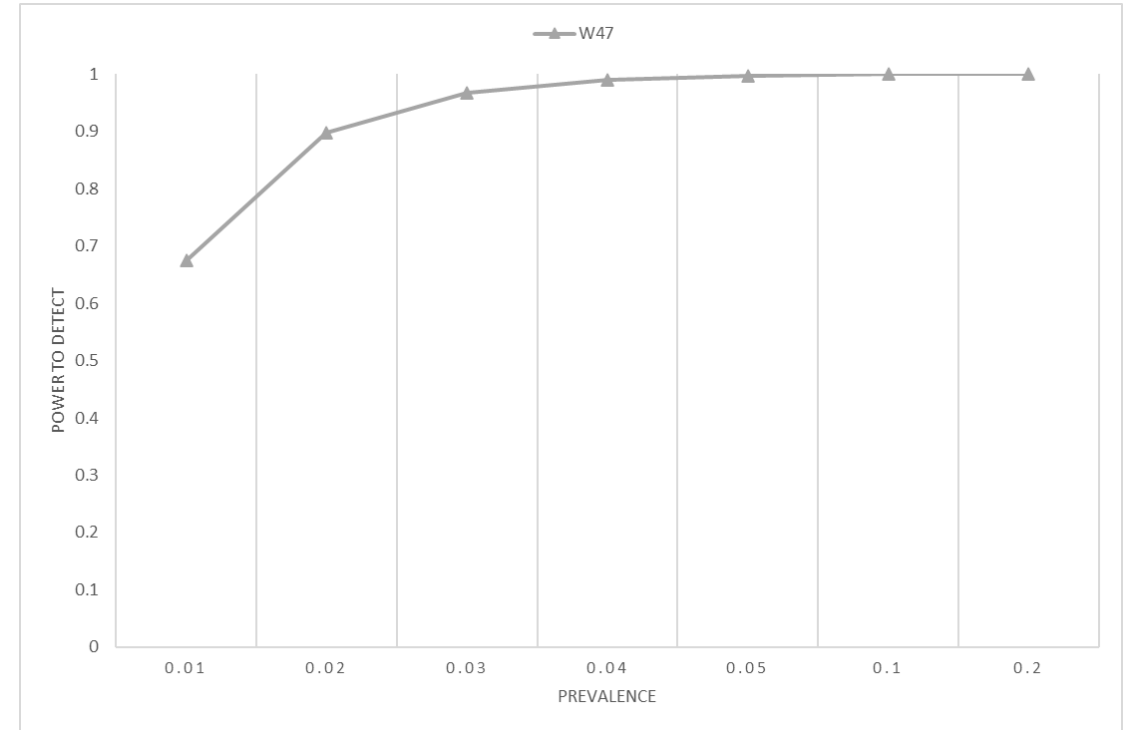
Powered by Esri

CWD Surveillance Unit W47

2022 SY



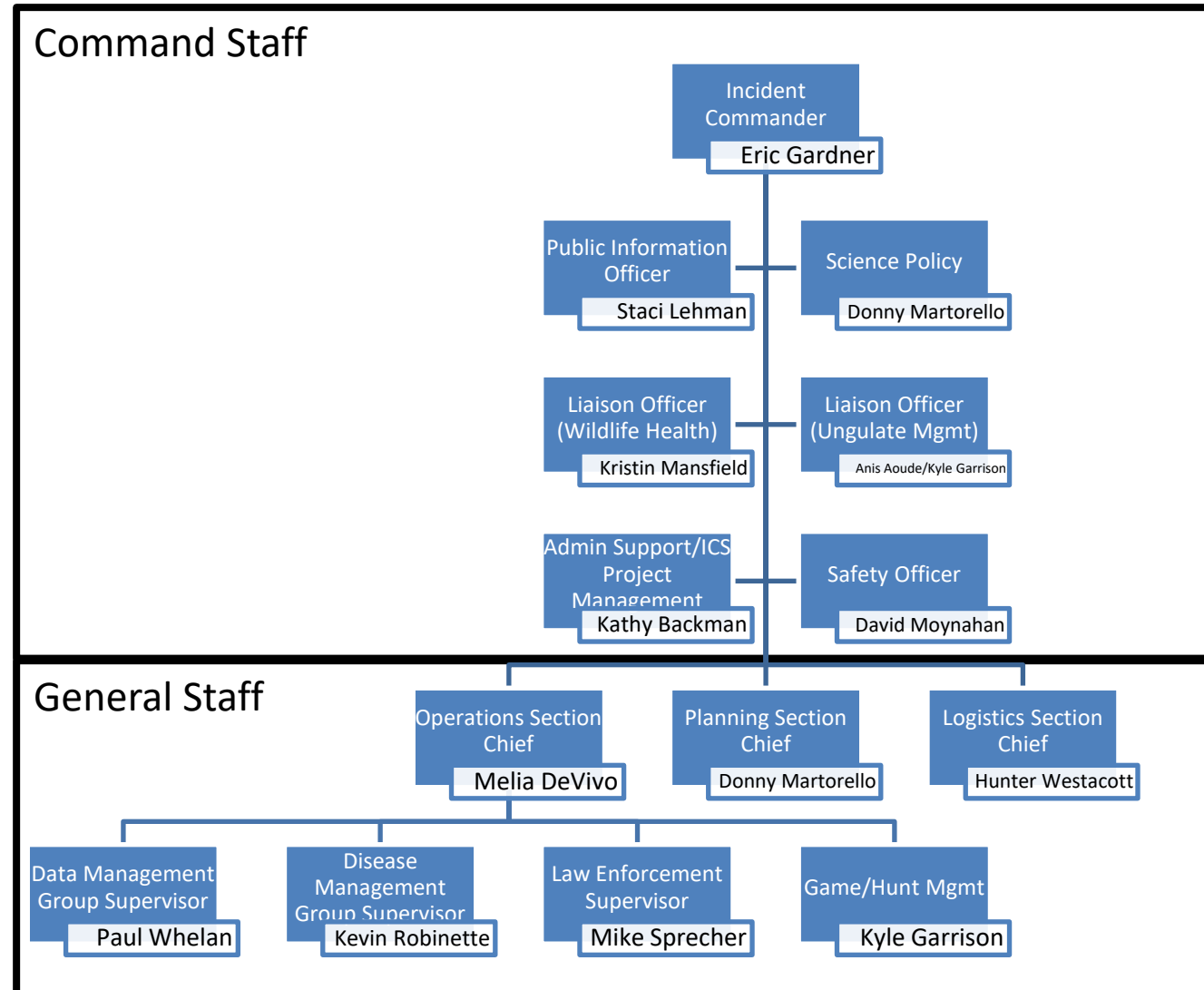
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Near-Term Actions and Emergency Rules



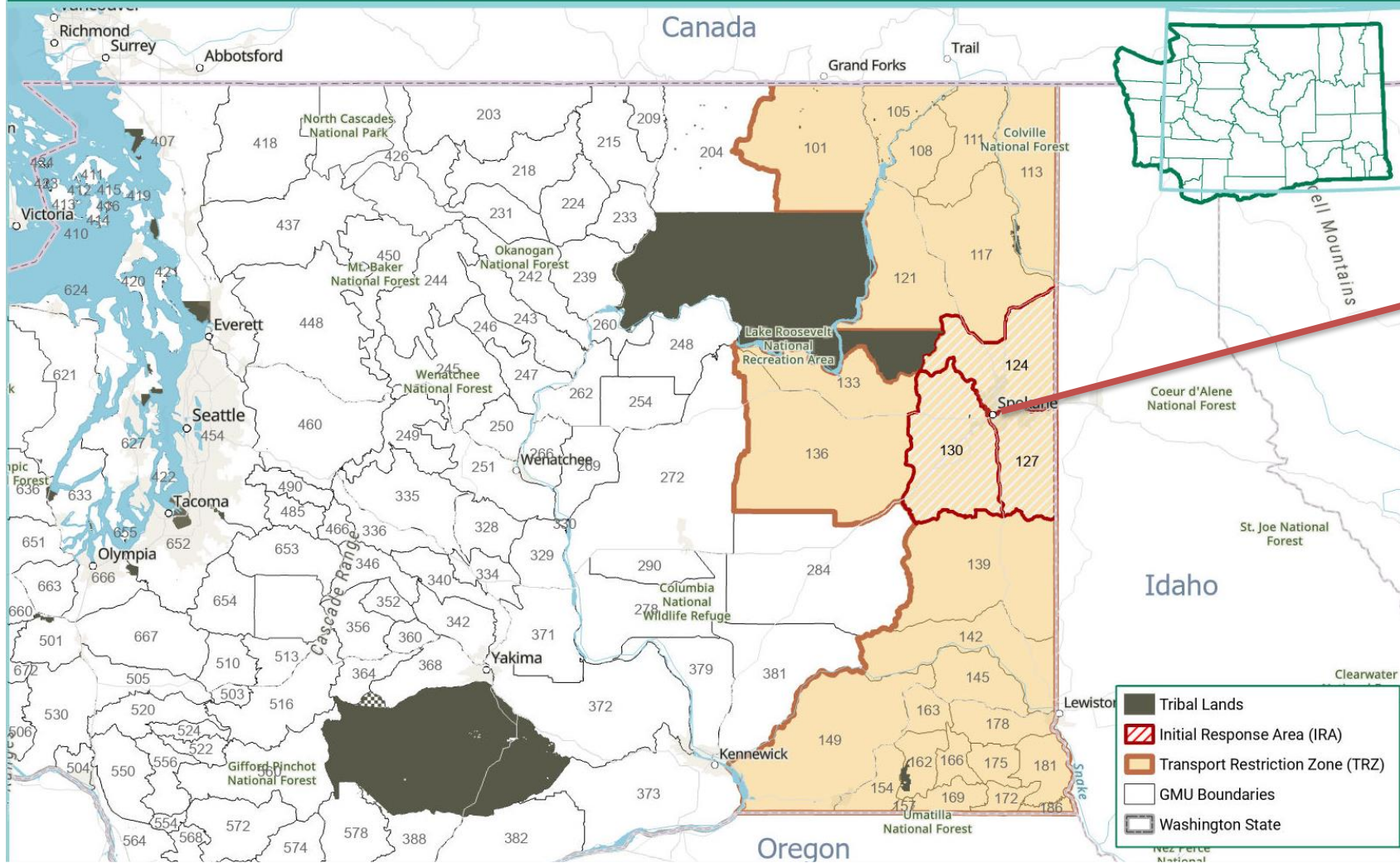
Incident Management Team (IMT)



Chronic Wasting Disease Management Areas

WDFW CWD Detection Response

Initial Response Area with mandatory CWD testing and Transport Restriction Zone for deer, elk, and moose carcasses.



Initial Response Area (IRA) emergency rules:

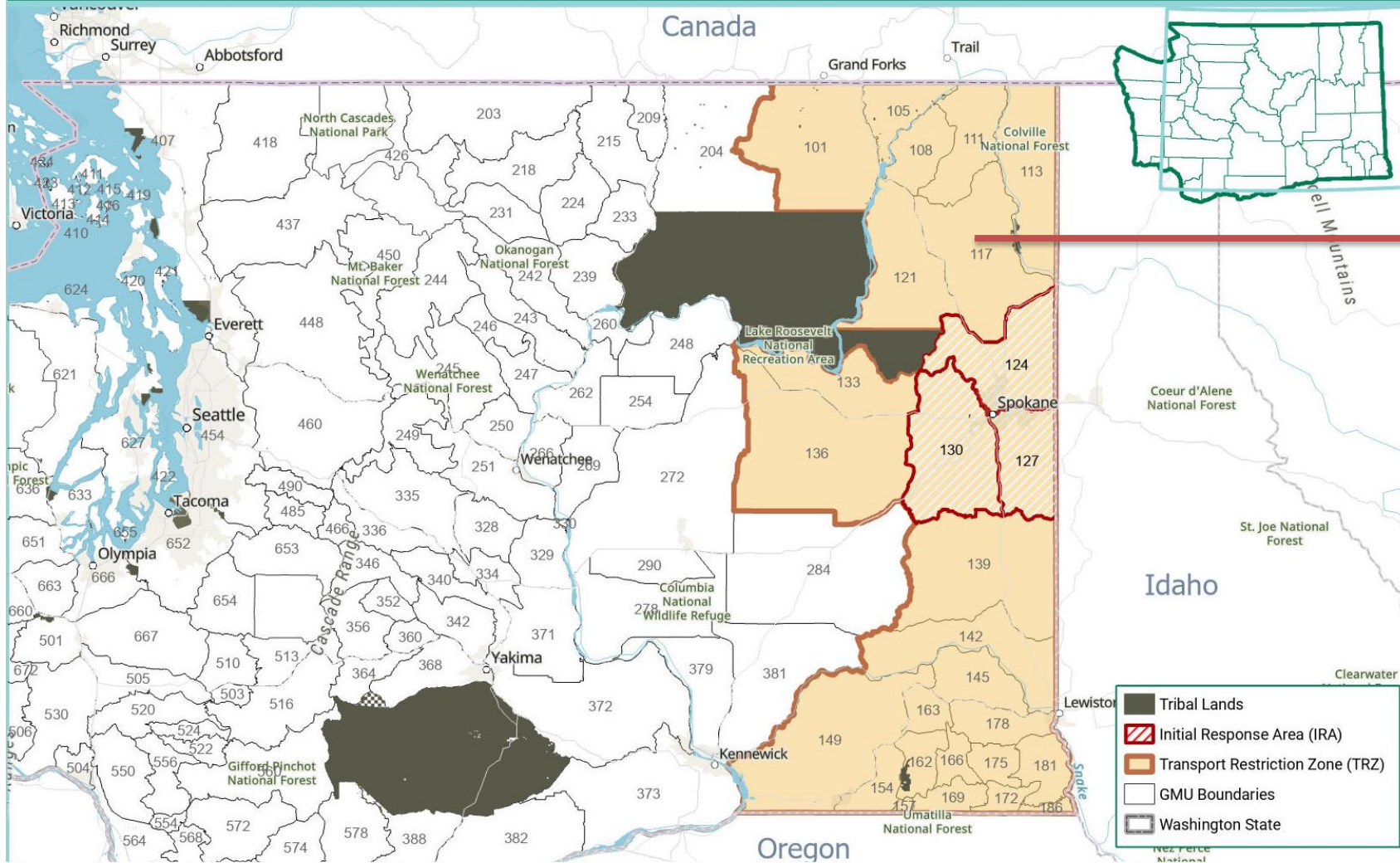
1. Mandatory testing of harvested/salvaged deer, elk, and moose
2. Baiting for hunting deer, elk, and moose prohibited
3. Urine-based scents/lures for hunting deer, elk, and moose prohibited
4. Public feeding deer, elk, and moose prohibited



Chronic Wasting Disease Management Areas

WDFW CWD Detection Response

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Transportation Restriction Zone (TRZ) emergency rule: Can only transport outside of 100 series GMUS meat that is deboned, finished taxidermy mounts, heads/skull plates with all soft tissue removed, and capes without heads attached.



Carcass Disposal Options

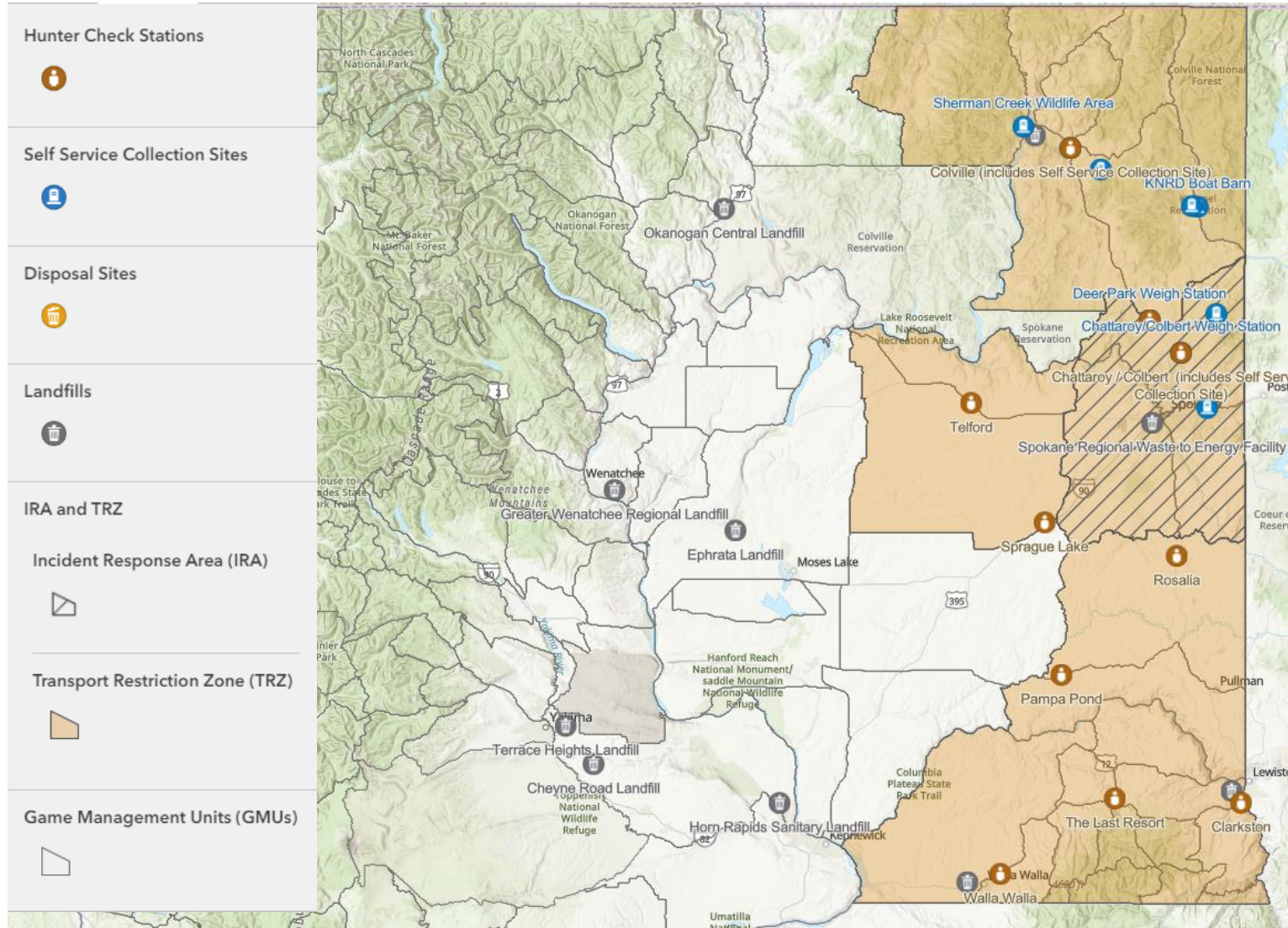
1st preferred – De-bone at the kill-site and leave bones, brain, and spine on site

2nd preferred – If hunter brings carcass home, dispose bones, brain, and spine at approved landfill (posted on WDFW website; note the transportation restriction)

3rd preferred - If hunter brings carcass home, double bag inedible parts and put in your house garbage service that goes to a landfill



CWD Reference Webmap



Sample tissue:

Retropharyngeal lymph nodes at base of skull

Ways to submit a sample:

- Head deposit kiosks
- Check stations
- Appointment with staff
- Mail-in sample



Key Messages to Public



Key messages to the public

Can hunters and salvagers eat animals that test positive?

- To date there is no scientific evidence of CWD being transmitted from cervids to humans.
- To minimize risk, the United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommends against consuming meat from an animal that has tested positive for CWD. Hunters who harvest elk, deer, or moose in the affected area, or anyone who salvages a road-killed animal, can take additional steps to maximize food safety, which are on the Departments CWD website.
- It's up to those who harvest or salvage an animal to decide whether to consume it or not.



Key messages to the public

Can hunters and salvagers eat animals that test positive?

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The public can help manage this disease

- CWD is always a fatal disease in cervids and a serious threat to deer, elk and moose populations in our state.
- Hunters and salvagers need to familiarize themselves with the new regulations.
- Inappropriate transport of carcasses or parts may spread the disease and could result in criminal penalties.
- CWD sampling of harvested or salvaged deer, elk, or moose is Mandatory in the IRA and strongly encouraged for the rest of Region 1.
- Report sick or dead deer, elk, or moose to WDFW (<https://wdfw.wa.gov/get-involved/report-observations>)



FAQs (more on the website)

Q: If I harvest a deer, elk, or moose in a 100 series game management unit (GMU) can I take it to another 100 series GMU to process?

A: Yes. Deer, elk, and moose that originate in the 100 series GMUs may be transported between 100 series GMUs but can't be transported as whole carcasses outside of the 100 series GMUs. You can take whole carcasses to a different GMU as long as it remains within the 100 series.

Q: Once I submit a deer, elk, or moose head for sampling, do I get the head and antlers back?

A: Yes. As long as the head isn't frozen and the retropharyngeal lymph nodes can be extracted, the head and antlers are returned to the hunter. If you don't want it, the agency can dispose of it. Heads dropped off at self-service kiosks are not able to be returned but tools are available at kiosks to remove antlers prior to depositing the head.

Q: How do I leave evidence of sex on a boned-out carcass?

A: Page 88 of the [Washington Big Game Regulations](#) has a description of how to do this, but the remarks about the head won't apply:

- Male: Head with antlers or horns attached, or penis or testes, any of which must be naturally attached to at least one quarter of the carcass or to the largest portion of meat.

- Female: The head or udder must be naturally attached to at least one quarter of the carcass or to the largest portion of meat.

Q: How long will it take to get my test results back after I submit a sample?

A: Typically, 4-6 weeks. [Results will be able to be looked up online](#) using your WILD ID or salvage permit number depending on if this was a harvested or road-killed salvaged animal. If the animal tests positive for CWD, WDFW will notify you and help with disposal of any meat you do not wish to consume.

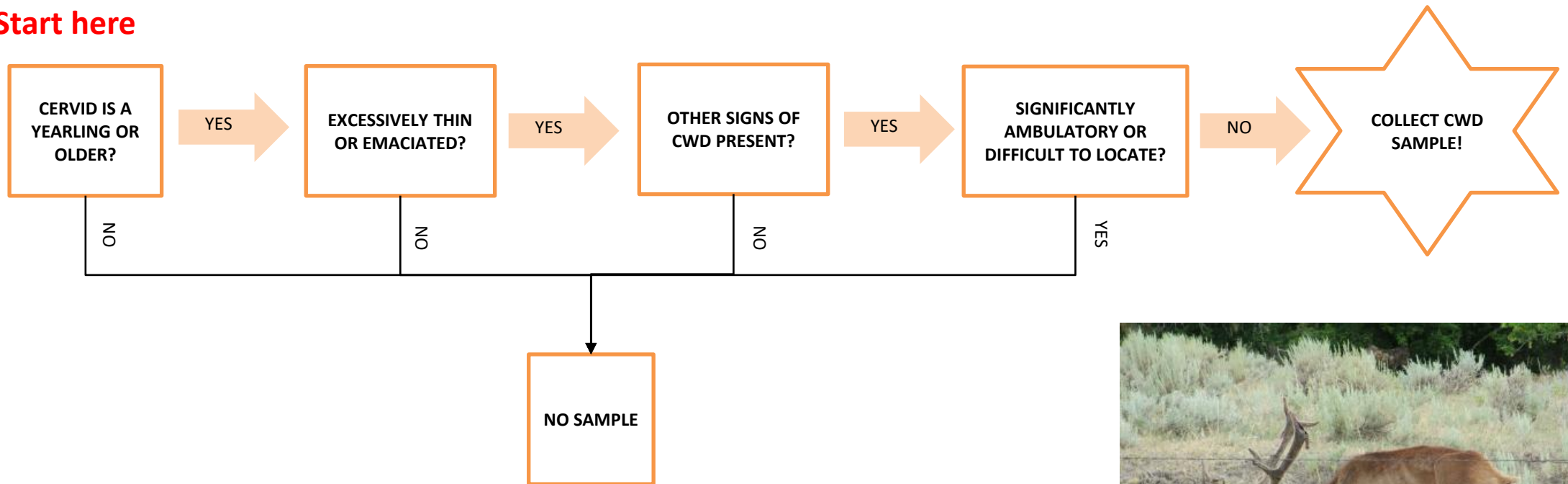
Q: If my deer, elk, or moose comes back positive for CWD will I be able to get another tag?

A: Yes. Your tag will be replaced for this year and same season if it is still open.



Guidance for sample collection from animals with clinical signs

Start here



Long-term Planning

- Emergency rules will be recommended by staff for permanent adoption by Fish and Wildlife Commission (~March rulemaking)
- Evaluate the Department's ability to meet sampling thresholds to estimate disease distribution and prevalence
 - If sampling levels from existing methods (hunter harvest, salvage, roadkill, etc.) are insufficient, may consider additional hunter and/or Department sampling
- Legislative decision-package budget request



Questions?

