



MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT
OF WILDLIFE, FISHERIES,
AND PARKS

CWD

CHRONIC WASTING DISEASE

Regulations and Best Management Practices

2022/23

Deer Hunting Season



Addressing conservation challenges, such as CWD, requires active involvement of those with a passion for our rich natural resources.

A primary goal of CWD response and management efforts is to determine the geographic extent and prevalence of the disease. MDWFP asks hunters to aid in this effort by submitting deer for testing during the 2022–2023 white-tailed deer hunting season. The test used to determine the presence of CWD requires a portion of the deer's brainstem or lymph nodes. Harvested animals should remain cool or be frozen until testing to reduce decomposition and provide accurate results.

Further, hunters and landowners can help monitor for CWD by actively looking for and reporting potential diseased or sick deer. For more information, visit [MDWFP.com/cwd](https://www.mdwfp.com/cwd).

CWD BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES

The following Best Management Practices (BMP) are recommended for minimizing potential environmental and human exposure to Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) while handling carcasses and processing the meat from white-tailed deer. These BMPs are established on a foundation of abundant caution given the many unknowns regarding CWD. For more information about CWD, please visit mdwfp.com/cwd.

SUPPLEMENTAL FEEDING AND CARCASS TRANSPORTATION BAN

- **Supplemental feeding is banned in any CWD Management Zone (salt licks, mineral licks, and feeders).**

Direct contact with prions is the most effective means of transmitting CWD. Research indicates saliva may have the highest concentration of prions. Thus, to minimize concentration of deer and potential spread of CWD, supplemental feeding is banned within any CWD Management Zone.

- **Carcasses may not be transported outside of any CWD Management Zone.**

Research has shown that decomposed carcasses of infected animals can also contribute to transmission when prions bind to soil and plant material. Thus, movement of carcasses may introduce CWD into previously uninfected areas. Only the below products may leave the CWD Management Zone:

- Cut/wrapped meat (commercially or privately)
- Deboned meat
- Hides with no head attached
- Bone-in leg quarters
- Finished taxidermy
- Antlers with no tissue attached
- Cleaned skulls or skull plates (no brain tissue)
- Hunters may transport a deer head to a permitted taxidermist participating in the CWD collection program. A CWD sample number must be obtained from the participating taxidermist prior to transporting the deer head outside of the MDWFP-defined CWD Management Zone.

GENERAL PRECAUTIONS

- Inspect body condition of each deer at the time of harvest. Do not consume any part of animals exhibiting clinical symptoms of CWD, including extreme weight loss, excessive salivation, or erratic behavior.
- Please report any deer that appears to be diseased by completing a diseased deer report on the MDWFP app, at mdwfp.com/cwd or call 1-800-BE-SMART.
- Avoid using natural deer urine attractants, as they may carry prions from infected deer. Hunters who prefer to use lures or attractants may wish to select an artificial or food based scent.
- To minimize direct contact with infectious prions, it is recommended to not establish feeders, bait sites, mineral sites, or otherwise cause unnatural concentration of deer.

CLEANING AND PROCESSING A HARVESTED DEER

Field Dressing:

- Wear rubber or latex gloves when handling carcasses.
- When field dressing an animal, leave internal organs and inedible parts at the site of harvest.
- Avoid sawing through bone, spinal cord, brain, lymph nodes, or spleen.
- Store all portions of the animal to be transported in a container such as a cooler, bin, or bag that will not leak bodily fluids into the environment.

Meat Processing:

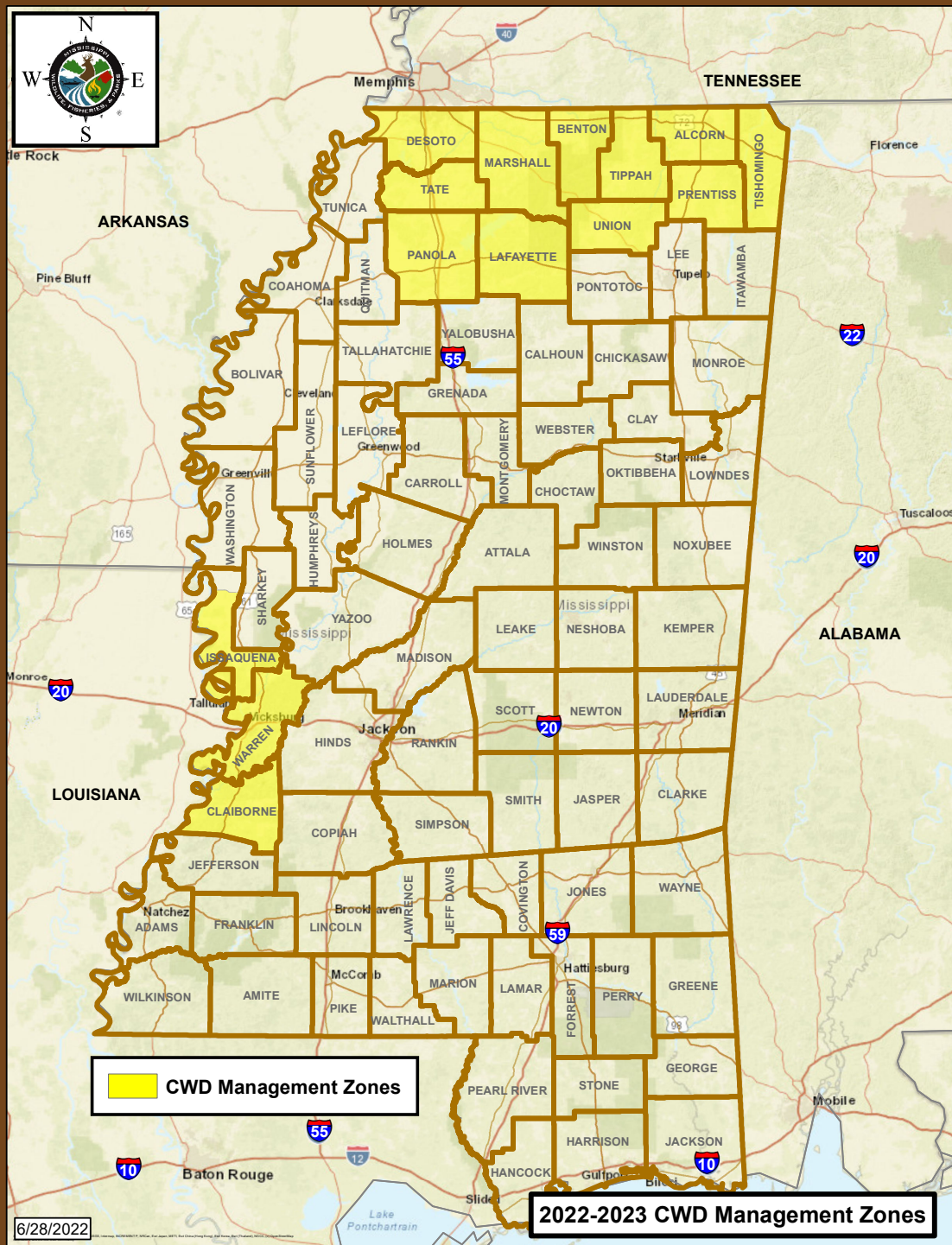
- Do not process a deer that appears to be diseased.
- Process all deer individually, package separately, and label uniquely.
- Debone meat from deer and remove all fat, connective tissue, and lymph nodes.
- Avoid sawing through bone, spinal cord, brain, lymph nodes, or spleen.
- Avoid eating/handling the eyes, brain, spinal cord, spleen, and lymph nodes.
- Limit the amount of bodily fluids going to an area, such as a floor drain, that cannot be properly sanitized after use.

Disposal:

- Deer parts should not be rendered for use in feed for other animals, or used as compost.
- Recommended disposal methods for unwanted portions of carcasses (bones, organs, etc.) are:
 - Leave at the harvest site;
 - Double-bag and send to an approved, lined landfill; or
 - Deep burial (8 feet or deeper).

Equipment Cleaning:

- Clean processing equipment between each deer.
- Thoroughly sanitize all equipment and workstations with a 50:50 solution of bleach and water.
- Soak tools for one hour in the bleach solution, and then rinse thoroughly with hot water.



CWD-POSITIVE DEER BY COUNTY, SINCE 2018

ALCORN COUNTY 3 POSITIVES	BENTON COUNTY 87 POSITIVES	ISSAQUENA COUNTY 2 POSITIVES	MARSHALL COUNTY 35 POSITIVES	PANOLA COUNTY 1 POSITIVE	PONTOTOC COUNTY 1 POSITIVE	TALLAHATCHIE COUNTY 1 POSITIVE	TIPPAH COUNTY 2 POSITIVES	WARREN COUNTY 2 POSITIVES
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CHRONIC WASTING DISEASE MANAGEMENT

Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) was first detected in Mississippi in February 2018 and is recognized as the primary threat to wildlife in the state. The CWD Management Plan establishes a framework for the Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries, and Parks to implement management strategies to prevent and mitigate the spread and transmission of CWD in Mississippi. Current management strategies are based on the best available science and with input from a variety of subject matter experts. The nature of CWD mandates a long-term, adaptable approach to management. To that end, below are changes for the 2022–2023 hunting season:

CWD MANAGEMENT PLAN UPDATE

The updated Mississippi Chronic Wasting Disease Management Plan was approved by the Commission on Wildlife, Fisheries, and Parks during April 2021. Important changes include:

Following a confirmed CWD positive within an existing positive county or a new county, all counties within 10 miles of the positive, including the county containing the positive, will be placed in a CWD-MZ for a minimum of 3 years.



CWD-POSITIVE DETECTION Management Zone (CWD-MZ)

Delineated using county boundaries.



Ban supplemental feeding of wildlife.



Only bone-in leg quarters*, deboned meat, antlers, cleaned skull or skull plates, finished taxidermy, cleaned teeth, hides and tanned products may leave the CWD-MZs.



Please refer to the carcass transportation ban section on page 2 for transporting to a permitted cooperating taxidermist.

*Change from 2020–2021 hunting season.

2022–2023 WHITE-TAILED DEER HUNTING SEASON

VELVET SEASON

Created a Velvet Season in September with mandatory CWD sampling statewide

NORTH CENTRAL DMU

Establish the “North Central Deer Management Unit”

DeSoto, Tate, Marshall, Benton, Tippah, and Alcorn counties.

PRIVATE LANDS

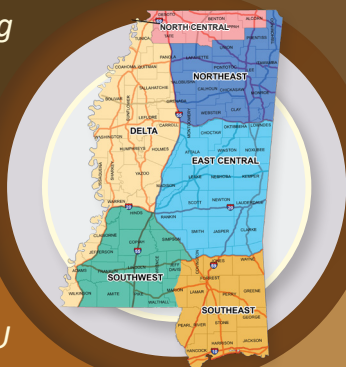
within North Central DMU

- Increased buck bag limit from 3 to 4.
- No antler criteria for 4-buck bag limit.
- Increased antlerless bag limit from 5 to 10.

HOLLY SPRINGS NATIONAL FOREST

within North Central DMU

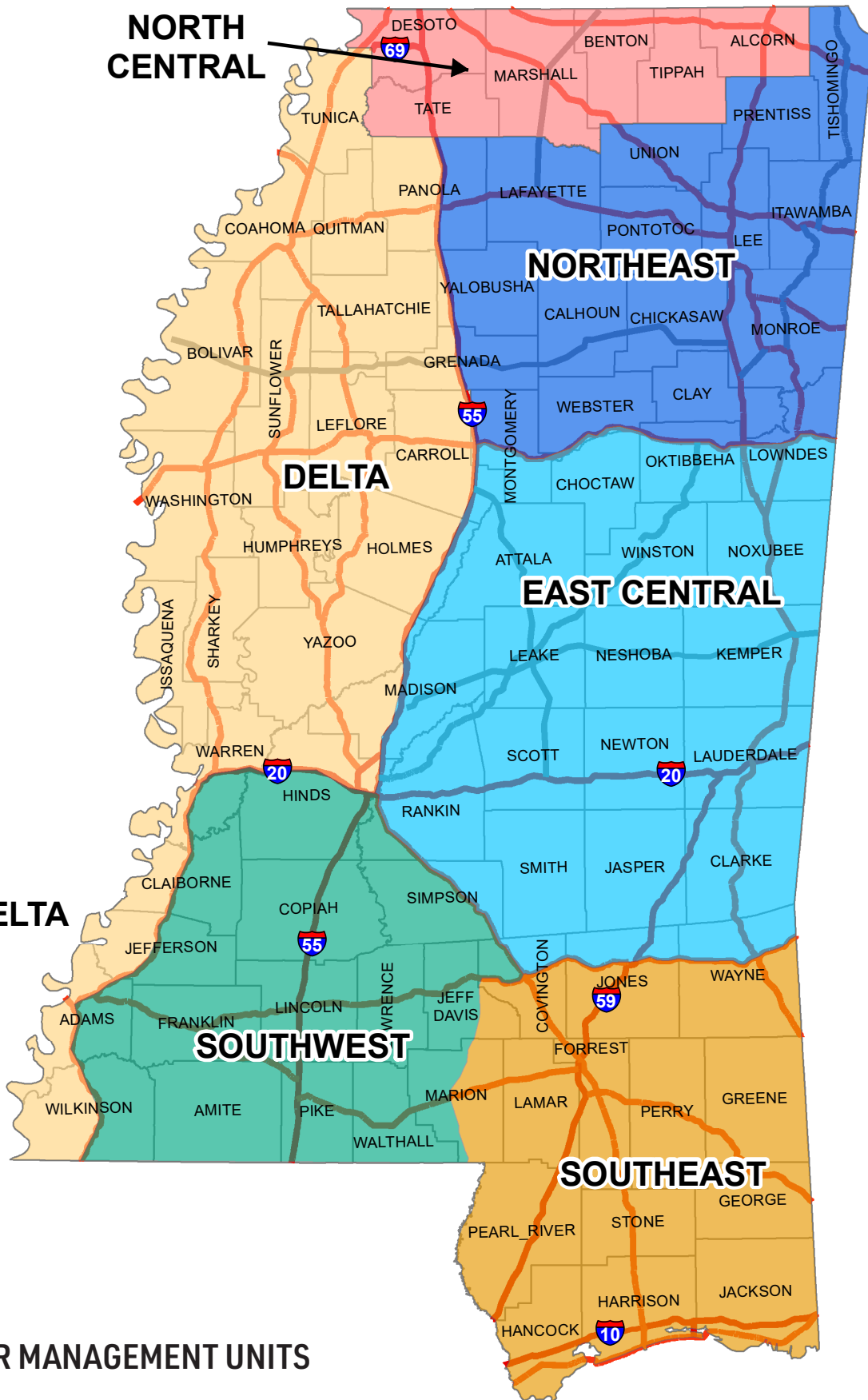
- 3-buck bag limit with no antler criteria.



**NORTH
CENTRAL**

DELTA

DEER MANAGEMENT UNITS



2022–2023 STATEWIDE SAMPLE DROP-OFF SITES


MDWFP has established collection sites across the state for the general public to deposit deer heads for testing. All season long, freezers will be at each site for depositing deer heads.

Hunters should preserve the head with at least 6 inches of neck attached. Antlers and skull plate may be removed without affecting the lymph nodes used for testing. If antlers are not removed, they cannot be returned to the hunter.

- 1 Love VFD**
7345 Hwy 51 S
Hernando, MS 38632
- 2 Mt. Pleasant VFD**
194 Mt. Pleasant Rd
Red Banks, MS 38661
- 3 Wall Doxey State Park**
3946 MS Hwy 7
Holly Springs, MS 38635
- 4 Benton County 911 Dispatch**
368 Ripley Ave
Ashland, MS 38603
- 5 Walnut VFD**
660 Main Street
Walnut, MS 38683
- 6 MSU Extension Office**
2200 Old Hwy 45 S
Corinth, MS 38834
- 7 New Albany Fairgrounds**
112 Fairgrounds Circle
New Albany, MS 38652
- 8 Fire Station 1**
401 McElroy Dr
Oxford, MS 38655
- 9 Panola County EMS**
100 MSG William J Ferrell Dr
Sardis, MS 38666
- 10 O'Keefe WMA**
O'keefe Rd
Lambert, MS 38643
- 11 North Region Office**
457 CR 36
Enid, MS 38927
- 12 MDOT Maintenance HQ**
32950 Hwy 32
Tillatoba, MS 38961
- 13 Pontotoc Ag Center**
430 CJ Hardin Jr Dr
Pontotoc, MS 38863
- 14 Trace State Park**
2139 Faulkner Rd
Tupelo, MS 38826
- 15 Chickasaw WMA**
770 Hwy 32 Ext
Houston, MS 38851
- 16 Malmaison WMA**
126 Malmaison HQ Rd
Holcomb, MS 38940
- 17 Deviney WMA**
171 Hughes-Ertle Road
Indianola, MS 38751
- 18 Dahomey NWR**
831 MS 446
Boyle, MS 38730
- 19 Carroll County Sheriff's Dept.**
105c East Washington St
Carrollton, MS 38917
- 20 American Legion Building**
8243 Hwy 9
Eupora, MS 39744
- 21 Trim Cane WMA**
2025 North Jackson St.
Starkville, MS 39759
- 22 Black Prairie WMA**
744 Fire Tower Rd
Crawford, MS 39743
- 23 Choctaw WMA**
2121 Webster Rd
Ackerman, MS 39735
- 24 Yockanookany WMA**
28329 MS Hwy 12
McCool, MS 39108
- 25 Holmes County State Park**
5369 State Park Rd
Durant, MS 39063
- 26 District 3 VFD**
171 Old Benton Rd.
Yazoo City, MS 39194
- 27 Mahannah WMA**
1370 Anderson-Tully Rd
Redwood, MS 39156
- 28 Phil Bryant WMA**
11641 Hwy 465
Vicksburg, MS 39183
- 29 LeFleur's Bluff State Park**
3315 Lakeland Terrace
Jackson, MS 39216
- 30 Pearl River WMA**
506 Hwy 43 S
Canton, MS 39046
- 31 Fire Station 3**
257 Gum Street
Philadelphia, MS 39350
- 32 USDA Service Center**
48 Millers Chapel Church Rd
Macon, MS 39341
- 33 Collinsville VFD**
11710 Nancy Drive
Collinsville, MS 39325
- 34 Caney Creek WMA**
6373 West Moore Tower Rd
Forest, MS 39074
- 35 MSU Extension Office**
2040 W. Gallman Rd
Hazlehurst, MS 39083
- 36 Natchez State Park**
230-B Wickcliff Rd
Natchez, MS 39120
- 37 Wilkinson County Sheriff**
1389 U.S. Hwy 61 South
Woodville, MS 39669
- 38 US Forest Service Office (Bude)**
3085 U.S. Hwy 98
Meadville, MS 39653
- 39 Pike County Co-Op**
105 Nehi Circle
McComb, MS 39648
- 40 Jeff Davis Lake**
16 Lake Drive
Prentiss, MS 39474
- 41 Bogue Homa Lake**
149 Bogue Homa Lake Rd
Laurel, MS 39443
- 42 MSU Extension Office**
7128 Highway 198 East
Lucedale, MS 39452
- 43 Purvis VFD**
805 Main St
Purvis, MS 39475
- 44 Pearl River County Fairgrounds**
Hwy 26 West
Poplarville, MS 39470
- 45 Lower Pascagoula WMA**
1600 Ward Bayou Rd
Vanceleave, MS 39565
- 46 Bay St. Louis FD Station 2**
9998 MS-603
Bay St. Louis, MS 39520
- 47 Prentiss Co. Agri Center**
2301 N 2nd St
Booneville, MS 38829
- 48 Fire Department #4**
308 MS HWY 7 N.
Greenwood, MS. 38930
- 49 MSU Extension Office**
101 Westwood Ave
Quitman, MS 39355
- 50 MS Forestry Commission**
1801 Highway 51 S
Grenada, MS 38901
- 51 Communication Specialist**
760 Hwy 61 North
Vicksburg, MS 39183
- 52 MSU Extension Office**
2785 Simpson Highway 49
Mendenhall, MS 39114
- 53 Tishomingo County Fairgrounds**
108 CR 107
Iuka, MS 38852
- 54 Fulton Fire Department**
604 South Adams St
Fulton, MS 38843
- 55 MSU Extension Office**
68 Collins Industrial Park Dr
Collins, MS 39428
- 56 MSU Extension Office**
214 Main St
Monticello, MS 39654
- 57 MSU Extension Office**
1060 Hwy 13 South
Columbia, MS 39429
- 58 MS State Dept of Health**
903 Union Rd
Tylertown, MS 39667
- 59 Burnsville/
Yellow Creek Boat Ramp**
Frontage Road (HWY 72)
Burnsville, MS 38833
- 60 Hell Creek WMA**
4120 CR 825
Myrtle, MS 38650
- 61 Canemount WMA**
17059 Rodney Road
Port Gibson, MS
- 62 All Creatures Veterinary Hospital**
1011 St. Mark Dr.
Port Gibson, MS 39150
- 63 Valley Park Community Center**
64 Kelso Rd
Valley Park, MS 39177



CWD is one of the most important challenges that has arisen over the last century. Hunters are vital to successfully managing CWD and ensuring healthy white-tailed deer herds for future generations. MDWFP thanks all hunters for continuing to stay actively engaged in this conservation effort!



DEER HEALTH OBSERVATION

If you observe a deer you suspect may be diseased or sick, report it to the Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries, and Parks at:

1-800-BE-SMART
or
www.MDWFP.com/diseased

SYMPTOMS

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Malnourished / Frail	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Excessive Salivation
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Not afraid of Humans	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Erratic Behavior

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MDWFP's Private Lands Program is ready to assist you in managing wildlife and habitat on your land. To learn more go to: MDWFP.com/privatelands

Front cover photography: Blythe Summers