



COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA PENNSYLVANIA GAME COMMISSION

2001 Elmerton Avenue
Harrisburg, PA 17110-9797

Wildlife Management
(717) 787-5529

Pennsylvania Chronic Wasting Disease Response Plan: A Summary

To continue and improve efforts by the Game Commission to prevent, detect, and manage CWD within the Commonwealth, the July 2020 plan sets forth the following goals, objectives, and strategies:

Minimize the impacts of CWD on PA deer and elk populations

Prevent human-caused introductions of CWD into free-ranging cervid populations outside of DMAs:

(1) Continue to enforce ban on movement of high-risk cervid parts outside of DMAs; (2) Reduce feeding of deer and use of attractants statewide by increasing educational outreach and awareness of risks associated with these activities; (3) Collaborate with the PDA to strengthen their oversight of captive cervid operations and mitigate the risks captive cervids and PA's free-ranging deer and elk populations may pose to each other; (4) Continue to enforce ban on importation of high-risk cervid parts from areas outside PA where CWD has been detected and expand ban to include all areas outside of PA regardless of CWD status

Quickly detect CWD infections in new areas so management strategies can be implemented at the earliest opportunity:

(1) Refine diagnostic testing strategies and expand testing capacity for quick test turnaround, enabling management strategies to be implemented as early as possible; (2) Refine surveillance strategies to efficiently detect the spatial distribution of CWD and change in sample prevalence over time; (3) Maintain current level of statewide sampling and annually reevaluate if sampling effort is achieving early detection; (4) Maintain mandatory CWD testing of harvested adult elk and any mortalities encountered on the landscape

Limit sample prevalence to $\leq 1\%$ in adult deer and meet surveillance goals within ESUs:

(1) Increase deer hunting opportunities and sampling of road-killed deer as needed; (2) Monitor sample prevalence within ESUs to evaluate management strategies

Within CZs, prevent the disease from becoming established or spreading farther on the landscape:

(1) Increase deer hunting opportunities in CZs to remove potentially exposed individuals around a CWD detection; (2) Prioritize and implement targeted removals in CZs, with landowner permission, to remove potentially exposed individuals

Limit sample prevalence to $\leq 5\%$ in hunter-harvested adult deer within EAs:

(1) Increase deer hunting opportunities to reduce deer abundance and remove more CWD positive deer from the landscape; (2) Monitor sample prevalence within EAs to evaluate management strategies

Increase stakeholder understanding of, support for, and participation in CWD management efforts

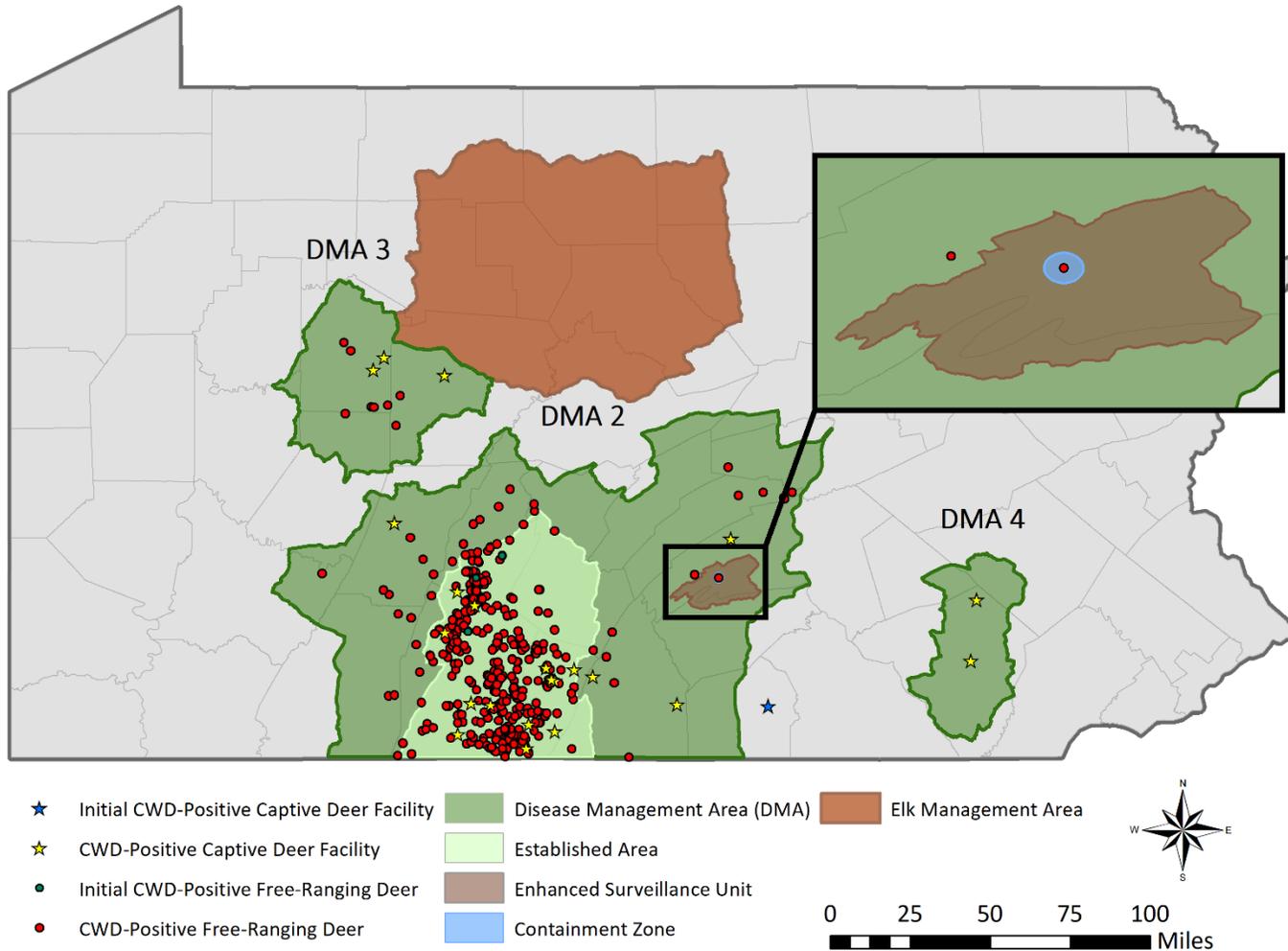
Foster two-way communications and utilize human dimension techniques to assess stakeholder values and opinions on Game Commission CWD management efforts:

(1) Review the CWD Communications Plan on at least an annual basis and refine as needed; (2) Identify stakeholder concerns and utilize the best platforms to both address stakeholder interests and Game Commission communications objectives; (3) Develop support for Game Commission CWD management activities by providing consistent information that clearly illustrates management objectives, the necessity of management actions, and how they may impact stakeholders; (4) Conduct educational outreach and marketing campaigns to communicate key messages about CWD; (5) Provide up-to-date information of CWD testing results and Game Commission CWD management activities online and provide mechanisms by which stakeholders can submit comments, questions, or concerns

DMA = Disease Management Area; **ESU** = Enhanced Surveillance Unit; **CZ** = Containment Zone; **EA** = Established Area

Together we can safeguard the future of deer and elk in Pennsylvania!

Geographic Designations for CWD Management Strategies in Pennsylvania



*Note: **Enhanced Surveillance Unit and Containment Zone are theoretical**; CWD detections are as of July 2020. The blue star, representing the initial CWD detection in PA in 2012, was located in DMA 1 which was dissolved in 2017.*