

## Symptoms of CWD

- Malnourishment or rapid weight loss
- Excessive salivation
- Loss of awareness & fear of humans
- Drooping Ears
- Behavioral changes
- Lack of coordination

## Where is CWD?

CWD has been detected in about 30 US states. The first Washington state detection of CWD was in Spokane County, GMU 124, in 2024. Although it has not been detected anywhere else in Washington state, early detection and responsiveness is key to slowing the rapid spread of this disease and attempt to prevent it from establishing in our regional cervid populations.

## Contact Us:

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## For more information visit our

**website:** <https://ynwildlife.org/big-game-bison/>



## YAKAMA NATION WILDLIFE RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

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# YAKAMA NATION WILDLIFE RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

*Monitoring Chronic Wasting  
Disease in the Yakama Nation  
Wild Cervid Populations*



*CWD infected deer showing signs that are more difficult to identify such as strange behavior and a lack of awareness.*

## Transfer of Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD)

CWD can transfer into the population very quickly through one infected animal's bodily fluids, such as feces, saliva, urine or blood. Infected animals can contaminate the food, water, or soil they interact with. There is also the possibility that predators contribute to the geographic spread of CWD after consumption or dispersion of the infected animal.

## Preventing the Spread of CWD

- Place in Trash or Permitted Landfill
- Bury On-Site
- Remove All Brain Tissue
- DO NOT Place in Water
- DO NOT Dump Carcasses
- DO NOT Bait Animals

# Chronic Wasting Disease

## About CWD

CWD is a disease that attacks the neurological system of cervids (deer, elk and moose). This disease causes dysfunction of the body's control system, ultimately causing death. CWD is extremely contagious and once it is in a population, it spreads rapidly. Cervids can appear "normal" up to 2 years after being exposed to CWD, making testing even the healthiest looking cervids important. There is currently no known cure for CWD.

**WARNING:** It is unknown whether or not the meat of an animal is safe to consume if it tests positive for CWD.



*Infected elk showing typical symptoms of CWD including excessive drooling, drooped ears, and extreme weight loss.*

## How Can We Monitor CWD in our Community?

If you notice a deer or elk with symptoms that may relate to CWD, or you would like your harvest tested to monitor for CWD call Yakama Nation Wildlife Management Program (WRMP). When bringing in a harvested cervid, keep at least three inches of the neck attached to the animal to ensure lymph nodes and brain stems are intact. The WRMP will send samples to Washington State University Testing Center.

