Chronic Wasting Disease Management

Goal:

To suppress CWD prevalence rates at very low levels, eliminate the disease where possible, and slow or stop the spread of CWD into new areas

Approach:

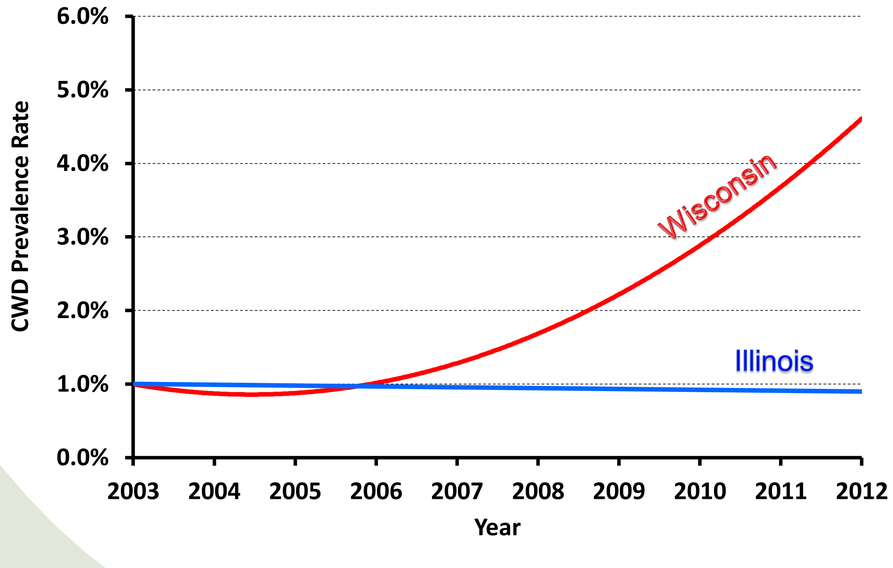
- Collect and test as many deer tissue samples as possible from CWD counties and counties at high risk for CWD in order to detect spread of the disease into new areas and to monitor changes in disease prevalence and distribution over time. Sources of samples include deer check stations, hunter sample drop-off stations, cooperating meat lockers, road-killed deer, out-of-season special deer removal permits, suspect animals reported to the Department, and deer taken by agency sharpshooters.

- Use recreational deer hunter harvest for broad-scale control of CWD county deer populations, using liberal permit quotas, no bag limits, and expanded hunting seasons.
- Supplement hunter harvest with a very limited and focused sharpshooting program that takes deer only from very specific areas where we know CWD is present. Sharpshooting occurs only on properties with permission from cooperating landowners, during the winter after the close of deer hunting seasons.

Results/Benefits:

- Using sharpshooting to target specific disease locations allows us to most effectively fight CWD without drastically reducing deer populations throughout the entire county. This location-specific approach is not feasible for hunting seasons.
- Illinois' rate of disease has remained very low in the ten years since we found CWD (see below). In contrast, other states that have not managed CWD or that have attempted to manage through hunting seasons alone have seen increasing rates of disease. No state has been successful in controlling CWD through hunting seasons alone, even though extra seasons, longer seasons, no limit on hunter harvest, "earn a buck" regulations, and even rewards have been employed.

CWD Prevalence Trends:
White-tailed Deer in Wisconsin and Illinois



CWD Prevalence and Population Trends:
Mule Deer in Wyoming's HA65