

# Chronic Wasting Disease: Research and Results

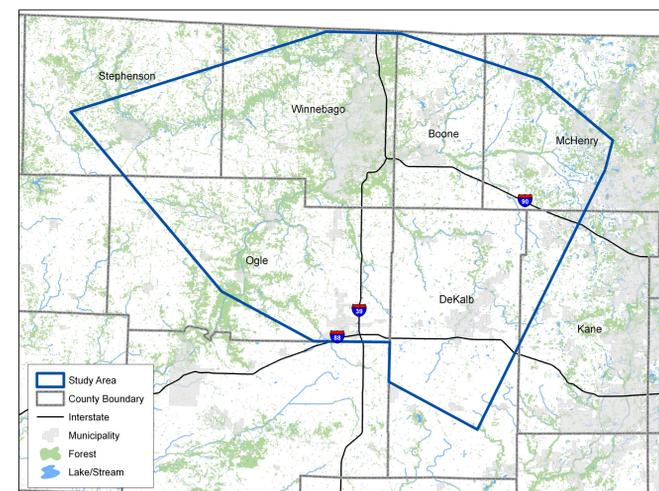


In 2013 scientists from the Illinois Natural History Survey, the University of Illinois, and Purdue University published the results of a study that examined the effectiveness of the first several years' of the Illinois Department of Natural Resources' program for managing Chronic Wasting Disease in the northern Illinois deer herd. The paper appears in the Journal of Preventive Veterinary Medicine (Vol. 110: 541-548), and is available online (without charge) at <http://www.sciencedirect.com/science/journal/01675877>.

The authors concluded that IDNR sharpshooting was associated with a decline in CWD prevalence in the areas where management occurred during the study period. Some other findings of the study included:

- In areas with management, declines in CWD prevalence were more consistently observed in young deer than in adults, suggesting that management reduces the risk of new infections;
- In areas where no sharpshooting occurred, the odds of a female deer having CWD were about 2.5 times higher than in areas where sharpshooters removed moderate to high numbers of deer (9-59 deer per section per year). Results for male deer differed somewhat, with lower risk of CWD at different levels of sharpshooting. Additional years of data should help clarify the nature of this relationship;
- Deer taken by agency sharpshooters were about twice as likely to be CWD-positive than deer taken by hunters.

## Study area in northern Illinois where CWD management was evaluated



**The results suggest that frequent and consistent sharpshooting events with at least moderate culling intensity are needed to reduce CWD prevalence.**