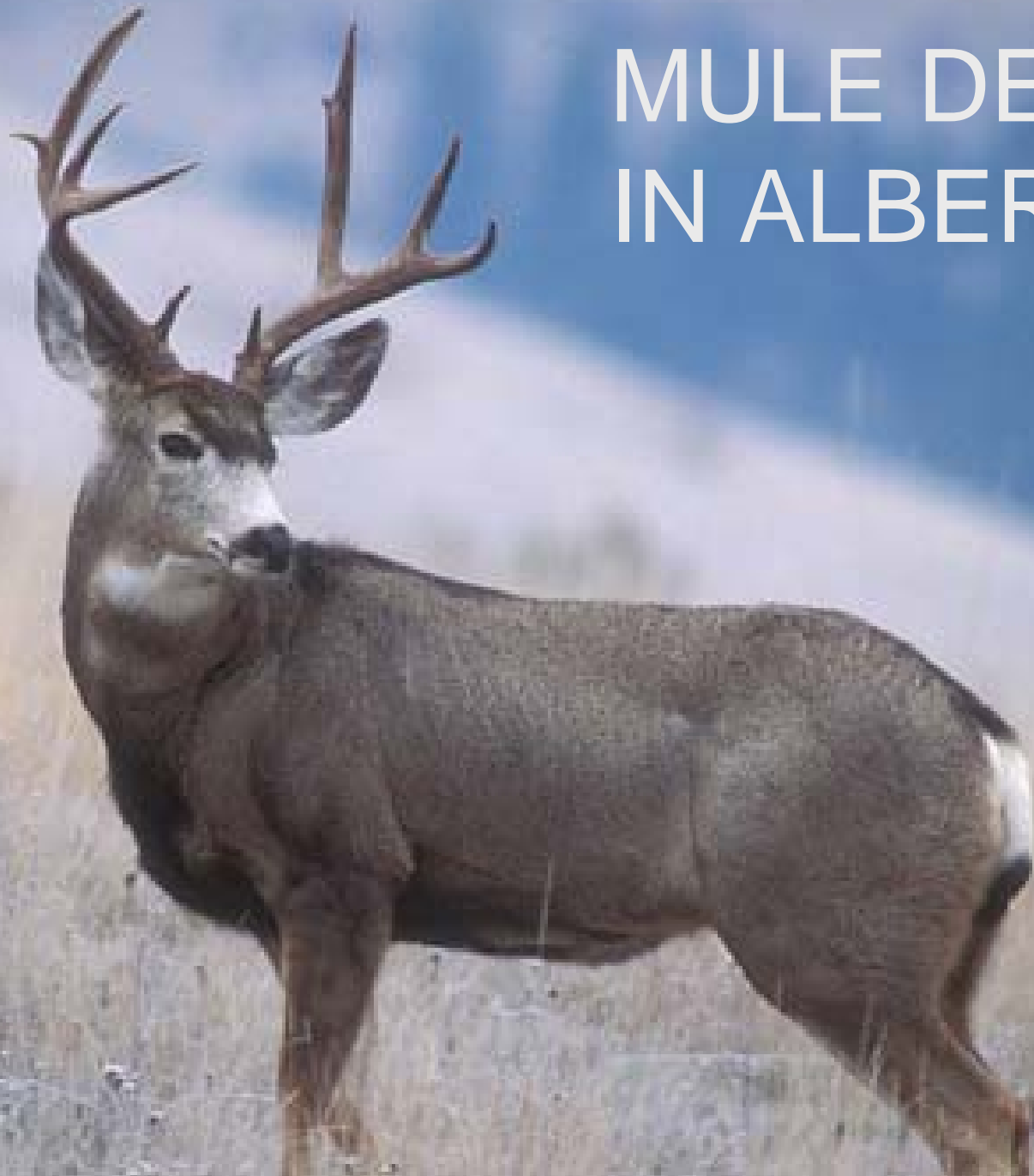



MULE DEER IN ALBERTA



Outline

1. Review Management Objectives
 2. Population; trends, status, parameters
 3. Hunting Opportunities and Harvest
 4. Management and Population Issues
 5. Discussion
- 

Management Objectives

The mule deer population will be managed to:

- ◆ Provide recreational hunting opportunities
- ◆ Opportunity for widespread non-consumptive enjoyment
- ◆ Opportunity for Albertans to benefit from guiding non-resident mule deer hunters

Management Objectives

The Fish and Wildlife Policy (1982) established a general goal of maintaining the current population of mule deer

Currently

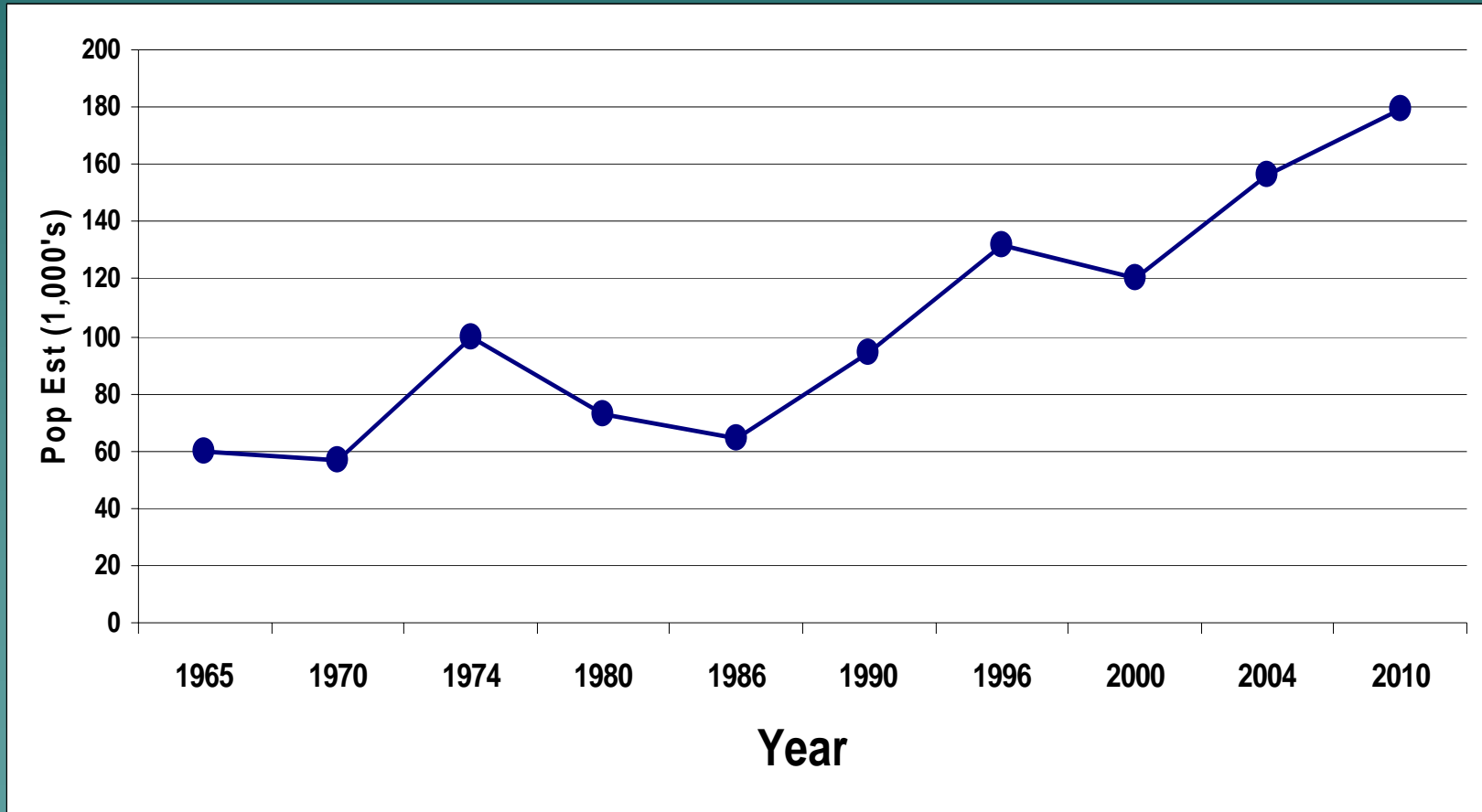
- ◆ Maintain hunting opportunity
- ◆ Minimize agricultural damage

Management Objectives

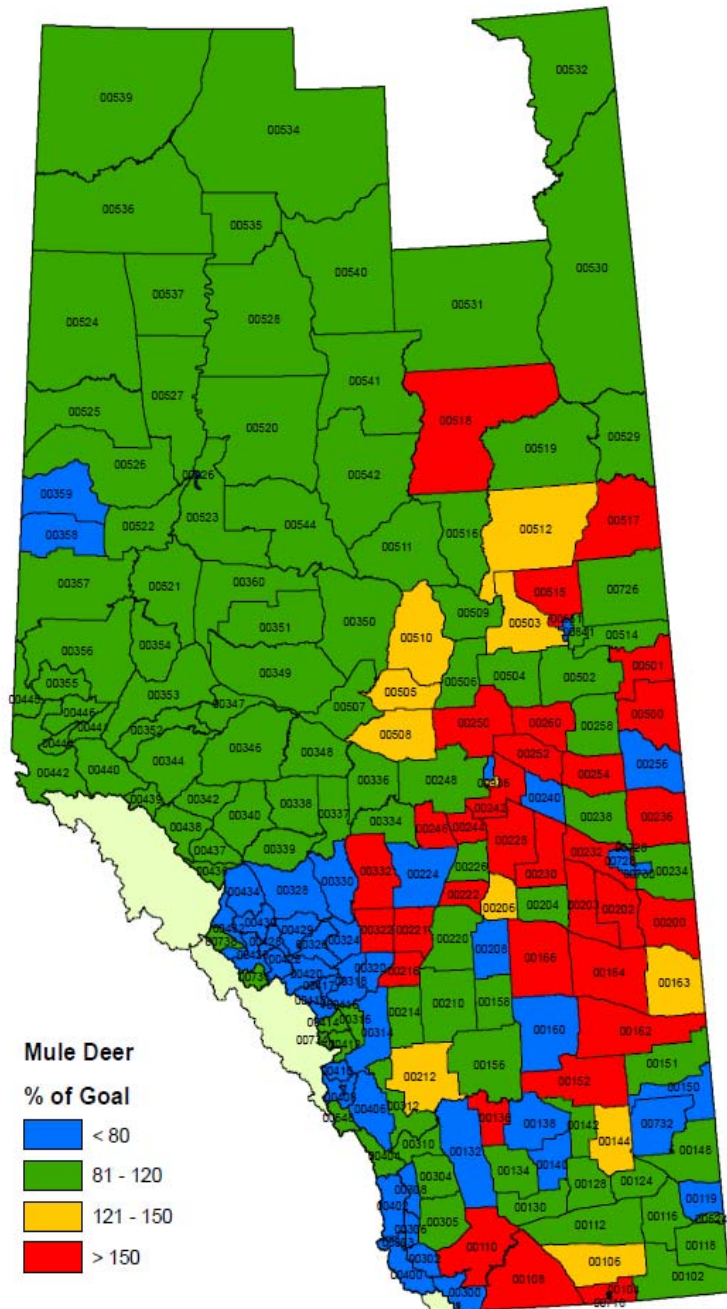
The Fish and Wildlife Policy (1982)
Management priorities

- ◆ Conservation
- ◆ Aboriginal use
- ◆ Recreational hunting
- ◆ Non-resident hunting

Provincial MUDE Estimate 1965- 2010



Population Est. vs Goal 2010 Pre-hunting Season



2010 Provincial Population vs Goal

- 2010 Pop est. 179,000
- 2010 Pop goal 161,000

Population Parameters Buck:Doe:Fawn

Data From 2009 Aerial Ungulate Surveys;

- 13 WMUs where sex/age surveys were completed
- Average Ratio:
25:100:41
- Range (Bucks): 13-35
- Range (Fawns): 11 - 65

Antlered Mule Deer Harvest

- ◆ 7% harvest for stable population
- ◆ Equals 25% of antlered deer population
- ◆ Populations generally underestimated

Mule Deer Harvest; 2008 - 2010

2008

- 7,454 Antlered MUDE (4.0%)
- 14,691 Antlerless MUDE

2009

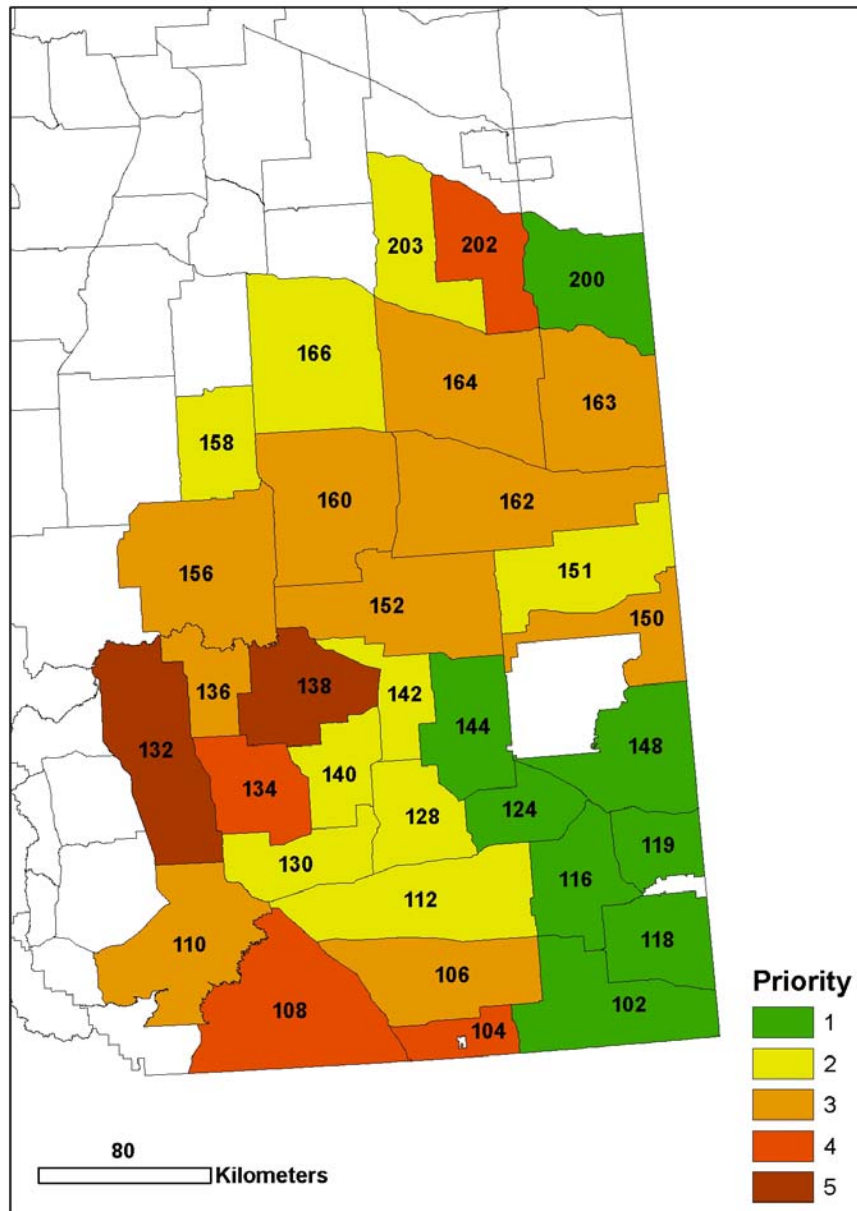
- 8,587 Antlered MUDE (4.6%)
- 7,866 Antlerless MUDE

2010

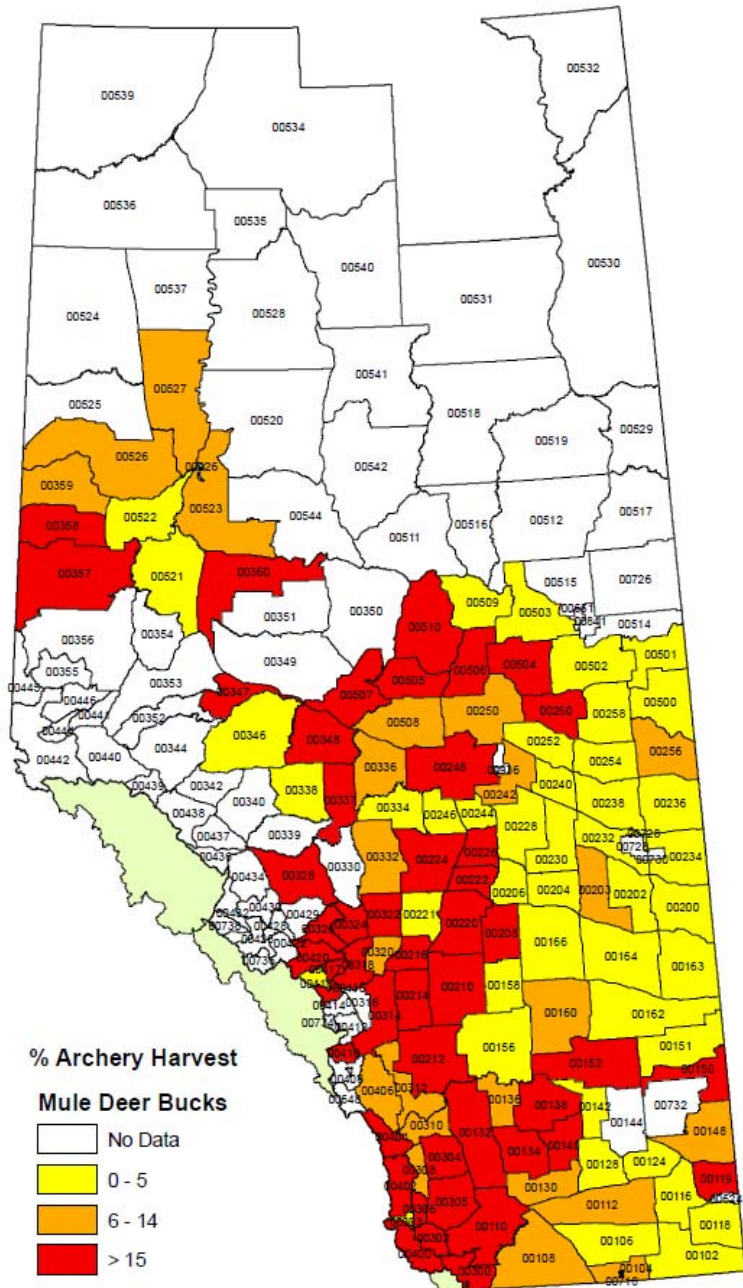
- 8,678 Antlered MUDE (4.9%)
- 8,062 Antlerless MUDE

Draw Priority Antlered Mule Deer

2009 Hunting Draw Statistics



Estimated Archery Harvest Antlered Mule Deer - 2010



Population health

- ◆ High population can affect range condition.
- ◆ Female's ability to produce healthy fawns is affected by nutrition.
- ◆ Fawns produced by poorly nourished does have lower birth weights.

Population health

- ◆ Deer on poor quality range will weigh less than those on good range.
- ◆ Bucks will require an additional year on poor range to produce antlers equivalent to those deer of the same age on good range.
- ◆ Many bucks on poor range never develop trophy racks.

Chronic Wasting Disease

long term effects on
mule deer populations?

94 cases in Alberta
85 (90%) mule deer
63 (75%) male.
Average age 5.5 yrs

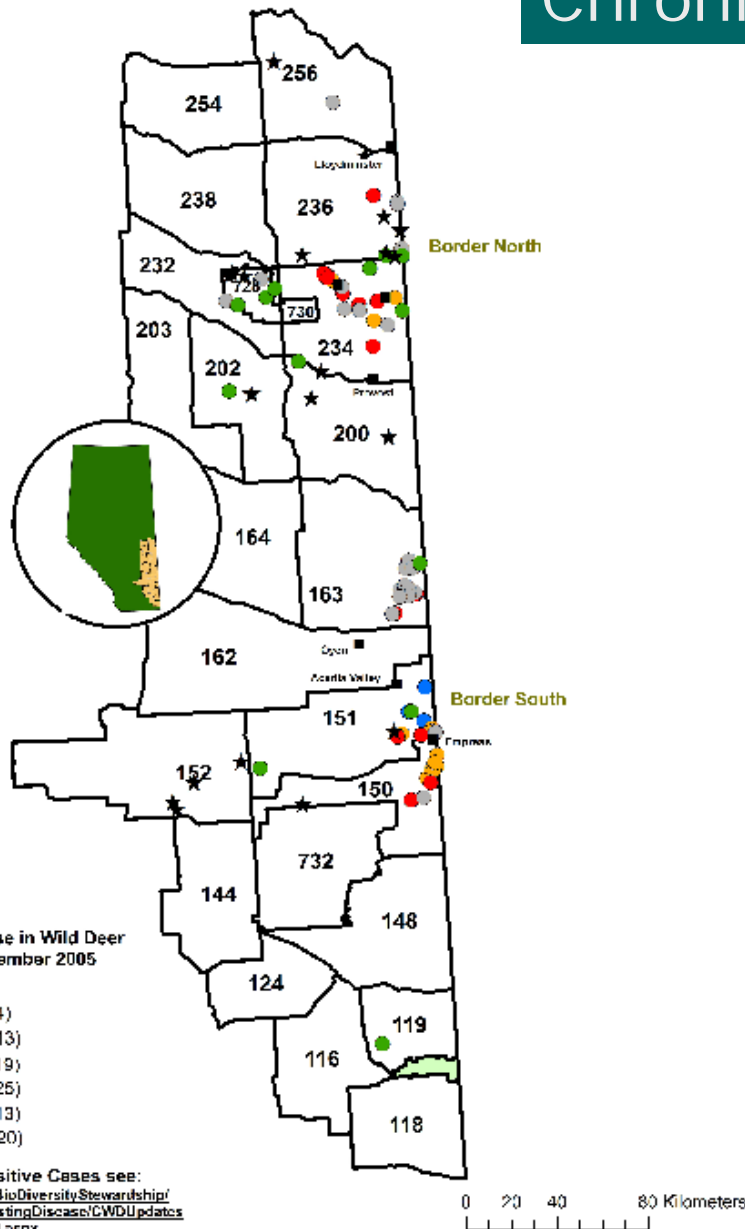
Population decline occurs
when prevalence
reaches 30 to 40 %

Chronic Wasting Disease in Wild Deer in Alberta since September 2005

Positive Year

- 2005 (n=4)
- 2006 (n=13)
- 2007 (n=19)
- 2008 (n=25)
- 2009 (n=13)
- ★ 2010 (n=20)

For details on CWD Positive Cases see:
[http://www.srd.alberta.ca/BioDiversityStewardship/
WildlifeDiseases/ChronicWastingDisease/CWDUpdates/
Default.aspx](http://www.srd.alberta.ca/BioDiversityStewardship/WildlifeDiseases/ChronicWastingDisease/CWDUpdates/Default.aspx)



Discussion

