



Report: Emergency Response to Disease Outbreaks in Wildlife

Covering the Period April 1-June 30, 2020

As required by Minnesota Session Law 2019, 1st Special Session, Chapter 4

9/14/2020

Report to the Minnesota Legislature

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Pursuant to Minnesota Statutes, Section 3.197, we estimate that it cost approximately \$190 produce this report. This include staff time for drafting and reviewing the report.

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DNR CWD Spending Legislative Report

This report fulfills the quarterly reporting requirement of Minnesota Session Law 2019, 1st Special Session, Chapter 4, Article 1, Section 3, Subdivision 6(b) “\$1,595,000 the first year and \$275,000 the second year are from the general fund, and \$1,125,000 the first year and \$1,675,000 the second year are from the game and fish fund for planning for and emergency response to disease outbreaks in wildlife (Table 1). The commissioner and board must each submit quarterly reports on the activities funded under this paragraph to the chairs and ranking minority members of the legislative committees and divisions with jurisdiction over environment and natural resources and agriculture.”

CWD Activities, April-June 2020

The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) spent approximately \$661,000 during the fourth quarter of FY 2020 on Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD)-related activities, and \$2.8 million for the entire fiscal year (Figure 1). The fourth quarter spending includes invoices related to the completion of the winter culling effort that occurred in the third quarter, such as travel expenditures for staff assisting with the project, contract payments for USDA-Wildlife Services, and diagnostic testing. New activities that occurred this past quarter were focused on planning the DNR’s CWD surveillance for fall 2020 as well as monitoring collared deer for the southeast deer movement study. A detailed list of activities include:

- Collecting 25 samples for CWD testing:
 - Opportunistic sampling of 25 samples collected statewide (i.e., 9 vehicle-killed deer, 7 sick deer, 1 found dead, 5 depredation permits, and 3 other): none of these deer were CWD-positive and no new cases of CWD were detected in Minnesota during this quarter.
- Planning, rule writing, and coordination work for fall 2020 CWD surveillance efforts.
- Ordering of supplies for upcoming CWD sampling and setting up new contracts for diagnostic testing, and dumpsters.
- Contingency planning for implementing a CWD sampling effort during an ongoing pandemic.
- Monitoring 73 deer in SE Minnesota, including animals newly collared in the last quarter. Project staff have been analyzing data on dispersal movements and home range use to include in the DNR’s final report to LCCMR. The three primary components DNR is studying to determine how CWD may spread in the southeast are: fawn dispersal, buck movements during the rut, and seasonal migrations from summer to winter home ranges. More information on the study can be found on the [Southeast Minnesota deer movement study webpage](#).

Planning for CWD surveillance and management for fall 2020 were the primary activities during this quarter. Information collected this past fall and winter was evaluated and surveillance goals established for the coming season. The discovery of CWD at two captive cervid facilities (Douglas and Pine counties) and an infected wild deer found in Dakota County have led to the creation of three new surveillance areas. These new areas are in addition to the CWD management zones in north-central and southeast Minnesota (Figure 2).

In order to safeguard the health of hunters and DNR employees during the COVID-19 pandemic, the DNR is shifting its CWD surveillance efforts this fall from mandatory sampling to a voluntary approach that will facilitate

social distancing and address potential hunter concerns. The change required thinking creatively about how to continue to monitor the disease's prevalence with a high level of confidence in areas where it's known to exist, as well as to detect the disease in new areas. The new voluntary sampling regime will include placement of nearly 80 self-service CWD sampling stations throughout all disease risk areas of the state as well as partnerships with taxidermists and meat processors to collect samples this fall. DNR staff will retrieve samples from the stations regularly and process the samples promptly. We will retain the ability to inform hunters of the test results for samples they submit.

Communication efforts continued during this reporting quarter and included media interviews, invited speaking engagements, and responses to phone calls and emails from hunters or the general public. CWD information was developed for the 2020 hunting and trapping regulations handbook. The [CWD website](#) content was updated to reflect upcoming surveillance plans.

Tables, Charts, and Figures

Table 1. Chronic Wasting Disease Appropriation Allocation FY20-21.

Fund	FY20 Appropriated	FY21 Appropriated	Total App FY20-21
General Fund	1,595,000	275,000	1,870,000
Game and Fish-Emergency Response	1,125,000	1,675,000	2,800,000
Cervid Health – Adopt a Dumpster	50,000		50,000
Total	2,770,000	1,950,000	4,720,000

Figure 1. Quarterly spending activity of the Chronic Wasting Disease Appropriation Allocation FY20-21.

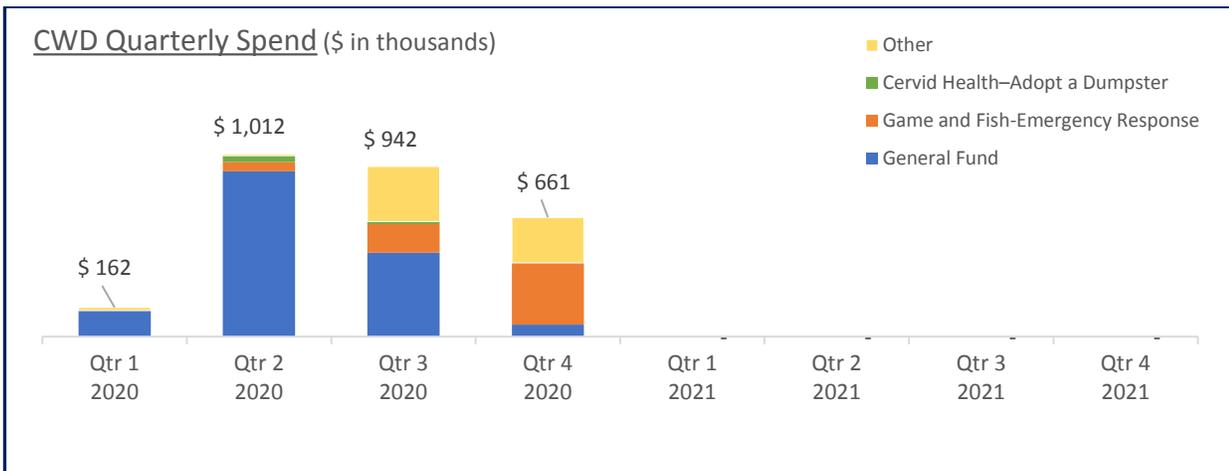


Table 2. Detailed spending by expense type for Chronic Wasting Disease Appropriation, July 1, 2019 through June 30, 2020.

Expense Type	General Fund	Game and Fish-Emergency Response	Cervid Health-Adopt a Dumpster	Other**	Total Spend
Salary	677,196	-	-	329,514	1,006,710
CSU CWD Sample Testing	335,179	-	-	-	335,179
USDA-Culling Contract	-	200,000	-	95,209	295,209
Contracts: CWD Tissue Sampling	103,330	-	-	-	103,330
CWD Attitude Survey	-	36,000	-	-	36,000
Dumpsters	100,098	28,881	49,876	6,936	185,791
Meat Processor	77,919	48,501	-	55,079	181,499
Helicopter Deer Capture/Surveys	-	33,744	-	5,112	38,856
Supplies	105,115	13,456	-	4,069	122,641
Printing & Advertising	51,195	2,600	-	853	54,648
CWD Office Lease - Rushford	19,197	-	-	-	19,197
Equipment	25,216	81,578	-	-	106,794
UMN CWD Testing (elk/moose)	1,680	-	-	-	1,680
Travel/Fleet	86,190	85,850	124	88,470	260,634
Technology-Deer Web App	-	1,128	-	-	1,128
Other	9,847	18,388	-	95	28,331
Total	1,592,162	550,127	50,000	585,337	2,777,626
Remaining Funds	2,838	574,873	-		
\$ Encumbered	831	105,817	-	42,474	
% of FY20 Budget Spent	99.8%	48.9%	100.0%		
% of FY20 Budget Encumbered	0.1%	9.4%	0.0%		
% of FY20 Budget Spent/Enc	99.9%	58.3%	100.0%		

** Other includes Game and Fish Operating Account, Deer Management Account, Deer/Bear Account, Cervid Health Account, and Heritage Fund.

Figure 2. Proposed areas for chronic wasting disease surveillance of hunter-harvested deer planned for fall 2020 in Minnesota.

