

BC CWD (Chronic Wasting Disease) Program Update

The following is a BC CWD Program Update for Spring 2009.

SURVEILLANCE

The results are in...

In 2008/09 there were 273 heads submitted to the program. The majority of these were hunter killed animals from the Peace and the East Kootenay Regions. These heads (38 Elk, 24 Moose, 42 Mule Deer, and 160 White-tailed Deer, 3 Caribou) were sampled in March and April and sent to the CCWHC for analysis. **Still no positives in B.C.**

Even though B.C. is considered to be at low risk for the natural introduction of CWD, B.C. Ministry of Environment (MOE) and partners have been conducting passive surveillance since 2002 in order to confirm that our wildlife is free of the disease. The B.C. Surveillance Program will accept suitable cervid heads from anywhere in B.C., but focus efforts in the regions that border Alberta (Kootenay and Peace Regions).

Samples are obtained through voluntary hunter submission of harvested heads, as well as road kills and sick animals submitted by the Conservation Officer Service. See table below for summary of samples since 2002.

YEAR	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2002-2008
PEACE	44	8	65	31	66	137	45	396
KOOTENAY	118	108	0	154	128	185	222	915
OTHER	84	128	0	3	39	3	6	263
TOTAL	246	244	65	188	233	325	273	1574

HUNTER & COMMUNITY OUTREACH

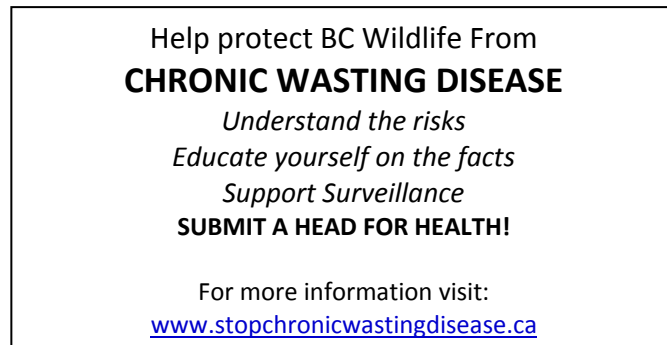
The Peace River Regional District has kindly committed funding to support CWD outreach on a billboard for use along the Alaska Highway, between Taylor and Dawson Creek to further remind the travelling hunters of our CWD Program messaging.

The RAPP (Report All Poachers and Polluters) Program will be delivered again through the B.C. Conservation Corps and will visit many B.C. communities and events this summer. The RAPP coordinators, Braden and Karlena, have offered to include our new CWD messaging in their presentations across the province.

On the suggestion of one of our good partners in Ft. St John, Darren Thiel, we have just developed business-card sized cards with messaging about the Program to be distributed with hunting licenses sold from Backcountry Sports in Fort St. John. We are doing this as a trial, but let us know what you think, if

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anyone that sells licenses from their place of work is interested in distributing these cards, please let me know. See card below.



Through the encouragement of our partners in the BC Wildlife Federation and others, a new *Wildlife Act* Regulation relating to the importation of cervid carcasses and parts harvested outside of BC is still moving forward. We are hoping see that take effect for the 2009 hunting season.

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