

**Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation Report Pursuant to 74 O.S. Section 3121; Government Transparency Act of 2019.**

Chronic Wasting Disease Response Strategy: a Cooperative Memorandum of Understanding between Oklahoma Department of Agriculture Food and Forestry (ODAFF) and Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation (ODWC).

**Effective Date:** December 9, 2019  
**MOU Duration:** No end date  
**Entities Subject to MOU:** ODAFF and ODWC: Agencies of the State of Oklahoma

**Purpose:**

The mission of the Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation (ODWC) is "the management, protection, and enhancement of wildlife resources and habitat for the scientific, educational, recreational, aesthetic, and economic benefits to present and future generations of citizens and visitors to Oklahoma." Part of "protecting" wildlife includes safeguarding against diseases that can threaten the public-trust species the ODWC is mandated to manage. Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) has significant potential to negatively impact wildlife resources as well as hunting activity and the traditions, food resources, and economic benefits hunting provides.

The Oklahoma Department of Agriculture, Food, and Forestry (ODAFF) is charged in part with protecting and enhancing livestock producers within our borders. The Oklahoma Farmed Cervidae Act declares that "farmed cervidae shall be considered livestock as long as they remain in a farmed cervid facility." With this classification the threat posed by CWD becomes cross-jurisdictional and therefore requires a unified, cohesive plan.

The goal of this plan is to provide a logical method to manage issues related to CWD in free-ranging and captive cervids in Oklahoma based on the current understanding of the disease. This document describes the efforts to provide information and prevent the spread of CWD in the state; it also delineates a shared ODAFF/ODWC planned course of action should any additional CWD-positive case be diagnosed in Oklahoma. The field of CWD research and management is very dynamic. This document is designed to provide a general framework and guidance. As research or other information becomes available it

may be incorporated into this plan. Additionally, this plan is not binding. It may be altered or augmented as needed to best address specific stakeholder or biological concerns and circumstances.

This plan was produced with input from various stakeholders and under the general frameworks of the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (AFWA) "Best Management Practices for Prevention, Surveillance, and Management of Chronic Wasting Disease 2018 Technical Report", the Western Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies(WAFWA) 2017 "Recommendations for Adaptive Management of Chronic Wasting Disease in the West", and with close consultation with the Arkansas Fish and Game Commission, the Texas of Parks and Wildlife Department and other Southeast Association of Fish and Wildlife Agency's (SEAFWA) Cervid Working Group member states. Additional information was obtained from the United States Geological Survey (USGS), the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), the United States Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the World Health Organization (WHO), the Boone and Crockett Club, the Quality Deer Management Association, and the CWD Alliance.

**Authority:** ODWC – Oklahoma Constitution Article 26  
Title 29 O.S. Sections 3-101 (A); 3-103 (A) (D) (8) (9) (14)  
and 3-105 (A) & A (5).