



# FIGHTING THE SPREAD OF CHRONIC WASTING DISEASE

Seven timber companies and four conservation organizations are joining together to fight the spread of chronic wasting disease (CWD) among deer, elk, and other species of the deer family. The new CWD coalition will promote practices that help discover, manage, and mitigate the negative impacts of CWD. The Coalition includes the Forest Investment Associates, Molpus Woodlands Group, PotlatchDeltic, Rayonier, Resource Management Service, The Westervelt Company, Weyerhaeuser, Alabama Wildlife Federation, Boone and Crockett Club, Georgia Wildlife Federation and National Deer Association. This footprint spans to well over 20 million acres across the nation.

“We are pleased to join with so many other private landowners and other stakeholders in addressing this critical problem,” said Brian Luoma, The Westervelt Company President and CEO. “Federal and state agencies, the U.S. Congress, state legislatures, researchers and sportsmen conservationists are all doing their part in educating the public about this critical issue. We are fully supportive of all efforts to prevent further spread and are grateful to everyone who is participating in the coalition, including our own employees, who have taken the lead in combating CWD.”

The new coalition acknowledges it will take the cooperation of state wildlife agencies, hunters and private landowners working together to slow the spread of the disease. The group has developed a list of voluntary “best management practices” to help monitor, manage and prevent the spread of

CWD. The coalition will also support communication, research, policy, and public health.

“These private landowners bring a vital push to the nationwide effort to control Chronic Wasting Disease” said Tony A. Schoonen Chief Executive Officer for the Boone and Crockett Club. “CWD is deadly to wildlife, deeply concerning to hunters and conservationists, and still a challenging mystery. Today’s announcement adds promise for a comprehensive effort.”

These categories parallel the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies CWD recommendations and are tailored to address the challenges facing private landowners and managers in the U.S. with large numbers of recreational users.

Chronic wasting disease is transmitted animal-to-animal and from contact with infectious material. The disease is contagious and can be transmitted freely within and among cervid populations. No treatments or vaccines are currently available, and CWD is 100% fatal to cervids. To date, no known transfer of CWD to humans has occurred. Continued expansion of the disease negatively impacts the economic, environmental, and cultural values associated with deer, and private landowner involvement will be critical for success. ■

**CWD COALITION** CHRONIC WASTING DISEASE

## Fighting the Spread of Chronic Wasting Disease

December 14, 2022

Seven timber companies and four conservation organizations are joining together to fight the spread of chronic wasting disease (CWD) among deer, elk, and other species of the deer family (known as “cervids”). The new CWD coalition will promote practices that help discover, manage, and mitigate the negative impacts of CWD. The Coalition includes the Forest Investment Associates, Molpus Woodlands Group, PotlatchDeltic, Rayonier, Resource Management Service, The Westervelt Company, Weyerhaeuser, Alabama Wildlife Federation, Boone and Crockett Club, Georgia Wildlife Federation and National Deer Association. This footprint spans to well over 20 million acres across the nation.

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For more information on the CWD Coalition contact Kevin McGreevy, 800-281-7991 or kmcgreevy@westervelt.com.

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## Chronic Wasting Disease Best Management Practices

**Project Justification:** Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) is transmitted directly through animal-to-animal contact and indirectly through contact with objects or environments contaminated with infectious material. CWD is contagious and can be transmitted freely within and among cervid populations. No treatments or vaccines are currently available, the disease is 100% fatal. No methods currently exist that can remove CWD from the landscape. CWD has expanded its footprint at an alarming annual rate. Continued expansion of CWD would negatively impact economic, environmental, and cultural values associated with cervids. To do everything possible for the cervid resource to be sustainable for our future generations, we need to take every precaution necessary to slow the expansion of CWD. Private landowner involvement will be critical for success.

**Project Objective:** Develop a coalition of private landowners to develop a list of non-regulatory, voluntary guidelines for CWD Best Management Practices that will assist state agencies and landowners to discover, manage, and mitigate the negative impacts of CWD as well as educating recreational users.

**Prevention of CWD, Introduction & Establishment**

- 1. Live Animal Movement**
  - a. Strongly discourage all human-assisted live cervid movements onto member organization lands.
- 2. Carcass Movement**
  - a. Support and/or advocate for State/Provincial efforts restricting the movement of high-risk cervid carcass parts.
  - b. Importation and exportation of intact cervid carcasses or carcass parts except boned out meat, clean hide with no head attached, clean skull plates with antlers attached, clean antlers, finished taxidermy specimens, and clean upper canine teeth and jawbones, from all states should not occur. Member organizations should educate recreational users about the risks of moving potentially infected high-risk cervid parts. Further, in CWD positive areas, member organizations should consider educating recreational users about recommended carcass disposal methods and/or local disposal options. Member organizations should prohibit all human-assisted movement of cervid carcasses, or carcass parts of concern, from outside lands onto member organization lands. Similarly, member organizations should advise recreational users against moving whole carcasses or high-risk parts from member organization lands to other lands. When possible, on-site processing and disposal is preferred.
- 3. Reproductive Products of Cervid Origin**
  - a. Strongly discourage the importation of reproductive products of cervid origin like reproductive tissues, semen, embryos, gamplars.

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Learn more about the CWD Coalition