

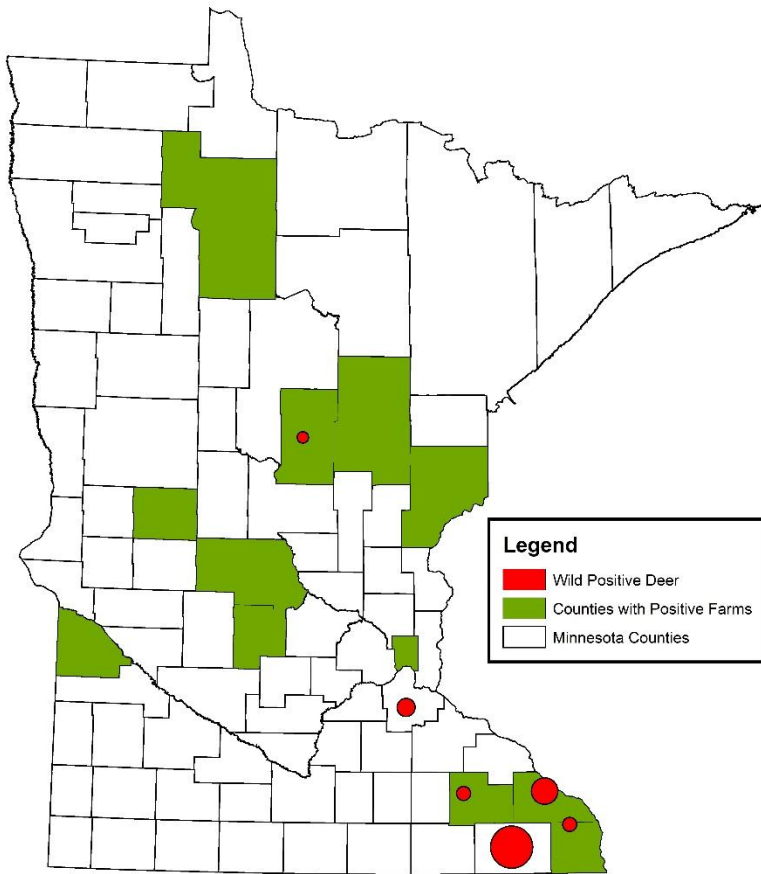
# Chronic Wasting Disease: Fall 2021 Update

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# Minnesota's Current CWD Status

## Minnesota's CWD History



### Legend

- Wild Positive Deer
- Counties with Positive Farms
- Minnesota Counties

Updated April 2021



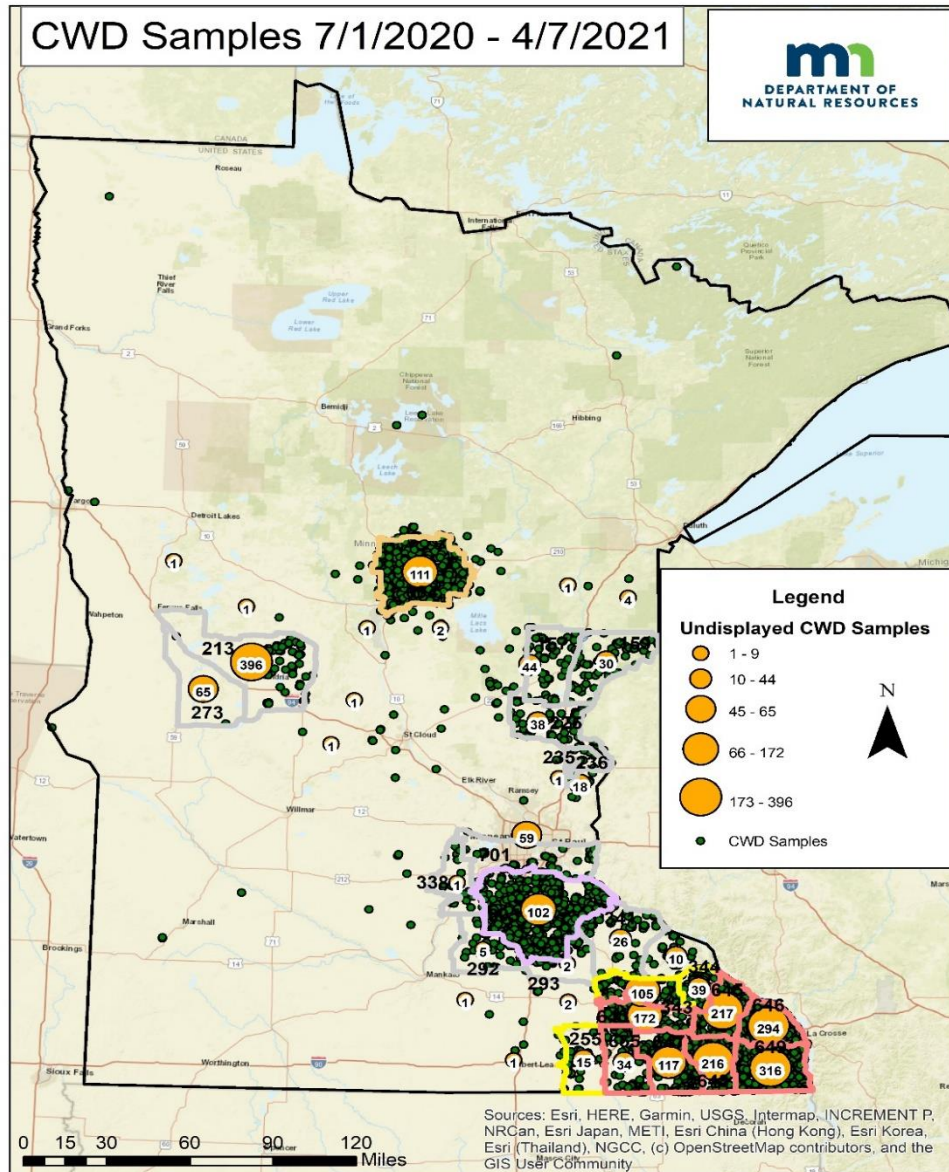
- Since 2002, >90,000 wild deer sampled for CWD
- Positive wild white-tailed deer (n=115)
  - \* at least one CWD+ wild deer found near farmed facilities
    - Fillmore Co. = 81
    - Winona Co. = 20; \* <0.5 mi from CWD+ farm
    - Houston Co. = 5
    - Dakota Co. = 5
    - Olmsted Co. = 3; \* 2.0 mi from CWD+ farm
    - Crow Wing Co. = 1; \* <0.5 mi from CWD+ farm
- Positive cervid farms (n=12)
  - 3 elk, 8 white-tailed/mixed deer, & 1 red deer farm; latest one in Beltrami County in April 2021



# Samples Collected Fall 2020

Total Samples Collected: **8,336 samples**

- 8,309 not detected
- 27 positives; all in SE and South Metro management zones
- Voluntary/self service sampling stations to minimize risk of COVID-19





# CWD Detections in Wild Deer

Statewide CWD Positive Locations (as of April 5, 2021)  
n=115

## Legend

★ Positive Deer Farms

## Positives by Time Frame

● 2016 to Winter 2020

▲ Fall 2020

● Winter 2021

Not Pictured - Pine Island; 2009 (n=1)

2020 Deer Permit Areas



North Central (n=1)

South Metro (n=5)

Southeast (n=108)

Sources: Esri, HERE, Garmin, USGS, Intermap, INCRP, Japan, METI, Esri China (Hong Kong), Esri Korea, SCC, OpenStreetMap contributors, and the GIS User Community

## 27 new cases of CWD from fall 2020 through winter 2021:

- Southeast CWD Management Zone
  - 16 positives from fall hunt
  - 4 positive opportunistic deer (3 vehicle-kill, 1 found dead)
  - 4 positives from winter culling
- South Metro CWD Management Zone
  - 1 positive from fall hunt
  - 1 positive from late hunt
  - 1 positive from winter culling
- North Central Management Zone
  - No new positives since 1 detection in Feb 2019

# *CWD Prevalence in the Fillmore County Outbreak*

## Apparent CWD Prevalence in Deer Permit Areas 603/647/648



- CWD prevalence remains low (<1%)
- This infection appears to be persisting in the Preston-Lanesboro area and spreading outward
- 2020 prevalence estimate only slightly higher than 2019, but there has been no significant increase over the past 4 years

# Overview of CWD Surveillance Plan for Fall 2021

CWD Surveillance occurring in 6 areas of the state during fall 2021

All areas have mandatory sampling over opening weekend of firearms A and B seasons

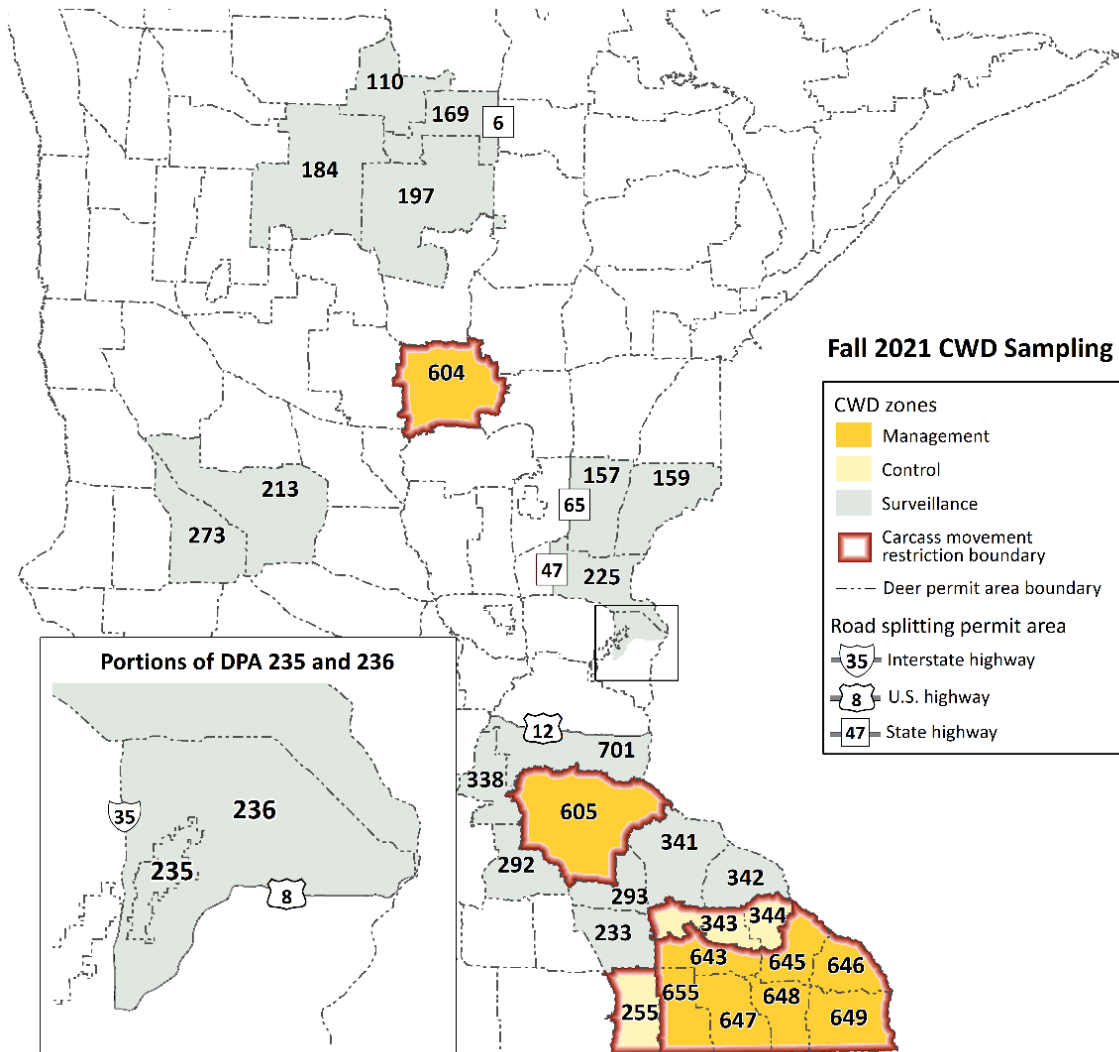
- With exception of DPAs 213/273, which are continuing a risk-based sampling model under a points scheme and working with vendors all hunting season

Management and Control Zones (orange and yellow) have voluntary self-service sampling stations available during all hunting seasons (as well as dumpsters to accommodate carcass movement restrictions)

Surveillance Zones (grey) have appointments available for hunters to get deer tested outside of opening weekend

**Total expected deer/samples: 22,500**

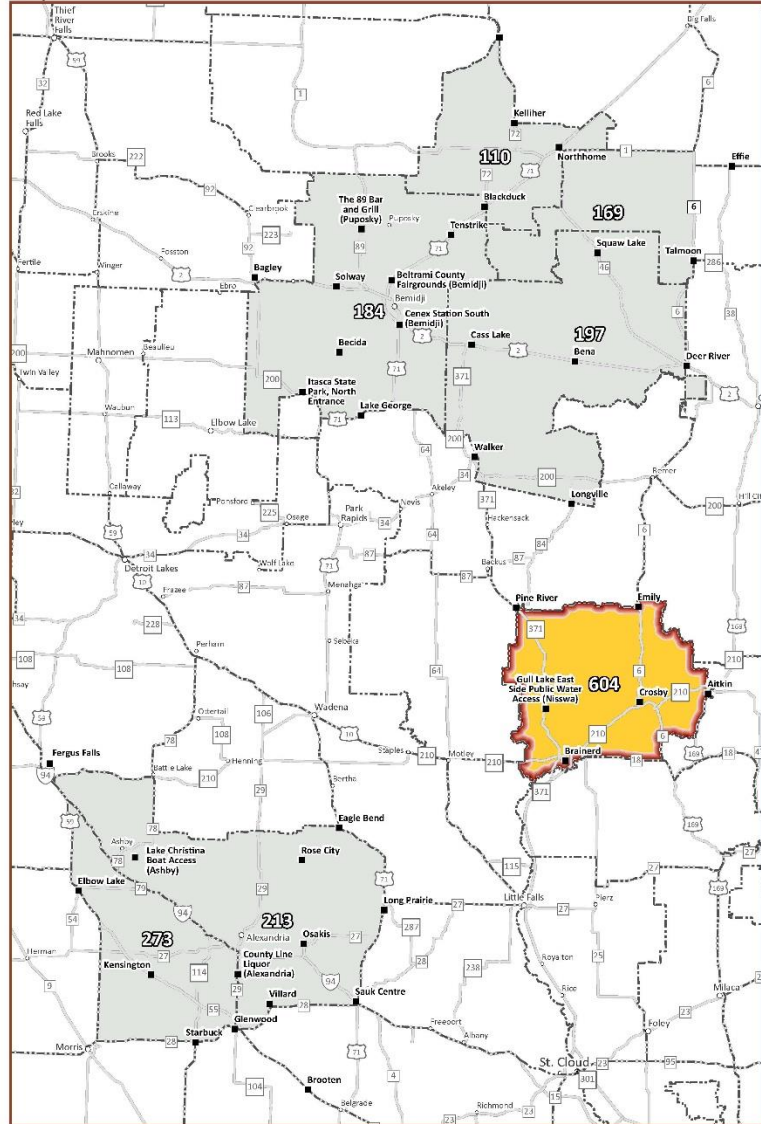
**Total anticipated costs: ~ \$2 million**



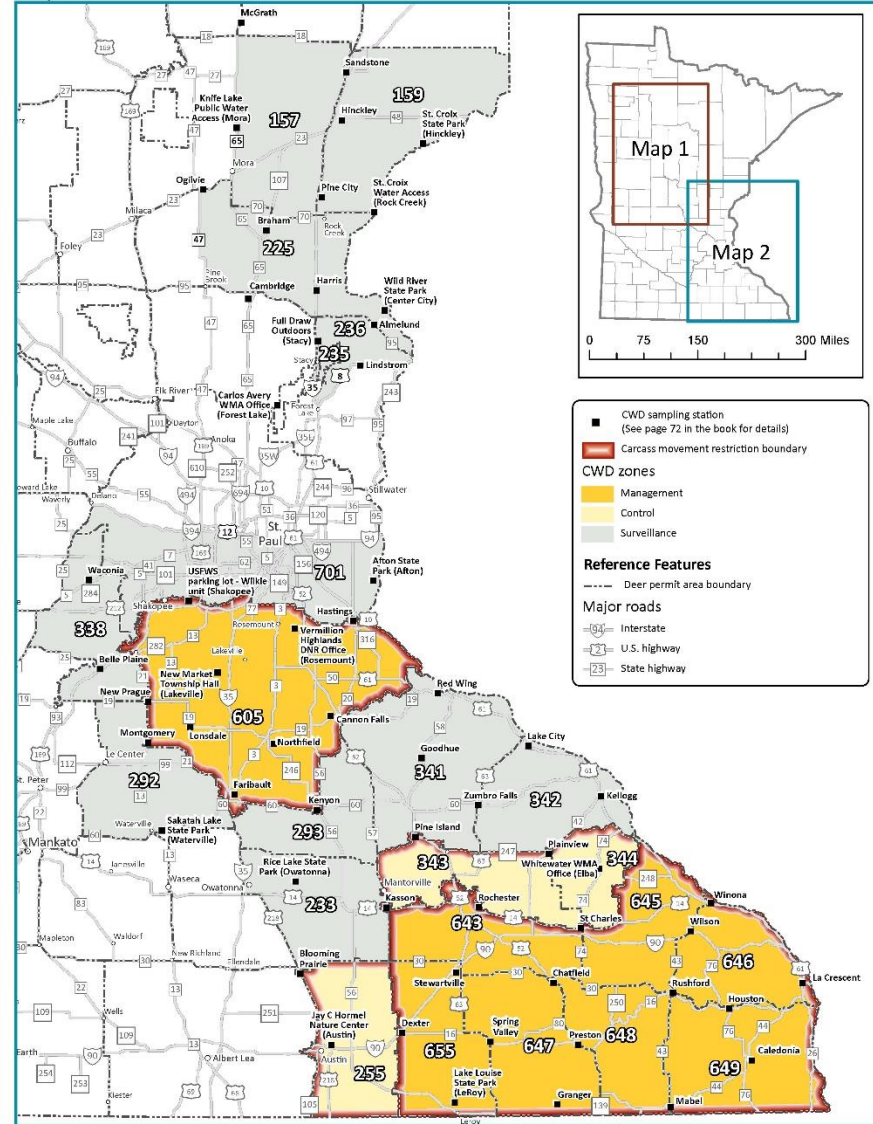


# CWD Stations this year = Staffed, Self-Service, and Extraction Sites

Map 1



Map 2



❖ 87 Stations Total (not including DPA 213 or 273; n=14)

❖ Staffing needs: 239 DNR Staff and 242 Students

❖ Within each zone:

- ✓ about 30% of the stations will be a self-service sampling station (headbox)
- ✓ Remaining stations will be staffed with DNR and students during the mandatory weekends
- ✓ 1 extraction site that will have deer heads routed to designated staff from the self-service sampling stations

# Regulation Overview

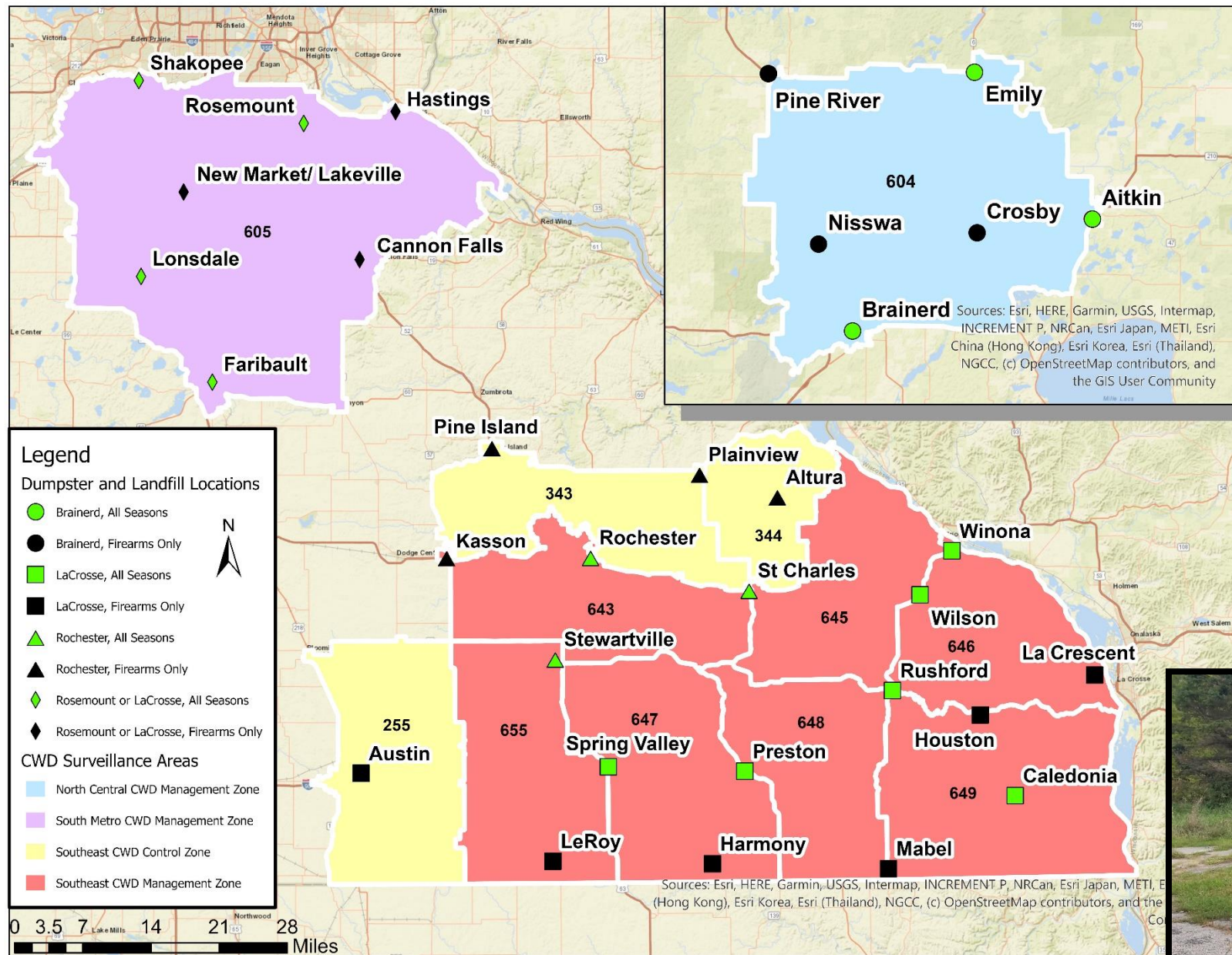
- Mandatory CWD testing on opening weekends of A and B firearm season
- Reduction of bag limit in CWD Management Zones from unlimited to 5 deer
  - Not expected to influence harvest but help with public perception that we seek to eliminate deer populations
  - 99% of successful hunters are already within this 5 deer bag limit
  - Does not apply to early antlerless or late season hunts, which remain unlimited
- CWD late hunts are included in the Regulations Booklet
- Deer feeding ban will be expanded to account for new detection of CWD in Beltrami County

Regulation	CWD Management Zone DPA 604	CWD Management Zone DPA 605	CWD Management Zone DPA's 643, 645, 646, 647, 648, 649, 655	CWD Control Zone DPA's 255, 343, 344	CWD Surveillance Zone DPA's 110, 159, 184, 197, 213, 233, 273, 292, 293, 338, 341, 342, and portions of 157, 169, 225, 235, 236 and 701
Mandatory CWD testing	✓ Nov. 6 – 7	✓ Nov. 6 – 7 and 20 – 21	✓ Nov. 6 – 7 and 20 – 21	✓ Nov. 6 – 7 and 20 – 21	✓ Nov. 6 – 7
Carcass movement restrictions, including fawns	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Deer feeding ban	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Deer attractant ban	✓	✓	✓	✓	
One buck allowed per hunter per year	✓	✓		✓	✓
Up to three bucks (one per license season) per hunter per year			✓		
Cross-tagging for antlered bucks is allowed	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Antler point restrictions canceled	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Harvest antlerless deer using \$2.50 disease management permits	✓	✓	✓		
Either a statewide A or late southeast B firearms license may be used during any firearms season	✓	✓	✓		
Hunters must use an A or B license for the respective firearms season				✓	✓



# Adopt-A-Dumpster Program

- Began in fall 2019
- Only available in CWD Management and Control Zones (where we have the disease in the wild and carcass movement restrictions are in place)
- ~200 tons per year of deer waste; very popular with hunters!



**32 Dumpster Sites Planned for Fall 2021**





# What are the options for hunters to dispose of the carcass?

- Hunters are only required by DNR rules to do 3 things:
  - Register the deer after harvesting it (via phone, on-line, or walk-in big game station)
  - Comply with mandatory CWD testing, either via self-service sampling station or in person at sampling stations
  - Do NOT take the intact carcass outside of the CWD Zones prior receiving CWD test results (4-5 business days, can be up to 2 weeks)
    - Options?
      - Drop the deer off at a meat processor inside the CWD zone
      - Hang the deer or place the carcass remains on private land; natural decomposition ok if CWD test is clear
      - Quarter the deer and place carcass remains in a dumpster through the Adopt-a-Dumpster Program





# Deer Disposal in a CWD Surveillance and Management Areas

- Getting the carcass disposed of properly is the key.
  - If left on the landscape, an infected deer carcass becomes a source of disease; thus, the **landfill or waste to energy facility is the best solution to reduce these risks by providing proper disposal!**
- Testing can help determine the highest risks
  - DNR will attempt to recover any confirmed CWD-positive deer and utilize the alkaline digester at UMN
  - Due to delays in receiving CWD test results, carcass remains may already be in the waste stream and not recoverable
  - Proper disposal is the key.



# Deer Waste Disposal Options are Available in All Zones

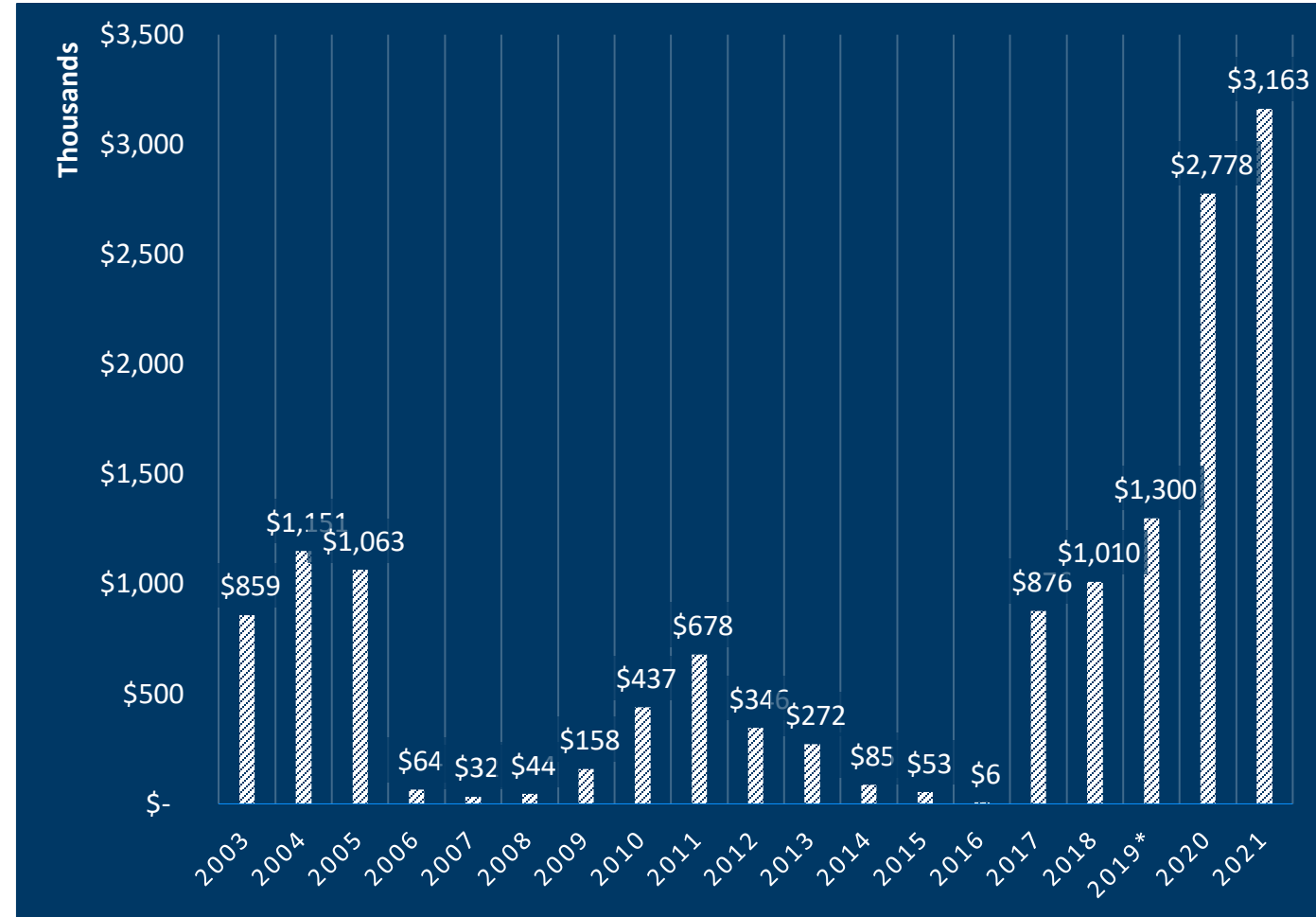
- Surveillance Zones: (Disease not confirmed in wild deer) Keep the proper disposal options available in the current waste system for the public, butchers (meat processors), taxidermists
  - East Central – East Central Landfill
  - Pope Douglas- Pope Douglas Waste to Energy Facility
  - Beltrami/Polk County – Polk County Landfill
- Management Zones: (Disease is confirmed in wild deer) Those areas with carcass movement restrictions need disposal locations for public, butchers, taxidermists plus the dumpsters from the collection sites.
  - SE MN – Olmsted Waste Energy and the Lacrosse Landfill
  - Crow Wing – Crow Wing County Landfill (Air Curtain Incinerator)
  - South Metro - Republic Landfill



# FY20 Spending on CWD-related Efforts & Overall CWD Spending

- **Overall spending FY21: \$3,162,806**
  - DNR staff salary: \$980,501
  - Sample collection efforts: \$968,599
    - Includes travel, supplies, student contracts, taxidermists, meat processor, and equipment
  - CWD diagnostic testing: \$286,972
  - Agency culling with USDA: \$344,732
  - Adopt -A- Dumpster program: \$233,895
  - CWD-related research projects: \$348,107
- Funding sources: General Fund (\$360,434), Game & Fish (\$2,205,822), DNR Dedicated Accounts (\$596,550)

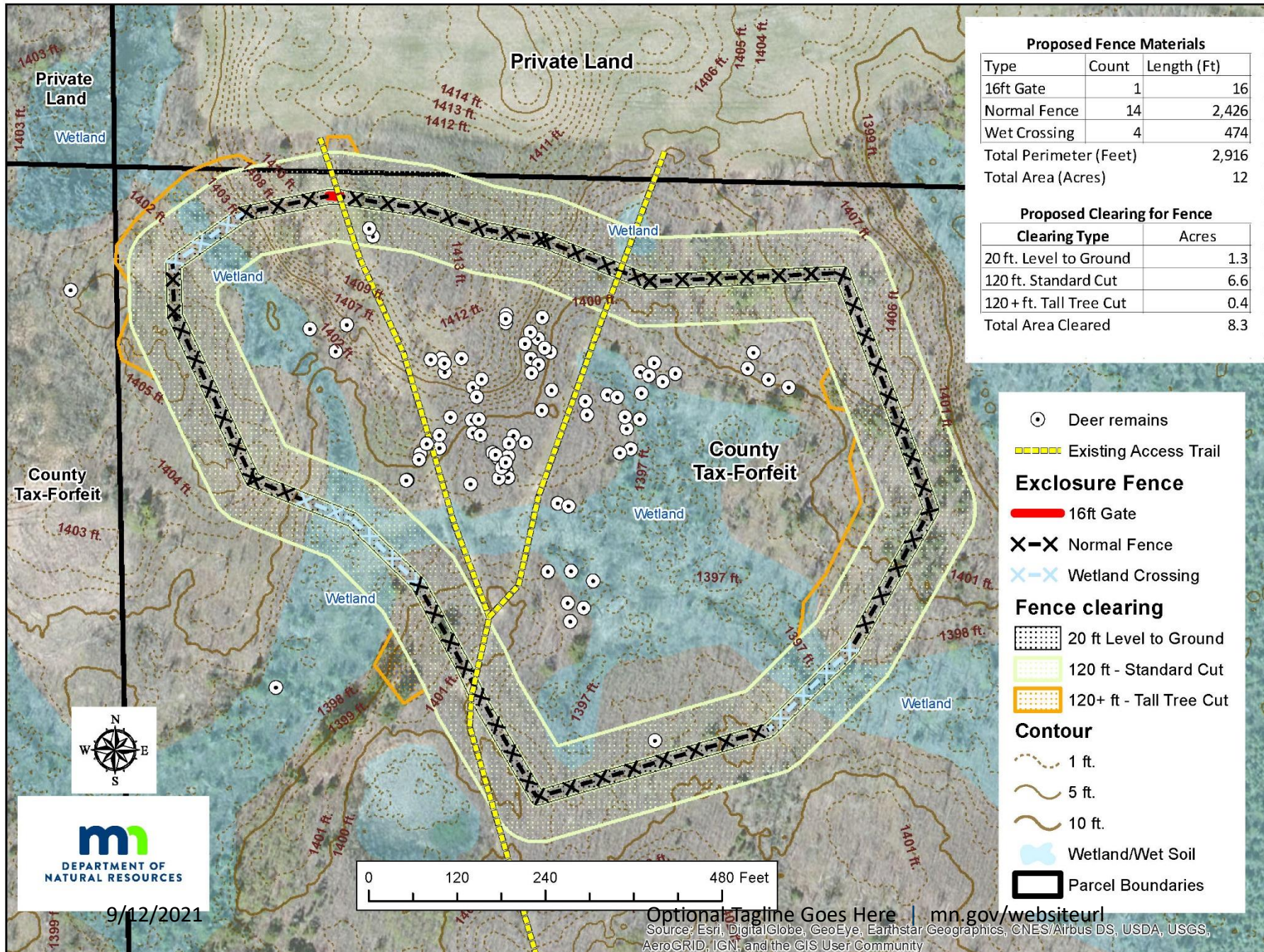
CWD Spending on Wild Cervids, FY03 to FY21



**\*Total CWD spending from FY03 to FY20 = \$14,372,800**



## Preliminary Field Verified Beltrami County Deer Exclosure Fence around Deer Remains



### Proposed Fence Materials

Type	Count	Length (Ft)
16ft Gate	1	16
Normal Fence	14	2,426
Wet Crossing	4	474
Total Perimeter (Feet)		2,916
Total Area (Acres)		12

### Proposed Clearing for Fence

Clearing Type	Acres
20 ft. Level to Ground	1.3
120 ft. Standard Cut	6.6
120+ ft. Tall Tree Cut	0.4
Total Area Cleared	8.3

# Beltrami Carcass Dump

- DNR learned in April 2021 of an illegal carcass dump on county-administered land
- Carcasses originated from nearby CWD-infected deer farm
- Approximately 10-12 carcasses were discovered, several likely containing CWD prions, as determined by UMN scientists



9/12/2021



# Beltrami Fence Project



**Fence installation completed by end of August. Anticipated costs ~ \$194,000 (\$102k in DNR salary, \$92k in materials, travel, contracts).**



# Co-Management of Captive White-tailed Deer Farms

## Why we are here:

- **Minnesota Statutes 2020, section 35.155, subdivision 7, is amended to read: Subd. 14.** Concurrent authority; regulating farmed white-tailed deer. (a) The commissioner of natural resources and the Board of Animal Health possess concurrent authority to regulate farmed white-tailed deer under this section, sections 35.92 to 35.96, and any administrative rules adopted pursuant to this section or sections 35.92 to 35.96.
- **(b)** By February 1, 2022, the commissioner of natural resources, in conjunction with the Board of Animal Health, must submit a report to the chairs and ranking minority members of the legislative committees and divisions with jurisdiction over the environment and natural resources and agriculture on the implementation of the concurrent authority under this section. The report must include:
  - (1) a summary of how the agencies worked together under this section, including identification of any challenges;
  - (2) an assessment of ongoing challenges to managing chronic wasting disease in this state; and
  - (3) recommendations for statutory and programmatic changes to help the state better manage the disease.

# Co-Management of Captive White-tailed Deer Farms

## What we are currently doing:

- Progress to Date
  - Developed a Project Plan which defines goals, deliverables, timelines and staff roles.
  - Sent joint DNR/BAH letter to WTD farm producers informing them of co-management and what to expect
  - Going on all WTD Farm inspections with the BAH. We have a goal of 40 inspections prior to our Dec. 17<sup>th</sup> deadline for the report. Numerous inspections completed and scheduled.
  - Working cooperatively with the BAH in all WTD escapes, and follow up on any deficiencies and enforcement action that may be warranted.



# Thank You

## Any Questions?

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