



## CWD Strategic Plan and Agency Actions – 2023-2027

A 5-year Strategic Plan has been developed as an internal guidance document for staff as we continue to respond to chronic wasting disease (CWD). This document provides an outline of the overarching actions the agency has taken since its discovery, and actions we will be taking over the next five years.

Since December 2018, the TWRA has responded to the discovery of Chronic Wasting Disease in Tennessee and implemented a number of management actions. Over the past few years, we have accomplished the following:

2018-2022

- Implemented the Agency's CWD Response Plan (2018).
- Increased monitoring and surveillance in the CWD-affected area and across the state.  
Increased from approximately 5,500 samples tested in 2018 to almost 17,000 in 2021.
- Developed infrastructure and laboratory partners to support increased testing.  
Through 2021, tested over 60,000 samples statewide with 1,953 total positive from 16 counties.
- Increased staff to support CWD response, sample collection, testing, and research.
- Received grants for and partnered on research projects about CWD, its spread, and environmental impacts.
- Established regulations to better manage the disease, control its spread, and help hunters fight CWD.
- Partnered with UT Extension to educate the public, landowners and hunters on the disease, its impacts, and how they can help fight CWD.

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Strategic Planning efforts by agency staff have identified these activities as our focus for the next 5 years:

2023-2028

- **Regulations and Management Actions:**
  - Minimize the spread of CWD from natural animal movements, human activities, and the captive cervid industry.
  - Minimize and mitigate the impacts of CWD in areas where the disease is known to exist.
- **Surveillance and Monitoring**
  - Continue surveillance to promote early detection and monitoring to track disease prevalence over time.
  - Respond proactively to detections of CWD in new areas.
- **Research**
  - Understand Tennessee deer population dynamics and movement patterns to better understand possible CWD spread.
  - Improve our understanding of the disease and options to better manage it.
  - Understand overall deer mortality by county, including harvest rate, hunter distribution, and deer-vehicle collisions.
  - Better understand stakeholder opinions & attitudes towards CWD and associated management.
- **Public Education/Outreach**
  - Continue to educate and manage the disease with our partners, including hunters, landowners, processors and taxidermists and the public.
  - Develop and distribute scientifically based information regarding CWD and its management.
  - Ensure TWRA staff are well trained and have current CWD informational materials on CWD and its management.
  - Maintain or increase the number of licensed deer hunters in CWD-affected area.