

Chronic Wasting Disease

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the brain. CWD has an extended incubation period averaging 18-24 months between infection and the onset of noticeable signs. During this time frame animals look and act normal. The most obvious sign of CWD is progressive weight loss. Numerous behavioral changes also have been reported, including decreased social interaction, loss of awareness and loss of fear of humans. Diseased animals also may exhibit increased drinking, urination and excessive salivation.

Deer and elk that have CWD can be shedding it in soil and spreading it for years before showing any symptoms. That is why ODFW has surveilled deer and elk herds for CWD for more than 20 years by testing approximately 27,000 hunter-harvested, road-killed, and other deceased animals and not yet detecting it in Oregon.

The ODFW is asking for hunters to make an appointment at a local office or use a drop-off barrel. Successful hunters can also contact some field offices to have a biologist collect a sample. Hunters may call the office to make an appointment in advance as biologists are often in the field. ODFW will collect the sample from the animal's head so they are asked to keep their deer or elk head cool prior to sampling if possible.

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City of Heppner Fire Chief has advised the Burn Ban will be lifted September 29th, 2023, 7:00 am, for all burning within the city limits of Heppner. Residents can still request natural vegetation and debris piles burned by the Fire Department however, there is a sign-up list for Fire Department burning assistance at Heppner City Hall or you may call direct Fire Chief Steve Rhea @ 541-980-4232 or Assistant Fire Chief Eric Chick @ 541-701-4910.

Remember: It is illegal to have any petroleum products (plastic grocery sacks, rubbers, styrofoam, etc.) in your burn barrel or debris piles.



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