

**REPORT ON EXPENDITURES
FOR CHRONIC WASTING DISEASE**

As required by Minnesota Statutes 97A.075, Subdivision 1(c)

Provided by DNR Section of Wildlife

Timothy P. Bremicker, Chief

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This report summarizes expenditures from the emergency deer feeding and chronic wasting disease (CWD)/wild cervidae health management account, as required in Minnesota Statutes 97A.075, subdivision 1(c). In 2002 the allowable use of the emergency deer feeding account was broadened to include management of chronic wasting disease, and in 2003 the language was amended again to include wild cervidae health management in general (see the 2002 and 2003 statutory language at the end of the report narrative on page 2).

In FY2003, a total of \$421,160 was spent from this appropriation for CWD management (see Table 1). Two full-time biologists, including a Wildlife Veterinarian and a Wildlife CWD Specialist, were hired with this funding. Their primary responsibilities are threefold: (1) to design a state-wide hunter-harvest surveillance program for the detection of CWD, (2) to manage an ongoing targeted CWD surveillance program (i.e., testing of deer showing symptoms consistent with CWD) and (3) to develop contingency plans for the management of CWD should the disease be detected in the wild white-tailed deer population.

The primary focus of the Division of Wildlife was the initiation of a systematic hunter-harvest surveillance program in November 2002. A total of 4,662 samples was collected over a three week period during the firearms season in 17 of approximately 130 deer permit areas. In addition to the Veterinarian and the CWD Specialist, CWD appropriations were used to pay salaries for staff working on CWD who were normally paid from other dedicated funds (i.e., Duck Stamp Fund, Heritage Fund, etc) and for University of Minnesota veterinary students needed for extraction and preservation of tissue samples. A cadre of 130 volunteers assisted staff at registration stations and contributed approximately 1,560 hours of unpaid effort for this program (assuming an average of 12 hours per volunteer).

The Section of Wildlife also responded to the detection of CWD in a captive elk herd in September 2002 by conducting intensive sampling of wild deer in a nine-square mile area in Aitkin County. A total of 111 wild deer were collected for sampling in this localized effort utilizing Division of Enforcement Conservation Officers, Wildlife staff, and cooperating landowners. Approved Enforcement overtime for this emergency response was paid from CWD appropriations.

Professional and technical services, including the actual tests of collected tissue for CWD, were provided by the University of Minnesota Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory. Testing services totaled more than \$112,500 and all costs were reimbursed by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) in this fiscal year. The Division anticipates that USDA funds will be available in FY2004 but at approximately half of the FY2003 levels.

In-state travel and fleet were largely the costs necessary to staff 86 registration stations in 17 permit areas in order to collect necessary samples.

Equipment purchases included \$74,718.27 for an air current burner or incinerator. DNR collects deer heads primarily from hunters in order to test tissue for CWD. Subsequent to sample preparation, the heads, miscellaneous carcasses and handling equipment are incinerated in the air current incinerator.

In addition to the \$421,160 spent from this dedicated fund, an additional \$438,197 of Game and Fish Funds and General Funds and \$112,500 federal funds were expended for CWD efforts for a total of \$971,857 from all funding sources in FY2003 (see Table 2 for a comparison by fund of CWD related expenditures). Staff salaries for the effort were derived from the Game and Fish Fund - Operations and Maintenance (38%), the CWD fund (27%), Game and Fish Fund – 2000 License Fee Increase (18%), Deer Management Account (14%), General Funds (3%) and the Small Game License Surcharge Fund (0.46%).

STATUTORY LANGUAGE ON EMERGENCY DEER FEEDING AND CWD/WILD CERVIDAE HEALTH MANAGEMENT ACCOUNT:

2002 Minnesota Statutes, Section 97A.075, Subdivision 1 (c):

“(c) At least \$1 from each annual deer license and each bear license and \$1 annually from the lifetime fish and wildlife trust fund, established in section 97A.4742, for each license issued under section 97A.473, subdivision 4, shall be used for deer and bear management programs, including a computerized licensing system. Fifty cents from each deer license is appropriated for emergency deer feeding and management of chronic wasting disease. Money appropriated for emergency feeding and management of chronic wasting disease is available until expended. When the unencumbered balance in appropriation for emergency deer feeding and chronic disease at the end of a fiscal year exceeds \$1,500,000 for first time, \$750,000 is canceled to the unappropriated balance of the game and fish fund. The commissioner must inform the legislative chairs of the natural resources finance committees every two years on how the money for chronic wasting disease has been spent. Thereafter, when the unencumbered balance in the appropriation for emergency deer feeding exceeds \$1,500,000 at the end of a fiscal year, the unencumbered balance in excess of \$1,500,000 is canceled and available for deer and bear management programs and computerized licensing.”

Amendments to Minnesota Statutes, Section 97A.075, Subdivision 1 (c) in Laws of 2003, Regular Session, Chapter 128, Section 51:

“(c) At least \$1 from each annual deer license and each bear license and \$1 annually from the lifetime fish and wildlife trust fund, established in section 97A.4742, for each license issued under section 97A.473, subdivision 4, shall be used for deer and bear management programs, including a computerized licensing system. Fifty cents from each deer license is appropriated for emergency deer feeding and wild cervidae health management of ~~chronic wasting disease~~. Money appropriated for emergency deer feeding and ~~management of chronic wasting disease~~ wild cervidae health management is available until expended. When the unencumbered balance in the appropriation for emergency deer feeding and ~~chronic wasting disease~~ wild cervidae health management at the end of a fiscal year exceeds ~~\$1,500,000~~ \$2,500,000 for the first time, \$750,000 is canceled to the unappropriated balance of the game and fish fund. The commissioner must inform the legislative chairs of the natural resources finance committees every two years on how the money for ~~chronic wasting disease~~ emergency deer feeding and wild cervidae health management has been spent. Thereafter, when the unencumbered balance in the appropriation for emergency deer feeding and wild cervidae health management exceeds \$1,500,000 \$2,500,000 at the end of a fiscal year, the unencumbered balance in excess of \$1,500,000 \$2,500,000 is canceled and available for deer and bear management programs and computerized licensing.”

Table 1. Summary of FY2003 Effort to Monitor Chronic Wasting Disease in the White-tailed Deer Population by Activity

Spending Category	CWD Fund (231 D01) - Hours	CWD Fund (231 D01) - Expenditures	Other Funds - Hours	Other Funds - Expenditures	Federal Funds	Total Hours - All Funds	Total Expenditures - All Funds
Salaries	6,796	\$146,247.04	12,465	\$388,105.97		19,261	\$534,353.01
Space Rental, Utilities	0	\$3,090.50				0	\$3,090.50
Repairs	0	\$2,685.80		\$63.80		0	\$2,749.60
Printing and Advertising	0	\$6,126.37		\$238.98		0	\$6,365.35
Professional/Technical Services with Outside Vendors	0	\$491.50			\$112,500	0	\$112,991.50
Communications	0	\$3,322.48		\$152.19		0	\$3,474.67
Travel and Subsistence - In State	0	\$26,512.50		\$1,358.25		0	\$27,870.75
Travel and Subsistence - Out of State	0	\$108.87		\$2,572.97		0	\$2,681.84
Supplies	0	\$73,737.79		\$37,686.82		0	\$111,424.61
Equipment	0	\$86,149.69		\$5,915.93		0	\$92,065.62
Fleet	0	\$51,877.45		\$2,051.87		0	\$53,929.32
Registration Fees	0	\$2,785.00		\$15.00		0	\$2,800.00
Other Operating Costs	0	\$18,025.43		\$35.00		0	\$18,060.43
Totals	6,796	\$421,160.42	12,465	\$438,196.78	\$112,500	19,261	\$971,857.20*

*Note: An additional \$2,451.53 was erroneously coded to CWD work from the Surcharge Account but has not been included in the above table.

Table 2. Summary of FY2003 Effort to Monitor Chronic Wasting Disease in the White-tailed Deer Population by State of Minnesota Funding Source

<i>Fund</i>	<i>Appropriation</i>	<i>Appropriation Name</i>	<i>Type</i>	<i>Hours</i>	<i>Amount</i>
100	D04	RIM General Fund	NonSalary Expenditures	0	\$104.41
230	D00	Game & Fish Fund - Operations and Maintenance	NonSalary Expenditures	0	\$5,100.48
230	D06	Game & Fish Fund - 2000 License Fee Increase	NonSalary Expenditures	0	\$44,399.60
231	D01	Emergency Deer Feeding Fund/CWD	NonSalary Expenditures	0	\$274,913.38
232	D00	Deer Management Account	NonSalary Expenditures	0	\$486.32
100	D04	RIM General Fund	Salaries	334	\$10,753.35
100	D14	Area Support General Fund	Salaries	180	\$5,299.99
230	D00	Game & Fish Fund - Operations and Maintenance	Salaries	6,281	\$203,200.16
230	D06	Game & Fish Fund - 2000 License Fee Increase	Salaries	3,085	\$94,858.36
231	D01	Emergency Deer Feeding Fund/CWD	Salaries	6,796	\$146,247.04
232	D00	Deer Management Account	Salaries	2,585	\$73,994.11
Totals				19,261	\$859,357.20*

*Note: An additional \$2,451.53 was erroneously coded to CWD work from the Surcharge Account but has not been included in the above table.

December 22, 2003

The Honorable Dallas Sams, Chair
Environment, Agriculture, and Economic Development
Budget Division
328 Capitol
Saint Paul, Minnesota 55155

The Honorable Dennis Ozment, Chair
Environment and Natural Resources Finance Committee
479 State Office Building
Saint Paul, Minnesota 55155

Dear Senator Sams and Representative Ozment:

As required by Minnesota Statutes 97A.075, Subdivision 1 (c), this report on expenditures from the emergency deer feeding and wild cervidae health management account is being provided for your information. In fiscal year (FY) 2003, all expenditures from this account were for the monitoring and management of chronic wasting disease (CWD).

In 2002, the Minnesota Legislature broadened the allowable use of the emergency deer feeding account to specifically include management of CWD. It also required a report on expenditures from this account every two years. In 2003, statutes were amended again to address wild cervidae health management in general, not just CWD, and the biennial reporting requirement was maintained.

The information contained in this Fiscal Year (FY) 2003 Emergency Feeding/CWD expenditure report was also included in the recently distributed *Game and Fish Fund Report – FY03*. It is our intent to report annually on the expenditures from the emergency deer feeding and wild cervidae health management account via that report to meet the mandatory reporting requirement in M.S. 97A.075, subd. 1(c).

Please let us know if you have questions or need additional information.

Respectfully,

Gene Merriam
Commissioner

GM/KDC/jls; Enclosure
c Mr. John Guenther, Director, Division of Fish and Wildlife
Mr. Timothy P. Bremicker, Chief, Section of Wildlife
Ms. Lori Caspers, Business Manager, Divisions of Ecological Services, and Fish and Wildlife