

From the IDAHO SPORTSMEN'S CAUCUS ADVISORY COUNCIL

Ada County Fish & Game League ** Blackfoot River Bowmen ** Bonner County Sportsmen's Association **
Deer Hunters of Idaho ** Foundation for North American Wild Sheep ** Idaho B.A.S.S. Federation **
Idaho Bird Hunters ** Idaho Falconers Association ** Idaho Houndsmen's Association ** Idaho State
Bowhunters ** Idaho State Rifle & Pistol Association ** Idaho Steelhead & Salmon Unlimited **
Idaho Traditional Bowhunters** Idaho Trappers Association ** Idaho Trout Unlimited Council ** Idaho Walleye
Unlimited ** Idaho Wildlife Federation ** National Wild Turkey Federation ** Pheasants Forever **
Poachers Club ** Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation ** Safari Club International ** Snake River Cutthroats


To: Idaho Senate Agricultural Affairs Committee
From: Idaho Sportsmen's Caucus Advisory Council (ISCAC)
Subject: SB 1279

ISCAC supports SB 1279, banning cervid imports into Idaho. We believe this legislation is crucial to help prevent what could be devastating impacts to Idaho's wildlife, especially from the potential introduction of Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD). CWD is the most significant disease threat facing Idaho's large wildlife. Because of its transmissibility, CWD is of great concern to wildlife managers and sportsmen across North America. Mule deer, whitetail deer, elk and most recently moose have proven to be susceptible to CWD. There is no economically viable test for CWD on live animals and there is no cure for CWD; once an animal has the disease it eventually dies.

Numerous studies have shown that concentrating deer and elk in captivity and artificial feeding situations significantly increase the likelihood of infection and increase the potential for spreading CWD. The movement of live animals for game farming purposes is the greatest risk factor in spreading CWD into new areas.

Facts about CWD and cervid game farms:

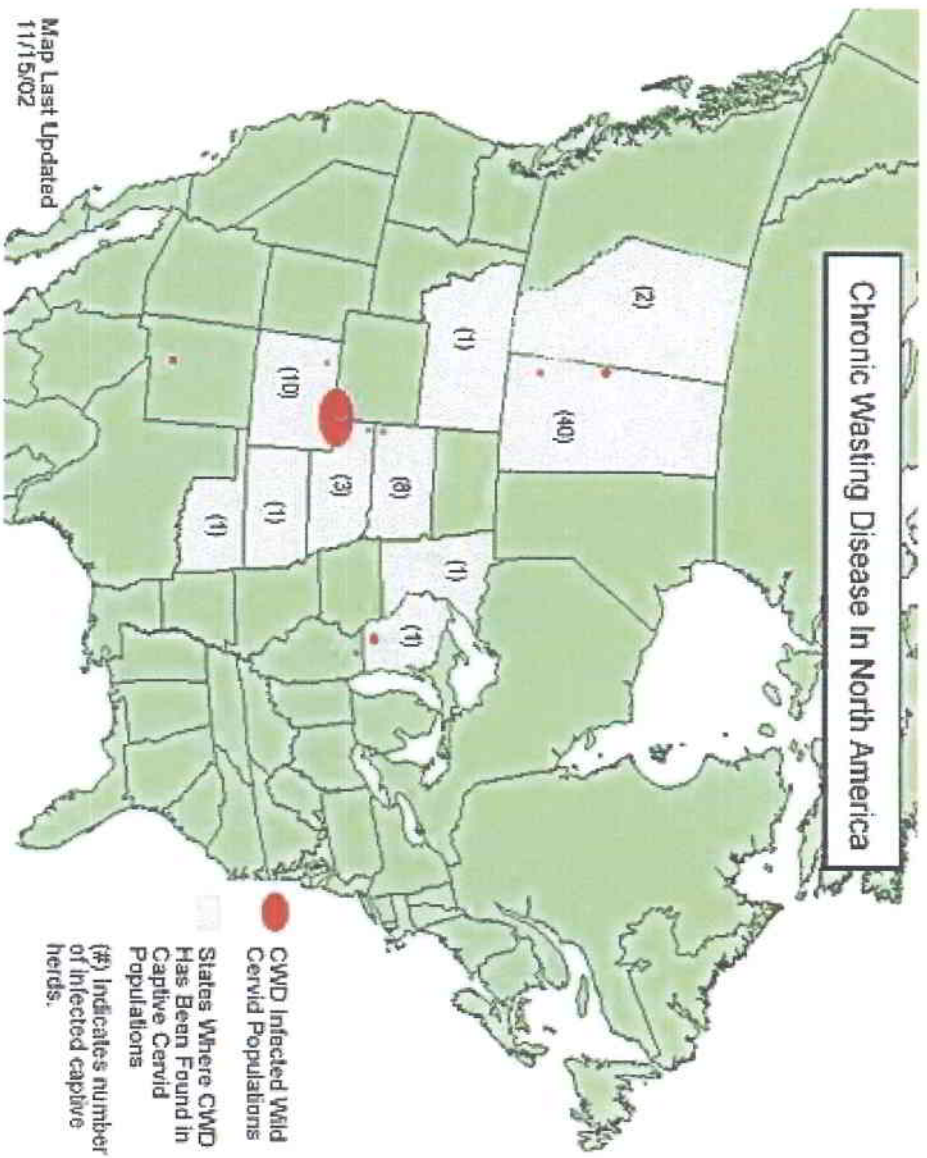
- 30 states have banned cervid imports, 18 since 2001, to protect their domestic and wild game herds.
- 23 states have banned the import of cervid carcasses.
- Before 1999, Colorado had over 800 game farms. Because of the potential harm of CWD, the majority of the game farms have been purchased by the State and taken out of operation.
- "Outside of CWD "endemic areas," most new cases of CWD have been found in close proximity to game farms.
- Montana banned game farms and all "canned" big game shooting operations in 2002 with the strong support of hunters and non-hunters
- Domestic animals (cattle, sheep, horses, etc.) are believed to be resistant to natural infection by CWD; however, cattle are susceptible via direct injection of the disease.
- It was believed moose were resistant until one was diagnosed with CWD in Colorado in 2005.

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- Even though it is believed that this disease cannot spread to humans, most states and big game conservation organizations have cautioned hunters about protective methods of handling big game to avoid potential exposure.
 - CWD can exist for 2 to 4 years in infected animals without showing symptoms. The only dependable test that is not cost prohibitive requires the killing of the animal. Therefore, herds of non-symptomatic animals can be infected and appear perfectly healthy. Individual animals may be carrying CWD and infecting other animals with no knowledge of the disease's presence.
 - Hunting in Idaho generates an estimated \$230 million of economic activity. Big game hunting constitutes a significant portion of this economic activity. (Source: *2001 National Survey of Fishing, Hunting & Wildlife-Associated Recreation*, U.S. Department of Interior, Fish & Wildlife Service)
- ISCAC urges you to pass this legislation and protect Idaho's wild, free-ranging big game populations.

SEE ATTACHED MAPS
showing the spread of CWD in the last 3 years
(Map Source: Chronic Wasting Disease Alliance)

ISCAC Voting data:
20 member organizations support position.
ISSU and Idaho Rifle and Pistol Association did not cast a vote
Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation abstained

CWD IN 2002



CWD IN 2005

