



MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT  
OF WILDLIFE, FISHERIES,  
AND PARKS

# CWD

## CHRONIC WASTING DISEASE

Regulations and Best Management Practices

# 2023/24

Deer Hunting Season



Addressing conservation challenges, such as CWD, requires active involvement of those with a passion for our rich natural resources. A primary goal of CWD response and management efforts is to determine the geographic extent and prevalence of the disease. MDWFP asks hunters to aid in this effort by submitting deer for testing during the 2023-2024 white-tailed deer hunting season. The test used to determine the presence of CWD requires a portion of the deer's brainstem or lymph nodes. Harvested animals should remain cool or be frozen until testing to reduce decomposition and provide accurate results.

Further, hunters and landowners can help monitor for CWD by actively looking for and reporting potential diseased or sick deer. For more information, visit [MDWFP.com/cwd](https://www.mdwfp.com/cwd).

# CWD BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES

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The following Best Management Practices (BMP) are recommended for minimizing potential environmental and human exposure to Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) while handling carcasses and processing the meat from white-tailed deer. These BMPs are established on a foundation of abundant caution given the many unknowns regarding CWD. For more information about CWD, please visit [mdwfp.com/cwd](http://mdwfp.com/cwd).

## SUPPLEMENTAL FEEDING AND CARCASS TRANSPORTATION BAN

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- **Supplemental feeding is banned in any CWD Management Zone (salt licks, mineral licks, and feeders).**

Direct contact with prions is the most effective means of transmitting CWD. Research indicates saliva may have the highest concentration of prions. Thus, to minimize concentration of deer and potential spread of CWD, supplemental feeding is banned within any CWD Management Zone.

- **Carcasses may not be transported outside of any CWD Management Zone.**

Research has shown that decomposed carcasses of infected animals can also contribute to transmission when prions bind to soil and plant material. Thus, movement of carcasses may introduce CWD into previously uninfected areas. Only the below products may leave the CWD Management Zone:

- Cut/wrapped meat (commercially or privately)
- Deboned meat
- Hides with no head attached
- Bone-in leg quarters
- Finished taxidermy
- Antlers with no tissue attached
- Cleaned skulls or skull plates (no brain tissue)
- Hunters may transport a deer head to a permitted taxidermist participating in the CWD collection program. A CWD sample number must be obtained from the participating taxidermist prior to transporting the deer head outside of the MDWFP-defined CWD Management Zone. [mdwfp.com/cwd](http://mdwfp.com/cwd)

## GENERAL PRECAUTIONS

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- Inspect body condition of each deer at the time of harvest. Do not consume any part of animals exhibiting clinical symptoms of CWD, including extreme weight loss, excessive salivation, or erratic behavior.
- Please report any deer that appears to be diseased by completing a diseased deer report on the MDWFP app, at [mdwfp.com/cwd](http://mdwfp.com/cwd) or call 1-800-BE-SMART.
- Avoid using natural deer urine attractants, as they may carry prions from infected deer. Hunters who prefer to use lures or attractants may wish to select an artificial or food based scent.
- To minimize direct contact with infectious prions, it is recommended to not establish feeders, bait sites, mineral sites, or otherwise cause unnatural concentration of deer.

## CLEANING AND PROCESSING A HARVESTED DEER

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### *Field Dressing:*

- Wear rubber or latex gloves when handling carcasses.
- When field dressing an animal, leave internal organs and inedible parts at the site of harvest.
- Avoid sawing through bone, spinal cord, brain, lymph nodes, or spleen.
- Store all portions of the animal to be transported in a container such as a cooler, bin, or bag that will not leak bodily fluids into the environment.

### *Meat Processing:*

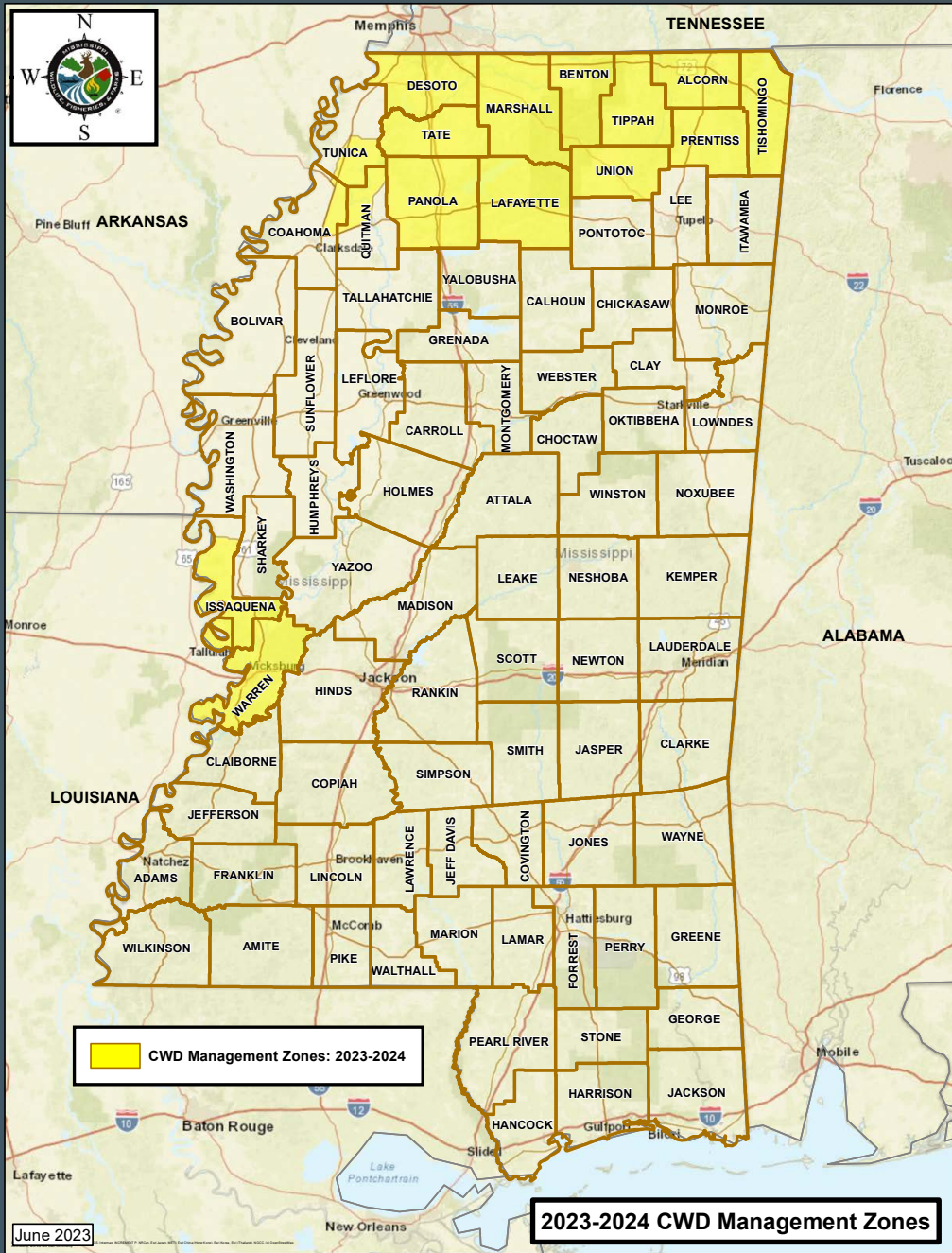
- Do not process a deer that appears to be diseased.
- Process all deer individually, package separately, and label uniquely.
- Debone meat from deer and remove all fat, connective tissue, and lymph nodes.
- Avoid sawing through bone, spinal cord, brain, lymph nodes, or spleen.
- Avoid eating/handling the eyes, brain, spinal cord, spleen, and lymph nodes.
- Limit the amount of bodily fluids going to an area, such as a floor drain, that cannot be properly sanitized after use.

### *Disposal:*

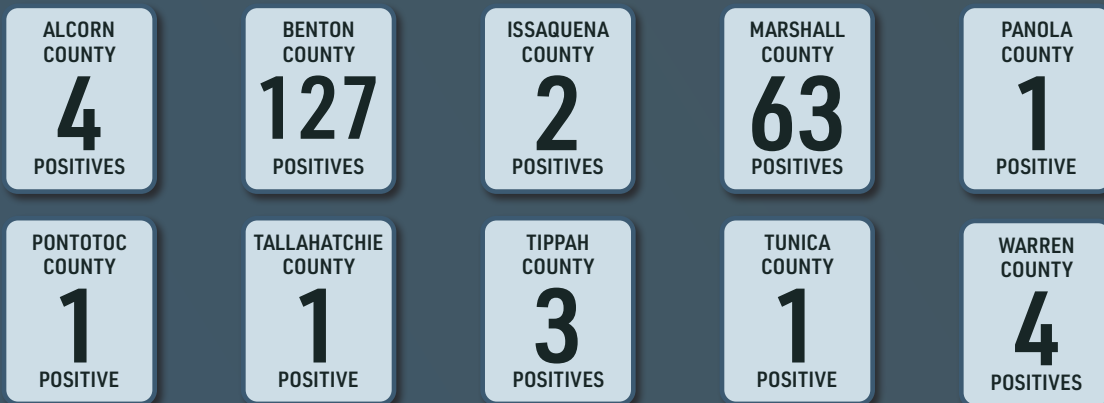
- Deer parts should not be rendered for use in feed for other animals, or used as compost.
- Recommended disposal methods for unwanted portions of carcasses (bones, organs, etc.) are:
  - Leave at the harvest site;
  - Double-bag and send to an approved, lined landfill; or
  - Deep burial (8 feet or deeper).

### *Equipment Cleaning:*

- Clean processing equipment between each deer.
- Thoroughly sanitize all equipment and workstations with a 50:50 solution of bleach and water.
- Soak tools for one hour in the bleach solution, and then rinse thoroughly with hot water.



## CWD-POSITIVE DEER BY COUNTY, SINCE 2018



# CHRONIC WASTING DISEASE MANAGEMENT

Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) was first detected in Mississippi in February 2018 and is recognized as the primary threat to wildlife in the state. The CWD Management Plan establishes a framework for the Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries, and Parks to implement management strategies to prevent and mitigate the spread and transmission of CWD in Mississippi. Current management strategies are based on the best available science and with input from a variety of subject matter experts. The nature of CWD mandates a long-term, adaptable approach to management. To that end, below are changes for the 2023-2024 hunting season:

## CWD MANAGEMENT PLAN UPDATE

The Mississippi Chronic Wasting Disease Management Plan was approved by the Commission on Wildlife, Fisheries, and Parks during April 2021. Important changes include:





Following a confirmed CWD positive within an existing positive county or a new county, a CWD-MZ will be created. It will include land within 10 miles of the positive and be in place for a minimum of 3 years.


**CWD-POSITIVE DETECTION Management Zone (CWD-MZ)**

Delineated using county lines and public roads.

Ban supplemental feeding of wildlife.

Only bone-in leg quarters, deboned meat, antlers, cleaned skull or skull plates, finished taxidermy, cleaned teeth, hides and tanned products may leave the CWD-MZs.



 Please refer to the carcass transportation ban section on page 2 for transporting to a permitted cooperating taxidermist.

## 2023-2024 WHITE-TAILED DEER HUNTING SEASON

### VELVET SEASON

September 15-17, 2023

- Mandatory Reporting by 10 p.m.
- Mandatory CWD Sampling by Sept. 22
- One State-Legal Buck Bag Limit
- Archery Only
- Statewide

### NORTH CENTRAL DMU

Establish the "North Central Deer Management Unit"

DeSoto, Tate, Marshall, Benton, Tippah, and Alcorn counties.

### PRIVATE LANDS

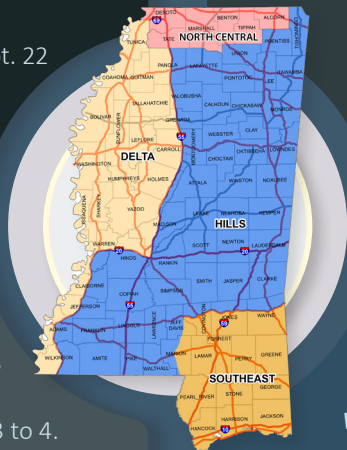
within North Central DMU

- Increased buck bag limit from 3 to 4.
- No antler criteria for 4-buck bag limit.
- Increased antlerless bag limit from 5 to 10.

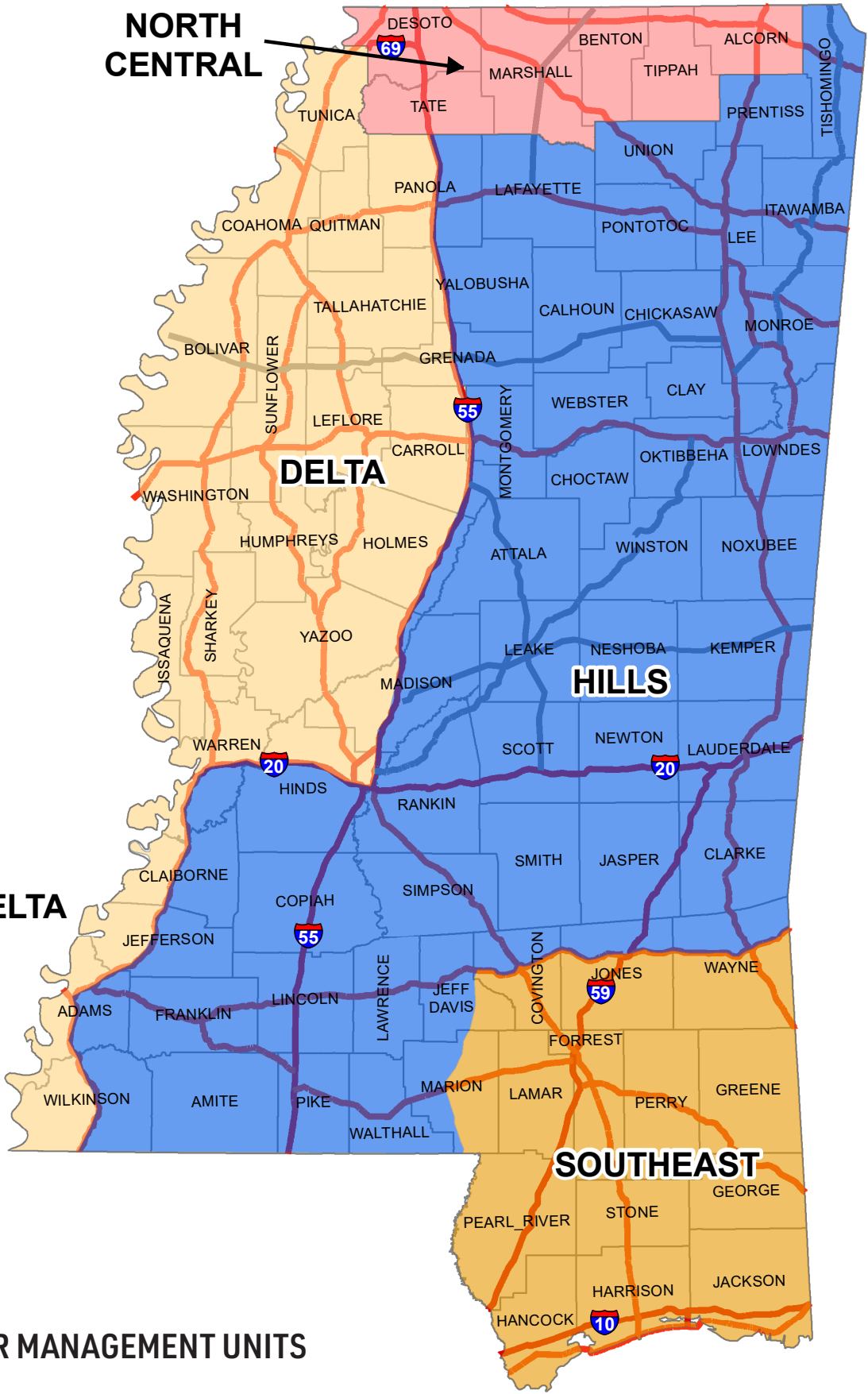
### HOLLY SPRINGS NATIONAL FOREST

within North Central DMU

- 3-buck bag limit with no antler criteria.



# NORTH CENTRAL



DEER MANAGEMENT UNITS

# 2023–2024 STATEWIDE SAMPLE DROP-OFF SITES

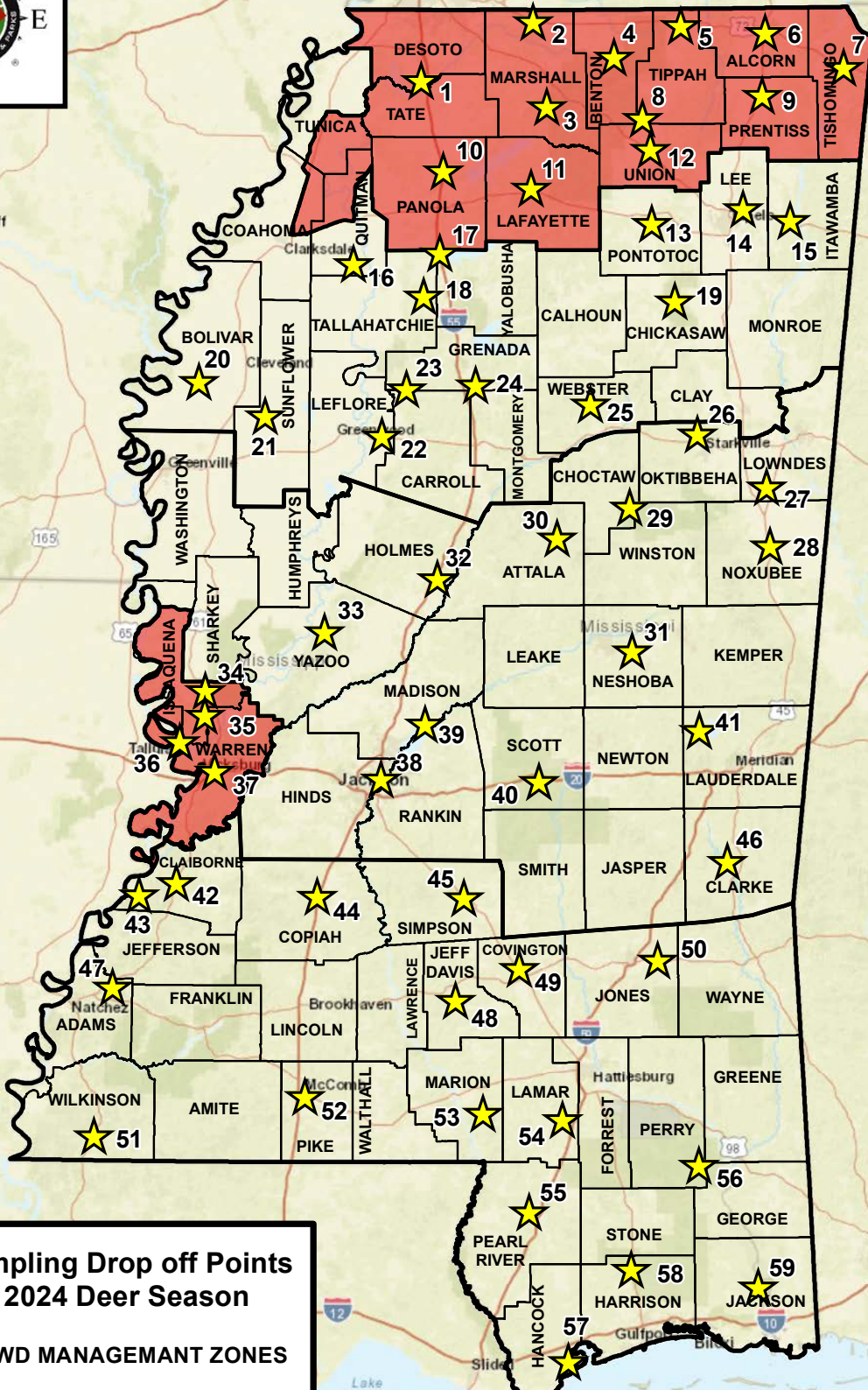
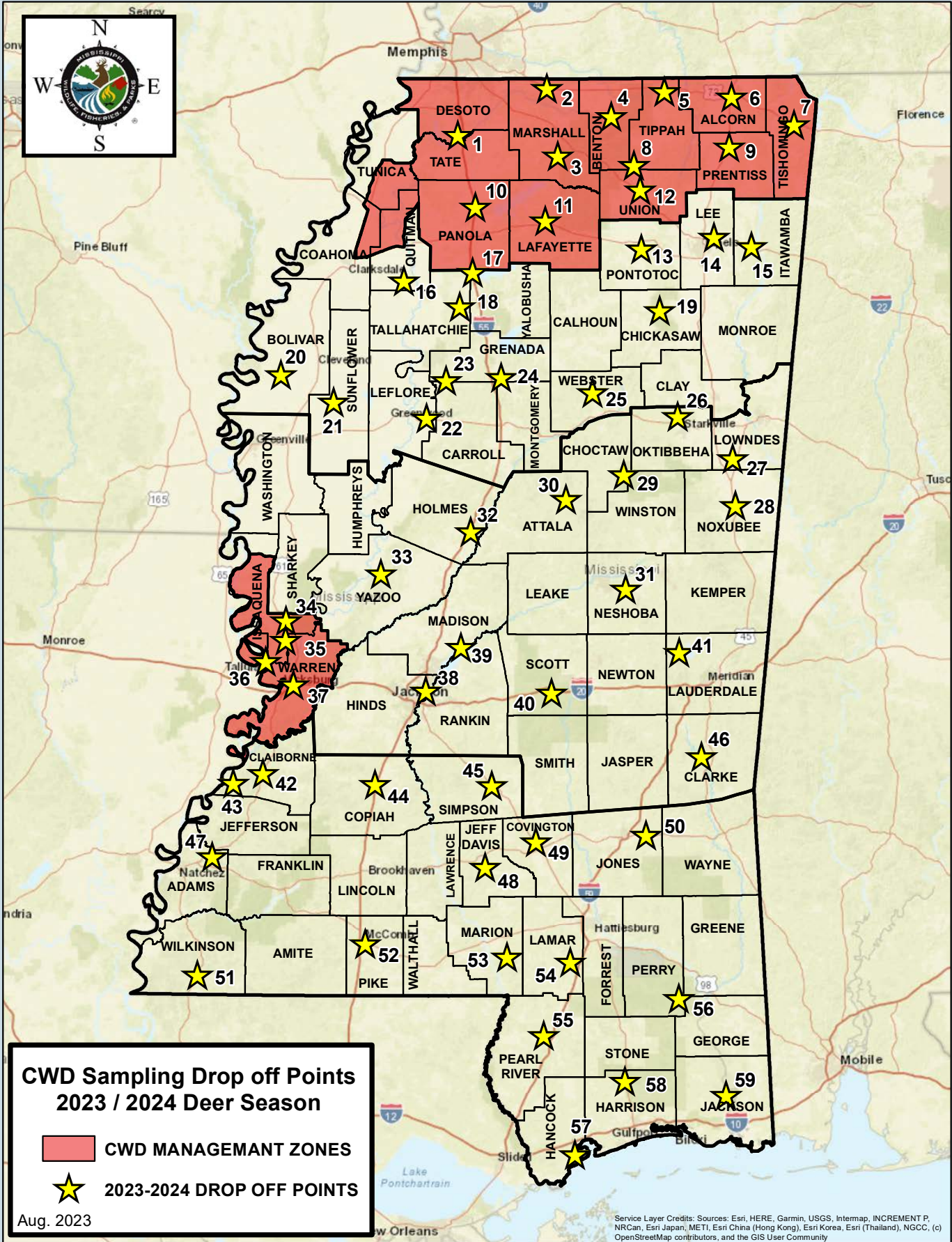
MDWFP has established collection sites across the state for the general public to deposit deer heads for testing. All season long, freezers will be at each site for depositing deer heads.

Hunters should preserve the head with at least 6 inches of neck attached. Antlers and skull plate may be removed without affecting the lymph nodes used for testing. If antlers are not removed, they cannot be returned to the hunter.

- 1 Love VFD**  
7345 Hwy 51 S  
Hernando, MS 38632  
34.7526,-89.9913
- 2 Mt. Pleasant VFD**  
194 Mt. Pleasant Rd  
Red Banks, MS 38661  
34.9561,-89.5226
- 3 Wall Doxey State Park**  
3946 MS Hwy 7  
Holly Springs, MS 38635  
34.6630,-89.4647
- 4 Benton County 911 Dispatch**  
368 Ripley Ave  
Ashland, MS 38603  
34.8326,-89.1813
- 5 Walnut VFD**  
660 Main Street  
Walnut, MS 38683  
34.9405,-88.9013
- 6 MSU Extension Office**  
2200 Old Hwy 45 S  
Corinth, MS 38834  
34.9125,-88.5465
- 7 Tishomingo County Fairgrounds**  
108 CR 187  
Iuka, MS 38852  
34.7882,-88.2178
- 8 Hell Creek WMA**  
4120 County Road 825  
Myrtle, MS 38650  
34.6199,-89.0644
- 9 Prentiss Co. Agri Center**  
2301 N 2nd St  
Booneville, MS 38829  
34.6961,-88.5613
- 10 Panola County EMS**  
100 MSG William J Ferrell Dr  
Sardis, MS 38666  
34.4400,-89.8997
- 11 Fire Station 1**  
401 McElroy Dr  
Oxford, MS 38655  
34.3800,-89.5318
- 12 New Albany Fairgrounds**  
112 Fairgrounds Circle  
New Albany, MS 38652  
34.5127,-89.0329
- 13 Pontotoc Ag Center**  
430 CJ Hardin Jr Dr  
Pontotoc, MS 38863  
34.2552,-89.0286
- 14 Elvis Presley Lake\***  
272 Road 995  
Tupelo, MS 38826  
34.3046,-88.6474
- 15 Canal Section WMA HQ**  
5705 HWY 178w  
Fulton, MS 38843  
34.2614,-88.4511
- 16 O'Keefe WMA**  
O'keefe Rd  
Lambert, MS 38643  
34.1165,-90.2735
- 17 North Region Office**  
457 CR 36  
Enid, MS 38927  
34.1565,-89.9127
- 18 MDOT Maintenance HQ**  
32950 Hwy 32  
Tillatoba, MS 38961  
34.0057,-89.9806
- 19 Chickasaw WMA**  
770 Hwy 32 Ext  
Houston, MS 38851  
33.9861,-88.9356
- 20 Dahomey NWR**  
831 MS 446  
Boyle, MS 38730  
33.7042,-90.9108
- 21 Deviney WMA**  
171 Hughes-Ertle Road  
Indianola, MS 38751  
33.5876,-90.6361
- 22 Fire Department #4**  
412 MS-7  
Greenwood, MS. 38930  
33.5209,-90.1514
- 23 Malmaison WMA**  
126 Malmaison HQ.Rd  
Holcomb, MS 38940  
33.6840,-90.0512
- 24 MS Forestry Commission**  
1801 Highway 51 S  
Grenada, MS 38901  
33.6991,-89.7629
- 25 American Legion Building**  
8243 Hwy 9  
Eupora, MS 39744  
33.6311,-89.2877
- 26 Trim Cane WMA**  
2025 North Jackson St.  
Starkville, MS 39759  
33.5248,-88.8462
- 27 Black Prairie WMA**  
744 Fire Tower Rd  
Crawford, MS 39743  
33.3396,-88.5618
- 28 USDA Service Center**  
48 Millers Chapel Church Rd  
Macon, MS 39341  
33.1346,-88.5513
- 29 Choctaw WMA**  
2121 Webster Rd  
Ackerman, MS 39735  
33.2737,-89.1267
- 30 Yockanookany WMA**  
28329 MS Hwy 12  
McCool, MS 39108  
33.2737,-89.1268
- 31 Fire Station 3**  
257 Gum Street  
Philadelphia, MS 39350  
32.7744,-89.1215
- 32 Holmes County State Park**  
5369 State Park Rd  
Durant, MS 39063  
33.0271,-89.9206
- 33 District 3 VFD**  
171 Old Benton Rd.  
Yazoo City, MS 39194  
32.8411,-90.3840
- 34 Valley Park Community Center**  
64 Kelso Rd  
Valley Park, MS 39177  
32.6335,-90.8709
- 35 Mahannah WMA**  
1370 Anderson-Tully Rd  
Redwood, MS 39156  
32.5490,-90.8708
- 36 Phil Bryant WMA**  
11641 Hwy 465  
Vicksburg, MS 39183  
32.4556,-90.9733
- 37 Communication Specialist**  
760 Hwy 61 North  
Vicksburg, MS 39183  
32.3552,-90.8283
- 38 LeFleur's Bluff State Park**  
3315 Lakeland Terrace  
Jackson, MS 39216  
32.3317,-90.1499
- 39 Pearl River WMA**  
506 Hwy 43 S  
Canton, MS 39046  
32.5234,-89.9704
- 40 Caney Creek WMA**  
6373 West Moore Tower Rd  
Forest, MS 39074  
32.3247,-89.5051
- 41 Collinsville VFD**  
11710 Nancy Drive  
Collinsville, MS 39325  
32.4974,-88.8475
- 42 All Creatures Veterinary Hospital**  
1011 St. Mark Dr.  
Port Gibson, MS 39150  
31.9675,-90.9802
- 43 Canemount WMA**  
17059 Rodney Road  
Port Gibson, MS 39150  
31.9233,-91.1305
- 44 MSU Extension Office**  
2040 W Gallman Rd  
Hazlehurst, MS 39083  
31.9252,-90.4073
- 45 MSU Extension Office**  
2785 Highway 49  
Mendenhall, MS 39114  
31.9210,-89.8112
- 46 MSU Extension Office**  
101 Westwood Ave  
Quitman, MS 39355  
32.0426,-88.7395
- 47 Natchez State Park**  
230-B Wickcliff Rd  
Natchez, MS 39120  
31.6026,-91.2347
- 48 Jeff Davis Lake**  
16 Lake Drive  
Prentiss, MS 39474  
31.5649,-89.8444
- 49 MSU Extension Office**  
68 Collins Industrial Park Dr  
Collins, MS 39428  
31.6757,-89.5864
- 50 Bogue Homa Lake**  
149 Bogue Homa Lake Rd  
Laurel, MS 39443  
31.7027,-89.0246
- 51 Wilkinson County Sheriff**  
1389 U.S. Hwy 61 South  
Woodville, MS 39669  
31.0861,-91.3002
- 52 Pike County Co-Op**  
105 Nehi Circle  
McComb, MS 39648  
31.2308,-90.4517
- 53 Marion County WMA**  
652 Game Reserve Rd  
Columbia, MS 39429  
31.1741,-89.7327
- 54 Purvis VFD**  
805 Main St  
Purvis, MS 39475  
31.1517,-89.4122
- 55 Pearl River County Fairgrounds**  
124 Rodeo St  
Poplarville, MS 39470  
30.8329,-89.5474
- 56 Leaf River WMA**  
Forest Service Rd 353  
McLain, MS 39456  
30.9902,-88.8651
- 57 Bay St. Louis FD Station 2**  
9998 MS-603  
Bay St. Louis, MS 39520  
30.3134,-89.3920
- 58 Fire Station 8**  
23560 Old Still Rd  
Saucier, MS 39574  
30.6325,-89.1384
- 59 Lower Pascagoula WMA**  
1600 Ward Bayou Rd  
Vancleave, MS 39565  
30.5668,-88.6307

\*Drop-off hours #14 only:  
Monday - Friday  
8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

**All other locations are  
24 hrs/day & 7 days/week**





CWD is one of many conservation challenges that has arisen over the last century. Hunters are vital to successfully managing CWD and ensuring healthy white-tailed deer herds for future generations. MDWFP thanks all hunters for continuing to stay actively engaged in this conservation effort!



If you observe a deer you suspect may be diseased or sick, report it to the Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries, and Parks at:

**1-800-BE-SMART**  
or  
[www.MDWFP.com/diseased](http://www.MDWFP.com/diseased)

**SYMPTOMS**

- Malnourished / Frail
- Excessive Salivation
- Not afraid of Humans
- Erratic Behavior

- MDWFP
- @MDWFPonline
- @mdwfponline
- MDWFP

MDWFP's Private Lands Program is ready to assist you in managing wildlife and habitat on your land. To learn more go to: [MDWFP.com/privatelands](http://MDWFP.com/privatelands)

Front cover photography: Joe Mac Hudspeth Jr.