

DMU 333

Chronic Wasting Disease Core Area

Area Description

Deer Management Unit (DMU) 333 is in the Southern Lower Peninsula Region (SLP). It currently consists of 17 Townships in Clinton, Eaton, Ingham, and Shiawassee Counties and makes up the Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) Core Area (Figure 1).

The vast majority of the land in DMU 333 is privately owned, but the over 5,000 acres of public land in the DMU offers some hunting opportunity for those that don't have access to private land for deer hunting. Not surprisingly, nearly 94% of the deer harvested in the southcentral part of the State (which includes DMU 333) are taken on private land.

Management Guidance

DMU 333 was formed as part of the State's response to CWD being found in free ranging deer in northern Ingham and southern Clinton Counties. The zone was formed to encompass the areas where known CWD positive deer have been documented. In DMU 333 mandatory deer check is in place, so any hunter that harvests a deer in the DMU is required to submit the head for CWD testing. In 2016, there were 5 check stations open throughout the hunting seasons in DMU 333.

While maintaining hunting opportunities is an important part of deer management in this DMU, the management of CWD and containing its spread are of highest priority. Several regulations are in place for hunters in DMU 333 to help prevent the spread of this disease. These regulation changes include a ban on any baiting or feeding of deer, opening the early and late antlerless seasons, mandatory testing, and providing ample number of antlerless licenses.



Figure 1: Map of DMU 333.

Population Assessment Factors

DMU 333 was created in 2015. The size of DMU 333 increased from 9 Townships in 2015 to 17 Townships in 2016 after the discovery of 2 CWD positive deer in Watertown Twp, Clinton County in late 2015/early 2016. Given the short amount of time that DMU 333 has been in existence, there are not enough data available to make meaningful population estimates.

Table 1: CWD testing data through January, 6, 2017.

Deer Tested for Chronic Wasting Disease Since Detection of Positive Deer as of January 6, 2017							
	Targeted Deer	Roadkill Deer / Deer Found Dead	Deer taken on Disease Control & Crop Damage Permits	Deer culled by Wildlife Services	Hunter Harvested Deer	Total	CWD Positive Deer
CWD Core Area (17 TWP)	48	1627	824	987	4030	7516	9
CWD Management Zone (5 County)	65	236	146	1	2115	2563	0
Remainder of State	260	236	414	63	717	1690	0
Total	373	2099	1384	1051	6862	11769	9

Disease Control Permits

Disease Control Permits (DCP) are available to landowners in DMU 333 who own at least 5 acres of land. DCPs allow landowners to take deer outside of the normal hunting seasons in order to supplement our CWD sample collection. DCPs holders are able to take antlered or antlerless deer with a DCP, however if an antlered deer is taken, antlers have to be turned in to the DNR and will not be returned to the permit holder. As of early January 2017, over 800 deer have been taken with DCPs in DMU 333 (Table 1). That total amounts to roughly 11% of the total sample size in DMU 333.

Deer Management Recommendations

With CWD being found in a hunter harvested deer in Eagle Township, Clinton County in the fall of 2016, we recommend that DMU 333 expand to include Portland and Danby Townships in Ionia County and Roxand Township in Eaton County. This would add to our surveillance zone and help determine if CWD is present in free ranging deer further west than currently documented. Mandatory deer check for hunter harvested deer should continue as it will give us the sample size necessary to determine the prevalence rate in the local deer herd. Maintaining current regulations that make it easier for hunters to harvest deer should be continued as well. These include unlimited antlerless licenses, availability of DCPs, and removing the antler point restriction on the second tag of the combination license. Continuing the baiting and feeding ban and leaving the early and late antlerless seasons open is also recommended.