



NORTH CAROLINA WILDLIFE RESOURCES COMMISSION

Chronic Wasting Disease Management Assistance Program (CWDMAP) Overview – 2025-26 Season

A Chronic Wasting Disease Management Assistance Program (CWDMAP) is authorized by the North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission (NCWRC). Landowner and hunter participation is voluntary. The primary objective is to provide hunters with additional opportunities to harvest deer, and to aid NCWRC's CWD surveillance efforts within North Carolina's CWD Primary Surveillance Areas (PSAs) or within 5 miles of a CWD positive. Please thoroughly read the following information before completing your application. Applications will be reviewed by a district biologist before final approval.

1. **Tag allocation:** The allocation of CWDMAP tags is as follows: 5 tags automatically regardless of acreage, plus 2 additional tags for every increment of 50 acres enrolled with an upper limit of 30. Tags can be used on either antlered or antlerless deer.
2. **Season Dates:** CWDMAP tags are valid from the first day of archery season through the end of gun season. Deer taken with a CWDMAP tag must be harvested using the weapon type allowed during the regular open season for taking deer.
3. **Enrollment requirements:** Individuals or entities who own, lease, or control exclusive hunting rights on property within a North Carolina PSA or within 5 miles of any CWD positive may apply. Updated maps are available at www.ncwildlife.gov/cwd. Adjacent properties or properties in close proximity may apply as a single entity. Applicants should only submit a single application for all properties they desire to enroll. There is no minimum acreage requirement.
4. **Harvest validation, reporting and registration requirements:** Licensed hunters hunting on any authorized CWDMAP property shall report all deer harvests using registration methods provided by the NCWRC.
 - Harvests can be validated with CWDMAP tags in lieu of Big Game Harvest Report Cards. Harvests validated with CWDMAP tags do not count as part of the possession and season limit for the hunter.
 - All harvests must be registered through the Big Game Harvest Reporting System.
 - Adhesive CWDMAP tags shall be attached through the ear or to an antler at the site of harvest to validate a harvest.
 - CWDMAP tags can only be used on properties specified on the CWDMAP authorization.
5. **Mandatory CWD testing:** Hunters are required to submit the head from each deer tagged with a CWDMAP tag. A map of CWD testing drop-off stations, check stations, and taxidermists and processors participating in the WRC's Cervid Health Cooperator Program is available at www.ncwildlife.gov/cwd.



See www.ncwildlife.gov/cwd for information on CWD rules, carcass disposal best practices, and meat donation.

The failure of an applicant to meet or comply with the above guidelines will result in revocation of the CWDMAP tags or denial of issuance for a CWDMAP authorization in future years.

Applications are available online through www.GoOutdoorsNorthCarolina.com. Complete online application process instructions can be found at www.ncwildlife.gov/deer. For further assistance, email publicinquiry-fishwildlife@ncwildlife.gov, or call at 919-707-0058 during normal business hours. Applications must be received by August 1.