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# The Laramie Foothills Mule Deer Project

**Public Meeting, May 2, 2012**

- We captured deer during January 5-6, 8-9, and February 9-14, 2012. One hundred forty-two deer were handled, including 118 surviving does, 17 newly captured bucks, and 7 fawns.

- Four deer died during handling and an additional five individuals died within the next two weeks. Of the five that died after capture, two were CWD positive. Our capture-related mortality rate since 2010 is 3.2% (15/464).

- Annual survival of CWD-free deer has been 80% while the annual survival of CWD infected deer was 65%. Causes of deaths were

    - Harvest: 2%
    - Motor vehicle accident: 2%
    - Predation: 37%
    - CWD: 4%
    - Winter kill: 2%
    - Unknown: 51%

- The average proportion of the adult female population that is infected CWD (prevalence) is 8% but we can't rule out values between 5% and 12%. We have received only half of the results for sampling this year and will be able to provide more precise estimates of prevalence after these results come in. It appears that prevalence has increased slightly since the beginning of the study.

- We estimated that the chance that a healthy deer gets sick with CWD each year was 4%. So, about four in one hundred healthy animals tested for CWD turn up as infected during the next year. The chance that female will become infected before its sixth birthday is about 18%.

- There were 161 deer fit with collars at the conclusion of capture operations, including 17 adult male, 7 fawns, and 137 adult female deer. Average age of males caught during Jan/Feb 2012 was two and a half years of age.

- Thirty-one percent (72/230) of female deer we have tested have a gene that conveys resistance to CWD. If the gene had no effect, we would expect that roughly 31% of the CWD positive cases have that gene. Instead only 6.6% of the CWD positives (1/15) have the resistance gene. It

appears that the frequency of this gene is increasing in the population—it has almost doubled since late 1990's - early 2000.

- We appreciate your continued support for our work. We welcome your thoughts, questions, and comments. You can find supplementary information on our web page:

  http://www.nrel.colostate.edu/projects/modelingCWD/