

# Ban on deer/elk urine scent lures begins January 1, 2020

**Safely dispose of urine scent products at ODFW collection sites**

**The 2019 Oregon State Legislature passed a bill** that bans the possession and use of commercial deer and elk urine scent attractants that contain or are derived from any cervid urine beginning in 2020.

Any business or individual who possesses these types of commercial products after Jan. 1, 2020 will be in violation of wildlife laws.

The ban will reduce the threat of Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) to the state's deer, elk and moose populations. It is based on a recommendation from the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (AFWA). Cervid urine products are also banned in several other states.

Business or individuals that have these products should safely dispose of them by bringing them to an ODFW office (contact list at [www.myodfw.com](http://www.myodfw.com)). ODFW staff will arrange for any scents collected to be incinerated at a temperature known to kill the prion that causes CWD.

"It's important that these products are not poured down a drain or on the ground when they are discarded," says Colin Gillin, ODFW wildlife veterinarian. "We want to limit the prion that causes the disease from being deposited on the landscape."



An elk with CWD. Photo courtesy of Wyoming Fish and Game and the CWD Alliance ([cwd-info.org](http://cwd-info.org))

## About Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD)

CWD has not been detected in Oregon's wildlife but has been found in free-ranging deer and elk in 26 other states including several western states.

The disease is caused by a protein called a prion that damages the brain of infected animals, causing progressive neurological disease and loss of body condition. CWD is untreatable and always fatal.

The prions can spread through the animal's body fluids (including urine, feces and saliva) and by nose-to-nose contact between infected animals. Prions shed through bodily fluids can bind to soil minerals and remain infectious for long periods in the environment, spreading to new animals for years as deer and elk come into contact with infected soil. Some plants have been shown to uptake the prions from infected soil, potentially increasing the risk for infection and spread.

Urine sold commercially as a scent lure is collected from captive cervids in farmed cervid facilities. Nationally, CWD continues to be found in wild herds and captive cervid facilities and is spreading to new areas and facilities annually.

Hunters who hunt out of state or in Canada are prohibited from importing any deer, elk, caribou or moose parts containing central nervous system tissue where the prions exist (so any part of the brain or the spinal column) into Oregon.