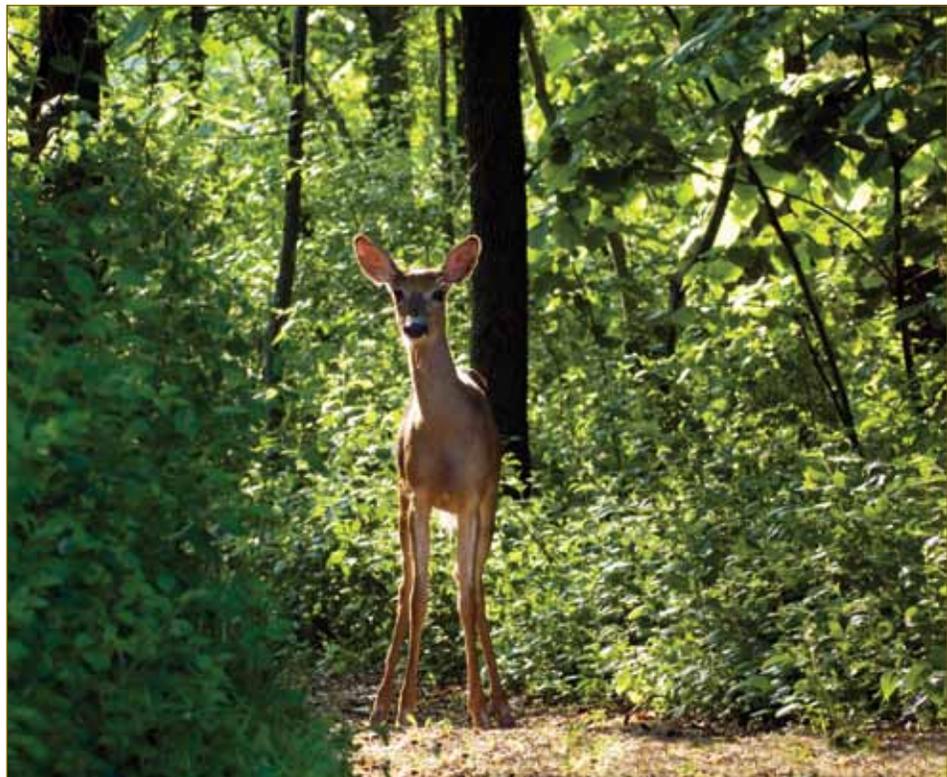


## Conclusions after the First Eight Years

When Wisconsin initiated efforts to control CWD in 2002, the goal was to eradicate the disease from the state. This was an ambitious goal and it was not known at that time whether it was going to be possible to achieve that goal. Control options were and continue to be limited because no treatment currently exists for infected animals and there are no vaccines available to prevent infection. Deer population reduction and the removal of CWD-positive deer are currently the control methods most likely to be effective in controlling CWD in the wild. Strategies to significantly reduce deer populations and remove infected deer in the CWD affected area were implemented using 1) extended deer-hunting seasons with unlimited earn-a-buck bag limits, 2) out-of-season shooting permits issued to landowners, 3) government agency sharpshooters, and 4) monetary incentives.

The success of the strategies to eliminate CWD from Wisconsin depended on a number of factors including 1) the geographic distribution of CWD, 2) landowners' willingness to allow hunters and agency shooters access to their land, 3) hunters' willingness to hunt

in the infected area and shoot more deer than they normally would, 4) agency resources available for CWD control, and 5) need to control further introductions of CWD. After eight years of surveillance, the currently identified geographic distribution of CWD is substantially larger than was known in 2002, and is likely increasing, despite moderate deer population reduction during that same time. Given the difficulty in managing CWD in free-ranging deer, the magnitude of deer reductions required to meaningfully affect disease progression, and the declining legislative support, eliminating CWD from Wisconsin using currently available tools is unlikely. Nonetheless, given the importance of deer and deer hunting to Wisconsin and the threat that CWD poses to the long-term viability of both, there still is a need and a responsibility to take steps to effectively manage this disease regardless of the continued challenges.



*Very few fawns have tested positive for CWD (23 out of more than 15,000 tested since 2002).*