Kristin Mansfield

The Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) supports the addition of language to "...exclude feedstocks when necessary to comply with restrictions to prevent spread of animal diseases such as chronic wasting disease". Composting does not deactivate the prions that cause chronic wasting disease (CWD) in cervids (deer, elk, and moose) and can remain infective in the environment for several years. If meat processing waste from cervids is composted, the compost site could become contaminated with CWD prions. If the resulting compost is transported offsite and applied on the landscape elsewhere, the disease could be spread to new areas. CWD was first detected in Washington during the fall of 2024. Given the well-documented long-term negative effects of CWD on deer and elk populations observed in other states, WDFW has prioritized its control and management, including actions to limit its spread. The addition of language to WAC 173-350 that allows for the exclusion of cervid remains as a feedstock will greatly assist with WDFW's effort to manage CWD and protect our deer, elk, and moose populations.