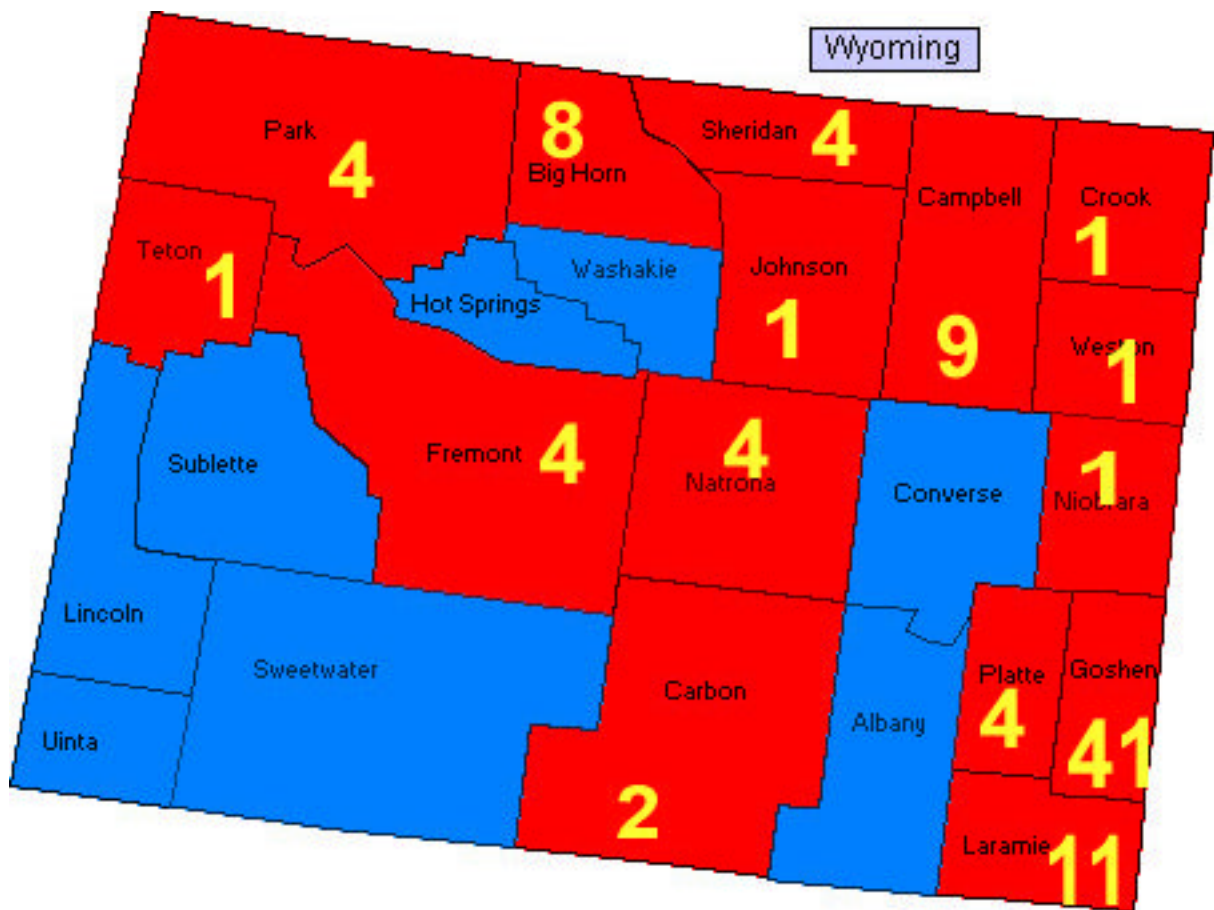


- Positive WNV cases were received from 15 counties in Wyoming during the summer of 2002 (all except Uinta, Lincoln, Sweetwater, Sublette, Hot Springs, Washakie, Converse, and Albany counties).
- There were 96 positive equine cases (5 known fatalities) and 22 positive avian cases – affected horses ranged from 6 months to 28 years of age with no sex or breed predisposition. Avian species affected primarily were corvid species (black-billed magpies, blue jays, and crows) with a few other species involved (hawks, owls, pigeons, starlings, etc.).

WNV Equine Cases - 2002



- All known severe clinical cases and fatalities occurred in horses either not vaccinated or not vaccinated completely (received one dose only, or received the second dose too late for complete protection).

Recommendations for 2003

- We will continue to test **wild birds** as a surveillance measure for WNV activity. We are particularly interested in testing corvids (ravens, crows, jays, and magpies) along with raptors (eagles, falcons, hawks, and owls) and other species of interest. Please contact the laboratory [Dr. Todd Cornish, (307) 742-6681, ext. 191, or Terry Creekmore, (307) 742-6681, ext. 105] **prior** to submitting birds for testing.
- We recommend that all **horses** displaying appropriate clinical signs (**ataxia/gait abnormalities, weakness/paralysis of limbs, recumbency, muscle spasm/fasciculation, and death**) be tested for WNV. A **serum** sample is VERY USEFUL, even in horses scheduled for euthanasia and necropsy – please plan ahead and submit serum with every equine case.
- The commercially available vaccine for horses appears to be quite efficacious at preventing severe disease and fatalities. According the manufacturer, 2 doses need to be given initially (3 weeks apart), with an annual booster thereafter. It appears that protection/immunity is not solid until somewhere between 4-8 weeks after the second dose, so plan ahead and get all horses vaccinated or boosted well before mosquito season arrives (i.e., vaccinate in March and booster previously vaccinated horses in March or April).

Testing Fees for 2003

- **Wild birds** will be tested for WNV at no charge to the submitter.
- **Horses** will be tested for a fee. Recommended tests:
 - Serum test (IgM ELISA) - \$6.00/in state, \$10.00/out of state
 - Necropsy, histopathology – routine fees (see WSVL fee schedule)
 - RT-PCR - \$30.00/case, in state and out of state
 - Immunohistochemistry* - \$15.00/case, in state and out of state
 - Virus isolation – only performed in special circumstances

*NOTE: Immunohistochemistry will not detect all true positive cases and will be used as an ancillary or supportive test on necropsy cases or mail-in biopsy/tissue cases at the discretion of the pathologist.
- **Other Species** will be tested for a fee. Please contact Dr. Cornish [(307) 742-6681, ext. 191] to arrange testing as appropriate.

QUESTIONS ABOUT WNV? NEED MORE INFORMATION? CONTACT DR. CORNISH AT THE LAB [tcornish@uwyo.edu, (307) 742-6681, ext. 191]