



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Animal and
Plant Health
Inspection
Service

Wildlife Services: Resolving Wildlife Conflicts to Protect People, Agriculture and Wildlife

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Wildlife is a valuable natural resource, long enjoyed throughout the Nation for aesthetic, recreational, and economic reasons. Native wildlife in over abundance or encroached upon by increasing human populations can lead to conflicts. Introduced, or invasive, species may endanger native fauna. Wildlife can destroy crops and livestock, damage property and natural resources, and pose serious risks to public health and safety.

Wildlife Services (WS), a program within the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, provides Federal leadership and expertise to resolve these conflicts and create a balance that allows people and wildlife to coexist peacefully. As wildlife damage occurs more frequently and evolves into new challenges, WS'

knowledge and skills are increasingly required.

Once charged primarily with management of wildlife damage to agriculture, the mission of Wildlife Services has expanded to include resolution of wildlife conflicts in urban areas, preservation of natural resources, and protection of public, private and industrial property as well as threatened and endangered species. Increasingly, WS has been given responsibility for minimizing wildlife threats to public health and safety, as well as to the Nation's vital agricultural base. The biosecurity challenges of the new century span invisible boundaries and WS has responded with domestic and international programs to protect people, agriculture and wildlife.

WS' success is based in its complementary branches of field, or

operational, work and research. Internationally recognized as a leader in wildlife damage management science, WS' National Wildlife Research Center (NWRC) conducts research and develops tools to address the dynamic challenges of wildlife damage management. WS field specialists and NWRC researchers work in collaboration, ensuring that WS will continue to resolve wildlife conflicts effectively and humanely, using the most advanced science and technology.

Updated biannually, the WS Notebook provides an overview of current research and operational projects and detailed State program reports to provide a better understanding of the work performed daily by the dedicated WS biologists, scientists and specialists.

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