



United States  
Department of  
Agriculture

Animal and  
Plant Health  
Inspection  
Service

**Wildlife  
Services**

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## Wildlife Services: Resolving Conflicts Between People and Wildlife



**W**ildlife are a valuable natural resource that are looked upon with beauty and enjoyed by Americans across the Nation. But as increased urbanization leads to a reduction in wildlife habitat and as wildlife populations continue to expand, conflicts between people and wildlife are all too frequent. Wildlife can destroy crops, kill 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. With incidents of wildlife damage on the rise, WS' knowledge and skills are constantly in demand.

In the last decade, WS' mission has expanded beyond agricultural damage management to include minimizing wildlife threats to public health and safety, resolving wildlife conflicts in urban areas, protecting private and industrial property, protecting

threatened and endangered species, and preserving natural resources. In the 21st Century, WS stands ready to respond to new biosecurity challenges that could impact wildlife populations threatening both public health and our Nation's vital livestock industry.

WS' success in the field is only possible, however, through research and the development of new tools and techniques to manage wildlife damage. WS' National Wildlife Research Center (NWRC) is known internationally as a leader in wildlife damage management research. Together, WS specialists in the field and NWRC researchers in the laboratory ensure that WS will continue to resolve wildlife conflicts effectively and humanely, using state-of-the-art science and technology.

This notebook, which is updated on a bi-annual basis, provides an overview of WS' current research and operational projects along with a detailed report for each State program. The goal is to provide a better understanding of the work that WS' dedicated biologists, scientists, and specialists perform every day.

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