



Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service

**APHIS
FISCAL YEAR 2007
Report of Outreach Activity**

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Civil Rights Enforcement and Compliance

December 21, 2007

Date

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THE APHIS OUTREACH PROGRAM

Outreach is a critical part of the APHIS “charge”, “Protecting American Agriculture. The coordination of Outreach is assigned to the Civil Rights Enforcement and Compliance (CREC) staff where the review, monitoring, and reporting of outreach initiatives is coordinated and managed. The function includes 2 components Program Delivery Outreach and Educational Outreach. Actual program delivery Outreach is conducted at the “grass roots” level which includes field locations throughout the United States. Educational outreach is conducted with Historically Black, Hispanic, and Asian Pacific American educational institutions. This includes scholarship and intern programs such as the 1890 Scholars Program and the HACU intern program. This widespread grassroots program helps to ensure APHIS programs and services are accessible to all customers with emphasis on the underserved. In 2007, APHIS established the International Visitor Program and Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS), Outreach Initiative to address the growing need for a strengthened network with international counterpart organizations to better exchange animal and plant health information with regard to trade. The International Visitor Program is managed by the International Services Division. Program Outreach is also conducted and managed by the APHIS Native American Working Group (ANAWG). The ANAWG was established in 1994 and serves to advise management on effective ways to enhance program delivery and accessibility to tribes, intertribal committees, and related organizations such as the Intertribal Agriculture Council. The ANAWG is chaired by the APHIS Native American Program Coordinator who is assigned to the Office of the Administrator. Tribal outreach is implemented by several program areas and is reported to CREC annually. This report includes the highlights of the results of Program Delivery and Educational Outreach conducted from October 1, 2006 to September 30, 2007, Fiscal Year 2007.

Report Summary

APHIS personnel continued to focus on providing information and assistance to reach current and potential beneficiaries of APHIS programs and activities.

Highlights of fiscal year (fy) 2007 outreach activities included the Animal Care (AC) quarterly industry report that was distributed to 3000 stakeholders and interested parties. AC also participated in over 150 meetings where personnel interacted with stakeholders to discuss issues regarding enforcement of the Animal Welfare and Horse Protection Acts. Biotechnology Regulatory Services (BRS) evaluated its pilot state inspection project in fy 2007 to determine the feasibility of using third party inspectors to conduct low-risk inspections. International Services' Visitor Program continued to support international participants working with APHIS program units to strengthen relationships to reduce trade barriers, increase understanding of U.S. regulations, and promoted access of agricultural commodities for international trade.

Legislative and Public Affairs (LPA) conducted several campaigns to ensure that critical program information reached the public. Those campaigns included information for backyard poultry producers to educate them on highly contagious and deadly poultry diseases; National Animal Identification System, aimed at providing the facts to for producers; and, programs to increase public awareness of the Emerald Ash Borer, the Asian Long horned Beetle, and Oral Rabies Vaccine programs. LPA translated many program materials into Spanish, Vietnamese, Hmong and other languages and worked to reach out to Native American tribes.

Plant Protection and Quarantine and Wildlife Services participated in numerous meetings and events to support Native American Tribes. Veterinary Services focused on outreach to colleges and universities throughout the United States to educate colleges of veterinary medicine (CVM) about VS, its activities, and the role of Federal practitioners of veterinary medicine. Marketing and Regulatory Programs Business Services participated in outreach sessions for Small, Small Disadvantaged, Women-Owned, Hubzone, and Service Disabled Veteran-Owned Small Businesses to highlight potential procurement opportunities.

The APHIS Native American Working Group actively participated in numerous Native American conferences including those held by the National Congress of American Indians, American Indian Science and Engineering Society Conference, Intertribal Agriculture Council (IAC), and Indian Nations Conservation Alliance (INCA) Conference.

Several APHIS program areas cooperatively sponsored and provided personnel to participate in AgDiscovery, a unique and highly successful two and three week, stay on-campus session to help teenagers learn about careers in plant science and veterinary medicine. An AgDiscovery program was held at five universities with a total of 84 students participating in labs, workshops and field trips.

BACKGROUND

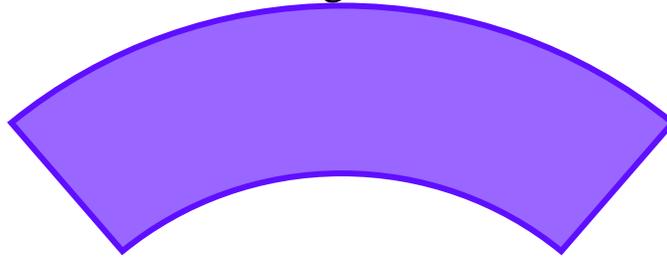
Outreach is a critical part of the APHIS civil rights program. Departmental regulations require that APHIS reach out in proactive ways to persons who have not traditionally participated in its programs and activities. APHIS conducts outreach at the local, state, regional and national levels to ensure that information on its programs and activities is widely disseminated. APHIS' Civil Rights Enforcement and Compliance (CREC) staff is the primary coordinator and monitor of outreach within the agency. Working closely with each APHIS program area, USDA's Office of Outreach, and other USDA agencies, CREC coordinates and monitors outreach initiatives conducted in each program.

OUTREACH PROGRAM OBJECTIVES

The objectives of the APHIS Outreach Program are to:

- improve the delivery of programs and services to existing customers and beneficiaries;
- establish new and increase existing program delivery outreach efforts to the public with an emphasis on our under served customers;
- ensure that internal policies, guidelines, procedures and systems support the fair and equitable delivery of programs and services; and,
- ensure that managers, supervisors and employees are accountable for program delivery outreach.

Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service Outreach Program Network

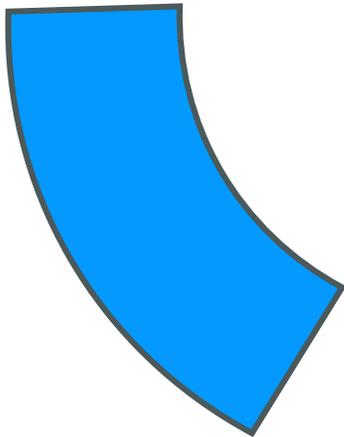


Steve Shelor
Assistant Director
**Program Delivery and
Outreach**

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APHIS Native American
Program Coordinator

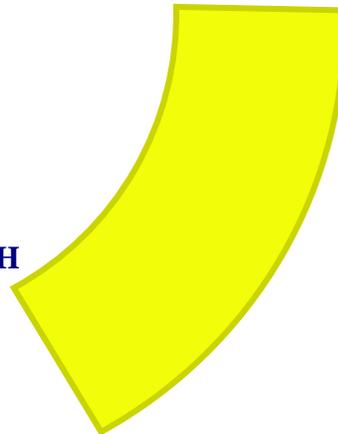
Gwendolyn Smith
Outreach Program
Coordinator

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PROGRAM OUTREACH COORDINATORS

AC – Barbara Kohn
BRS – Judy Garrison
IS – Freida Skaggs
LPA – Ed Curlett
MRPBS – Estela Diaz
PPQ – Francis Murphy
VS – Timothy Cordes
WS-Charlotte Miller
Jo Ann Garrett



APHIS PROGRAM FUNCTIONS

Animal Care (AC)

AC provides leadership in establishing acceptable standards of humane animal care and treatment and to monitor and achieve compliance with the Animal Welfare Act through inspections, education, and cooperative efforts.

Biotechnology Regulatory Services (BRS)

BRS regulates the field testing, movement, and importation of genetically engineered (GE) organisms that are known to be or could be plant pests. BRS issues various types of permits for each of these activities. The BRS compliance program inspects, audits, and oversees activities under the permit process. BRS also evaluates petitions for deregulation to ensure that products being considered for removal from regulation do not pose a threat to U.S. agricultural or environmental health.

International Services (IS)

IS provides internationally-based animal and plant health expertise that enhances USDA's capacity to safeguard American agricultural health and promote agricultural trade.

Legislative and Public Affairs (LPA)

LPA works to achieve understanding and support for APHIS programs and policies by establishing and maintaining mutual lines of communication with people who are interested in or need to know about those programs and policies.

Marketing and Regulatory Programs-Business Services (MRPBS)

Marketing and Regulatory Programs-Business Services (MRPBS) plans and provides resource management and administrative services to support APHIS objectives in the areas of budget, finance, human resources, information technology, procurement, property management and related administrative services. Primary responsibilities include developing administrative management policy and procedures, implementing and operating administrative servicing systems, providing administrative support to agency units and programs, and evaluating agency administrative systems.

Plant Protection and Quarantine (PPQ)

PPQ safeguards agriculture and natural resources from the risks associated with the entry, establishment, and spread of animal and plant pests and noxious weeds. Fulfillment of its safeguarding role ensures an abundant, high-quality, and varied food supply, strengthens the marketability of U.S. agriculture in domestic and international commerce, and contributes to the preservation of the global environment.

Veterinary Services (VS)

VS protects and improves the health, quality, and marketability of our nation's animal products and veterinary biologics by preventing, controlling and/or eliminating animal diseases, and by monitoring and promoting animal health productivity.

Wildlife Services (WS)

WS provides Federal leadership in managing problems caused by wildlife. WS recognizes that wildlife is an important public resource greatly valued by the American people. By its very nature, however, wildlife is a highly dynamic and mobile resource that can damage agricultural and industrial resources, pose risk to human health and safety, and affect other natural resources. The WS program carries out the Federal responsibility for helping to solve problems that occur when human activity and wildlife are in conflict with one another.

OUTREACH ACCOMPLISHMENTS BY PROGRAM AREA

ANIMAL CARE (AC)

Improving the Delivery of Programs and Services to the Public

The Quarterly Industry Report

- The Animal Care quarterly industry report was distributed to over 3000 stakeholders and interested parties. This document, in conjunction with the web page, updates customers on Animal Care activities and accomplishments. AC has more than doubled distribution of the report since its inception in fy1997. Updates are now available on the Animal Care home page at www.aphis.usda.gov/ac.

Communicating with the Public

- Animal Care continued its commitment to providing information and assistance to the public, responding to over 10,000 telephone inquiries (headquarters and Regional offices), and answering over 5,000 pieces of correspondence, including regular mail, e-mail, faxes, and write-in campaigns. Animal Care also serves as the source for over 500 pieces of executive correspondence. This total does not include copies or portions of the documents that have been viewed and/or downloaded from our website. In addition, well over 2,000 units of HPA information, including Scar Rule pamphlets, a new brochure, and the current HPA Operating Plan have been distributed, with additional copies viewed or downloaded from our website.
- Animal Care continues to employ information technology in its contact with customers, stakeholders, and other members of the general public. We maintain an e-mail box for headquarters and each of the regional offices, with contact information highlighted on our web page, and provided e-mail responses to over 1,000 messages per month. In FY 2007, we have responded to an estimated 15,000 e-mail inquiries. Although we do not currently record the numbers, our web page has traditionally received over 12,000 hits a year. In addition, we maintain an automated voice response service number for questions about traveling with animals. This 24/7 toll-free information system averages about 3,000 calls a year. These communication services allow over 30,000 parties per year to query Animal Care and obtain information they would likely not request through regular correspondence.

Animal Care continues to improve its Public Web Site

- AC provides many documents, including the Animal Welfare Act (AWA), the AWA regulations and standards, the Horse Protection Act (HPA), the HPA regulations, policies, fact sheets, and other published booklets and technical bulletins on our home page. Animal Care's "current" or open regulatory documents published in the Federal Register are linked to our home page. A direct link to the AC e-mail box is also provided on the site. The Animal Care web site averages over 1000 hits a month (over 12,000 a year).
- AC also maintains the web page for the APHIS Native Working Group (ANAWG) including multiple e-mail lists for the group and serves as a primary point of contact for ANAWG with the general public.

APHIS Fiscal Year 2007 Outreach Accomplishment Highlights

Promoting Discussion and Understanding with Stakeholders

- To promote discussion and understanding between stakeholders and Animal Care, general listening/information sessions were held to obtain input and encourage dialog. These meetings covered areas such as Horse Protection, canine care, and microchip options for pets. The microchip meetings (6) were held around the country to obtain input requested by Congress on the issue of which microchip frequency would best serve the reunification of pets with owners after natural or other disasters.
- Animal Care updated all outreach documents, including fact sheets and our new mission and operations brochure, “Animal Care: Safeguarding the Welfare of Animals.” These materials, as well as a number of other publications, are distributed upon request and at more than over 100 meetings where Animal Care representatives have provided an information booth or otherwise distributed materials.
- The innovative enforcement of AC regulations has led to an increase in the confiscation and placement efforts for animals that are found to be suffering. Cooperative efforts involving USDA, humane associations, sanctuaries, and industry members have allowed for the voluntary placement of animals and the surrender of the licenses of the regulated parties. Fiscal Year 2006 saw the confiscation/surrender/ placement of approximately 150 animals.
- As part of AC’s enforcement and education actions, we performed approximately 850 searches for unlicensed dealers and exhibitors in FY 2006. As a result, approximately 200 facilities were licensed and remain subject to the Animal Welfare Act regulations and standards.

Ongoing Public Notification

- Animal Care is continuing its increased efforts to register all carriers in the US that transport regulated animals. The public was notified of current and potential registrants about the coverage of foreign carriers bring animals into and taking animals out of the US under the Animal Welfare Act. Airport inspections were increased to help educate parties not previously registered as carriers and to safeguard the welfare of the animals being transported.

Collaborating to improve Outreach

- Animal Care has established two working committees to address improvement of outreach efforts. One group focuses on outreach efforts aimed at our regulated community, providing education and information to industry groups and other interested parties. A second group will develop outreach strategies that target the general population as a whole, including media campaigns and the development of materials for distribution, such as printed information, web-based information, and cd-rom packages.

Surveillance and Monitoring Efforts

- Animal Care has also been intimately involved in the creation of Avian Influenza surveillance and monitoring plan, both in its own area of program delivery, as well as serving as liaison with the regulated zoo community to aid in the development of harmonious surveillance plans.

APHIS Fiscal Year 2007 Outreach Accomplishment Highlights

Animal Care has also participated with the AI working group to provide input in the APHIS AI plan and has taken the lead in evaluating the data, equipment, and field tests of a new proposed mass depopulation methodology for poultry involving fire fighting foam. We developed the decision memo for the Secretary on the issues to determine USDA position on the use of this methodology.

Listening Sessions, Public Service Announcements, and Public Meetings

- Listening sessions and public meetings on a wide variety of animal welfare issues served to reach over 500 persons, providing a forum for information exchange and education about our program.
- Animal Care continues to use—Public Service Announcements (commercial) on safe pet travel, and—provide brochures (over 20,000/year), “Live Animal” labels, fact sheets, luggage tags, and pencils to the public all geared to support our “Safe Pet Travel” campaign. The information in the update “Traveling with your pet” printed brochure can also be accessed electronically on our home page. Materials are provided to schools, travel agents, the general public, State veterinarians, and distributed at a wide variety of meetings and training sessions.
- Animal Care has provided a Fact Sheet in Spanish which summarizes one of our most popular brochures, “Traveling with your Pet,” as well as providing our regulations and Act in Spanish. These copies are distributed, as needed, from our regional offices and headquarters. Outreach materials are distributed in hard copy and most are available on the web site. Over 100,000 documents in printed format were distributed this year. These documents included, but were not limited to, the Animal Welfare Act, the regulations and standards, our AC Policy manual, technical notes and fact sheets, list of licensees and registrants, our annual report, our licensing and registration guide, Horse Protection Act and regulations, and Scar Rule booklet.
- Animal Care provides members for the APHIS Native American Working Group (ANAWG), and supports its programs to reach out to Native American populations. We have sent representatives to the Intertribal Agricultural Council and the Native American Fish and Wildlife Society meetings.
- Animal Care works under formal Memorandum of Understanding with NMFS and FWS in regulating marine mammals, with the States of Missouri, Iowa and Kansas in regulating dog and cat breeders, and with the FAA in monitoring the safety of animals in transport, and more informally with other USDA agencies and programs, including Veterinary Services, Legislative and Public Affairs, and Investigative and Enforcement Services. Currently, and MOU with FEMA concerning the handling of pets during and after a disaster is under development.
- Animal Care has sponsored and organized, with the aid of the Library of Congress, meetings between our program and the State veterinarians, as well as a national meeting of APHIS, Animal Care, US Fish and Wildlife Service, and State wildlife officials. These seminars and meetings have been beneficial to the cooperation between State and Federal agencies.
- Animal Care inspectors and staff have also participated in a multi- organizational task group on helping pets after natural disasters, FDA/CDC prairie dog follow-up on monkey pox, raccoon roundworm infection in potential pets, viral outbreak in lab animal supplier, State task

APHIS Fiscal Year 2007 Outreach Accomplishment Highlights

groups on a variety of animal welfare issues, held mock inspections for veterinary students, participated in inspections with State officials, the Michigan Companion Animal Advisory Committee, Japanese MAFF audit of vendors, CWD joint project with PA Game Commission, biotechnology group, FEMA RRCC staffing, as well as participation in many Animal Care and APHIS committees and working groups.

Surveying and Evaluating Customer Service

- All Animal Care headquarters and field personnel work directly with communities, customers, and stakeholders on a daily basis. Animal Care participated in the front-line survey for evaluating customer service, and continues to provide training in interpersonal skills and customer service. Participation in the over 150 meetings a year provides our personnel the opportunity to interact with our stakeholders and discuss the issues of uniformity and fairness in the enforcement of the AWA and the HPA.

BIOTECHNOLOGY REGULATORY SERVICES (BRS)

Improving the delivery of Programs and Services to Stakeholders

- BRS continues to prepare and distribute stakeholder newsletters as part of an effort to promote communications among a diversity of stakeholders. BRS began the issuance of these newsletters in FY 2004. Throughout FY 2007, BRS prepared and distributed three newsletters to stakeholders on various topics including updates on genetically engineered rice, the Codex adoption of the US proposal on food safety risk assessments of food derived from genetically engineered plants, the e-Permits System, the USDA Advisory Committee Issues Consensus Report, the APHIS low level presence policy, the BRS Memorandum of Understanding with U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and the draft programmatic environmental impact statement. In addition, BRS distributed two notices to stakeholders including a notice on the public comment period for the draft programmatic environmental impact statement and a program announcement on the testing result of genetically engineered rice.
- BRS evaluated its pilot state inspection project in FY 2007 to determine the feasibility of using third party inspectors to conduct low-risk inspections. The pilot project included training and certifying state personnel to conduct thorough inspections, establishing an agreement to perform inspections under BRS oversight, and performing inspections throughout the states. In FY 2008, BRS will continue to evaluate the pilot inspection project with the assistance of the National Plant Board (NPB). Cooperatively, BRS and the NPB will evaluate the various processes (communications, payment for inspector services, coordinating and conducting inspections, etc.) used by the states to identify best practices. The NPB will use this information to develop a model that can be used by the states once state inspections are incorporated into the BRS biotechnology inspection program.
- BRS recently modified its National Environmental Protection Act (NEPA) implementing procedures in the summer of 2007. To ensure that BRS is developing consistent and comprehensive assessments under NEPA, BRS is checking critical habitat information, GPS coordinates, and filling out NEPA forms for each application received. Aside from the new NEPA procedures, other changes are taking place within the e-Permitting system. Although

APHIS Fiscal Year 2007 Outreach Accomplishment Highlights

many of these changes will not directly affect applicants, some changes may. BRS is requesting that all applicants submit their applications as soon as possible to ensure timely review. For those applicants submitting permits that may require an environmental assessment, please contact BRS as soon as possible to discuss timelines in more detail. This request for additional processing time will allow BRS to thoroughly complete the appropriate analyses and meet the required deadlines.

- BRS is undertaking a major revision of its guidance on the regulation of GE organisms. The project will update and consolidate all agency guidance related to compliance with APHIS' biotechnology regulations (7 CFR 340) into a single printed publication, entitled the *BRS User's Guide*. In January 2007, the first two chapters of the new *BRS User's Guide* were posted online. These include a chapter on document preparation guidelines, including how to handle CBI, and guidance for notifications. As BRS completes new guidance chapters they will also be placed online, until all existing guidance is replaced with new guidance. All *BRS User's Guide* chapters are available at <http://www.aphis.usda.gov/brs/brsusersguide.html>.

General Outreach

- BRS cosponsored the Ag-Discovery Program held in the summer of 2007 in collaboration with the University of Maryland. The Ag-Discovery Program is an outreach program to help teenagers learn about careers in plant and animal sciences. The program allows students to live on a college campus and learn about science from university professors and practicing entomologists, biotechnologists, and plant pathologists working for the U.S. Government. The 2-week summer boarding program targeted students 14–17 years of age. BRS' portion of the program included a field trip to the Dupont Laboratories in Delaware, a presentation on genetically engineered crops and food, and a tour of the ARS National Visitors Center and the ARS BARC Research Facility Complex. Many BRS employees assisted the Advisory Committee with this program.
- In November 2007, the BRS Deputy Administrator attended the Thurgood Marshall College Fund (TMCF) 20th Anniversary Awards Event in New York City. The Deputy Administrator gave a presentation on leadership in USDA. The 2007 Honorees received TMCF's highest honors for Corporate Leadership, Education Leadership, Community Service, and Alumni Leadership for their dedicated support of the TMCF. Over the last 20 years, the college fund has provided more than \$68 million in scholarships and programmatic and capacity support that has enabled over 6,000 students to attend public historically black colleges and universities.

Programmatic Outreach Domestic and International

- In December 2006, APHIS attended the annual meeting of the Intertribal Agriculture Council - Indian Nations Conservation Alliance held in Las Vegas, Nevada, to continue outreach efforts to the Tribal Nations. Staff from APHIS' Biotechnology Regulatory Services (BRS) presented information on the current biotechnology regulations and intentions to publish a programmatic Environmental Impact Statement as the first step to revising these regulations. This was the first presentation made by APHIS BRS staff to the Tribal Nations and the Program is committed to the further development of this relationship.

APHIS Fiscal Year 2007 Outreach Accomplishment Highlights

- In February 2007, a delegation of four government officials from India met with APHIS' Biotechnology Regulatory Services to discuss U.S. regulatory and capacity building efforts with respect to agricultural biotechnology. The visit was part of a study tour connected to a Biosafety Capacity Building Project funded by the Global Environment Facility (GEF) through the World Bank.
- In March 2007, BRS participated in an agricultural biotechnology course sponsored by USDA's Foreign Agricultural Service in Cairo, Egypt. BRS shared information on the U.S. regulatory framework for biotechnology with biotechnology researchers and regulatory policy-makers. This effort was part of an initiative to develop a plan for building a functional biosafety system in Egypt. Also in March 2007, BRS briefed four members of the Albanian Parliament on the U.S. biotechnology regulatory process. The delegates were interested in understanding the U.S. science and regulatory processes as they develop their own biotechnology regulatory framework.
- In April 2007, BRS lead a risk assessment workshop in Cairo, Egypt for Egyptian scientists and regulatory officials who conduct environmental safety reviews of genetically engineered plants. The workshop focused on the use of risk assessments to promote the safe use of agricultural biotechnology, share the benefits of biotechnology with Egyptian farmers, and maintain trade in biotechnology products. The workshop was part of an ongoing project to implement an effective regulatory system in Egypt. Also, BRS attended a training workshop for Egyptian government officials on management and inspection of biotechnology field trials in Lincoln, Nebraska. APHIS provided an overview of U.S. biotechnology regulatory policy and conducted a two-day training session on biotechnology field inspections.
- In April 2007, BRS attended the National Tribal Environmental Council's (NTEC) 14th National Conference in Albuquerque, NM to provide information on the U.S. biotechnology regulatory system. APHIS met with NTEC representatives to discuss tribal consultations on the upcoming programmatic EIS associated with proposed changes to the biotechnology regulations. Additionally, BRS attended the National Congress of American Indian meeting in Anchorage, Alaska to discuss the proposed biotechnology regulation revisions and the associated draft environmental impact statement, as well as how the changes could affect the tribes.
- In June 2007, BRS attended a forum on strengthening capacity and regional cooperation in advanced agricultural science and technology in Bangkok, Thailand. The forum served to promote the safe use of advanced agricultural science and technology. APHIS provided information on implementing biotechnology policy and regulation.
- In August 2007, BRS participated in a biosafety train-the-trainer initiative for developing countries in Washington D.C., sponsored by Michigan State University. APHIS provided training on U.S. biotechnology regulation and policy to nine trainers from Ghana, Uganda, Kenya, South Africa, Indonesia and the Philippines. Additionally, in September 2007, BRS participated in an ongoing biotechnology short course program for developing countries. BRS taught a session on regulating genetically engineered crops, including the permitting and petition processes, environmental safety issues, and risk analysis.
- In September 2007, BRS participated in a digital video conference with Russian regulatory officials to discuss resuming U.S. rice exports to Russia, which were banned following the discovery of regulated genetically engineered rice in the rice supply. Additionally in September 2007, BRS presented information on insect-resistant crops in an agricultural biotechnology

APHIS Fiscal Year 2007 Outreach Accomplishment Highlights

conference organized by the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry in New Delhi, India.

- In October 2007, BRS met with a group of policy-makers and regulatory officials from West Africa to provide information on the U.S. biotechnology regulatory system. In November 2007, APHIS attended the National Congress of American Indians convention to share information on current and future biotechnology regulation and how it could affect the tribes.

Reaching out to American Indian Tribes

BRS:

- Participated in the Intertribal Agriculture Council Convention held in Nevada. Gave Presentation entitled, “Regulation of Genetically Engineered Organisms in the United States: Role of the APHIS.”
- Participated with State Liaison in USDA Office of Native American Programs, Conference on Implementing USDA Incentives to Native Americans and Alaska Natives a Networking Opportunity: “Working-Together-Works” in November 2006.
- Supported BRS participation in the Washington Internship for Native American Students (WINS) Program. Provided support for the hiring process. Secured suitable mentor within BRS based on the student’s interests and BRS needs. The WINS student completed two projects during her time with BRS, a mailing to all of the Tribal governments inviting consultation and a survey of current field trials near Tribal lands.
- Worked with State Liaison and Communications Branch to develop Native American Indian outreach strategy. Began to build network within ANAWG and Indian Country to facilitate implementation of outreach strategy.
- Identified appropriate meetings and outreach opportunities throughout the year including sending communications staff to National Tribal Environmental Council meeting in May 2007 and arranged for APHIS tribal liaison to speak on BRS’ behalf at National Congress of American Indians mid-year meeting in June 2007.
- Completed “Tribal Consultation” a course offered by the Duke Environmental Leadership Program in Keystone, CO. October 25-27, 2006. The main goals of the course were to provide an understanding of the unique government to government relationship that exists between the Federal Government and Tribal Governments, to outline the legal basis of Tribal Consultation, and to provide tools and resources to aid in Tribal Consultation.
- Provided BRS with one hour training course describing the need for Tribal Consultation and the historical context of USG tribal government interactions.
- Hosted APHIS-wide film and lunch “Tribal Nations: a history of Federal Indian law.”

INTERNATIONAL SERVICES (IS)

Developing and Increasing Program Delivery Outreach to Customers Foreign and Domestic

- APHIS cooperates with other federal agencies to implement technical assistance activities, including USDA's Foreign Agricultural Service, the U.S. Agency for International Development, the State Department, and the office of the U.S. Trade Representative. In addition, the APHIS International Visitors Center plays a key role in coordinating technical assistance. In FY 2007, the Visitors Center hosted over 590 individuals from 49 countries. This is nearly 6 times more individuals than last year. The Center arranged a variety of programs for these international visitors, including visits to ports and APHIS diagnostic laboratories, training in risk assessment, and exchanges on biotechnology, fruit fly programs, avian influenza, disease surveillance, and a variety of other topics.
- The APHIS International Visitor Program continues to support USDA's effort to work with trading partners traveling to the U.S. to develop and establish internationally accepted standards for the safe and fair movement of plant and animal commodities. The APHIS Visitor Program supported international participants representing orientations and meetings with APHIS program units. The results of these activities strengthened relationships to reduce trade barriers, increased understanding of U.S. regulations, and promoted access of agricultural commodities for international trade.
- The APHIS International visitor program hosted a four member delegation from Nigeria; Mybuya; Tanzania; and Mauritius in teaching the participants the role of APHIS in managing harmonization and other regulations, U.S. sanitary and phytosanitary regulations and import certification requirements.
- The visitors' center hosted a delegation of 21 from the Dominican Reverse Trade Mission to visit three different ports in the United States. The Dominican Republic implemented the DR-CAFTA agreement with the United States in March 2007. One of its components is trade capacity building. In addition to this, USDA has been promoting a two-way-trade policy to increase trade. This visit was to show the Dominican government officials and business men how the phytosanitary controls are performed at Customs and Border Control at the ports of Miami, Philadelphia and New York/NJ. They also visited three wholesale markets for perishable products in Miami, Philadelphia and New York where the group could be in direct contact with traders at these markets and understand how they operate and the challenges (advantages and difficulties) the Dominican products phase in these markets. They also met with U.S. produce traders and exporters in the three cities where there is considerable Dominican population and promote potential trade opportunities. They also visited the facilities which host the fumigations procedures to understand the process better.

LEGISLATIVE AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS (LPA)

Legislative and Public Affairs (LPA) managed several outreach campaigns on critical APHIS initiatives including:

- A campaign targeting backyard poultry producers, designed to educate them on highly contagious and deadly poultry diseases and where to report information about sick birds. For

APHIS Fiscal Year 2007 Outreach Accomplishment Highlights

example, with the American Feed Industry Association, LPA has included biosecurity and Avian influenza disease information in 2 languages on poultry feed sacks. LPA translated many materials into Spanish, Vietnamese, Hmong and other languages.

- A campaign on the National Animal Identification System aimed at providing the facts to producers about the voluntary program and encourage their participation. PA has worked to reach out to Native American tribes regarding premises registration, holding two regional meetings. The general NAIS brochure, all NAIS factsheets, and one NAIS display is translated into Spanish.
- An emerald ash borer campaign to increase awareness about and help prevent the spread of this destructive pest. This campaign included strategic placement of billboards throughout affected areas imploring campers not to move firewood outside of quarantined and regulated areas.
- An Asian Longhorned beetle (ALB) campaign aimed at building grass roots and student support for the ALB program in Chicago. LPA created and distributed a service learning curriculum to middle and high school science teachers throughout Chicago in order to reach students aged 11 to 15 about the beetle.
- An oral rabies vaccine campaign to increase awareness about Wildlife Services' efforts to stop the westward spread of rabies.
- Ten stakeholder update emails on APHIS program activities, notifying approximately 1,500 stakeholders of key APHIS issues.
- Work with the National Conference of State Legislatures to schedule and promote a national web-based briefing to educate State legislators BRS' programmatic environmental impact statement. Additionally, LPA worked with the National Conference of State Legislatures and received approvals from U.S. Customs and Border Protection to carry out a field trip for 50 State Legislators to visit the port of Boston and learn about agricultural quarantine inspection during the annual NCSL meeting.

MARKETING & REGULATORY PROGRAMS-BUSINESS SERVICES (MRPBS)

Outreach to Small and Disadvantaged Businesses

- The MRP-BS coordinated and conducted the 2nd Annual Ability One (previously named JWOD) Celebration on Thursday, January 18, 2007. The event was held at the APHIS Riverside Complex, Riverdale, Maryland. The theme for this event was "JWOD is AbilityOne" which refers to the program's new name change. This is a yearly event established in since FY 2005 in order to create awareness of the Federally sponsored mandatory program which is intended to promote the under served customer base of contractors who employ people with disabilities.
- The MRP conducted the Agency's first Service Disabled Veteran-Owned Small Business (SDVOSB) outreach session during the ASD Town Hall Meeting held on June 13 – 14, 2007, in Ft. Collins, Colorado. The vendor fair and Town Hall meeting were held simultaneously. There

APHIS Fiscal Year 2007 Outreach Accomplishment Highlights

were 14 SDVOSBs specializing in Information Technology (IT) service areas. The IT service representation of vendors, were consistent with business opportunities reported in the Agency's procurement forecast for FY 2007. The vendor outreach session was in support of the Department's mandate to set aside 3 percent of its contracting opportunities to SDVOSBs. The Small Business Administration's SDVOSB Program Manager was on hand to highlight the government-wide initiative and to show support of the agency's effort at meeting the SDVOSB socioeconomic goal.

- The MRP-BS assures equitable delivery of program and services through the award of contracts to small businesses. In FY 2007, the MRP met 100% of all six mandatory small business goals established by the Agency. Quarterly reports were issued to Acquisition Branch Chiefs and Field Small Business Coordinators (SBC) early into the FY2007 with the intent to keep them informed of Agency's progress in achieving small business preference goals in the areas of Small Business (SB), 8(a), Small Disadvantaged Business (SDB), Women Owned (WO), Hubzone (HUB), and Service Disabled Veteran Owned Small Business (SDVOSB). The measurement and Agency's progress in meeting these goals are included in the Agency's Scorecard. The scorecard is issued to the MRP Administrator on a quarterly basis, by the USDA Office of Small and Disadvantaged Business Utilization (OSDBU). The fourth quarter report reflects successful award activity from October 1, 2006 through September 30, 2007.

- The MRP-BS has been successful at recognizing employees for the performance in delivering services to our customers by generating nominations to award recognition programs that are presented to them. As part of the nomination and recognition of Managers, the 2007 Small Business and AbilityOne Award Winners were announced by the USDA OSDBU on April 25, 2007. The awards ceremony took place on June 20, 2007, at the USDA Patio, Jamie L. Whitten Building. The Animal and Health Inspection Service (APHIS) had recipients in various categories. The recipient of the exclusive *USDA Special Achievement Ability One Award* was presented to a Purchasing Agent located at the Minneapolis, MN, procurement site. She was recognized for her extraordinary efforts in supporting contractors who employ people with disabilities. In addition, Agency awards were also received in the *USDA Agency Hubzone Contractor of the Year* category by Reed-Joseph International Co, Mississippi. This company is recognized for providing cost-effective products in order for the Agency to legally control birds and other pests near airfields. Another award category received was the *USDA Agency Small Business Programs Special Achievement (group award)*. The recipients of this award are made up of an exclusive group of acquisition professionals originally assembled in 2005, by the Head of Contracting Activity Designee, to support the Agency's Small Business Program in field procurement locations. The Marketing and Regulatory Programs (MRP) Field Small Business Coordinators are located in Maryland, California, Colorado, Minnesota, Tennessee and Texas.

APHIS NATIVE AMERICAN WORKING GROUP (ANAWG)

Outreach to Native American Tribes

Tribal Meetings

- The APHIS full time Tribal Liaison attended numerous meetings and conferences in tribal country. These meetings included presentations and discussions with members of Indian country introducing APHIS programs.
- The 9th annual Conference for the Southwest Vegetation Management Association was held in Casa Grande. Presentations were given on various weed science topics. ANAWG members of PPQ gave an overview of the Biological Control Programs in the state of Arizona. Presentations were given on the progress of the various Weed Groups have made during the year.
- 1st National Tribal Invasive Species Conference held in Reno. This was a great opportunity for networking with others on invasive species. PPQ was able to make contacts with Tribal Representation for the Hopi and Navajo Nation. They are located in Window Rock, AZ. There is interest in cooperating with APHIS on various projects. First being Knapweed. Presentations were made for various aspects of control and management for invasive species. Overall, it was one of the better conferences that PPQ attended.
- ANAWG representatives met at the Pima County NRPR building. PPQ gave a presentation on Biological Control Program to the group of 30 participations'. The meeting focused on issues relating to Buffelgrass infestations.
- ANAWG members of PPQ met with the Natural Resource Specialist, Public Relations personnel and the Rangeland Management Specialist, the rangeland grasshopper survey program was discussed. PPQ reviewed the MOU between BIA and APHIS. PPQ was given permission to conduct the grasshopper surveys on the Navajo and Hopi reservation. PPQ will provide program data to BIA for their management practices. PPQ also received a request to help with puncturevine and field bindweed on the reservation. PPQ will be making arrangements to begin programs on the reservation this season.
- PPQ met with Tribal Administrator for the Havasupai Tribe to discuss invasive plants on the reservation. The tribe is looking for help to control saltcedar. PPQ explained that presently that we can't release in Arizona. Discussed what Biological Control Programs are and how they apply to them. They seemed very receptive to a no chemical control method.
- A meeting was held with Navajo Nation, FWS and BIA regarding biological control of saltcedar. The permitting process and the possibility of a land owner in the Shiprock area request for biological control in the San Juan River watershed.
- Technical assistance was provided to the Tohono Odom Community College by contacting approximately twenty (20) High School Agriculture Instructors, Counselors, and Principals in Arizona that serve Native American Communities to recruit 14-17 year olds to attend Summer Youth Program sponsored APHIS.

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- A meeting was held with the San Carlos Apache Natural Resource Committee. This is a committee of council members that vote on proposals which have to do with Natural Resources. PPQ gave a presentation on grasshopper survey work and proposed treatments for infested areas and a presentation on Biological Control Programs. The tribe was receptive to what APHIS had to offer the tribe by way of the programs we oversee. PPQ will be working with the San Carlos Apache Nation on these issues.
- In March, North Carolina PPQ personnel participated in the annual Indian Unity Conference in Raleigh, North Carolina. This focus of this year's conference was education. PPQ personnel distributed AgDiscovery and WINS information and applications to over 250 people during the event.

Wildlife Services

Outreach to Native Americans

- **NORTH CAROLINA (NC) - In FY 2007** North Carolina employees consulted on the Saddletree Swamp Drainage Project in Robeson Co. The Saddletree Swamp Community, is predominantly Lumbee Indians, has formed a committee to address beaver problems. This may result in WS entering into a CSA with this group in the future should funding become available. Employees provided the following presentations to Native Americans:
 - A live and mounted wild animal display was presented by Frank Newell and Matthew Ordess at the Haliwa-Saponi Indians Cultural Days. There were over 1,200 attendees. (11/09/06)
 - "Native Americans and Their Use of Wildlife" was presented by Joe Newman to 325 students at the Southport Elementary School.
 - "Beaver Management" presented at the A cultural Day Conference of the local chapter of American Indian Mothers, Inc. (Lumbee Tribe). 36 attendees.
 - An employee received the WS EEO Employee of the Year award from the Deputy's office. Part of this award was because of his outreach activities with Native Americans.
- **OKLAHOMA (OK)** Work is ongoing with the Chickasaw Rangers, (the natural resources conservation department of the Chickasaw Nation), on monitoring feral swine diseases like pseudorabies and swine brucellosis. We have worked with the Rangers in the past on AI surveillance, and they are a close cooperator of WS. They hosted AI training sessions in the past for WS and other OK Tribes, including the Cherokee Nation and Choctaw Nation. The Chickasaw Nation just contacted us in hopes of hosting another AI workshop for OK Tribes this year. Oklahoma Employee serves as contact for ongoing Tribal project, activities and issues.
- **MICHIGAN** - Several tribes have shown interest in the disease and rabies program and our surveillance activities. MI-WS has and continues to work with tribes regarding wolves and cormorant activities. We have also worked with the Little River Band of Odawa on exotic mute swan population reduction and AI sampling. We are currently working to involve the tribes more in our cooperative efforts with the state, and I have provided contact information to various state agencies.
- **MINNESOTA** - During 2007, Minnesota WS assisted the Fish, Wildlife, and Plant Resources Program of the Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe (LLBO) by conducting cormorant population reduction and predator control trapping activities on Big and Little Pelican Islands in Leech Lake

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to protect and enhance the colony of common terns that nest there. Little Pelican Island is a tribally-owned island and the LLBO has invested considerable effort in protecting common terns and restoring habitat on the island.

- **MONTANA** - WS employees routinely assists tribes with gray wolf and grizzly bear damage management projects. Recently, WS assisted the Confederated Salish Kootenai Tribe with a gray wolf problem after assistance was requested by the Tribe. A WS Specialist worked with the Tribal Biologist in coordination with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service after wolves killed several calves on the Reservation. WS also recently assisted the Blackfeet Tribe after the Tribe requested assistance from WS with a gray wolf problem. A pack of wolves had killed several calves on the Reservation. A WS Specialist worked with the Tribal Biologist in coordination with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The WS Specialist captured a member of the wolf pack that caused the livestock depredation and radio-collared the wolf so the Tribe could track activities of the pack. WS employees also routinely assist the Crow Tribe with predator damage management primarily to protect livestock from coyote predation.
- In August, the DS and WSS worked with the Salish Kootenai Tribes on the Flathead Indian reservation in NW MT. Biologists from the reservation and USFWS biologists agreed to begin pre-baiting on the Ninepipes NWR in preparation to trap ducks for AI surveillance. They will pre-bait for about 10 days and begin trapping in September.
- In September, The Salish Kootenai tribes of the Flathead, cooperated with WS in trapping and sampling 41 (included in the state total of 601 samples for the month) wild ducks on the Ninepipe NWR, which is located on the Reservation. Tribal wildlife biologists and WS' WDB, DS and WSS spent 3 days trapping and taking swab samples from these birds. All samples were sent to the MT lab in Bozeman.
- Assistance was provided in the mitigation of the local wolf pack on the Flathead Reservation which had been killing livestock over the course of many months.
- **NORTH DAKOTA** - Following the discovery of feral swine in the Badlands, verified sightings of wild Russian boars have occurred in the Turtle Mountain region which is in north central North Dakota along the Canada border. Upon further investigation by the North Dakota Game and Fish Department, it was determined that an individual on the Turtle Mountain Indian Reservation has been releasing Russian boars on his property for the past several years. The North Dakota Game and Fish Department, North Dakota Board of Animal Health, USDA-Veterinary Services and USDA-Wildlife Services are currently developing a plan of action and beginning to implement control measures in an attempt to eradicate wild Russian boars from private property outside the reservation.
- **WASHINGTON** - Washington State employees will sample waterfowl for Avian Influenza (AI) on the Ykama Reservation. The tribe has an ongoing waterfowl trapping and banding program. We were allowed to take AI samples before the newly banded ducks were released. The tribe also offers areas for waterfowl hunting and on opening day of the waterfowl season, WS employees tested hunter killed birds for AI. This season's efforts continued through August for live bird sampling, then sample hunter killed birds in October. WS is on focusing on wood ducks and teal for AI sampling in their region and expects to band up approximately 1,000 mallards, pintail, gadwall, teal, and wood ducks this year.

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- **WYOMING** - Wyoming WS employees routinely works with livestock producers on the Wind River Reservation for coyote control expanding 185 hours and aircraft flew about 70 hours during FY07. Specialist also assisted the Tribal Game and Fish with a prairie dog problem at the Ft. Washakie School.

Plant Protection and Quarantine

Outreach by the PPQ Tribal Liaison

- From January 22-24, 2007, PPQ Tribal Liaison attended the Southwest Indian Agriculture Association annual conference and discussed various plant health issues and projects informally.
- The PPQ Tribal Liaison attended Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians winter conference. Ensured that local PPQ management was aware of the meeting, and one state plant health director (Washington) was able to attend. This contact represents a continuing relationship with this important regional tribal organization and informal discussion of PPQ issues were held.
- Provided information to about 15 tribal organizations about the upcoming International *Cactoblastis cactorum* Conference. This pest may significantly affect tribal lands.
- Provided information about pending citrus regulation changes and Light Brown Apple Moth to tribal organizations. Also discussed and provided guidance to California PPQ office on best approaches to get information out to California tribes.
- Provided to tribal organizations notice of the availability of Sirex Woodwasp Environmental Assessment and routinely redistribute State Plant Regulatory Official Notices, notices of significant meetings and other PPQ program information to appropriate tribes and tribal organizations.
- PPQ Tribal Liaison attended various conferences and meetings to share program related information including the 63rd Annual Convention of the National Congress of American Indians held in Sacramento, CA from October 1-6, 2006, the Annual Conference of the United South and Eastern Tribes (USET) held in Choctaw, MS from October 8-12, 2006.
- To increase program delivery and outreach effectiveness and network, PPQ Tribal Liaison participated in the USDA Office of Native American Programs, Conference on Implementing USDA Incentives to Native Americans and Alaska Natives: A Networking Opportunity: “Working Together Works”, held in Washington DC on November 21, 2006. This conference provided an opportunity for tribal liaisons from throughout the USDA and several other agencies (e.g. Department of Interior, Bureau of Land Management; DOI Bureau of Indian Affairs; U. S. Geological Service; Environmental Protection Agency; Federal Communications Commission; Veterans Affairs; and Department of Housing and Urban Development). In addition, the Executive Director of the National Congress of American Indians spoke about the importance of federal-tribal interactions and members of her staff were also present. 80 participants were listed on the pre-registration list; most attended; and there were additional attendees who did not pre-register. Topics discussed were wide-ranging, but all emphasized the importance of effective program delivery in Indian Country.

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- On December 1, 2006 PPQ Tribal Liaison participated as speaker at Annual Symposium of the Montana Wyoming Indian Stockgrowers Association (MWISA) held in Las Vegas. Prepared and gave a presentation to outline the importance of entering into memoranda of understanding with APHIS Plant Protection and Quarantine for the purpose of plant health emergency preparedness. MWISA is an Indian agriculture association comprised of American Indian agriculture producers and its members represent each of the seven tribal governments located in the Montana and Wyoming region. MWISA has partnered with PPQ in a pilot project to educate tribes on the importance of plant health emergency preparedness in Indian Country. This contact was an important step in moving this project forward. Received acknowledgement for understanding, promoting and communicating tribal sovereignty and self-governance.
- PPQ Tribal Liaison attended the joint annual conference of the Intertribal Agriculture Council (IAC) and Indian Nations Conservation Alliance (INCA) held in Las Vegas, Nevada from December 4-8, 2006. The theme of this year's event was "Native Americans Coming Together Caring for Mother Earth." IAC is the largest American Indian agriculture association formed almost 20 years ago to promote the Indian use of Indian resources for the benefit of reservation communities. The IAC has been instrumental in rebuilding the foundations of Indian agriculture and land use. This is a significant event in the Indian agriculture community, and there are about 300 attendees. The topics of discussion are broad-ranging and APHIS gave a number of presentations. Ensured that APHIS and PPQ topics were included on the agenda (e.g. invasive species and biotechnology).
- PPQ Liaison provided the following information to tribal organizations:
 - Citrus Health Response Plan (and citrus diseases) to tribes and tribal organizations which grow citrus.
 - Potato Cyst Nematode to tribes in Idaho and various tribal organizations whose membership may have interest in potatoes.
 - Various issues which may affect nursery growers to the Intertribal Nursery Council for sharing with their membership.
 - Intertribal Timber Council regarding PPQ actions that affect timber resources.
- PPQ Tribal Liaison served as APHIS point of contact for the Tribal Invasive Species Conference and secured 5 APHIS speakers for the conference: one each from PPQ Center for Plant Health Science and Technology, PPQ Emergency and Domestic Programs, PPQ Permit Unit, Wildlife Services National Wildlife Research Center, and Veterinary Services. This important conference drew tribal members from throughout the nation and allowed APHIS to share information and conduct outreach on a number of issues.
- PPQ Tribal Liaison provided to state plant health directors and ANAWG representatives, information about tribal leaders and tribal natural resource director contacts for three major geographic areas (CA, NV, OR, ID, WA; AZ, CO, KS, MT, NE, ND, SD, UT, WY; and Northeastern US) of the United States. These contacts were requested and received from U.S. Fish and Wildlife Services tribal liaisons. This contact information makes it easier for field managers to establish contacts and develop relationships with tribes within their area of responsibility.
- In February, 2007 attended the Southern Region California Tribal Nations Emergency Management Council meeting on the Morongo Indian Reservation in Banning, California.

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Provided well-received oral presentation regarding PPQ's role in plant health emergency preparedness. Provided information packages that included PPQ's role and opportunity to enter into MOU between PPQ and tribes for plant health emergency preparedness. Ensured that California State Office was aware of the meeting and received permission for a state office representative to also attend.

- PPQ Tribal Liaison attended National Tribal Environmental Council annual conference in Albuquerque, New Mexico. At that meeting, participated in discussions with APHIS Biotechnology and Regulatory Services staff regarding consultation procedures and strategies. Assisted in staffing the BRS information booth. Attended pre-conference workshop/focus group on consultation practices. Met with chairperson of United South and Eastern Tribes Natural Resources Committee and discussed pending APHIS cooperative agreement for emergency planning outreach and cooperation.
- In May, 2007 attended *Cactoblastis cactorum* conference in Phoenix, Arizona. *Cactoblastis* is an emerging pest issue that has potential to have disproportionately high impact on tribal nations relying on cactus products for subsistence or cultural significance. Met with various leaders in this field to discuss ways of incorporating tribes into the outreach process. As part of the preparation for this conference, contacted (and provided to the conference organizer) 15 tribal organizations or related entities to advise of the conference. Two tribal members attended. Also met with Eastern Region Senior Program Manager to discuss other issues of impact to tribes and tribal consultation process in general.
- Attended the Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians Mid Year Conference in Shelton, Washington. The purpose of attendance was to provide information to the almost 60 Pacific Northwest tribes about pending regulatory changes relating to the movement of Hawaiian garbage.
- Safeguarding Natural Heritage: Tohono Land Connection Program: From May 28 through June 8, APHIS sponsored a 2-week educational program for high school students from Tohono O'odham Community College (TOCC) service area of southern Arizona entitled, "Safeguarding Natural Heritage: Tohono Land Connections." In conjunction with the TOCC and the University of Arizona, the first week (May 28) emphasized exposure to the agricultural sciences at the university and a visit to the port of entry in Nogales, Arizona. During the second week (June 4), the students from high schools on Tohono O'odham Nation in southern Arizona learned about agriculture and natural resources on their own lands. They also learned about traditional farming techniques, planted their own garden, helped with riparian vegetation restoration on the Santa Cruz River, learned about invasive species such as the cactus moth and onion weed, learned about the pink bollworm eradication program, recorded trap information using GPS units, and camped out the last night in Baboquivari Canyon while learning how to care for and handle horses. On June 8, PPQ Deputy Administrator Richard L. Dunkle presented each student with a certificate and commemorative t-shirt at the closing ceremony held in the canyon. Furthermore, 5 of the 10 participating students and their program coordinators also participated in the November 2007 annual conference of the American Indian Engineering and Science Society. These students prepared posters relating to their summer enrichment experience, and gave oral presentations at the conference. This effort was the culmination of almost a year of preparation and working cooperatively with many persons including Riverdale staff, Tohono O'odham Community College and Tohono O'odham tribal members. The liaison and a PPQ Officer served as the local contact and participated in many planning meetings and other preparations

APHIS Fiscal Year 2007 Outreach Accomplishment Highlights

including playing a part in the opening ceremonies and attended all days of the program except for one day when APHIS was asked not to participate because activities directly involved data collection on the Tohono O’odham Nation. The liaison received letter of appreciation for the Tohono O’odham Community College for substantial participation in the program; received spot award from Plant Health Programs for “outstanding contributions in oversight and coordination”; and, received recognition as part of a group civil rights award.

- On June 29, 2007 as a joint effort with USDA National Agriculture Statistics Services planned and participated in a site visit the Gila River Indian Community Farms at Sacaton, Arizona just south of Phoenix. The purpose of the trip was to strengthen relationship with the Farm Manager for GRICF, learn about the GRIC farming enterprise, and become more aware of crops grown by the GRIC. In addition used the opportunity to share hard-copy information about PPQ’s recently proposed rule for movement of citrus fruit. Also participating were NASS American Indian Liaison and Director, NASS AZ Field Office. The GRIC is the homeland for two distinct tribes—the Akimel O’odham (Pima) and the Pee-Posh (Maricopa). The Pee-Posh migrated from the southern Colorado River area and became an ally of the O’odham. The Pee-Posh established residency in the western part of the reservation. The two groups agreed that each would follow its own traditions and have a single council govern its affairs and the term “Gila River Indian Community” was coined. GRIC encompasses over 600 square miles in the basin and range area of the Sonoran Desert valley in central Arizona. GRIC established the Gila River Farms in the late 1960’s and it is now a modern commercial business. Currently about 35,000 acres are under production. Due to a recent water rights settlement, it is expected that up to 85,000 acres will be in production in the next 10 years. About 140,000 could be put into production. Small farms, not associated with the farming enterprise, are also scattered throughout the reservation wherever water can be delivered. Primary crops include citrus (1000 acres and much is exported via Sunkist), olives (problems with pollination and now removing trees to convert the land), cotton, grains (barley; corn for fodder and silage), and alfalfa hay (up to 13 cuttings a year). In addition to water access, primary problems have included encroachment of non-Indian development at the boundaries of the reservation. With encroachment comes need for appeasement of non-farming community as it relates to dust control and pesticide drift. Within the community, it is difficult to highlight the benefits of the farm enterprise when compared to more lucrative enterprises (industrial parks, gaming).
- From August 21-24, 2007, attended and represented APHIS at Southwest Strategy Tribal Federal Gathering and AZ NM Tribal Conservations Districts Workshop. This was an excellent networking effort and provided an opportunity to share the APHIS / PPQ mission. Information received at these meetings was shared with SPHDs who have areas of responsibility to tribes covered by these meetings.
- Attended the Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians Annual Conference in Ocean Shores, Washington. Met with ATNI’s Natural Resources Committee chair and executive assistant to discuss how ATNI and APHIS may partner to better inform ATNI’s member tribes of issues that are within the responsibility of APHIS and may have impact on tribes’ natural resources especially as it relates to plant and animal health emergency preparedness. Partnered with other USDA agencies to staff an information table and shared USDA information with tribes and tribal members.
- In October, 2006, PPQ Tribal Liaison attended the 30th Annual Meeting of the North American Plant Protection Organization held at the Fort McDowell Yavapai Nation conference center.

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This conference provided opportunity to meet with national PPQ staff and discuss issues such as developing a template for the initiation of biological control projects in Indian Country, update on tribal export issues, forest health issues as they relate to tribes and invasive species issues in Indian Country. As part of a committee process she encouraged NAPPO representatives to consider how tribal governments may also be included in NAPPO issues and was successful in having that consideration brought before the general body as a topic for further consideration.

- Participated as a speaker at the Annual Gypsy Moth Review held in St. Louis, Missouri from November 6-9, 2006. Created a presentation, “Taking Regulatory Actions in Indian Country” for an audience of state and federal plant health regulators to inform them of the unique political status of Indian tribes and our the federal government’s trust responsibility to care for Indian lands held in trust. The presentation provided a quick overview of the definition of Indian Country, types of land held in Indian Country, governmental actions which created Indian Country, the Federal-Indian trust relationship and Federal Trust Doctrine, specific trust obligations, the sovereign status of Indian tribes, inherent powers of Indian self-government, the need for trespass permits, and requirements for consultation. In addition, regulators were encouraged to establish solid professional relationships with their tribal counterparts and enlist the assistance of other agencies and persons who frequently interact with tribes. They were also encouraged to become informed of customs and protocols which may be different from their expected business standard. The presentation was well-received and there were follow-up contacts and comments from both state and federal participants.
- Participated in the development of a PPQ-Tribal Memorandum of Understanding for Plant Health Emergency Preparedness and recommended process to execute MOUs. Worked closely with PPQ Emergency and Domestic Program staff, Veterinary Services staff, APHIS Agreements staff and others to develop a standard language Memorandum of Understanding template for use between APHIS PPQ and tribes. Worked with tribal organizations to identify an organization which could work under cooperative agreement to help promote PPQ’s mission and goals, incorporate plant health emergency preparedness into existing agricultural emergency plans, and have tribes consider the need for plant resource inventories. With these steps taken, the selected tribal organization will facilitate dialogue between tribes and PPQ to enter into an agreement for mutual information sharing, access to tribal lands, and response in the event of a plant health emergency. Continued to facilitate information sharing and provided guidance to tribal organization as it prepares its outreach steps.
- Identified need for Indian Country specific message to describe PPQ’s plant health emergency preparedness role. This message is needed as PPQ goes into Indian Country to establish plant health emergency preparedness memoranda of understanding with tribes. Requested development of a message with specific focus on tribal nations as it relates to PPQ and its role in emergency response in Indian Country. Working closely with Emergency and Domestic Programs staff developed: *Protecting Plant Health in Indian Country: PPQ-Tribal Role in Responding to Plant Health Emergencies*. This is a two-page fact sheet and is currently in draft. It was distributed to tribes/tribal groups for feedback.
- Provided a 3-hour training session including three oral presentations to the Veterinary Services Western Region Civil Rights Advisory Council: Taking Regulatory Action in Indian Country, A Primer for APHIS Managers; APHIS Native American Working Group Overview; Indian Civil Rights Act. In addition, assembled information supporting information and provided a pre and post training assessment test and certificates of training completed. This training was well-

APHIS Fiscal Year 2007 Outreach Accomplishment Highlights

received with many positive comments. The audience was about 12 people and included staff from both APHIS Veterinary Services and PPQ with position levels ranging from administrative staff to Area Veterinarians in Charge. Prior to the training session, most were not aware of their responsibilities in Indian Country.

- Participated as an active member of the PPQ Outreach Strategy Planning Work Group to formulate a vision, mission, and strategic plan to benefit all of PPQ in its outreach efforts. In addition, as a group, drafted a reporting tool to assist PPQ managers compile program delivery outreach efforts efficiently and effectively while meeting the reporting requirements of the Civil Rights Enforcement and Compliance unit. The plan addresses all forms of outreach, both internal and external, including recruitment, retention and program delivery. This initial meeting will be followed by individual work on the plan, conferences calls, and additional meetings before the plan and associated actions are solidified.
- Reviewed and commented upon a joint program APHIS MOU for the emergency response interactions with tribes/tribal organizations. The Indian Nations Conservation Alliance is also working to develop a memorandum of understanding between PPQ and Tribal Conservation Districts. The primary purpose of the MOU is to establish lines of communication and facilitate outreach on issues of common interest.
- Tribal Plant Health Emergency Response MOUs: Developed to near completion in late 2006 Tribal Plant Health Emergency Response MOU, templates were released to SPHDs via their Regional Offices as a Tribal Plant Health Emergency Preparedness package including an APHIS-approved memorandum of understanding template and transmittal letter, a tribal plant health emergency preparedness factsheet and a Powerpoint presentation to assist in introducing the MOU. The development of this package is at the request of the SPHDs and tribes and represents a collaborative work among national staff, SPHDs, APHIS agreements staff, VS staff and tribes. The purpose of the MOU is to facilitate program outreach, emergency preparedness, and clear PPQ/tribal communication.
- In September, 2007, PPQ Liaison attended PPQ National Biological Control Conference in Fort Collins, Colorado and provided a 30 minute presentation on Biological Control in Indian Country. The presentation was designed to provide biological control staff with information needed to be successful in Indian Country. The presentation was well-received and elicited a number of questions and follow-up actions (e.g. providing consultation templates for pending actions).
- Assisted rulemakers and regulators in meeting their responsibility toward government-to-government interactions (consultation) regarding a new APHIS rule: Interstate Movement of Hawaiian Municipal Solid Waste. Provided advice to those drafting this regulation as to the proper approach for interactions and consultation with Native American tribes. Provided APHIS with contact information for tribal leaders potentially affected by this issue or contacted leaders directly. Drafted appropriate information letters for tribal leaders for signature from the APHIS Administrator's Office. Provided potentially affected tribes with regular information updates electronically, by hard copy or in person. Worked to establish an atmosphere of communication and trust to move this issue forward while being mindful of the mission of the agency, the interests of the tribes, and need for timely actions.

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- Assisted Emerald Ash Borer Project in determining approach for government-to-government interactions (consultation) both from the perspective of Executive Order 13175 and Section 106 consultation requirements of the National Historic Preservation Act.
- Assisted staff responsible for *Phytophthora ramorum* in determining approach for government-to-government interactions (consultation). Orchestrated Sudden Oak Death tribal consultation contacts with three states (California, Oregon and Washington). Prepared consultation letter template and package for SPHDs and provided instructions to conduct initial consultation contacts to ensure that consultation responsibilities were met.
- Discussed with the Sirex program manager the process for consultation and advised of the government's responsibility to consult with Federally Recognized Tribes.
- Provided guidance to the Washington PPQ office regarding communication and interactions with the Puyallup Tribe as it relates to the detection of a significant snail pest near tribal lands. This has resulted in good outreach.
- Requested that Eastern Region PPQ set aside funding to support the Natural Resources Committee of the United South and Eastern Tribes (USET), a regional tribal organization, in an outreach effort to tribes (approximately 24) within their membership. The outreach effort would inform tribes of the role of various APHIS programs highlighting the role of APHIS in emergency preparedness. Funding (\$10,000) was committed by the Eastern Regional Office and the outreach project is under development.
- Reviewed Civil Rights Act Title VI applications relating to a tribal issue. As a result of this review, guidance has been provided to both Plant Health Program staff and a tribal college. As part of this review viewed the following training video, which is excellent:
http://www.dot.ca.gov/hq/bep/title_vi/t6_training_videos.htm
- In March, 2007, provided a one-hour presentation before the PPQ Executive Team to advise them of current PPQ activities which involve American Indians and Alaska Natives, inform the Executive Team of government responsibilities to Federally Recognized Tribes, receive feedback from the ET regarding their concerns and issues in Indian Country and a request for support in establishing PPQ's strategic principles for its handling of issues in Indian Country.
- Participated in PPQ Executive Team Special Topics Call with APHIS Tribal Liaison to discuss strategic planning as it related to the APHIS Native American Working Group. Prepared response for the Executive Team as it relates to PPQ's view of the APHIS Native American Working Group strategic planning effort
- Invited by the National CAPS Committee to serve as an ad hoc member to represent Native American issues. This represents a major change in the how tribal interests are considered as part of the CAPS process. The need for consideration of tribal needs and opportunities to participate in some pest survey activities is now recognized.
- Ensure that managers consider tribal interactions when formulating budgets by requesting an annual accounting of funds spent in Indian Country. Managers are encouraged to include costs of meeting attendance and general outreach as well as specific program delivery. PPQ estimates that it spent nearly \$1 million in Indian Country during FY 2007.

PLANT PROTECTION QUARANTINE (PPQ)

PPQ Eastern Region

General Outreach

- PPQ-ER conducted at least 17 different site visits to over 2,600 stakeholders, industry, consumers, Florida Agriculture, Potato Growers, and the public throughout the Eastern Region that addressed topics on i.e. eradicating Tropical Soda Apple, assisted PRDA with citrus multiple pest survey, incinerator tour, provided information on the threat of the pest and Florida CAPS initiatives.
- PPQ-ER provides ongoing Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) overviews and updates in an effort to discuss EAB program covering diagnosis, quarantine compliance, background, biology impact and cooperative management program to over 1,000 industry professionals, homeowners, Tree City USA Communities, elected officials, and master gardeners, etc.
- PPQ-ER publishes monthly newsletters about insect activity. They set up displays that include information on regulations, quarantine maps and lists, and Gypsy Moth literature to areas that have been quarantined to loggers, moving companies, and the public. PPQ-ER produced several EAB articles for a trade magazine and presented a segment of a cogon grass training statewide broadcast.
- PPQ-ER gave over 20 presentations to over 500 forest industry representatives, Christmas tree growers, PRDA employees and supervisors, and CBP AI specialist on Gypsy Moth compliance agreement, Emerald Ash Borer, eradication methods, quarantine requirements, Florida citrus and Mexican Hass Avocado quarantine and the findings of fruits in PR and USVI markets.
- PPQ-ER held over 100 meetings formally and informally to stakeholders from Forestry Council, CBP DFO, Gypsy Moth representatives, Ohio State Certification Specialist, International Airports Perishables Committee for Miami, Pest Risk Committee, New Hampshire Forest Pest, etc.
- PPQ-ER met Southern Ohio Loggers Chapter. Presentation including life cycle of the gypsy moth, regulations for shipping logs, and training requirements for compliance agreements to educate loggers about Gypsy Moth regulations.
- PPQ-ER held a Pathology lecture in Vero Beach, FL. The English /Spanish training on citrus canker was held for 3 packinghouses.
- PPQ-ER held a Pathology lecture in Immokalee, FL. The English /Spanish training on citrus canker was held for 3 packinghouses.
- PPQ-ER Pest Inspection and identification training held in Puerto Rico. Visited numerous sites on the island infested with red palm mite and trained personnel for various Caribbean islands and several US states on the how to inspect for and identify red palm mite.

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- PPQ-ER held a regulatory outreach & capacity building session in Managua, Nicaragua for plant health directors and managers from CAFTA countries' Ministries of Agriculture. To provide an overview of Phytosanitary principles
- PPQ-ER held a regulatory outreach & capacity building session in Tegucigalpa, Honduras for plant health directors and managers from CAFTA countries' Ministries of Agriculture. To provide an overview of U. S. regulations and inspection procedures and Phytosanitary principles and requirements.
- PPQ-ER held a regulatory outreach & capacity building session in Kingston, Jamaica. Trained quarantine inspectors from numerous Caribbean countries on international standards used for inspection of imports and exports, using the US system as a model.
- PPQ-ER held weekly conference call with employees and stakeholders to discussed PPQ internal policies that affect the smuggling interdiction and trade compliance program, Gainesville, FL.
- PPQ-ER held professional meeting with Maine Pest Risk Committee to align agency and cooperators activities.
- PPQ-ER held professional meeting between PPQ-ER personnel and new customers to discuss PPQ's regulations, Port Everglades, FL.

VETERINARY SERVICES (VS)

Collaboration

- VS personnel attended the Arkansas Veterinary Medical Association meeting. Information in regards to the Ag Discovery program was distributed by e-mail to the National Urban League and the local schools in the Little Rock area. The Ag Discovery information was distributed to the AR VS field employees to make it available to the rural schools in and around their duty stations. Area staff distributed bilingual AI Biosecurity pamphlets to the feed stores to make the information available to Hispanic patrons of the stores. Bilingual Scrapie information packets were distributed to non-English speaking owners that requested information in regard to the Scrapie program. Staff personal attended a job fair at the University of Arkansas Pine Bluff and manned a booth for the participants.
- VS was represented at the Indian Health Services clinic where free rabies vaccinations were given to over 30 Indian reservations in the California, Nevada, and Utah area.

Veterinary Services Guam

- VS attended and participated in the Secretariat of the Pacific Community, University of Guam, USDA Quarantine Training held on Guam in April. This workshop provided training and professional development for Agriculture Officers throughout Micronesia. Agriculture Quarantine Officers from CNMI, Guam, Yap, the Federated States of Micronesia, and Republic of the Marshall Islands, Palau and American Samoa attended. In response to interest expressed during this visit, "Biosecurity for the Birds" educational materials were sent to all attendees.

APHIS Fiscal Year 2007 Outreach Accomplishment Highlights

Ongoing Outreach

- Assisted many Tribes and communities with rabies and West Nile virus clinics.
- Placed a display rack in the lobby of a facility where customers were waiting for health certificates, appointments, and assistants which provided informational pamphlets on various animal diseases and Veterinary Service (VS) programs.
- Staffed the VS exhibit at the Western Veterinary Conference and the Wild West Veterinary Conference, where we provided information about VS programs and employment opportunities and liaised with veterinary practitioners
- VS has made extraordinary efforts to enhance outreach with colleges and universities throughout the United States. VS is regularly engaged in broad efforts to educate colleges of veterinary medicine (CVM) about VS, its activities, and the role of Federal practitioners of veterinary medicine. The American Association of Veterinary Medical Colleges continued discussions on how to address the critical national need of public practice veterinarians.

Veterinary Services California

- Externships - Provided three- to four-week externships to four junior veterinary students from around the country interested in public veterinary medicine.
- Avian Influenza tabletop exercises - with Fresno, Tulare, and Kings counties with several stakeholders (California Environmental Protection Agency, County Ag Commissioners, county public health, commercial poultry veterinarians, etc.) to develop avian influenza preparedness and response plans.
- College of Veterinary Medicine, Western University School - Gave lectures to 2nd-year veterinary students as part of a course on international and public veterinary medicine. UCD School of Veterinary Medicine - gave a lecture to 2nd-year veterinary students on the “Role of Accredited Veterinarians in Foreign Animal Disease Surveillance” as part of their VM415 course.
- California Dept. of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) and the UCD School of Veterinary Medicine, Cooperative Extension Program - provide guidance to the LBMS producers and market owners organization in Southern California, the majority of whom are ethnic minorities (Asian and Middle Eastern).

Veterinary Services Washington/Alaska/Hawaii

- Attended and participated in the Washington Tribal Conservation Advisory Council Tribal Outreach and Training Conference in Toppenish, WA in September and the NAIS Tribal Outreach meeting in Albuquerque in October.

Veterinary Services Missouri

- VS Missouri employees made presentations to the senior veterinary students at the University of Missouri on accreditation requirements. The presentations include information on APHIS

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programs, veterinary accreditation and regulatory issues. Our field Veterinary Medical Officers works with accredited practitioners on a daily basis to coordinate cooperative program activities. We deal daily with our import/export customers to facilitate shipments into or out of Missouri.

WILDLIFE SERVICES (WS)

Improving the delivery of programs and services to existing customers

- On February 2, 2007, two WS employees completed a Brown Tree Snake (BTS) awareness display for an annual event on Andersen Air Force Base. The installation organizes the base's outdoor recreational activities, making it an ideal location for educating new-comers to Guam about BTS; the WS display, including props and life-like vegetation to create a 3-dimensional discussion of BTS Biology, tools, and ongoing BTS research was well received.
- A full semester, three hour course in wildlife damage management (WB220) was taught at the University of TN-Martin by Tennessee/Kentucky WS personnel. Thirty percent of the class was represented by minority groups.
- For the sixth straight year, North Carolina WS coordinated APHIS participation in "Agriculture and Environmental Career Expo 2007," a partnership of agricultural and environmental organizations for students at North Carolina A&T State University, an 1890 historically black university. Informational packets were distributed about APHIS programs, career opportunities, and internships.
- CO WS gave a presentation to the Wildlife Damage Management class regarding our airport issues at Denver International Airport.
- The Menominee tribe has a long history of sustainable forest management, and their forestry department is a well known leader in this field. During FY07, Wisconsin WS met with Menominee tribal Enterprises (MTE) ecologist to discuss beaver damage management. There is a desire to protect forest resources as well as restore trout streams damaged by beaver. A cooperative service agreement is currently being negotiated.
- Idaho WS personnel gave presentations on WS' role in wolf management and the impacts of wolves on Idaho livestock producers.
- NV WS distributes a Cooperative Program newsletter to more than 150 cooperators monthly.
- ID WS participated in an outreach meeting, sponsored by the Idaho Farm Bureau, to share information on wolf management with local ranchers in the Grangeville, Idaho area.
- Alabama WS personnel assisted with instruction of the Wildlife Management class at Tuskegee University which provided an excellent opportunity to expose minority biology students to the Wildlife Services program.
- Personnel from the Michigan program provided information to Michigan Tribes on collecting spatial data in the field using digital devices such as PDAs and GPS units.

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- Minnesota WS personnel staffed a display table at the 2007 Career and College Fair held at the Fond du Lac Tribal and Community College. WS distributed information about career opportunities with the WS program and overviewed Minnesota wildlife damage management activities. Approximately 750 high school students from 15 area schools, as well as the general public, attended this career and college fair.
- Minnesota WS personnel staffed a display table and presented an overview of Cooperative MN WS/Tribal projects at the 2007 Indian Nations Conservation Alliance (INCA) Conference.
- The Mississippi WS State Director and a Wildlife Specialist conducted a trapping training session for the new incoming Mississippi Band of Choctaw game wardens.
- The South Carolina State Director gave a presentation to students at Clemson University highlighting the WS program and the Federal role in wildlife damage management. Additionally, the class conducted a field trip to the Marine Corps Air Station in Beaufort to get hands-on experience when dealing with wildlife hazards on an airport environment. WS personnel provided pyrotechnics training and demonstrated various non-lethal control tools. This is part of an ongoing cooperation between Clemson University and SC WS, and an opportunity to recruit students interested in a career with WS.
- Personnel from the Virginia program worked with representatives from Virginia State University to assist this Historically Black University with a range of wildlife damage issues on their experimental farm. The WS program provided technical and field assistance to reduce livestock predation, predation to aquaculture, and deer damage to row crops.
- WS Western Region providing training opportunities thru AARP for seniors returning to the workplace.
- Wisconsin WS staff provided an Avian Influenza presentation at the "Pandemic Preparedness and Planning in Indian Country" conference in Green Bay, WI on May 31, 2007 to tribal leaders and health professionals.
- The Chippewa Tribes have a strong cultural connection to gray wolves. Wisconsin WS could provide assistance to tribal biologists with capturing and radio-collaring wolves that reside on or near reservations for population monitoring. WS has agreed in our latest Environmental Assessment for wolf damage management to co-investigate wolf complaints within six miles of a reservation boundary and consult with Tribes concerning implementing lethal damage abatement. Radio-collaring wolf packs that reside near reservations would provide data concerning whether a depredating wolf pack spends time on the reservation or within the consultation boundary. Again, it is difficult to quantify economically the resources protected from WS activities on tribal lands. The Chippewa tribes have a strong cultural connection with native plants and animals.
- WS routinely assists tribes with gray wolf and grizzly bear damage management projects. Recently WS assisted the Confederated Salish Kootenai Tribe with a gray wolf problem after assistance was requested by the Tribe. A WS Specialist worked with the Tribal Biologist in coordination with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service after wolves killed several calves on the Reservation. WS also recently assisted the Blackfeet Tribe after the Tribe requested assistance from WS with a gray wolf problem. A pack of wolves had killed several calves on the Reservation. A WS Specialist worked with the Tribal Biologist in coordination with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The WS Specialist captured a member of the wolf pack that caused

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the livestock depredation and radio-collared the wolf so the Tribe could track activities of the pack.

- In August, WS coordinated work with the Salish Kootenai Tribes on the Flathead Indian reservation in NW MT. Biologists from the reservation and USFWS biologists agreed to begin pre-baiting on the Ninepipes NWR in preparation to trap ducks for AI surveillance. They will pre-bait for about 10 days and begin trapping in September.
- In September, The Salish Kootenai tribes of the Flathead Reservation in NW MT cooperated with WS in trapping and sampling 41 (included in the state total of 601 samples for the month) wild ducks on the Ninepipe NWR, which is located on the Reservation. Tribal wildlife biologists and WS' WDB, DS and WSS spent 3 days trapping and taking swab samples from these birds. All samples were sent to the MT lab in Bozeman.
- The wolves on the Flathead Indian Reservation killed one too many domestic animals therefore, after months of removing one or two wolves from the pack for every confirmed occurrence, the pack was determined to be chronic livestock depredators and MT WS was given the order to remove the pack. A WS Biologist was present during part of this operation and was able to collect Nobuto blood filter strips from 4 wolves, 3 were killed from the helicopter, one from calling and shooting. These samples were submitted to CDC for plague and tularemia surveillance.