

# WS Directive

1.301 08/31/10

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## CODE OF ETHICS

### 1. PURPOSE

To provide Wildlife Services (WS) personnel ethical guidelines for use in promoting and preserving the professional standards of the WS program.

### 2. REPLACEMENT HIGHLIGHTS

This directive revises WS Directive 1.301 dated 03/26/93

### 3. BACKGROUND

WS has assisted the American public in protecting resources and safeguarding health and safety from negative effects of wildlife for more than a century. Throughout the history of WS, the philosophy of wildlife damage management has evolved, along with societal values and perspectives. WS is the Federal leader in providing wildlife damage management solutions that are safe, effective, selective, economically feasible, and environmentally responsible. As the leader in providing wildlife damage management, we must maintain high personal and professional standards. Our individual and collective adherence to this Code of Ethics will promote public service and will uphold the standards of the WS program.

### 3. POLICY

All employees (Federal and non-Federal, including volunteers, interns, and personnel conducting official WS duties) shall adhere to the WS Code of Ethics.

#### WS CODE OF ETHICS:

As a WS employee, I

- a. Will affirm my strict adherence to the laws, regulations, policies, and Executive Orders that guide the WS program.
- b. Will conduct myself in a manner that embodies the traits of honesty, integrity, accountability, dedication and a strong work ethic.
- c. Will promote competence in the field of wildlife damage management through continual learning and professional development.

- d. Will show exceptionally high levels of respect for people, property and wildlife.
- e. Will promote the conservation of natural resources.
- f. Will respect varying viewpoints regarding wildlife and wildlife damage management.
- g. Will utilize the WS Decision Model to resolve wildlife damage problems and strive to use the most selective and humane methods available, with preference given to nonlethal methods when practical and effective.
- h. Will provide expertise on managing wildlife damage to the public at their request.
- i. Will present an image worthy of the WS program and the wildlife management profession.
- j. Will work in a safe and responsible manner.
- k. Will respect and adhere to program civil rights and equal employment goals and opportunities and will promote a diverse workplace that does not tolerate discrimination.
- l. Will support the mission of the WS program.

#### 4. REFERENCES

Futuring Document for Animal Damage Control (April 24, 1992)

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "William H. Clay". The signature is written in black ink and has a long, sweeping underline that extends to the right.

Deputy Administrator