

coordination and implementation of wildlife hazard management activities after WS provided initial consulting services.

In FY 2001, one Indiana airport reported a significant increase in bird strikes due to the emergence of Army worms, which are an attractive food source for birds. WS investigated the most current Army worm management methods and developed a coordinated strategy to abate the feeding frenzy and reduce bird collisions with aircraft.

WS' National Wildlife Research Center (NWRC) conducts research from its Sandusky, OH field station to reduce wildlife hazards to aviation and to reduce risks to the public. Studies are underway at several large airports where scientists evaluate habitat management practices and wildlife dispersal techniques. NWRC also maintains the National Wildlife Strike Database used by the FAA and airports to monitor trends and wildlife species that pose the greatest threat to aviation.

Public Health and Worker Safety—WS works with private industries throughout the State to alleviate wildlife-related threats to worker health and safety and to ensure the wholesomeness and safety of commercial products, such as food items and pharmaceuticals. In FY 2000, one Indiana pharmaceutical manufacturer suffered \$165,000 in product losses due to a single bird feather contaminating a mixer. WS implemented an integrated pest management (IPM) program and no further incidents have been reported. WS has used similar IPM programs at other industrial facilities to protect workers from histoplasmosis exposure and to reduce damage to facilities and products.

WS also works with the Indiana State Department of Health (ISDH) and the Indiana State Board of Animal Health (BOAH) to increase the public's awareness and reduce their exposure to wildlife-related diseases such as rabies, histoplasmosis, West Nile virus, bovine tuberculosis, E. coli, and other zoonotic diseases. In addition, WS works with ISDH, BOAH, the Indiana Department of Natural Resources, and the State Emergency Management Agency to guard against potential bio-security threats.



Looking to the Future

Conflicts between people and wildlife continue to increase each year. As wildlife populations expand or return to former habitats, fewer and fewer people are prepared to manage wildlife damage or resolve conflicts in an environmentally sound manner. The number of Indiana residents calling the Wildlife Conflicts Information Hotline for help reflects this trend. The volume of calls and projected increase will require at least two people to provide residents with a response in a timely fashion.

The FAA and several Indiana airports have come to rely on WS for assistance with managing airport wildlife hazards. Many smaller airports with financial constraints, however, are dealing with serious wildlife problems and would welcome WS' assistance.

Over the past decade, the number of wildlife-borne diseases that can affect public health have increased. How active WS is going to be in managing this expanding list of diseases must be addressed in a timely manner.

Finally, concerns over bio-security and the intentional introduction of wildlife diseases have created new challenges that have not previously been dealt with or considered.

Indiana Wildlife Services Funding •••••

In addition to receiving federally allocated funds, WS also receives money from cooperators; such as producers; private individuals; businesses; and other Federal, State, and local government agencies who have a vested interest in the program. In most cases, these cooperators need help to resolve wildlife damage problems or they play a role in wildlife damage management.

