

Wildlife Services

Protecting People
Protecting Agriculture
Protecting Wildlife

Factsheet

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Careers in Wildlife Services



Wildlife Services, a program within the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), provides Federal leadership and expertise to resolve wildlife damage that threatens the Nation's agricultural and natural resources, human health and safety, and property. WS offers unique career opportunities in wildlife damage management.

Who We Are

Wildlife Services (WS) is a Federal program tasked with managing the damage caused by human-wildlife conflict. WS collaborates with numerous partners, including State and Federal agencies, land-grant universities, and others, to carry out this work and maintain healthy, stable wildlife populations in harmony with human populations. WS researchers develop and improve methods of wildlife damage management, while biologists and specialists in the field design and implement wildlife management plans to prevent and respond to potentially harmful encounters between wildlife populations and the surrounding public.

Not Your Typical 9-to-5

Looking for the career of a lifetime? If you love wildlife and the outdoors, WS is the place for you to do what you're passionate about in an unparalleled work environment. Wildlife Disease Biologist Craig Hicks said, "I had no idea I could get a job doing things I love," but then he found WS and now does work that is "constantly rewarding." A career in WS offers you the chance to do something every day that matters for wildlife, people, and the environment.

On a given day, WS employees may:

- rescue birds from oil spills like the Deepwater Horizon oil rig explosion.
- reduce feral swine populations that cause an estimated \$1 billion in damages and control costs each year.
- remove beaver dams from culverts under roads (by hand or using explosives) before they destroy the road or surrounding land.
- capture large predators that feed on livestock or agricultural crops.

A wildlife biologist takes the temperature of an anesthetized raccoon at the National Wildlife Research Center.



- monitor bird populations at airports to prevent bird strikes on aircraft.
- vaccinate raccoons for rabies in Central Park using marshmallow bait and in rural areas through bait drops from aircraft.
- develop deer contraceptives like Gona-Con™ to limit deer populations and reduce costly and dangerous deer-vehicle collisions.

Sound like the right fit for you?

A Career Custom-Made for You

By selecting a career with WS, you'll have a unique opportunity to help people and wildlife. Depending on the career you choose, on a given day you may track a feral hog population, work with airport staff to prevent geese from flying into aircraft, or find a solution for a local farmer who is losing his livestock to predators. The variety of things you can do in WS is what Environmental Coordinator Kim Wagner loves about her job: "I know with absolute certainty when I walk into the office every day that I will learn something new and do something that really helps."

Most careers require a combination of education and experience or a 4-year degree in a field related to wildlife management. WS personnel must pass



A wildlife disease biologist takes a blood sample from a deer to test for bovine tuberculosis.

Benefits of Working in WS

- Frequent interaction with wildlife
- Playing a vital role in meaningful wildlife work
- An active, outdoors work setting
- Access to cutting-edge technology at our well-known research branch, the National Wildlife Research Center
- Participating in the latest developments within the field of wildlife damage management
- Federal employee benefits, including affordable health insurance, flexible work schedules, and paid holidays, vacation, and sick leave (*for eligible employees*)

firearms safety and proficiency training, as well as complete a comprehensive background check and drug testing prior to employment.

Depending on your education and interests, you may be qualified to work for WS in one of these challenging and rewarding assignments:

Wildlife Specialists conduct operational duties, including the trapping and relocation of birds and mammals that cause damage to agriculture, natural resources, or property.

Wildlife Biologists implement damage management methods. For example, wildlife biologists in Texas help control the size of destructive feral hog populations.

Wildlife Biologists (Research) develop or improve methods of reducing damage caused by wildlife

"I had no idea I could get a job doing things I love."

- Craig Hicks, Wildlife Disease Biologist, Ohio

species, such as conducting experiments on the effectiveness of lighting systems on aircraft to reduce bird strikes and the use of repellents, electronic trap-monitoring devices, and habitat modification to control wildlife damage.

WS also employs a number of operational support staff in each State. Paid interns and summer volunteers fill time-limited positions in a wide range of WS disciplines. WS offers full-time, part-time, and temporary positions in each State, as well as positions in Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, and Guam.

If you have a passion for wildlife and agriculture, WS' exciting and rewarding careers may be the place for you to do what you love and make a difference for the people and wildlife in your community.

Learn More

If you're interested in learning more about the WS program, please call 1-866-4USDA-WS (1-866-487-3297) or visit our Web site at www.aphis.usda.gov/wildlife_damage/.

A WS explosives expert sets an explosive to remove a beaver dam from a culvert.



You may also visit the Federal Government's official jobs Web site to find information about vacancies nationwide or to become familiar with the requirements of a particular position. Go to www.usajobs.gov to search the job listings electronically.



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United States Department of Agriculture
Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service

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