

Field Stations

The National Wildlife Research Center (NWRC) functions as the research arm of the Wildlife Services program in the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS). Its mission is to apply scientific expertise to resolve human-wildlife conflicts while maintaining the quality of the environment shared with wildlife.

The NWRC employs about 150 scientists, technicians, and support staff to develop and evaluate new wildlife damage management tools and techniques. More than half of its personnel are located at its headquarters campus at Colorado State University in Fort Collins, CO. The remaining personnel are located at several field stations across the United States and focus on regional wildlife damage management issues.

Florida

The Gainesville, FL, field station is located on a 26-acre site near the University of Florida. It contains an office and laboratory building, an animal resource building, roofed outdoor aviaries, and a variety of outdoor test enclosures and flight pens up to half an acre in size. Current research focuses on techniques to address depredation and nuisance problems caused by vultures and methods to reduce the impacts of invasive wildlife species, such as monk parakeets, feral swine, Burmese pythons, spiny-tailed iguanas, Argentinian tegus, and Nile monitors.

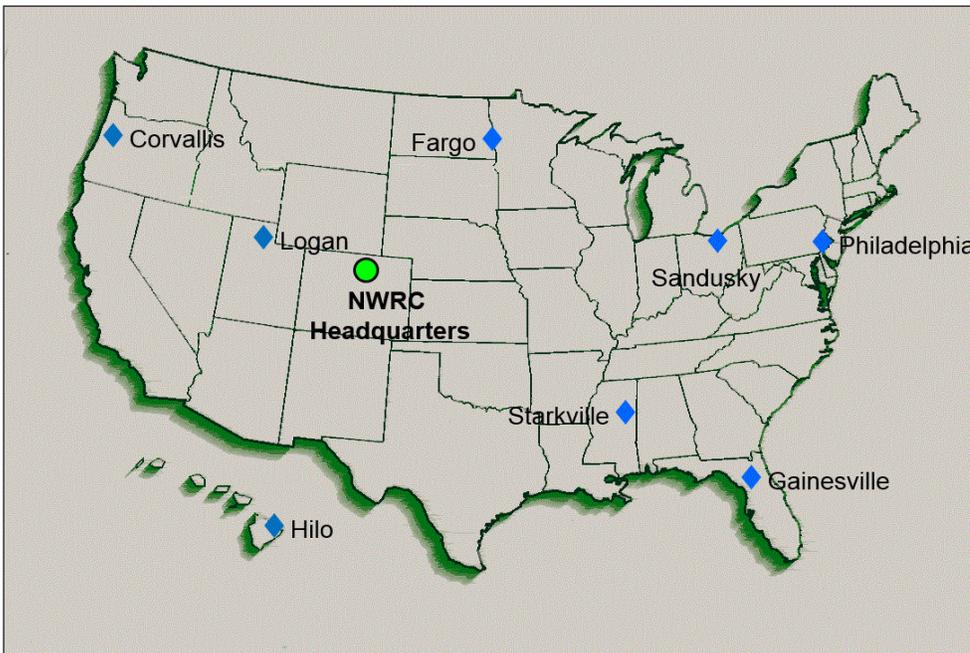
Hawaii

The Hilo, HI, field station conducts research to reduce the impacts of invasive vertebrates on agricultural crops, human health and safety, and native plants and animals

in Hawaii, Guam, and other U.S. islands throughout the Pacific Basin. Historically, research has focused on invasive rodents affecting sugarcane and macadamia nut crops. However, during the last few decades, Hawaiian agriculture has become much more diversified, and several new invasive pests have become established. In addition to these agricultural challenges, the need for animal damage control to protect native species in conservation areas has increased. As a result, the field station has expanded its focus to include invasive tree frogs, parrots, mongooses, feral swine, and brown tree snakes.

Mississippi

The Starkville, MS, field station specializes in addressing bird predation at commercial aquaculture facilities and natural fisheries. Scientists study the economic impacts of such bird predation and how it can be minimized or prevented. To better understand what conditions and behaviors influence predation rates at aquaculture facilities and natural water bodies, scientists study captive and free-ranging birds, such as double-crested cormorants and pelicans. Other studies investigate the role fish-eating birds play in transmitting fish diseases. The field station is located on the Mississippi State University campus and includes unique facilities to house fish-eating birds, study their behavior and impact on aquaculture systems, and determine their role in the life cycle and transmission of fish parasites and diseases.



Map of NWRC field stations

North Dakota

The Fargo, ND, field station develops new and refined methods to reduce the impact of blackbirds and European starlings on grain crops—especially sunflower and corn—and at feedlots and dairies. Current research efforts evaluate the use of wildlife repellents; unmanned aerial vehicles and other frightening devices; and habitat modification, including wetland management, wildlife conservation food plots, and altered agricultural practices. The field station is located on the North Dakota State University campus.

Ohio

The Sandusky, OH, field station provides research expertise to help reduce animal-vehicle collisions, especially wildlife strikes with aircraft. Such collisions cause hundreds of thousands of hours of aircraft downtime and cost U.S. civil aviation more than \$900 million every year. Scientists develop and evaluate repellents and deterrents to keep birds, deer, and other animals away from airports and aircraft. They also study habitat management techniques for minimizing wildlife at airports; predict the impacts of wildlife, habitat, and land management on aviation safety; and explore basic bird biology and behavior. The field station is located at Plum Brook Station, a 6,000-acre, fenced facility operated by the National Aeronautics and Space Administration. The contiguous wildlife habitat and agricultural land provide unique opportunities for wildlife damage research.

Oregon

The Corvallis, OR, field station is located at Oregon State University's College of Forestry. NWRC partners with the university to conduct research on wildlife damage to forest resources. Studies range from better understanding the behavior of damage-causing animals to developing and evaluating tools and techniques to reduce damage. Subjects include black bears, deer, elk, beavers, nutria, and other rodents. Many of the field station's activities also have implications for threatened and endangered species conservation.

Pennsylvania

The Philadelphia, PA, field station is located at the Monell Chemical Senses Center. Monell is the world's only non-profit scientific institute dedicated to basic research on taste and smell. It provides access to specialized research opportunities focused on developing nonlethal wildlife repellents and attractants. Chemical ecology research involving olfactory, taste, and chemoreception senses is emphasized.

Utah

The Logan, UT, field station is one of the premier predator research facilities in the world. The field station includes offices on the main campus of Utah State University and a large outdoor predator research facility in Millville, UT. Scientists study the ecology and behavior of mammalian carnivores, such as coyotes, bears, and wolves, in an effort to reduce livestock depredations and damage; resolve conflicts in urban areas; and mitigate impacts on wildlife populations.

Wildlife Services

NWRC

National Wildlife Research Center

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**For more information, please contact:
National Wildlife Research Center
Wildlife Services
APHIS, USDA
4101 LaPorte Avenue
Fort Collins, CO 80521**

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