

# WS Directive

2.345  
August 23, 2013

---

## URBAN RODENT MANAGEMENT PROGRAMS

### 1. PURPOSE

To provide guidance for Wildlife Services' (WS) establishment of cooperative programs to resolve damage resulting from urban rodents.

### 2. REPLACEMENT HIGHLIGHTS

This is a new directive.

### 3. AUTHORITY

Authority to enter into cooperative service and interagency agreements is pursuant to the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) Agreements Management Manual; authority to assist Federal, State, local, and foreign agencies and individuals with regard to wildlife damage and control is pursuant to 7 C.F.R. § 371.6.

### 4. POLICY

It is WS policy that its personnel may enter into cooperative service agreements (CSAs) and interagency agreements that facilitate the accomplishment of WS' mission; specifically, wildlife damage management (WDM). However, WS programs shall not conduct "urban rodent control" except actions involving:

- a. Federal agencies;
- b. Government entities engaged in a CSA with APHIS to provide direct control of rodents as of October 1, 2013;
- c. A State in which direct control of the rodent species has been expressly authorized by State law, rulemaking, or a local jurisdiction's ordinance promulgated by public notice and an opportunity for public comment, or as otherwise promulgated as required and authorized by the respective State or local law; and,
- d. Railways and airport air side areas.

## 5. BACKGROUND

a. Wildlife is a publicly-owned natural resource, and Federal and State Governments have responsibility for maintaining healthy, viable wildlife populations and for assisting Federal or State agencies, public or private institutions, organizations, or associations, and private citizens when wildlife comes into conflict with human interests. Private, commercial, or other entities may also have the capability to respond to requests for assistance regarding wildlife damage or conflicts.

b. WS is specifically authorized to establish cooperative programs with Government agencies, public or private institutions, organizations, or associations, and private citizens to manage conflicts with wild animals. By coordinating Federal Government involvement in wildlife damage management, WS personnel ensure that wildlife management activities are environmentally sound and conducted in compliance with applicable Federal, State, and local laws and regulations.

## 6. DEFINITIONS

a. Cooperative Program: the broad category of activities that encompass agreements whereby WS establishes a relationship with another party (either Federal or non-Federal) to carry out projects of mutual interest.

b. Cooperative Service Agreement: agreement with State agencies, county or local governments, or public or private organizations, institutions, or associations, or private individuals where reimbursement for goods and services is provided to WS.

c. Cooperator: An individual, organization, agency, unit of Government, or entity with which WS programs enters into an agreement.

e. Interagency Agreement: agreement entered into by WS programs to establish arrangements with a Federal entity to provide technical assistance, goods, or services on a cost-recovery basis or non-cost-recovery basis.

d. Private Sector Service Provider: a non-governmental entity engaged in providing WDM services for profit.

f. Urban Rodents: mice, rats, voles, squirrels, chipmunks, gophers, and woodchucks in a city or town with a population greater than 50,000.

g. Urban Rodent Control: actions to directly control urban rodents in a city or town with a population greater than 50,000 inhabitants and the urbanized area contiguous and adjacent to such city or town.

7. IMPLEMENTATION

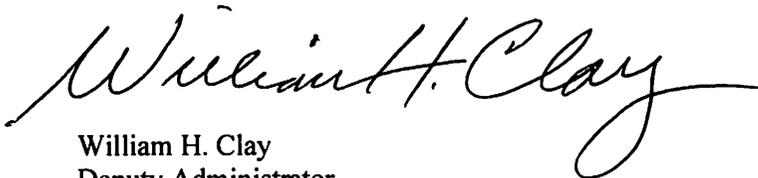
WS shall (a) refer all requests for operational assistance with “urban rodent control” from private entities (such as homes and business owners and associations) to the private sector consistently within a State, and in the manner prescribed by the State Director and (b) advise the requester that WS cannot recommend a specific private sector service provider.

8. APPLICABILITY AND SCOPE

This policy is applicable to all WS programs.

9. REFERENCES

- a. 7 U.S.C. 426, 426b-c (Wildlife Damage Control Act, as amended)
- b. 31 U.S.C. 1535 (Economy Act)
- c. Federal Register Notice, Volume 78, No. 157 (August 14, 2013)
- d. Code of Federal Regulations, Title 48, Subpart 17.5 (Federal Acquisition Regulation)
- e. APHIS Budget and Accounting Manual



William H. Clay  
Deputy Administrator