

Wildlife Services

Protecting People
Protecting Agriculture
Protecting Wildlife

State Report

FY 2015

Missouri



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USDA Resolves Wildlife Conflicts in Missouri

Every day, the Wildlife Services (WS) program in Missouri helps citizens, organizations, industries, and Government agencies resolve conflicts with wildlife to protect agriculture, other property, and natural resources, and to safeguard the safety of people. WS' professional wildlife biologists and specialists implement effective, selective, and responsible strategies that value wildlife, the environment, and the resources being protected. WS' biologists manage wildlife damage according to its public trust stewardship responsibilities as Federal natural resource managers. The program supports the North American Model of Wildlife Conservation, based on the principle that wildlife resources are owned collectively and held in trust by Government for the benefit of present and future generations.

Natural resources and agriculture are important aspects of the heritage and economy in Missouri, and WS-Missouri works with many partners to improve the co-existence of people and wildlife, which plays an important role in the continued success of agriculture and natural resources.

The agricultural industry is diversified and includes commercial production of corn, soybeans, cotton, hay, rice, cattle, poultry, fish, and domestic swine. Missouri is the second largest cow-calf producing State in the United States.

Applying Science and Expertise to Help the Public — WS frequently provides information, advice, equipment, and materials that enable people to resolve wildlife conflicts on their own. Often, this technical assistance can be provided in person, by telephone, or through the mail or internet. During 2014, WS delivered technical advice and recommendations to more than 1.6 million people across the country.

Protecting Missouri from Feral Swine — Feral swine are one of Missouri's worst invasive species concerns. Feral swine are known to occur in approximately 40 counties in Missouri, with established populations in 28 counties. Feral swine populations exploded in the 1990's, due in part to people transporting them to new areas to increase hunting opportunities. Feral swine directly and indirectly damage natural communities, destroy agricultural crops, compete with native wildlife, and serve as reservoirs of disease.

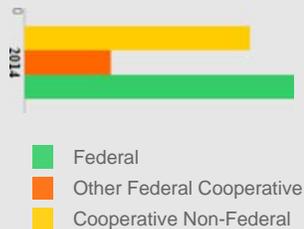
Left unchecked, feral swine will spread throughout Missouri causing millions of dollars in agricultural, environmental and property damage. Feral swine would continue to destroy sensitive habitats, negatively affect threatened and endangered species, and damage cattle pastures. Feral swine in Missouri have tested positive in past years for pseudorabies, swine brucellosis, toxoplasma gondii, trichinella spiralis, influenza A and leptospirosis. WS actively tests for these and other diseases on a routine basis. WS currently works with over 70 Missouri cooperators to protect property from feral swine damage.

In FY 14, Congress approved a \$20 million Feral Swine Initiative for USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service. This initiative will allow the WS-Missouri to work cooperatively with state and Federal agencies and private landowners to reduce damage to natural resources, agriculture, monitor disease, and to protect native wildlife species. In FY15 Missouri established a multi-agency cooperative feral swine eradication team with cooperative funding and in-kind support from at least six state and federal agencies. The objective of the cooperative Missouri feral swine program is to facilitate communication, strategy, and direction between cooperating agencies. This will enable maximum success by eliminating redundant regional efforts while increasing safety and efficiency of eradication efforts. WS-Missouri works closely with private landowners to loan equipment so they are able to reduce or eliminate destructive invasive feral swine through coordinated trapping activities.

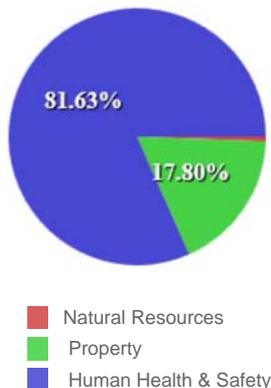
Protecting Public Safety at Airports Wildlife strikes cause more than 590,000 hours of aircraft down time and cost the nation's civil aviation industry approximately \$937 million annually. American military aircraft sustain losses exceeding \$10 million annually. WS has assisted airports across the Nation for decades and collaborates closely with the Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Defense, and other Government agencies. WS provided assistance to 839 airports in the United States during 2014, including advice, training, on-site evaluations and assessments of wildlife hazards, and direct operational management to reduce wildlife strikes.

WS-Missouri is currently managing wildlife damage at five civil airports, one U.S. Air Force Base, and one Air National Guard Unit. WS-Missouri has addressed several issues related to birds and property for the past 20 years at Whiteman Air Force Base (WAFB) in the interest of property and human health and safety. WAFB, the only permanent housing for the B-2 Spirit stealth bomber, can launch B-2's directly from

Total Funding (\$ Million)



Resources Protected % of Total Funds



United States Department of Agriculture
Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service

Missouri to any part of the globe, engaging adversaries with nuclear or conventional weapon payloads. The B-2's shape, radar-absorbing skin material and anti-reflective paint coatings are some of the properties used to achieve the reduced radar profile. Today, 20 B-2's remain in operation with an estimated value of \$929 million each. WS-Missouri continues to help WAFB manage the base to discourage wildlife species that are hazardous to aircraft. In addition to the potential loss of human life, the slightest wildlife strike with a B-2 could result in the losses ranging from hundreds of thousands to millions of dollars to the United States Air Force.

In addition to providing assistance to WAFB, WS-Missouri also provides services to civil airports and Missouri National Guard Units throughout the state. Services provided include: direct control, technical assistance and training, on-site evaluations, and wildlife hazard assessments. It stations full-time wildlife biologists at Kansas City International, CB Wheeler (down town Kansas City), Rosecrans Memorial, Lambert-St. Louis International airport and Sprit of St. Louis airport. In 2014, WS-Missouri provided wildlife hazard management training to 110 airport employees at 11 airports.

Wildlife Services received the Council for the Conservation of Migratory Birds 2014 Presidential Migratory Bird Federal Stewardship Award for raptor research and relocations efforts. The WS-Missouri airport program accounted for nearly 1 in 5 of the 13,700 raptor relocations credited in the award.

Looking to the Future

WS continues to provide the citizens of Missouri with safe, effective, and responsible management assistance for a variety of wildlife damage problems. The potential for wildlife conflicts with people will likely increase and WS' ability to respond will depend on the availability of personnel and resources, as well as legislative authorities to support these activities.

WS strives to meet the demands for assistance within the constraints of its existing resources and capabilities so that all citizens have access to program services. Collaborative, partner-based approaches will be increasingly important among natural resource, agriculture, and health agencies to meet public needs.

Missouri Wildlife Services Funding

In addition to receiving Federally allocated funds, WS also receives funding from program beneficiaries such as agricultural producers, airports, individual citizens, businesses, organizations, and other Federal, State, and local Government agencies. See charts for sources of funding and resources protected.

Top 6 Major Assistance Activities in Missouri

- Actively trapping and assisting State and Federal agencies as well as private landowners in the eradication of feral swine from Missouri.
- Reducing impacts of invasive feral swine to native landscapes and agriculture
- Assessing and reducing wildlife hazards at airports
- Reducing bird damage to public and private resources
- Reducing fish-eating bird damage to aquaculture and natural resources
- Protecting livestock and pets from wildlife-borne diseases

Top 4 WS Research Projects of Interest to Missouri

- Developing methods to reduce feral swine damage to natural resources
- Investigating the biology/ecology/behavior of feral swine
- Quantifying and assessing the damage caused by European starlings to livestock producers
- Evaluating and monitoring wildlife for diseases

Major Cooperators:

- Missouri Department of Conservation
- U.S. Forest Service
- Whiteman Air Force Base
- St. Louis-Lambert International Airport
- Kansas City International Airport
- Missouri Air National Guard
- Missouri Department of Agriculture
- US Army Corps of Engineers