

PROGRAM ACTIVITY REPORT (PAR)



NWRC Biological Laboratory System

The National Wildlife Research Center (NWRC) has begun the process of restructuring their biological laboratories in Fort Collins, Colorado. This new structure is called the

NWRC Biological Laboratory System (NBLS). The primary purpose of this laboratory restructure is to lower project operating costs by eliminating redundancy in equipment procurement, service agreements, and general laboratory supplies. Another reason for the restructure is to encourage cross-project collaborations through task-based laboratories versus the traditional project-based

laboratories. And finally, the NBLS will create a knowledgeable, cross-trained, core laboratory staff that will facilitate multiple project needs .

The NBLS has also created a central laboratory supply which will provide laboratory consumables to all of the NWRC projects in Fort Collins, Colorado. The NBLS will be utilizing a website called Quartzzy (www.Quartzzy.com) to maintain an up

-to-date inventory and it will also manage orders from NWRC staff. The intent is that through centralized and bulk ordering, the NWRC will save a considerable amount of funding. The



centralized ordering will allow for a better opportunity to thoroughly shop around for the best pricing available, to eliminate redundancy and subsequent waste, and to provide additional laboratory supply cost savings by ordering in bulk. Cost savings will also come from developing comprehensive lists of all of the laboratory equipment available at the NWRC so that preventative maintenance service calls can take

place at one time and eliminate additional travel/mileage charges. This will also serve to limit unnecessary service agreements and prevent redundant equipment purchases.

The NBLS Unit is comprised of a Program Manager and three Laboratory Specialists. Their roles are to facilitate efficient, comprehensive laboratory services. These services may include assay design, laboratory testing, training, scheduling space and equipment use, bulk ordering, maintaining laboratory spaces, etc. These three individuals will work together with

research, technical staff and operations to ensure that all laboratory needs are accommodated in a timely, safe, and scientifically sound manner.

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The original artwork on this page was created by the National Wildlife Disease Program's Erika Kampe and Sarah Goff