

Wildlife Services

Protecting People
Protecting Agriculture
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National Wildlife Research Center

FY 2008

Expanding Research Capabilities Through New Construction



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NWRC Builds New Research Facilities

Wildlife Services' (WS) National Wildlife Research Center (NWRC) is the only Federal research organization devoted exclusively to resolving conflicts between people and wildlife through the development of effective, selective, and acceptable methods, tools, and techniques.

APHIS WS is committed to completing its Site Master Plan to build research facilities that will permit NWRC to continue its mission and role as a world leader in providing science-based solutions to the complex issue of wildlife damage management.

Applying Science & Expertise to Wildlife Challenges

NWRC Security Center—In 2008, NWRC completed construction of a new security center for its headquarters site on the Foothills Research Campus of Colorado State University in Fort Collins, CO. The new security center is located just outside the main entrance to the NWRC site and provides facilities for the NWRC guard service to better provide surveillance and monitoring of all vehicular traffic entering and exiting the 43-acre site. This enhanced security addresses higher level security requirements mandated by the Department of Homeland Security. The security center was developed through a lease/construct agreement with the General Service Administration.

ISRB Building Exhaust Acoustical Attenuation Project—NWRC completed a building exhaust acoustical attenuation construction project on the existing Invasive Species Research Building in 2008. The construction reduced noise pollution from the air exhaust stacks located on top of the building. The building is designed to simulate temperature and humidity ranges from temperate to tropical ecosystems. There is no re-circulated air in the building which leads to a tremendous amount of exhaust air continuously being eliminated through the roof top exhaust stacks. New acoustic attenuators in lengthened exhaust stacks reduced the noise generated by the exhaust air from 66 to 54 decibels -- a more acceptable level for the community, employees, and animals.

Wildlife Disease Research Building—The Wildlife Disease Research Building (WDRB) will be the last major building to be completed in the original NWRC Site Master Plan approved by USDA in 1990. The building will be a biosafety level 3 Ag (BSL-3 Ag) biocontainment disease research facility with approximately 21,000 square feet of user space. The user space will include research, laboratory, animal holding and testing, office space and will greatly expand WS' capabilities to respond to wildlife disease emergencies and resolve important disease issues that involve livestock- and human-wildlife interactions.

In addition to basic wildlife disease research, the WDRB will also support the surveillance, rapid response, and vaccine assessment for emerging wildlife disease issues. Legislation mandates that USDA provide assistance upon request to State governments, private individuals, and other Federal agencies to control and prevent damage and disease caused or carried by wildlife. This future building will greatly enhance the ability of APHIS to provide this assistance. It will also provide important "surge" space for disease epidemic emergencies in the United States. In such emergencies, the NWRC facilities will be available for conducting BSL-3 laboratory work to address national concerns.

The WDRB will expand NWRC's existing BSL-3 wildlife disease research capabilities, as well as increase opportunities for collaborative research with Colorado State University and other organizations. The "Ag" designation in the description "BSL-3 Ag" indicates that each animal room is designed so that diseased animals can roam free in the rooms and/or be contained in open cages in the rooms. Neither of these situations is allowed in standard BSL-3 containment structures and the "Ag" capability is a critical need for disease studies in wildlife.



United States Department of Agriculture
Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service

The WDRB will be owned by a private developer and leased through GSA to NWRC. Initial design of the WDRB was completed and discussions were held with potential private developers in 2008. Final design of the WDRB, in partnership with GSA, and a formal solicitation for offers from private developers is planned for 2009. The economic climate for financing a complex lease/construct building in late 2008 and into 2009 is a difficult one and may require additional planning on the part of GSA and NWRC before an award to a developer can be made. Development of construction documents and construction/commissioning of the WDRB building will take approximately two to three years after an award is made to a private developer. The estimated completion date at this time is FY 2012.