



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 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 more than 160 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 and other sites across the United States and focus on regional wildlife damage management issues.



Map of NWRC field stations

Hawaii

The Hilo, HI, field station conducts research to reduce the impacts of invasive vertebrates on agricultural crops and native plants and animals. 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, several invasive pests have become established, and the protection of native species has become critical. As a result, the field station has expanded its focus to include invasive tree frogs, parrots, francolin, mongooses, feral swine, and brown tree snakes.

Florida

The Gainesville, FL, field station is located on a 26-acre site near the University of Florida and contains an office and laboratory building, outdoor aviaries, large enclosures, and flight pens. Current research focuses on managing depredation and nuisance problems caused by vultures; developing methods to reduce impacts of invasive wildlife species, such as monk parakeets, Burmese pythons, and Nile monitors; and evaluating reproductive inhibitors for wildlife damage management.

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 the ways in which it can be minimized or prevented. To better understand what conditions or behaviors influence predation rates at aquaculture facilities or natural water bodies, scientists study captive and free-ranging birds, such as cormorants and pelicans. Other studies investigate the role birds play in the transmission of fish diseases. The field station is located on the Mississippi State University campus and includes unique facilities to house wild birds, study their behavior and impact on aquaculture systems, and determine their role in the life cycle and transmission of fish diseases.

North Dakota

The Bismarck, ND, field station develops new and refined methods to reduce the impact of blackbirds and starlings on sunflower crops and at feedlots and dairies. Current research efforts include developing environmentally safe techniques for managing dense wetland vegetation used by blackbirds as night roosts; developing population models to predict effects of various population control techniques on blackbird numbers; and determining the role of starlings in transmitting diseases at commercial feedlots.

Ohio

The Sandusky, OH, field station provides research expertise to help

reduce wildlife-aircraft collisions. Such collisions cause more than 550,000 hours of aircraft downtime and cost U.S. civil aviation more than \$625 million every year. Scientists develop and evaluate repellents and deterrents to keep birds, deer, and other animals away from airports. 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.

Texas

The [Kingsville, TX, field station](#) at Texas A&M University–Kingsville develops methods to manage and ultimately eradicate pseudorabies, other wildlife diseases affecting livestock, and wildlife diseases of concern at the U.S.-Mexican border. Scientists study the movements of free-ranging feral swine with respect to livestock production; test baits; evaluate exposure to diseases within free-ranging feral swine populations; determine modes of pseudorabies transmission from feral to domestic swine; and conduct risk assessments. In cooperation with the Caesar

Kleberg Wildlife Research Institute, the station operates a 1,000 square-foot laboratory and has access to the university's wildlife pathology and captive research facilities.

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 predators in an effort to reduce livestock depredations and damage caused by coyotes, bears, and wolves; resolve conflicts in urban areas; and mitigate impacts of predators on wildlife populations.

Other Field Locations: The NWRC establishes agreements with universities and scientific organizations to house NWRC scientists at strategic locations across the country. NWRC scientists are currently co-located at the [Monell Chemical Senses Center in Philadelphia, PA](#), and [Oregon State University in Corvallis, OR](#). The NWRC laboratory at Monell provides access to specialized research opportunities focused on the development of nonlethal repellents and attractants. Chemical senses research involving olfactory, taste, and chemoreception senses is emphasized. Oregon State University's College of Forestry partners with NWRC to conduct research on wildlife damage to forest

resources. Applied studies focus on new repellents, attractants and delivery systems, as well as studying the efficacy and nontarget impacts of new or existing tools.

Additional Information

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

You may also call NWRC at (970) 266-6000 or visit our Web site at http://www.aphis.usda.gov/wildlife_damage/nwrc/.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, or marital or family status. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (Braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) should contact USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TDD).

To file a complaint of discrimination, write USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, Room 326-W, Whitten Building, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20250-9410 or call (202) 720-5964 (voice and TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.