



# The National Wildlife Research Center's Economic Impacts to Colorado



## MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

Since the 1940s, the National Wildlife Research Center (NWRC) has played a vital role in the development of new tools and techniques for use in wildlife damage management. As the research arm of the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Wildlife Services program, NWRC works with private and government partners to identify innovative and practical ways to reduce wildlife damage to agriculture, natural resources (including threatened and endangered species), property, and human health and safety, while protecting the environments we all share.

The numerous benefits of NWRC to the field of wildlife damage management are often difficult to quantify. For example, what is the overall value of a technology that prevents the extinction of an endangered species, a method that prevents the spread of a disease, or a tool that scares predators away from livestock? This factsheet aims to quantify some of the more direct economic effects of the NWRC headquarters spending and employment on the Colorado economy.

I wish to thank Dr. Stephanie Shwiff and Ms. Katy Kirkpatrick for their analysis of NWRC's economic impact to the state of Colorado. Their efforts have helped shed light on the important role government labs can and do play in our local community.

Dr. Larry Clark - *Director*  
National Wildlife Research Center  
USDA/APHIS/WS

## ECONOMIC BENEFITS OF THE NWRC

The U.S. Department of Agriculture Wildlife Services' National Wildlife Research Center (NWRC) is the Federal institution devoted to resolving problems caused by the interactions of wildlife and people. The NWRC applies scientific expertise to resolve human-wildlife conflicts while maintaining the quality of the environment shared with wildlife. NWRC's 160 scientists and support staff are located at a headquarters office in Fort Collins, Colorado, and at several field stations located throughout the United States.

In 2005, NWRC conducted an impact analysis to estimate the contribution to Colorado's economy. Results showed:

- + Operational expenditures, salaries and meetings at the NWRC headquarters add \$17M to the State economy each year.
- + NWRC's annual expenditures create 103 supplementary non-NWRC jobs.
- + NWRC's construction expenditures in Colorado created a temporary economic impact of \$152M.
- + As NWRC construction spending flowed through the economy, approximately 1,120 jobs were created.

## WILDLIFE DISEASE RESEARCH BUILDING FUTURE EXPANSION



The future construction of the NWRC's Wildlife Disease Research Building in Fort Collins, Colorado, will have a direct impact on the state of Colorado in the form of increased revenue and employment. The NWRC will spend approximately \$18.5 million at the state level on construction, generating over \$31 million in revenue and creating 242 new jobs. An important outcome of the research done at this state-of-the-art wildlife disease research building will be techniques to better protect humans, agriculture and wildlife from wildlife-based diseases. These techniques and other innovations will help to safeguard and potentially increase productivity of businesses in the agricultural sector, allowing Colorado and the United States to remain competitive in agricultural production.

## NWRC ECONOMIC ANALYSIS

### Construction Expenditures

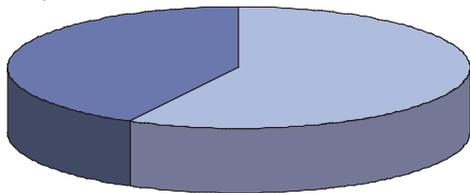
NWRC's 43-acre headquarters is located on the Colorado State University Foothills Campus and consists of four facilities: Wildlife Science Building, Outdoor Animal Research Facility, Animal Research Building, and Invasive Species Research Building. Future construction includes a 20,000 sq-ft Wildlife Disease Research Building (BSL-3 Ag).

**NWRC construction had a total impact of \$152 million to the State economy.**

**For every construction dollar spent by the NWRC, \$1.73 was generated in the State economy.**

**Revenue Generated**  
**\$64 Million**

**NWRC Expenditures**  
**\$88 Million**



### Non-Construction Expenditures

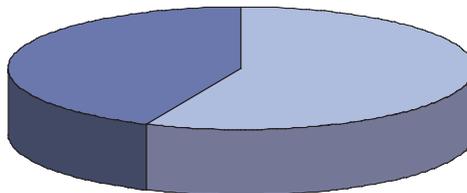
The NWRC employs approximately 125 people in Colorado. In addition to employee salaries, expenditures include operational items such as lease payments, utilities and vehicles. Additionally, NWRC attracts approximately 250 visitors to Colorado to attend meetings, workshops and symposiums annually. A survey by Colorado State University in 2000 indicated that \$180.16 was spent daily by each visitor (\$230 in 2005 dollars).

**NWRC non-construction expenditures annually have a total impact of \$17 million and creates 228 jobs.**

**For every non-construction dollar spent by the NWRC, a total of \$1.82 is generated in the State economy.**

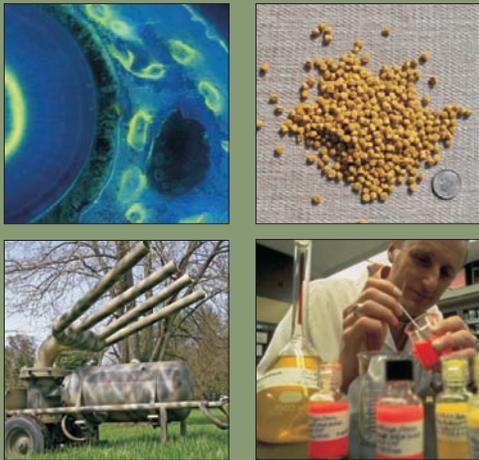
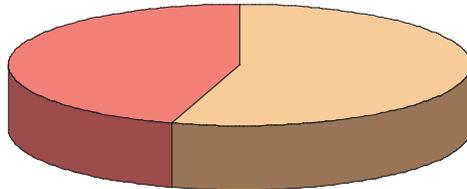
**Revenue Generated**  
**\$7.4 Million**

**NWRC Expenditures**  
**\$9.7 Million**



**Jobs Generated**  
**103**

**NWRC Jobs**  
**125**



### INFORMATION AND TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER

NWRC promotes the adoption of its research outputs by publishing research findings, presenting at scientific meetings, hosting demonstrations and workshops, and protecting and licensing inventions/patents of new commercial products. By doing so, NWRC helps to create new jobs and economic opportunities. Examples of products developed or tested by NWRC and transferred to the private sector include OvoControl™ contraceptive bait for Canada geese and pigeons (Innolytics, LLC) and Martin Net Blaster, an air net cannon for capturing wild birds (Martin Engineering).

## FEDERAL LABS IN COLORADO

In May 2008, CO-LABS (a consortium of Federally-funded scientific laboratories, universities, businesses, local governments, and community leaders) released a report of the economic impact of Colorado's Federal research labs.

Federal research facilities and their university affiliates were shown to have a strong economic benefit in the State of Colorado, with net benefits estimated at \$1.11 billion in FY 2007, \$1.25 billion in FY 2008, and \$1.55 billion in FY 2009. Boulder, Jefferson, and Larimer Counties were the primary beneficiaries of the research facilities due to their physical location in these counties, as well as the residences of a majority of the facilities' employees.

### ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

All NWRC economic data were gathered from official NWRC records. Data for the IMPLAN® model was provided by the IMPLAN® group and the State of Colorado. A complete discussion of the methodology used is available from NWRC.

*For more information, please contact:*  
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You may also call NWRC at (970) 266-6000 or visit our Website at [http://www.aphis.usda.gov/wildlife\\_damage/nwrc/index.shtml](http://www.aphis.usda.gov/wildlife_damage/nwrc/index.shtml)

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