

**NATIONAL WILDLIFE SERVICES ADVISORY COMMITTEE (NWSAC) MEETING
Summary/Decision Document
1996-2004**

ISSUE	YEAR	STATUS	DECISION
1. The Committee recommends to the Secretary of Agriculture that efforts are needed to develop additional research and extension education contracts between APHIS-WS and universities.	1996	Completed	
2. The Committee encourages APHIS-WS to work with State and Federal agencies to address the serious problem of interstate transport of wildlife species that are at risk of carrying rabies.	1996	Completed	
The Committee recommends that the Deputy Administrator for APHIS-WS convey to the Executive Committee of the IAFWA and other appropriate committees, the Committee's concern for the potential serious wildlife, domestic livestock, and human health implications of interstate transfer and commercial trade in wildlife with unknown health; consistent State-by-State regulation and health testing in regard to interstate shipment of wildlife species.	1997	Completed	This concern was discussed at the September 1997 annual meeting of the IAFWA's Wildlife Damage Management and Fish and Wildlife Health Committees for action.
Same as above, except Assistant Secretary for MRP convey agency concerns to the IAFWA instead of APHIS-WS Deputy Administrator and also convey these concerns to State Game, Health, and Agriculture Departments and its legislatures. The Committee also recommends that the Secretary propose to IAFWA legislation for consistent State-by-State regulations and health testing and	1998		APHIS-WS will meet with APHIS-VS officials and representatives from the USDA-OGC to discuss the issue of drafting legislation to deal with this recommendation and the means of communicating with the identified officials.

NATIONAL WILDLIFE SERVICES ADVISORY COMMITTEE (NWSAC) MEETING
Summary/Decision Document
1996-2004

ISSUE	YEAR	STATUS	DECISION
management in regard to interstate shipment of wildlife species.			
The Committee recommends the Secretary work with the Secretaries of Health and Human Services, Homeland Security, Interior, and appropriate state, tribal, and territorial agencies to identify and implement needed controls and/or restrictions on importation and interstate movement of exotic and wild animals and domestic pets to safeguard humans, livestock, and native wildlife from exotic, emerging, and resurging infectious wildlife diseases and parasites.	2004		USDA is an active partner with the Departments of Commerce and Interior in implementing invasive species protection policies. In addition, APHIS-WS requested through the Departments cross cutting FY05 budget initiative funding support for brown tree snake control efforts and other invasive species initiatives. For FY06, the Department is requesting an increase of \$750,000 for APHIS-WS to control the invasive Brown Tree snake in Guam. In addition APHIS has established a new shared line item in the FY06 budget request for WS, VS, and IS to collaborate on border wildlife disease surveillance and to expand efforts in national wildlife disease monitoring. Also WS works cooperatively with APHIS-VS and other State and Federal agencies to define roles and responsibilities in the event of an emergency.
3. The Committee recommends that the completion of construction of the NWRC at Fort Collins, CO be made a high priority budget item during the development of the FY98 budget.	1996	Completed	APHIS requested \$16.1 million in the FY98 budget request for the completion of the NWRC.
4. The Committee recommends that APHIS-WS representatives from AR and LA be added to the Double-crested cormorant Damage Management	1996	Completed	APHIS-WS will ensure that APHIS-WS representatives in AR and LA provide input into the development of the Double-crested cormorant

NATIONAL WILDLIFE SERVICES ADVISORY COMMITTEE (NWSAC) MEETING
Summary/Decision Document
1996-2004

ISSUE	YEAR	STATUS	DECISION
<p>Plan Committee. The Committee further recommends that there be a review and comment process for this document instituted for persons outside APHIS-WS.</p>			<p>Damage Management Plan. Additionally, stakeholders will have an opportunity to comment on the draft plan.</p>
<p>5. The Committee recommends that blackbirds remain a high priority research area and that in light of the complicated multi-crop problems caused by blackbirds that the National Blackbird Management Plan be used as a broad guideline for future research projects with emphasis on repellents and management guidelines.</p>	1996	Completed	
<p>Whereas blackbirds cause significant damage to rice, sunflowers, and other grain crops and often threaten human health and safety; Whereas the APHIS-WS program provides invaluable assistance in the form of technical assistance, direct control, and research to agricultural producers and other citizens; therefore, the Committee recommends that the Secretary of Agriculture continue to fund and support projects conducted by the operations and research divisions of the WS program to reduce blackbird damage to various resources.</p>	1999		<p>APHIS-WS, through its NWRC, is developing a blackbird population model. NWRC is developing a research project in which another roost survey will be conducted within the next three years. In addition, APHIS-WS will explore with the NASS the possibility of doing survey of economic impact of blackbird damage to rice and sunflowers.</p>
<p>Specifically, the Committee recommends that WS conduct research to determine the economic impact of blackbird damage to rice and sunflowers and to provide information relative to the status of</p>			

**NATIONAL WILDLIFE SERVICES ADVISORY COMMITTEE (NWSAC) MEETING
Summary/Decision Document
1996-2004**

ISSUE	YEAR	STATUS	DECISION
blackbird population in North America so that sound management decisions pertaining to wildlife damage control can be made.			
The Committee recommends the Secretary of Agriculture seek \$560,000 in additional annual funding for the NWRC to expedite research to develop and register repellents, lethal and non-lethal management techniques for protecting rice, and to continue support for operational baiting.	2004		We will continue to provide support for registration of repellents that can be used as nonlethal damage management tools as resources allow.
The Committee recommends the Secretary seek new project funding of \$250,000 for the NWRC for research to develop an avicide specific to blackbirds and starlings that would allow increased protection for crops, feedlots, dairy, and human health.	2004		The APHIS-WS is currently investigating the role that blackbirds play as vectors and reservoirs for diseases affecting humans and livestock. Specific efforts include investigating the movement, transmission, and maintenance of E. Coli and Salmonella at feedlots and dairies; and the role of blackbirds as hosts and disseminators of WNV. We support this recommendation and will continue to provide funding for this type of research as resources allow.
6. Wolf reintroduction, recovery, and management are responsibility of the USFWS. All costs of wolf reintroduction, recovery, and management should be borne by the USFWS and not APHIS-WS.	1996 1997 1998	Completed Completed Completed	Currently, funds for wolf control are appropriated to APHIS-WS and USFWS. These monies are aggregated and used by the APHIS-WS wolf control project. We agree that at least the cost of control for newly introduced populations such as the Mexican wolf should be borne by USFWS.

**NATIONAL WILDLIFE SERVICES ADVISORY COMMITTEE (NWSAC) MEETING
Summary/Decision Document
1996-2004**

ISSUE	YEAR	STATUS	DECISION
<p>Eastern Timber Wolves have reached a population of nearly 3,000 and are expanding their range as are other wolf populations. The Committee recommends that the Secretary seek adequate additional funding to manage wolf predation on domestic animals.</p>	2000	Completed	<p>APHIS- WS requested \$1.58 million in additional funding to manage depredations by federally protected wolves in Minnesota, Wisconsin, Michigan, Idaho, Wyoming, and Montana for FY00. APHIS-WS received additional appropriated funding gray wolf damage management activities in the Northern Rockies area. However, no additional appropriated funding was made available for timber wolf activities in the Great Lakes area. APHIS-WS will work with cooperators and stakeholders alike to educate them about the impact of the expanding timber wolf population in FY01.</p>
<p>The Committee recommends the Secretary seek adequate additional funding to manage eastern wolf populations and continued funding for western wolf management.</p>	2002	Completed	<p>A the request of industry groups, Congress appropriated \$1.25 million for control of gray wolves in Minnesota, Wisconsin, and Michigan, including funding for Mexican wolf management activities in Arizona and New Mexico. Expanding wolf populations continue to increase the number of requests for assistance in the Northern Rocky Mountain area and APHIS-WS will continue to evaluate the need for additional assistance.</p>
<p>The Committee recommends that the Secretary seek additional funding to resolve conflicts with humans and livestock resulting from expanding eastern and western wolf populations.</p>	2003	Completed	<p>In FY03, Congress appropriated \$1.25 million for control of wolves in Minnesota, Wisconsin, Michigan, Arizona and New Mexico. Expanding wolf populations continue to increase the number of requests for assistance in the Northern Rocky Mountain area, and APHIS-WS will continue to</p>

NATIONAL WILDLIFE SERVICES ADVISORY COMMITTEE (NWSAC) MEETING
Summary/Decision Document
1996-2004

ISSUE	YEAR	STATUS	DECISION
<p>The Committee recommends the Secretary, in cooperation with the Secretary of the Interior, seek additional funding and/or new funding for support for APHIS-WS to resolve increasing conflicts involving humans, livestock, and other domestic animals resulting from restored and expanding wolf populations.</p>	2004	Completed	<p>evaluate the need for additional assistance.</p> <p>With the support of industry groups, new funds were provided for wolf damage management in the western Great Lakes for the last 2 years, in addition to the existing funding available for wolf management in the Northern Rocky Mountain region and New Mexico and Arizona. USFWS is currently reviewing the federal protection status for the wolf in the Great Lakes and Northern Rocky Mountains so that the States may be forced to take a greater role in wolf management. Should this occur, cooperative funding for APHIS-WS will shift from Interior to the designated States. WS will work with the states to insure the continued availability of wolf damage management expertise. Expanding wolf populations have resulted in the increase in the number of requests for assistance and APHIS-WS will evaluate this need.</p>
<p>7. USDA should provide FY97 funding to supplement State funds for the continuation of the oral rabies vaccination program for coyotes and foxes.</p>	1996	Completed	<p>In FY95, APHIS provided \$1.3 million in contingency funds for the oral rabies vaccination program in Texas. In addition, APHIS-WS provided approximately \$100,000 in FY95 and FY96 to help support this project. APHIS-WS did not include funding in either the FY97 or FY98 budget requests because it has become an ongoing program and does not meet the guidelines for contingency funds release. Therefore, unless Congress funds the activity</p>

NATIONAL WILDLIFE SERVICES ADVISORY COMMITTEE (NWSAC) MEETING
Summary/Decision Document
1996-2004

ISSUE	YEAR	STATUS	DECISION
The Committee encourages USDA to provide sustainable funding and APHIS-WS support to supplement State and local funds and personnel for the continuation of existing programs and the study of new methods and programs to enhance the control and reduce the risk, suffering, expense, and the possible elimination of wildlife rabies strains from the U.S.	1997	Completed	directly, we will be unable to provide funds in FY97. APHIS-WS received a \$1.5 million increase in for FY98 to assist in rabies control efforts in TX, OH, VT, NY, and other States.
Same as above except added international and private sources of supplemental funding.	1998		The Oral Rabies Vaccination Program will be supported by APHIS-WS. Funding will be requested in future budgets.
The Committee recommends continued support for oral rabies vaccination programs in the U.S. APHIS-WS should continue to provide leadership in the development and implementation of oral rabies vaccination programs through participation in the planning, logistical development, and personnel support for existing and developing programs.	1999	Completed	APHIS-WS will continue support of the oral rabies vaccination programs in the U.S. to the extent that available funding will allow.
The committee recommends that the Secretary seek new appropriated funding to APHIS-WS for personnel and budgetary resources necessary to support state approved oral rabies vaccination programs. APHIS-WS should provide the	2000	Completed	The APHIS-WS National Rabies Coordinator will work with each of the appropriate State and Federal agencies toward formulation of a national rabies control program. The initial focus will be on cooperative programs to stop the northward and

NATIONAL WILDLIFE SERVICES ADVISORY COMMITTEE (NWSAC) MEETING
Summary/Decision Document
1996-2004

ISSUE	YEAR	STATUS	DECISION
<p>leadership needed to develop a coordinated national rabies control program to prevent the continued spread of raccoon rabies in the northeastern and southeastern U.S. and canine rabies in Texas. Through the coordination of State programs, strategic regional barriers should be expanded and merged with the ultimate goal of developing a national rabies control program designed to eliminate the threat posed by rabies in these wildlife species.</p>			<p>westward spread of raccoon rabies and the northward spread of the coyote and fox strain of rabies in Texas. For FY01, APHIS-WS received a \$2 million increase for increased oral rabies vaccination activities in strategic areas. APHIS-WS has requested a \$7.6 million increase in rabies funding in the FY02 budget to help implement this program. APHIS-WS has also requested USDA Commodity Credit Corporation emergency funds to assist in reinforcing and expanding existing oral rabies vaccination barriers to contain wildlife rabies.</p>
<p>The Committee recommends that the Secretary seek additional funding to accomplish the wildlife rabies vaccination program for control and elimination of raccoon, fox, and coyote rabies and to initiate skunk, mongoose, and bat rabies vaccination programs. The Committee commends APHIS-WS on their leadership in these vaccination programs and encourages them to work with the stakeholders in finalizing the international wildlife rabies vaccination plan.</p>	2003	Completed	<p>APHIS-WS officials will continue to work with State, Federal, and international agencies implementing a national rabies control program. In FY03, Congress allocated \$8 million in new funding for rabies control. In FY03, APHIS-WS further requested an additional \$5.5 million in emergency funding from the Commodity Credit Corporation, of which \$4.2 million was ultimately approved.</p>
<p>The Committee recommends the Secretary support new funding for wildlife rabies vaccination programs for control and elimination of raccoon, fox, and coyote rabies, and to seek new funding for the development and implementation of the skunk, mongoose and bat rabies vaccination programs.</p>	2004	Completed	<p>The Secretary continues to support APHIS-WS efforts to manage wildlife diseases and continues to seek additional funding to expand wildlife disease management efforts beyond existing rabies control activities. Emergency funding has been provided the past several years for oral rabies vaccination</p>

NATIONAL WILDLIFE SERVICES ADVISORY COMMITTEE (NWSAC) MEETING
Summary/Decision Document
1996-2004

ISSUE	YEAR	STATUS	DECISION
8. The Committee commends the highly professional work done by APHIS-WS during the first 18 months of wolf recovery in the Yellowstone and Central Idaho areas and urges its continued involvement in wolf management.	1996	Completed	activities. APHIS-WS strategic planning has identified wildlife diseases surveillance and monitoring as a priority in the FY 2006 budget request.
9. Conflicts with wildlife in urban and suburban areas are a growing concern among homeowners and corporate property owners. Species of concern include Canada geese, starlings, house sparrows, pigeons, grackles, crows, gray squirrels, raccoons, woodchucks, beavers, skunks, cougars, moles, coyotes and deer. The Committee recommends that increased research effort be allocated to the study of methods to reduce urban/suburban wildlife conflicts.	1996		
10. The Committee commends the efforts of the NWRC to identify safe, effective, and practical nonlethal means of controlling wildlife damage.	1996	Completed	APHIS-WS will provide a letter to the Director, NWRC commending the Center for their work and advising NWRC employees of the Committee's recommendation.
11. The Committee recommends that future committee meeting be held in areas of the country	1997	Completed	Provided funds are available and it is logistically feasible, we will implement this recommendation.

NATIONAL WILDLIFE SERVICES ADVISORY COMMITTEE (NWSAC) MEETING
Summary/Decision Document
1996-2004

ISSUE	YEAR	STATUS	DECISION
experiencing substantial damage for committee members to better grasp the depth of depredation problems.			
12. Upon his retirement from APHIS-WS research program, the Committee wished to commend Robert Phillips for his dedication, foresight, and hard work.	1997	Completed	This recommendation was provided to Bob Phillips prior to his retirement.
13. The Committee encourages APHIS-WS, to the extent possible, to use traps that cause the fewest injuries while maintaining high efficiency and effectiveness.	1997		All new procurement of foothold traps for coyotes will be limited to those with padded jaws. Research to improve trapping methods will continue.
14. The Committee recommends that the Secretary of Agriculture reassess the OWCP system and explore various alternatives to manage OWCP so it will have minimum impact on service delivery.	1997	Completed	We have already thoroughly examined the options and there are no legal alternatives to the current system.
15. The Committee supports the current efforts by APHIS-WS to Native Americans' Tribal Governments Group and recommends that cooperative relationships with tribal governments be expanded throughout the country.	1997	Completed	We will actively work to improve cooperative relationships with tribal governments.
The Committee recommends that APHIS-WS develop a strategy to implement APHIS Directive 1040.1, <u>Relationships With Native Americans and Tribal Governments</u> .	1999	Completed	APHIS-WS has already implemented the Directive and will make every effort for the Native American Working Group representative and liaisons to establish closer communication with Native

**NATIONAL WILDLIFE SERVICES ADVISORY COMMITTEE (NWSAC) MEETING
Summary/Decision Document
1996-2004**

ISSUE	YEAR	STATUS	DECISION
The Committee recommends the Secretary assess and update APHIS Directive 1040.1 dated 9/8/95, "Relationships with Native Americans and Tribal Governments," especially as related to wildlife issues.	2004		American groups. APHIS-WS concurs with this recommendation and will request that the APHIS Administrator direct the APHIS Native American Working Group to update APHIS Directive 1040.1.
16. As the FAA has limited expertise in wildlife control, the Committee urges the Secretary of Agriculture to seek funds from Congress which would pass through DOT directly to APHIS-WS for research and education to mitigate the aviation/wildlife hazard.	1997	Completed	We have no authority to implement this recommendation. However, we will work with FAA to identify resource needs on this issue.
The Committee supports new funding for a national position within APHIS-WS to coordinate airport/bird problem identification, provide for training of wildlife specialists working for airport authorities, and to maintain the FAA/USDA bird/aircraft strike database.	1999		APHIS-WS will request funding through the multi-year budget process.
The Committee recommends that the Secretary enter into discussions with the Department of Transportation, particularly the Federal Aviation Administration, and the Department of Defense, through existing Memoranda of Understanding to seek adequate funding to manage wildlife hazards at airports. The Committee recognizes the important	2002		APHIS-WS will work with the Department of Transportation and the Department of Defense in assessing and managing hazards at airports.

NATIONAL WILDLIFE SERVICES ADVISORY COMMITTEE (NWSAC) MEETING
Summary/Decision Document
1996-2004

ISSUE	YEAR	STATUS	DECISION
<p>role of Wildlife Services in assessing and managing hazards at airports and strongly supports the recent creation of the position of National Airports Coordinator.</p>			
<p>The Committee recommends the Secretary and APHIS-WS along with the Federal Aviation Administration take a leadership role in aviation safety/wildlife management issues and encourages them to continue to actively support industry working groups such as Bird Strike Committee-USA in an effort to develop collaborative solutions to the aircraft/wildlife strike problem.</p>	2004	Completed	<p>APHIS-WS has recently concluded a Memorandum of Agreement with FAA, FWS, EPA, DOD (Air force), and the Army Corp of Engineers to address wildlife threats to aviation. This MOA establishes an Aviation Safety Working Group to enhance cooperation among the agencies to address wildlife aviation hazard issues. APHIS-WS continues to be an active participant in Bird Strike Committee, taking a leadership role in planning and sponsoring annual conferences. APHIS-WS continues to implement a wildlife hazard management certification program to train APHIS-WS personnel in appropriate management practices. This training has been expanded to include DOD and private sector biologists.</p>
<p>17. The Committee urges the Secretary of Agriculture to form, in conjunction with other administrative officials, an interagency taskforce which has management authority for various Federal or State laws such as wetland mitigation, endangered species, migratory birds, etc., to expedite response to public safety hazards such as wildlife/aviation collisions.</p>	1997		<p>We will explore the possibility of organizing such a group.</p>

NATIONAL WILDLIFE SERVICES ADVISORY COMMITTEE (NWSAC) MEETING
Summary/Decision Document
1996-2004

ISSUE	YEAR	STATUS	DECISION
18. The Committee encourages APHIS to seek new funding from Congress to allow APHIS-WS to provide initial wildlife hazard evaluations and follow-up monitoring visits at Federal expense for protecting public safety at airports.	1997	Completed	This need has been included as one of the government's reinvention initiatives and will be addressed through that forum.
	1998	Completed	APHIS-WS is pursuing this recommendation through an initiative (\$1.15 million) with FAA and the National Transportation Safety Board.
	1999	Completed	APHIS-WS concurs and will continue to seek additional funding through the multi-year budget process for FY 2000 and 2001.
The Committee supports the new funding initiative for the Eastern Region's 2002 budget year, and recommends that APHIS-WS assign the highest priority for this new funding to accomplishing initial wildlife hazard evaluation and follow-up monitoring at all Part 139 airports.	2000	Completed	APHIS-WS requested \$7.4 million in additional funding for FY 2002 that would provide for improved customer service, update our information management capability, and include approximately \$2 million for staff and resources for airport safety work. Consultations and monitoring of wildlife hazard management would be accomplished at all of the 670 FAA-certificated airports.
The Committee recommends the Secretary enter into discussions with the Department of Transportation, specifically the Federal Aviation Administration, to seek adequate funding to manage wildlife hazards at airports. Further the Committee recommends the Secretary cooperate with the Secretary of Transportation to seek legislative approval to establish a "user fee" to be applied to	2004	Completed	The Secretary continues to support APHIS-WS efforts to reduce hazards at airports. The budget proposal for FY06 includes an increase of \$3.0 million for airport safety and assistance for managing wildlife hazards at airports.

NATIONAL WILDLIFE SERVICES ADVISORY COMMITTEE (NWSAC) MEETING
Summary/Decision Document
1996-2004

ISSUE	YEAR	STATUS	DECISION
each commercial airline ticket to provide funding for APHIS-WS wildlife hazard management activities at airports.			
19. The Committee commends the Secretary of Agriculture for changing the name of “Animal Damage Control” to “Wildlife Services”, as it more accurately reflects the work of the Agency.	1997	Completed	The Committee’s support for this change was helpful and appreciated.
20. The Committee recommends that a high priority be placed on assessing strategies and programs that are biologically and environmentally sound and developing acceptable effective methods to manage depredation on livestock and fish.	1997	Completed	Research to identify new methods to minimize predation to both livestock and aquaculture was identified as a top priority during the recent prioritization process completed in 1996, and APHIS-WS research is currently directed towards these issues.
	1998	Completed	
21. The Committee urges that the APHIS-WS budget be kept at its current level or increased to meet the demands of existing and new programs.	1997	Completed	The FY98 budget for APHIS-WS contains \$1.5 million increase to implement new public health and other new programs.
The Committee recommends that the Secretary of Agriculture convey to Congress, the Administration, and OMB that new congressional directives to APHIS-WS be accompanied with adequate funding that does not take away from existing programs or projects.	1997	Completed	This recommendation is beyond the Secretary’s authority to enforce. APHIS-WS will make every effort to maintain this position.
Demands for APHIS-WS expertise and new areas of conflict between human interest and wildlife	1999	Completed	WS will continue to evaluate its priorities and core functions through its strategic planning process to ensure, to the maximum extent possible, that funds

**NATIONAL WILDLIFE SERVICES ADVISORY COMMITTEE (NWSAC) MEETING
Summary/Decision Document
1996-2004**

ISSUE	YEAR	STATUS	DECISION
<p>have increased over the past 15 years with very limited increase in program budgets. The Committee recommends that WS evaluate priorities and program effectiveness to place emphasis on core activities, consistent with enabling legislation and the agency's mission.</p>			are available for increased activities.
<p>When Congress chooses to expand the activities of APHIS-WS, the Secretary should convey to Congress, the Administration, and OMB that Congressional directives to WS should be supported by sufficient additional funding.</p>			
<p>The Committee recommends the Secretary reaffirm protection of livestock and agriculture as a high priority of APHIS-WS and seek additional new funds for their protection without reduction of any present funding.</p>	2004	Completed	APHIS-WS recognizes livestock protection as a core mission/responsibility and will continue to support this activity to the fullest extent possible.
<p>22. The Committee recommends that the Secretary of Agriculture not require a cost-share formula of 50% Federal and cooperative funds. An array of complexities (species to be controlled protected, or non-protected status of species, presence of endangered species, portion of land class and sources of cooperative funds) prevent equitable implementation of this policy.</p>	1997 1998		<p>We agree that complexities of cooperative programs make a 50% cost share difficult to achieve. Therefore, it seems appropriate to remove from cost share formula any activities that are covered by Federal legislation such as migratory birds and endangered species and subject the remainder to a cost share arrangement.</p> <p>We concur. The complexities of this approach prevent an equitable implementation of this policy.</p>

NATIONAL WILDLIFE SERVICES ADVISORY COMMITTEE (NWSAC) MEETING
Summary/Decision Document
1996-2004

ISSUE	YEAR	STATUS	DECISION
23. The Committee recommends that the Secretary of Agriculture, in cooperation with the Secretary of Interior, establish a committee to develop a National Piscivorous Bird Management Plan to address the management of fish-eating birds.	1997	Completed	APHIS-WS personnel have discussed this issue with the USFWS and there is considerable opposition. This recommendation is so broad that implementation is not feasible.
The Committee recommends that the Secretary take steps to assure that research required to formulate a National Piscivorous Bird Damage Management Plan be conducted. Depredation problems caused by fish-eating birds, other than double-crested cormorants have not been adequately documented.	1998		Research regarding this problem is ongoing, and to the extent possible, will continue. While USFWS has not previously been willing to develop a national plan for fish-eating birds as a whole. APHIS-WS will explore the possibility of a flyway plan as an alternative.
24. APHIS-WS is encouraged to recoup, to the maximum extent allowable under Federal law, the costs of responding to FOIA requests from those requesting the information.	1997	Completed	APHIS has been reviewing its FOIA policy and will begin charging requesters to the extent allowable.
25. The Committee requests that APHIS-WS provide, as soon as possible, a copy of the final draft of the Non-lethal Use Form currently under development for use by its field personnel and an explanation of the manner in which this form will be used in program activities.	1997		Instead of developing a new form. APHIS-WS will work with the NASS to obtain information regarding the extent to which APHIS-WS cooperators use non-lethal control methods.
26. The Committee requests that APHIS-WS provide, as soon as possible, an exemplary list of the information it can release to the public without	1997		This information will be provided.

**NATIONAL WILDLIFE SERVICES ADVISORY COMMITTEE (NWSAC) MEETING
Summary/Decision Document
1996-2004**

ISSUE	YEAR	STATUS	DECISION
necessitating action under the FOIA and that which necessitates action under the statute.			
27. The Committee encourages the Federal Government to establish and provide funding to enhance a positive working relationship between agencies and departments of APHIS-VS and WS, CDC, USFWS, and State agencies concerning the surveillance and control of zoonotic diseases in wildlife, domestic animals, and humans.	1997	Completed	We are encouraged by the Committee's recognition of this as an important issue and will pursue implementation.
The Committee recommends that the Secretary support the wildlife disease programs outlined in the APHIS-WS business plan.	2002		The Secretary and Under Secretary continue to be supportive of APHIS-WS' efforts to manage wildlife diseases. Emergency funding has been provided the past several fiscal years for oral rabies vaccination activities and West Nile virus control. In FY03, Congress funded \$5.2 million of the President's budget request APHIS-WS wildlife disease surveillance. Of this amount, APHIS-WS received \$3.4 million, hired a wildlife disease coordinator and more than 20 wildlife disease biologists.
The Committee recommends the Secretary coordinate with the Secretaries of Interior, Homeland Security, Health and Human Services, the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency, and appropriate state, tribal, and territorial agencies to expand and continue implementation of a state driven, federally supported, scientifically	2004		In FY03, Congress funded \$5.2 million of the President's budget request for APHIS-WS' wildlife disease surveillance. Of this amount, APHIS-WS received \$3.4 million, hired a wildlife disease coordinator, and has hired 23 wildlife disease biologists. The FY05 budget provided status quo funding. Future expansion of this effort is supported

**NATIONAL WILDLIFE SERVICES ADVISORY COMMITTEE (NWSAC) MEETING
Summary/Decision Document
1996-2004**

ISSUE	YEAR	STATUS	DECISION
<p>sound wildlife disease program. This program includes research, surveillance, monitoring, management, and disposal techniques (including laboratory waste and waste water treatment and disposal processes) and activities. This includes continued expansion of the wildlife disease biologist program to station a minimum of one biologist per State and U.S. Territory.</p>			<p>through the FY06 budget proposal.</p>
<p>The Committee recommends the Secretary coordinate with the Secretary of Health and Human Services to increase awareness and discuss funding mechanisms for APHIS-WS disease activities the affect public health.</p>	2004		<p>The Secretary continues to support APHIS-WS' efforts in wildlife disease management and APHIS-WS will continue to pursue funding initiatives in support of wildlife disease management.</p>
<p>28. The Committee recommends that a detailed report by project, of non-Federal funding used in the APHIS-WS program during FY96 and 97 be conducted and that a report be provided to Committee members that identifies the source of cooperative funding, the cooperative funding collection mechanism, the amount of cooperative funding, and the services provided by APHIS-WS.</p>	1997		<p>This information will be provided.</p>
<p>29. The Committee recommends that at the next committee meeting, APHIS-WS provide a detailed presentation of the studies on the effectiveness on traps and trapping in APHIS-WS and on issues of physiological and behavioral effects experienced by</p>	1997		<p>This information will be provided.</p>

NATIONAL WILDLIFE SERVICES ADVISORY COMMITTEE (NWSAC) MEETING
Summary/Decision Document
1996-2004

ISSUE	YEAR	STATUS	DECISION
trapped animals.			
In the U.S. – E.U. Trap Understanding, it is suggested that data be collected on physiological, pathological, and behavioral effects experience by trapped animals. The Committee requests APHIS-WS collect these data (where possible) when conducting trap testing.	1998		The NWRC will collect this information, where possible, within available resources.
30. The Committee recommends that APHIS-WS and its advisory committee enhance its next meeting by visiting and meeting at the NWRC in Ft. Collins, CO.	1998	Completed	Accepted
	1999		APHIS-WS will host next committee meeting at NWRC provided sufficient funding is available. Program would be pleased to host meeting at an off-site every other year provide funds are available.
31. The Committee recommends that the secretary direct APHIS-WS to continue to place emphasis in funding plans on both cooperative and appropriated funding, allowing individual program specifics to dictate the source of funding.	1998	Completed	This recommendation is accepted. However, we believe every State program should be supported by both cooperative and Federal funds.
32. The Committee recommends the Secretary of Agriculture provide sufficient funding to APHIS-WS to address safety concerns while continuing to provide predator control and other services via aerial operations at present or increased spending levels.	1998		An outside review of the aerial operations program has been completed, and we expect to follow its recommendations.

NATIONAL WILDLIFE SERVICES ADVISORY COMMITTEE (NWSAC) MEETING
Summary/Decision Document
1996-2004

ISSUE	YEAR	STATUS	DECISION
<p>The Committee recommends that the cost for acquisition and continued maintenance of turbine aircraft recommended in the “Safety Review, Evaluation, and Recommendations Concerning the APHIS-WS Aviation Program” be provided through new funding sources and that recurring expenses associated with the maintenance of those aircraft be made a recurring budget item.</p>	1999		<p>We have requested additional funding through the multi-year budget process for FY00 and FY01.</p>
<p>The Committee recommends that APHIS-WS re-examine the decision to convert to or contract with turbine only helicopters, in light of new (Federal Aviation Administration) research that indicates piston-driven helicopters may be safer. If APHIS-WS finds that revisiting this policy is warranted, then the Committee recommends advising the Secretary to re-examine this policy.</p>	2002		<p>The APHIS-WS National Aviation Manager reviewed all available information relative to the safety of piston engine vs. turbine engine helicopters. The information did not support stopping the conversion. Based on this information, The NAM made a recommendation to the APHIS-WS Deputy Administrator to continue the conversion. APHIS-WS has completed the conversion of piston engine helicopters to turbine engine aircraft.</p>
<p>The Committee recommends that the Secretary provide additional funding to adequately support the Aviation Training Center. The Committee commends APHIS-WS on establishment of the Aviation Training Center.</p>	2004		<p>We support this recommendation; however limited resources in FY06 will preclude additional funding requests for this project.</p>
<p>33. APHIS-WS is conducting various activities related to migratory bird depredation permits and depredation costs that should be paid for with Federal funding appropriated to the USFWS.</p>	1998	Completed	<p>We do not believe this is either feasible or legal. USFWS funds are appropriated for specific purposes, and any funds provided to APHIS would need to be consistent with its appropriation report and bill</p>

NATIONAL WILDLIFE SERVICES ADVISORY COMMITTEE (NWSAC) MEETING
Summary/Decision Document
1996-2004

ISSUE	YEAR	STATUS	DECISION
Therefore, we recommend that the Secretary should explore measures to secure cooperative funding from the USFWS appropriation to cover these costs.			language.
34. The Committee recommends that the Secretary of Agriculture should open dialog with the USFWS to establish population management plans for cormorants at select breeding colonies.	1998	Completed	This item will be discussed at the next meeting of the Joint Migratory Bird Damage Working Group Committee's meeting between APHIS-WS and USFWS.
35. The Committee recommends that the Secretary of Agriculture encourage the USFWS to amend the cormorant depredation order to include lethal take at roost sites of cormorants that are causing damage.	1998	Completed	This recommendation will be discussed at the next Joint Migratory Bird Damage Working Group Committee's meeting.
36. The Committee recommends, to the Secretary, a minimum of one FTE to be placed in SD to continue providing Federal guidance and operational needs to the people of South Dakota, as well as the U.S.	1998		APHIS-WS will work with the National Sunflower Association to identify funding possibilities to ensure adequate funding to allow an FTE.
37. The Committee encourages APHIS-WS to develop and implement a plan to comply with U.S. understanding with E.U. to convert (as resources allow) to restraining devices other than conventional steel-jawed traps within 6 years after the understanding becomes effective.	1998		APHIS-WS will develop a plan and identify needed resources to deal with this issue.

**NATIONAL WILDLIFE SERVICES ADVISORY COMMITTEE (NWSAC) MEETING
Summary/Decision Document
1996-2004**

ISSUE	YEAR	STATUS	DECISION
<p>38. The Committee recommends the Secretary; 1) attempt to secure additional funding to expand direct control based on research activities to resolve other fish-eating bird impacts to bait fish, shell fish, and other aquacultural resources: and 2) ensure that funds are provided to States in proportion with the degree of aquaculture activity in those States.</p>	1998		<p>APHIS-WS will request additional funding for this issue in future Agency budget requests.</p>
<p>Aquaculture is the fastest growing source of protein in the United States. The Committee recommends that new funding for aquaculture problems be increased and allocated to States in proportion with aquaculture industry activity in those States.</p>	1999		<p>APHIS-WS concurs and will allocate new funding accordingly.</p>
<p>The Committee requests the Secretary to work with the Secretary of the Interior to fully fund the alternatives for double-crested cormorant management as identified in the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's double-crested cormorant Draft EIS.</p>	2002		<p>APHIS-WS cooperated with the USFWS (funding support and expertise) in the development of the double-crested cormorant EIS which is currently out for public review. In addition, APHIS-WS assisted USFWS in the development of the draft regulatory language that will implement the management practices outlined in the EIS. The draft language included provisions for increased opportunity to manage cormorants at roost sites and the development of a Public Resource Depredation Order to allow states to manage cormorants shown to be impacting sport fish, property, and habitat (does not include aquaculture). The EIS and accompanying regulations are expected to be finalized in the fall of 2003. Any funding needed to implement cormorant</p>

NATIONAL WILDLIFE SERVICES ADVISORY COMMITTEE (NWSAC) MEETING
Summary/Decision Document
1996-2004

ISSUE	YEAR	STATUS	DECISION
39. The Committee recommends that the regional offices of APHIS-WS not be moved. If they are, funds appropriated by Congress for wildlife damage research and management, or any other APHIS-WS funds, not be used for the move.	1998	Completed	control activities by APHIS-WS will be pursued through agency budget requests.
40. The Committee recommends that APHIS-WS initiate an aggressive public outreach campaign to communicate information on the practicality, efficiency, and animal welfare attributes of available techniques for resolving wildlife damage problems. This outreach effort should be coordinated with the USDA Extension Service, the USFWS extension office, and State agricultural and wildlife agencies.	1998	Completed	We have implemented Ag in the Classroom, Project Wild and other outreach efforts to support APHIS-WS' ongoing "Living With Wildlife" information campaign.
The Committee recommends the Secretary request that APHIS-WS enhance their outreach efforts by increasing working relationships with Federal, State, and local entities such as the Cooperative Extension Service, Natural Resource Conservation Service, and farm and ranch organizations to expand the availability of technical information to the public.	2002	Completed	The NWRC has developed a new position, technical information manager, to provide leadership for expanding WS information outreach and cooperation with State and Federal agencies. This position will be filled in FY03. In addition, WS received \$600,000 in FY03 to expand the Berryman Institute program to Mississippi State University. One of the principal activities will be to disseminate current wildlife damage management information to the public.

NATIONAL WILDLIFE SERVICES ADVISORY COMMITTEE (NWSAC) MEETING
Summary/Decision Document
1996-2004

ISSUE	YEAR	STATUS	DECISION
41. When zoonotic, emerging, and re-emerging diseases affect wildlife populations regulated under the NPS (i.e., brucellosis in bison) and State wildlife agencies, the Committee recommends that the Secretary of Agriculture seek funds from the NPS and work cooperatively with appropriate Federal (APHIS-VS and WS, HHS) and State (Dept. of Agriculture, Health and Wildlife) agencies to control and/or eliminate these diseases to protect the health of our people, livestock, exotics, pets and wildlife.	1998		We recognize this problem and will continue to work with Federal and State agencies to reduce or stop the transmission of zoonotic diseases.
42. The Committee recommends that cooperative funds be exempt from any type of administrative overhead charges that APHIS may be considering.	1998	Completed	
43. The Committee recommends that the Secretary of Agriculture encourage the APHIS Center for Epidemiology and Animal Health section of National Animal Health Monitoring Service to contract with APHIS-WS where wildlife is considered in the annual surveys of animal health and management issues.	1999		APHIS-WS will provide recommendation to APHIS-VS and will work with the group to the extent possible and within available resources.
44. The Committee recommends that the Secretary of Agriculture encourage the USDA agencies responsible for food safety, wildlife, and animal and human health to provide funding and cost share with APHIS-WS and the USFWS to conduct	1999		We agree that this is a concern and will discuss with IAFWA and their willingness to participate in related studies.

NATIONAL WILDLIFE SERVICES ADVISORY COMMITTEE (NWSAC) MEETING
Summary/Decision Document
1996-2004

ISSUE	YEAR	STATUS	DECISION
surveys on migratory and non-migratory birds on the incidence and prevalence of harmful microorganisms.			
45. The Committee commends the NWRC on its continued innovative research efforts and recommends that a formal process be developed that facilitates technological information transfer from the NWRC to APHIS-WS operations through systematic training at WS field locations and NWRC headquarters in Fort Collins, CO. In addition, the Committee recommends that an appropriate process be developed and implemented to ensure that field personnel disseminate this information to APHIS-WS customers.	1999	Completed	APHIS-WS recognizes the need to disseminate recent research developments to the field. The program will work to develop information transfer capabilities from NWRC to the field through annual State meetings. NWRC will place added emphasis through its state of the art facility in Fort Collins, CO.
The Committee recommends that the Secretary seek additional funding to support the transfer of new methods and technologies to APHIS-WS field staff and the public. This transfer should include training in newly approved means of avoiding wildlife conflicts.	2000		Information transfer for new methods is critical, and funding support will be pursued in conjunction with the research budget increase and the dissemination of all wildlife damage management information.
46. The Committee recommends that APHIS-WS seek funding and cultivate partnerships with State and private organizations to disseminate information on human/wildlife interactions, and particularly how to avoid conflicts with wildlife in urban settings. In conjunction with efforts by State	1999	Completed	APHIS-WS agrees and recognizes the need to continue outreach efforts through its Living with Wildlife Campaign.

NATIONAL WILDLIFE SERVICES ADVISORY COMMITTEE (NWSAC) MEETING
Summary/Decision Document
1996-2004

ISSUE	YEAR	STATUS	DECISION
wildlife agencies, public outreach efforts should communicate the value of wildlife to the public and the role of scientifically-based wildlife management including wildlife damage control, in sustaining healthy wildlife populations and habitats.			
47. The Committee recognizes the need for funding to operate and fully utilize the new research facilities of the NWRC. The Secretary is encouraged to seek increased funding for APHIS-WS Methods Development to cover increased facility operation and maintenance costs and to allow full utilization of this modern wildlife research complex in Fort Collins, CO. The Committee further recommends that APHIS-WS invite input and recommendations from the IAFWA in developing the 5-year needs assessment for the NWRC.	1999	Completed	APHIS-WS recognizes the need to fully utilize the new research facilities and has requested additional funding through the multi-year budget process for FY01. The program will work with the Wildlife Damage Management Policy Committee of the IAFWA and explore all opportunities to fully utilize the new research facilities.
The Committee recommends that the Secretary support increases in the research budget to allow for utilization of the NWRC.	2000	Completed	APHIS-WS agrees with this recommendation.
The Committee recommends that the Secretary seek a \$5 million augmentation to the APHIS-WS Methods Development annual base budget to fully fund applied research programs at the NWRC and its field stations.	2002	Completed	APHIS-WS pursued this recommendation in the FY03 and FY04 budget process. In FY03, Congress appropriated \$864,000 for maintenance and operations of the research facilities. In addition, NWRC received \$100,000 for increased telemetry studies for cormorant and pelican movement related

NATIONAL WILDLIFE SERVICES ADVISORY COMMITTEE (NWSAC) MEETING
Summary/Decision Document
1996-2004

ISSUE	YEAR	STATUS	DECISION
The Committee recommends that the Secretary seek \$2.5 million for 10 full-time staff and research operating funds to conduct the high priority research identified for the NWRC in Fort Collins, Colorado.	2003	Completed	to aquaculture damage research. Recent APHIS strategic planning has identified invasive species and wildlife disease research activities as priorities in future budget requests. APHIS-WS is pursuing this through the FY05 budget process.
The Committee recommends the Secretary maintain full funding in the FY05 to support NWRC.	2004	Completed	APHIS-WS concurs with this recommendation and will continue to request funding and staffing needed to bring NWRC's new research facilities and enhanced capacity in Ft. Collins, Colorado on-line. We pursued these needed resources in the FY03 and FY04 budget process. In FY03, Congress appropriated an additional \$864,000 for maintenance and operations of the NWRC research facilities.
48. The Committee recommends that the Secretary of Agriculture pursue additional funding for APHIS-WS and cooperatively with the Secretary of Interior for the Fish and Wildlife Service to develop and implement cost-effective programs to control Canada goose and mid-continent light goose populations where control by public hunting is not feasible or does not result in sufficient population reductions.	1999		We will continue to support the development of NWRC capabilities to the extent possible, to identify issues, and request needed funding to address those issues in FY06.
			APHIS-WS agrees and will work cooperatively with USFWS, the IAFWA, and other entities to develop solutions and alternatives.

NATIONAL WILDLIFE SERVICES ADVISORY COMMITTEE (NWSAC) MEETING
Summary/Decision Document
1996-2004

ISSUE	YEAR	STATUS	DECISION
49. The Committee recommends that the Secretary, to the extent allowed by law, request reimbursement of funds from respective Federal agencies that are spent by APHIS-WS for the reintroduction, recovery, and management of threatened and endangered species.	1999		WS recognizes the problem and will continue to work with USFWS to secure funds to offset the cost of these projects.
50. The Committee recommends that the Secretary does all in his power to protect and enhance the APHIS-WS program infrastructure (i.e., offices, equipment, supplies, vehicles, supervisory and administrative personnel) which provides the framework for APHIS-WS to carry out its mission of providing Federal leadership in managing problems caused by wildlife.	1999	Completed	APHIS-WS concurs and will provide an analysis and evaluation of program infrastructure by the next committee meeting.
51. The Committee endorses APHIS-WS ongoing strategic management process and recommends APHIS-WS continue its evaluation and review of the strategic management plan with additional input from the Committee including a discussion at the next Committee meeting.	1999	Completed	APHIS-WS concurs and will seek additional input from the committee.
The Committee recommends that WS complete the revision of its Strategic Plan and goals and invite the Committee to continue to participate in the process.	2000	Completed	This recommendation is accepted. APHIS-WS has found Committee input into its strategic planning process a valuable source of external information from which program leadership may draw as they chart the future direction of the program. APHIS-WS

**NATIONAL WILDLIFE SERVICES ADVISORY COMMITTEE (NWSAC) MEETING
Summary/Decision Document
1996-2004**

ISSUE	YEAR	STATUS	DECISION
52. The Committee recommends additional funding and other support for the NWRC research and development of capture and repellent devices and integrated predator and wildlife damage management methods that are both effective and socially acceptable.	1999	Completed	will continue to look for opportunities to appropriately involve the Committee in this ongoing process. APHIS-WS agrees and is requesting additional funding through its FY00 and FY01 budget process.
53. The Committee recommends that the Committee meetings be held in alternate years at field facilities, e.g. NWRC Sandusky, Ohio.	2000	Completed	This recommendation is accepted.
54. The Committee recommends that APHIS allocate greater and/or dedicated training resources for development of APHIS-WS personnel on coalition building and communication consistent with the Mission and Vision as stated in the Strategic Plan of APHIS-WS.	2000	Completed	APHIS-WS agrees with the need to work with APHIS to refocus employee development resources to assist the program in enhancing its coalition building and communication skills, and will work to achieve that end. In October, 2000 APHIS-WS provided this type of training to selected program employees and will continue as funds become available.
55. The Committee recommends that the Secretary of Agriculture pursue additional funding to evaluate implementation of the use of electronic trap monitoring devices in the field.	2000		We concur with this recommendation and will address this in future budget requests.

**NATIONAL WILDLIFE SERVICES ADVISORY COMMITTEE (NWSAC) MEETING
Summary/Decision Document
1996-2004**

ISSUE	YEAR	STATUS	DECISION
56. The Committee supports ongoing human dimensions research pertaining to WS' programs, including, but not limited to, programs that have generated controversy. The results should be included in the agency's strategic planning process.	2000	Completed	APHIS-WS recognizes the importance of human dimensions research in developing responses to human-wildlife conflicts. APHIS-WS will continue to support human dimensions research through the Berryman Institute at Utah State University, and will consider research findings during the agency's planning and decision-making processes.
57. The Committee recommends that the Secretary seek additional staff and funding necessary to review and update Wildlife Services' NEPA documents, including the Programmatic EIS every 5-10 years.	2002	Completed	APHIS-WS is evaluating the need, process, and mechanism for updating environmental analysis documents in consultation with the APHIS NEPA staff. In, APHIS-WS has added 2 NEPA specialists to work APHIS-WS program activities as part of new funding initiatives. APHIS-WS is also evaluating the NEPA workload and need for an additional NEPA specialist to work on wildlife disease issues.
The Committee recommends the Secretary seek additional funding to comply with NEPA requirements.	2004		APHIS-WS is continually evaluating the need, process, and mechanism for updating environmental analysis documents. APHIS- WS works closely in consultation with APHIS/Environmental Services to ensure compliance with Agency requirements. APHIS-WS is evaluating the NEPA workload and need for additional NEPA staff.
58. The Committee recommends the Secretary encourage wide dissemination of information to the public relating to the findings of the November 2001 GAO Report "Information on Activities to	2002	Completed	GAO has made this report available to all members of Congress. Additionally, APHIS-WS has distributed copies to all program managers, industry groups which have requested copies, and other members of

NATIONAL WILDLIFE SERVICES ADVISORY COMMITTEE (NWSAC) MEETING
Summary/Decision Document
1996-2004

ISSUE	YEAR	STATUS	DECISION
Manage Wildlife Damage.”			the public interested in the document. It is currently available to the public through the GAO website.
59. The Committee recommends that the Secretary define the role of APHIS-WS for emergency preparedness for intentionally or unintentionally introduced wildlife diseases and provides funding and appropriate training of APHIS-WS employees at all levels.	2002	Completed	In FY03, Congress appropriated \$5.2 million for wildlife disease monitoring and surveillance. Of this amount, \$3.4 million was allocated to APHIS-WS to conduct monitoring and surveillance activities for foreign animal or other wildlife disease threats. This includes funding for more than 20 wildlife disease biologists, a wildlife disease coordinator, and training. APHIS-WS is currently working cooperatively with APHIS-VS and other State and Federal agencies to define roles and responsibilities in the event of a disease emergency.
The Committee recommends that the Secretary seek funding for APHIS-WS to immediately develop and implement an emergency response team in each State, to consist of at least 1 biologist, and 1 biological technician trained in wildlife disease surveillance monitoring, and management. These personnel would be responsible for ongoing wildlife disease surveillance and monitoring and be immediately available in the event of disease outbreaks and chemical or natural disasters to travel and join the taskforce to bring these events under control.	2003		Emergency funding has been provided the past several years for oral rabies vaccination activities and West Nile virus control. In FY03, Congress funded \$5.2 million of the President’s budget request for APHIS-WS’ wildlife disease surveillance. Of this amount, APHIS-WS received \$3.4 million, hired a wildlife disease coordinator, and is in the process of hiring 22 wildlife disease biologists. Future expansion of this effort along with associated funding is being pursued through the FY05 budget process.
60. The Committee recommends that the Secretary	2002	Completed	As a Federal program, APHIS-WS operates under the

**NATIONAL WILDLIFE SERVICES ADVISORY COMMITTEE (NWSAC) MEETING
Summary/Decision Document
1996-2004**

ISSUE	YEAR	STATUS	DECISION
<p>have APHIS-WS work collectively with the USFWS and State wildlife agencies to 1) scientifically assess the need for, 2) examine the probability of success if implemented, and 3) implement predator management to improve the survival of the target species in selected habitats seasonally used by candidate, proposed, threatened, or endangered species.</p>			<p>statutory requirements of the NEPA and the Endangered Species Act to implement programs that have been reviewed and assessed for their potential impacts on endangered and threatened species. NEPA allows for the public review of APHIS-WS programs through the development of EIS/Environmental Assessment documents, while Section 7 of the ESA requires APHIS-WS to consult with the USFWS before any action is taken that may impact federally listed species. Both of these reviews are ongoing with all of our predator management programs.</p>
<p>61. The Committee recommends that APHIS-WS assess the damage caused by invasive exotic wildlife species to agriculture, natural resources, public health and safety, and threatened and endangered species and initiate research on best methods to control and eradicate species causing the greatest damage.</p>	2002		<p>NWRC conducted a literature search for currently available information about damage caused by invasive exotic wildlife species to agriculture, natural resources, public health and safety, and threatened and endangered species. The literature is scant on damage caused by invasive vertebrate wildlife. Nevertheless, in 2002-2003, NWRC research produced significant new methods for controlling the invasive brown tree snakes on Guam and invasive tree frogs in Hawaii, including a Section 3 registration for acetaminaphin baits for brown tree snakes and citric acid as a repellent and toxicant for tree frogs.</p>
<p>62. APHIS-WS research has documented that territorially-dominant coyotes are the principle</p>	2002	Completed	<p>APHIS-WS will continue to direct wildlife damage control activities to offending animals such as the use</p>

**NATIONAL WILDLIFE SERVICES ADVISORY COMMITTEE (NWSAC) MEETING
Summary/Decision Document
1996-2004**

ISSUE	YEAR	STATUS	DECISION
<p>killers of sheep and that selectively removing such coyotes effectively reduces depredation. The Committee recommends the Secretary direct APHIS-WS staff to implement, when and where possible, existing methods that achieve control of breeding coyotes causing damage.</p>			<p>of ground crews in aerial operations and high mountain winter aerial operations. While APHIS-WS research has documented that territorially-dominant animals are the principle predators of sheep and goats and that removing such coyotes effectively reduces predation, research has not developed additional selective and efficient tools that operations managers can use effectively for identifying these animals in other operations. The APHIS-WS Program will continue to research the issue and provide proven science-based techniques for identifying and managing predators causing damage.</p>
<p>63. The Committee commends APHIS-WS for establishing and using Standard Operating Procedures and recommends further development of SOP's for field operations.</p>			<p>APHIS-WS continues to evaluate the need for SOP's. Where a need is identified, APHIS-WS works to develop SOP's. Some examples include training manuals for explosive use, tranquilized tab device, and APHIS-WS activities on airports, as well as SOP's for goose roundups. In addition, has several operational policies on migratory bird activities, is evaluating Best Management Practices being developed for commercially available traps and their use by APHIS-WS, and developing specific national SOP's for selected pesticides.</p>
<p>64. The Committee recommends the Secretary ask APHIS-WS to continually update predator management techniques while considering their impacts on target and nontarget species as well as</p>	2002		<p>APHIS-WS continues to work with cooperating agencies to identify and develop effective methods and guidelines for use in predator damage management activities. In addition, APHIS-WS will</p>

**NATIONAL WILDLIFE SERVICES ADVISORY COMMITTEE (NWSAC) MEETING
Summary/Decision Document
1996-2004**

ISSUE	YEAR	STATUS	DECISION
their long-term effectiveness and costs.			continue to use the NEPA process to evaluate APHIS-WS impact on target and nontarget species.
65. The Committee recommends that the Secretary expand the wildlife disease program to include (1) the study of interactions on the impact on agricultural resources and public health, and (2) to update and distribute current information on risk assessments for the benefit of clients, stakeholders, and other interested parties.	2002		APHIS-WS has developed business plans for conducting control activities for such diseases as bovine TB, pseudo rabies, and rabies, among others. The business plans contain strategies for developing and distributing current information on the risks of wildlife borne diseases to stakeholders. Wildlife borne disease fact sheets will also be developed and distributed.
66. The Committee recommends that the Secretary expedite the appointment of the Eastern Regional Director for APHIS-WS with a background in wildlife management	2002	Completed	The vacancy announcement for the Director, Eastern Region was advertised beginning April 24, 2002 and closed on May 23, 2002. The APHIS-WS Deputy Administrator received the certificate for the best qualified applicants on June 27, 2002. Interviews were conducted on July 22, 2002, and a selection was forwarded to the APHIS Administrator and Department officials for approval on August 1, 2002. Charles Brown was officially appointed on December 31, 2002.
67. The Committee recommends the Secretary seek adequate funding in FY 2004 and FY 2005 to fully implement the Management Information System (MIS) 2000.	2002		In FY03, APHIS allocated \$1 million to APHIS-WS to begin implementation of the MIS 2000. For FY04, the Agency budget request contains \$1 million to implement the Control Methods Inventory Control System, a part of the MIS. Additional funding in the amount of \$2 million will be needed in future years to

NATIONAL WILDLIFE SERVICES ADVISORY COMMITTEE (NWSAC) MEETING
Summary/Decision Document
1996-2004

ISSUE	YEAR	STATUS	DECISION
The Committee recommends the Secretary restore APHIS-WS' budget to the FY03 level plus 5% to fund ongoing projects plus Committee recommendations. Specifically, the Committee recommends \$2 million in funding for full implementation of MIS 2000.	2003		complete implementation. In FY03, the APHIS Administrator allocated \$1 million to WS to begin implementation of the MIS 2000. In FY04, the President's budget request contains \$1 million to implement the Control Materials Inventory Control System, a part of MIS 2000. Additional funding in the amount of \$2 million will be needed for full MIS 2000 implementation and will be requested through future budget requests. Restoration of APHIS-WS' budget to the FY03 level will be dependent on the wishes of Congress.
The Committee further reiterates and recommends the Secretary support additional funding to fully implement APHIS-WS MIS 2000 project as soon as practical.	2004		APHIS-WS concurs with this recommendation and will continue to pursue additional funding for MIS 2000. However, other priorities in the FY06 Presidents budget request includes a will take precedence and funding for this activity may not be available.
68. The Committee recommends that the Secretary of Agriculture work with the Secretary of Interior to develop a migratory bird permitting system that allows APHIS-WS to issue depredation permits.	2003		This issue has previously been discussed between officials with the USFWS and APHIS-WS. The USFWS have indicated that they do not support expanded permitting authority for APHIS-WS. Earlier this year, Senate Bill 137 was introduced for consideration by the Senate. This bill would give permitting authority to the APHIS-WS program to issue migratory bird depredation permits. At this time, no action has been taken on the proposed bill.

NATIONAL WILDLIFE SERVICES ADVISORY COMMITTEE (NWSAC) MEETING
Summary/Decision Document
1996-2004

ISSUE	YEAR	STATUS	DECISION
<p>The Committee recommends that the Secretary of Agriculture work with the Secretary of Interior to develop a cooperative arrangement between Wildlife Services and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to issue migratory bird depredation permits in a timely manner.</p>	2004		<p>This issue has previously been discussed between officials with the USFWS and APHIS-WS. The USFWS have indicated that they do not support expanded permitting authority for WS. In FY05, Senate Bill 137 was introduced in the Senate and would give bird depredation permitting authority to the APHIS-WS program. At this time, no action has been taken on the proposed bill. In addition, the House Resources Subcommittee on Fisheries Conservation, Wildlife, and Oceans heard testimony on H.R. 3320 on June 24, 2004. This bill also proposed to give APHIS-WS migratory bird depredation permitting authority and has not made it out of committee due to the conflicting testimony. The USFWS migratory bird office has considered consolidating migratory bird depredation permitting functions into in a central office, but has decided against it.</p>
<p>69. The Committee recommends that the Secretary of Agriculture encourage APHIS-WS to develop a method to evaluate health risks associated with the movements of large blackbird flock, a real time method of monitoring flock movements, and plan for intervention. This would assist with controlling potential disease transfer, populations, and depredation.</p>	2003		<p>The NWRC has initiated a research effort to better understand the role that blackbirds play as vectors and reservoirs for diseases affecting humans and livestock. This effort will result in recommendations that will minimize avian impacts in human and animal health. This project will specifically look at the movement, transmission, and maintenance of E. Coli and Salmonella at feedlots and dairies. Additionally, NWRC recently completed a large-</p>

**NATIONAL WILDLIFE SERVICES ADVISORY COMMITTEE (NWSAC) MEETING
Summary/Decision Document
1996-2004**

ISSUE	YEAR	STATUS	DECISION
70. The Committee recommends that the Secretary expedite the appointment of the Associate Deputy Administrator for APHIS-WS to fully staff the national office in these times of increasing responsibilities and seek Senior Executive Service classification for the Director of NWRC. This classification would place important APHIS-WS' functions on an equal basis with other APHIS programs.	2003	Completed	scale mass marking study to determine the regional movements of blackbirds in the Dakotas and Canada relative to sunflower damage, and will begin a similar mass marking study to determine the movements of blackbirds that damage rice in Missouri.
71. The Committee recommends that the Secretary fund the NWSAC meeting at a level of \$25,000 to allow for the annual meeting to adequately discuss all the issues.	2003	Completed	In May 2003, the Department increased the funding level for the NWSAC to \$24,000. If this funding level were to be maintained, it would adequately allow the Committee to conduct a full three-day meeting. Advisory committee funding limitations are re-evaluated on an annual basis.
72. The Committee recommends that the Secretary seek \$2.95 million to eradicate the Brown Tree Snake on Guam and \$1.65 million to control Coqui and Greenhouse frogs in Hawaii in cooperation with State, Territorial, and other federal agencies.	2003	Completed	APHIS-WS will pursue this through the Department's FY05 cross-cutting budget initiatives on brown tree snakes and other invasive species.

NATIONAL WILDLIFE SERVICES ADVISORY COMMITTEE (NWSAC) MEETING
Summary/Decision Document
1996-2004

ISSUE	YEAR	STATUS	DECISION
73. The Committee recommends that the Secretary seek funding for APHIS-WS to test coyote sterilization through multiple field studies conducted in cooperation with private landowners or livestock producers.	2003		APHIS-WS will address this in future budget requests.
74. The Committee recommends the Secretary adequately fund the field application of techniques and equipment, proven effective as developed in the research program.	2003		APHIS-WS will address this in future budget requests.
75. The Committee recommends the Secretary seek an increase in funds allocated by Congress for protection of rice crops from blackbirds in Louisiana including adjustments for inflation and increasing resource needs. The House of Representatives has recommended continued funding of work to protect rice from blackbirds in Louisiana in 2005, although at a reduced amount (\$125,000 or a \$25,000 reduction) which will decrease the services that APHIS-WS performs. Estimated cost \$333,000 for field operations.	2004		We will continue to support APHIS-WS efforts in Louisiana as resources allow. NWRC is currently conducting a large-scale mass marking study to determine the regional movements of blackbirds from the Dakotas and Missouri relative to sunflower and rice damage.
76. The Committee recommends the Secretary fund the vacant Minnesota APHIS-WS State office in the Twin Cities area.	2004	Completed	APHIS-WS has transferred program oversight for Minnesota program activities to the APHIS-WS state office in Wisconsin to provide better service to the State and will continue to evaluate the need for a state program office in Minnesota.

NATIONAL WILDLIFE SERVICES ADVISORY COMMITTEE (NWSAC) MEETING
Summary/Decision Document
1996-2004

ISSUE	YEAR	STATUS	DECISION
77. The Committee recommends the Secretary seek adequate additional funding to ensure that APHIS-WS is able to meet the Federal mandate for converting to narrow band radio spectrum.	2004		APHIS-WS continues to request funding support for updating radio capabilities and will continue to address this in future budget requests.
78. The Committee recommends the Secretary seek new funding for APHIS-WS to increase research concerning feral pigs, including, but not limited to, identifying property and ecological damage, expanding distribution, associated disease risks, and development of control methods (especially contraceptive research).	2004		APHIS-WS has recently established a research lab in Kingsville, Texas, with the primary mission of investigating feral pig impacts on the environment and to develop effective methods for controlling these populations. We will continue to provide funding for this activity as resources allow.
79. The Committee commends APHIS-WS efforts in developing and implementing employee training in the face of growing challenges. Further, the Committee encourages the promotion of traditional and innovative training programs, especially in the implementation of changing and emerging techniques.	2004	Completed	Although this is not a recommendation, APHIS-WS will continue to develop and implement employee training.
80. The Committee recommends the Secretary encourage APHIS-WS to collaborate on solutions to wildlife damage in urban setting with national, regional, state, and local governmental entities, and private organizations, especially the U.S. Conference of Mayors, The National Association of Counties, and the National League of Cities with the objective to develop an urban Wildlife Damage	2004		APHIS-WS concurs with this recommendation and is currently reviewing an Urban/Suburban Concept Paper developed to identify APHIS-WS strategic urban wildlife damage management goals. This concept paper draws a broad picture of projected needs that may evolve into business plans for more specific urban management programs. This concept paper encourages APHIS-WS state level offices to

NATIONAL WILDLIFE SERVICES ADVISORY COMMITTEE (NWSAC) MEETING
Summary/Decision Document
1996-2004

ISSUE	YEAR	STATUS	DECISION
<p>Management Business Plan. This plan would define objectives, a general action plan, and projected staffing needs and budget to conduct wildlife damage management programs of differing complexity within differing cities, towns, counties, or other defined urban environments. Parts of the initial collaboration should be directed at identifying and prioritizing wildlife damage issues in urban environments and scoping for funding schemes which could be facilitated through cost sharing with the Federal government through congressionally directed appropriations or other funding mechanisms.</p>			<p>engage in discussion with urban government groups and to identify and implement statewide or regional approaches to urban management. The current focus is the establishment of statewide or regional cooperative efforts with multiple cooperators.</p>