



# USDA APHIS WILDLIFE SERVICES ROLE AND INVOLVEMENT IN OIL SPILL RESPONSE

Jason Suckow, Western  
Regional Director, WS  
Chair, WS Contaminants  
Response Work Group

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District Supervisor  
TN/KY Wildlife Services  
Knoxville, TN



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# Functions of Wildlife Services first established in 1885



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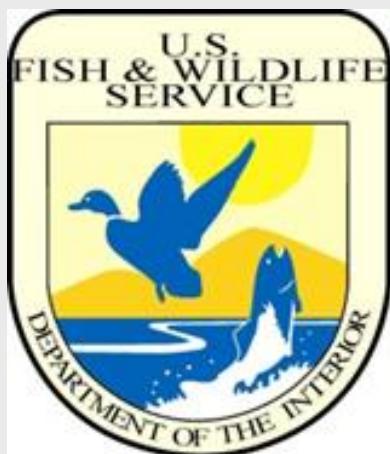
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1939



Biological Survey



December 1985



Animal & Plant Health  
Inspection Service, ADC



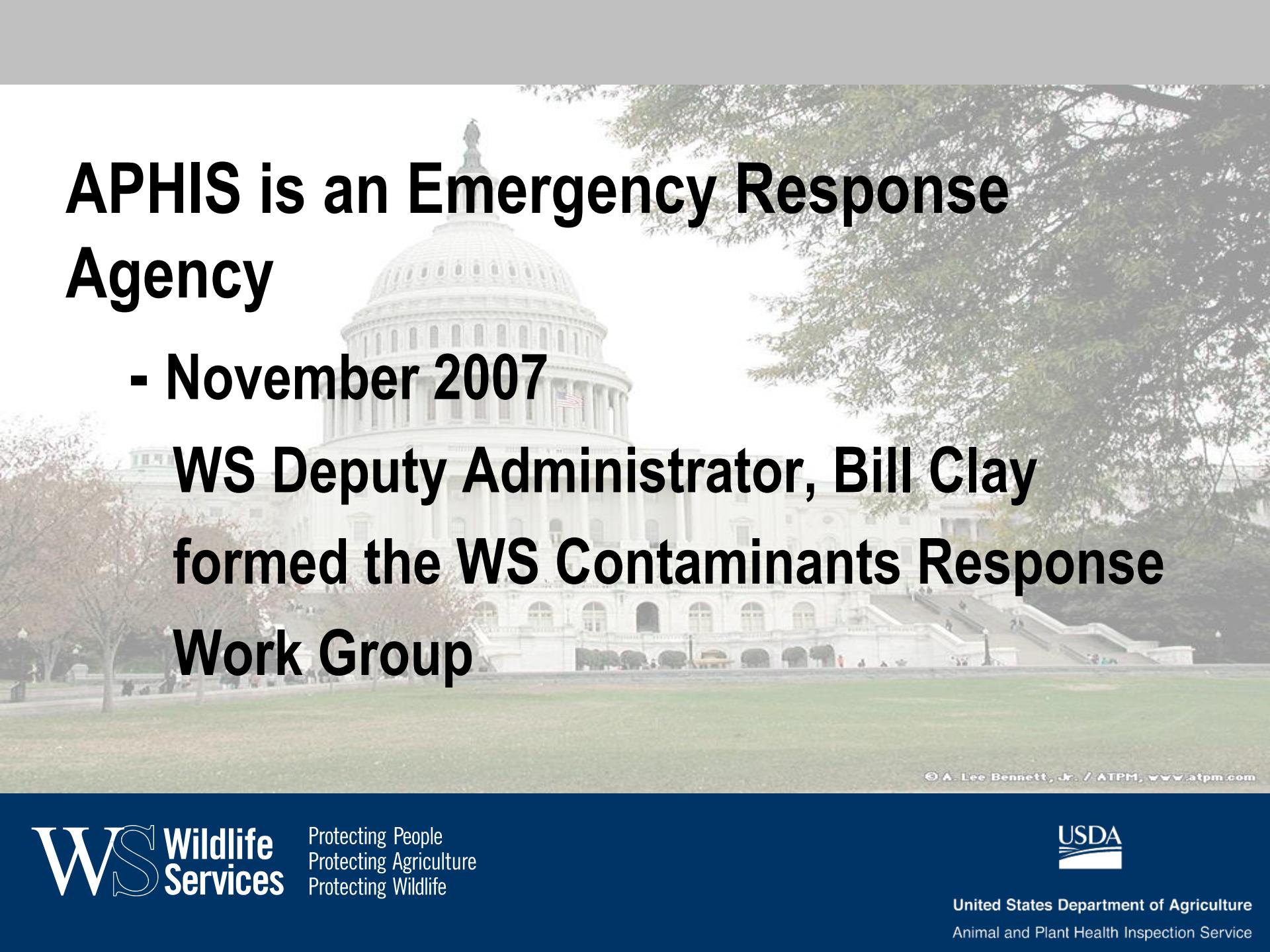
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# WS MISSION

- **Provide Federal leadership in managing human-wildlife conflicts.**
  - Develop and use wildlife damage management strategies that are biologically sound, environmentally safe, and socially acceptable.
  - Reduce damage caused by wildlife to the lowest possible levels while at the same time reducing wildlife mortality.



# APHIS is an Emergency Response Agency

- November 2007

WS Deputy Administrator, Bill Clay  
formed the WS Contaminants Response  
Work Group

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# WS Contaminants Response Work Group

- Jason Suckow, Western Reg. Director, Chair
- Dwight LeBlanc, LA State Director
- Roger Woodruff, WA/AK State Director
- Dennis Orthmeyer, CA State Director
- Steve Kendrot, Deputy Director OSS
- Dennis Kohler, Wildlife Disease Biologist (NWRC)



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# First Goals & Priorities of the Work Group

- Increase the number of WS staff that are HAZWOPER trained and certified (about 100 currently)
- MOU with partner agencies (MOU with EPA, USCG and WS signed June 2014)
- Consistent WS information in ACP's
- Review and update WS policies regarding Hazwop response (New Directive 2011)

# Wildlife Services – What Can We Provide?

- Provide federal leadership in alleviating damage cause by wildlife to protect agriculture, human health and safety, natural resources, and property.
  - **Wildlife Harassment**
  - **Wildlife Capture**
  - **Wildlife Observation**
  - **Diverse Partnerships**
  - **Public Relations**
  - **Training**
  - **Techniques Development (NWRC)**
  - **Equipped Personnel**
  - **ICS Trained (100, 200, 300, 700, 800)**
  - **Certified Wildlife Biologist**
  - **Safety Training (HAZWOPER, cannon net, boating, ATV, first aid)**



# Wildlife Services – What Can We Provide?

- **WS is not a regulatory agency. Any spill response activities will be done at the request of responding agencies and coordinated with the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service and the state wildlife agency.**



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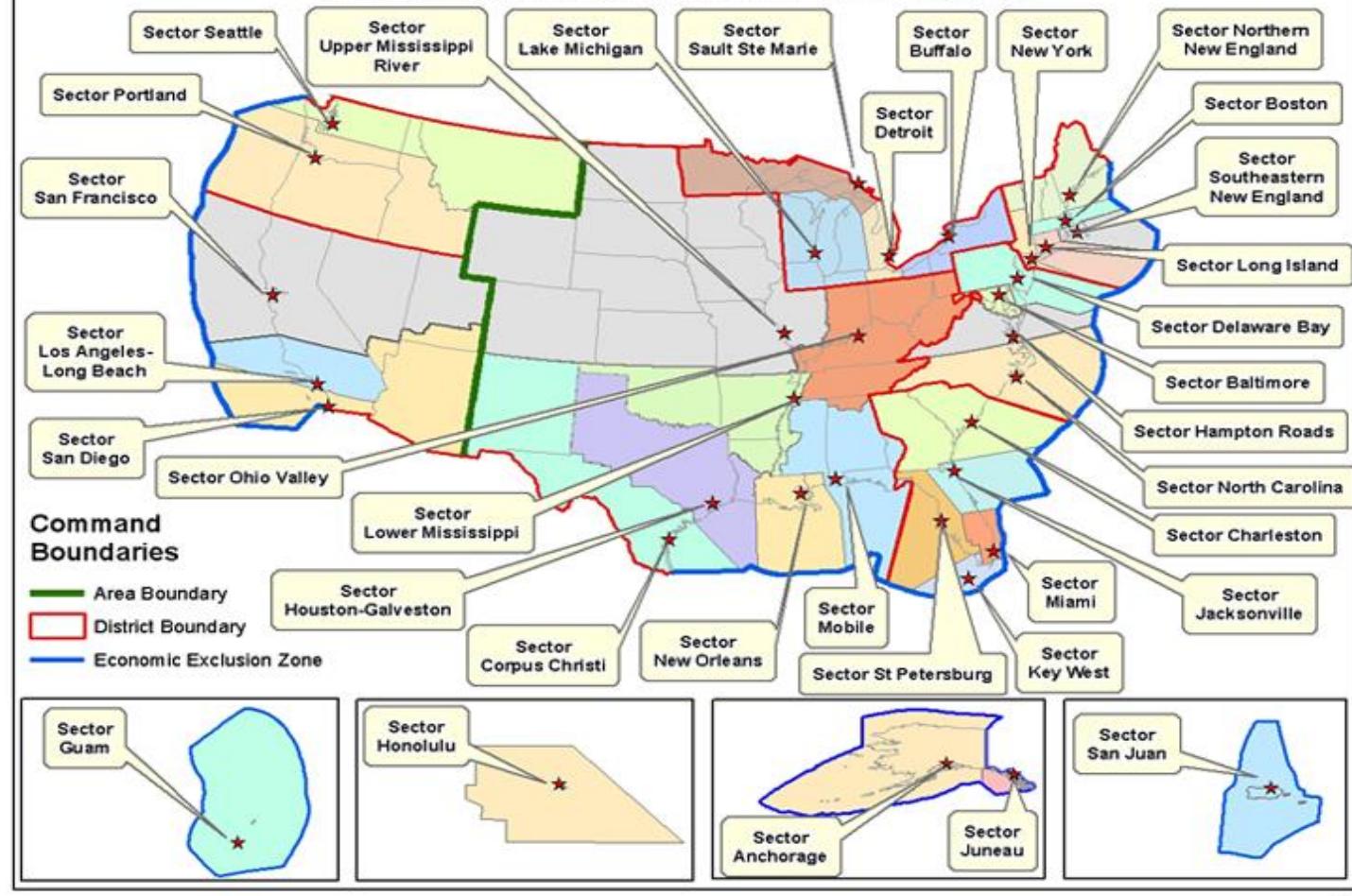
# History of Wildlife Services Oil Spill Response

## - Past (FWS) & Current

- *ATHOS I* – Delaware River
- Bayou Perot – Gulf Coast
- New Orleans Barge DM 932 – Mississippi River
- Deepwater Horizon
- Enbridge – MI
- Hurricane Sandy
- Many more.....



## U. S. Coast Guard Sector Commands



v6.0



## Protecting People Protecting Agriculture Protecting Wildlife



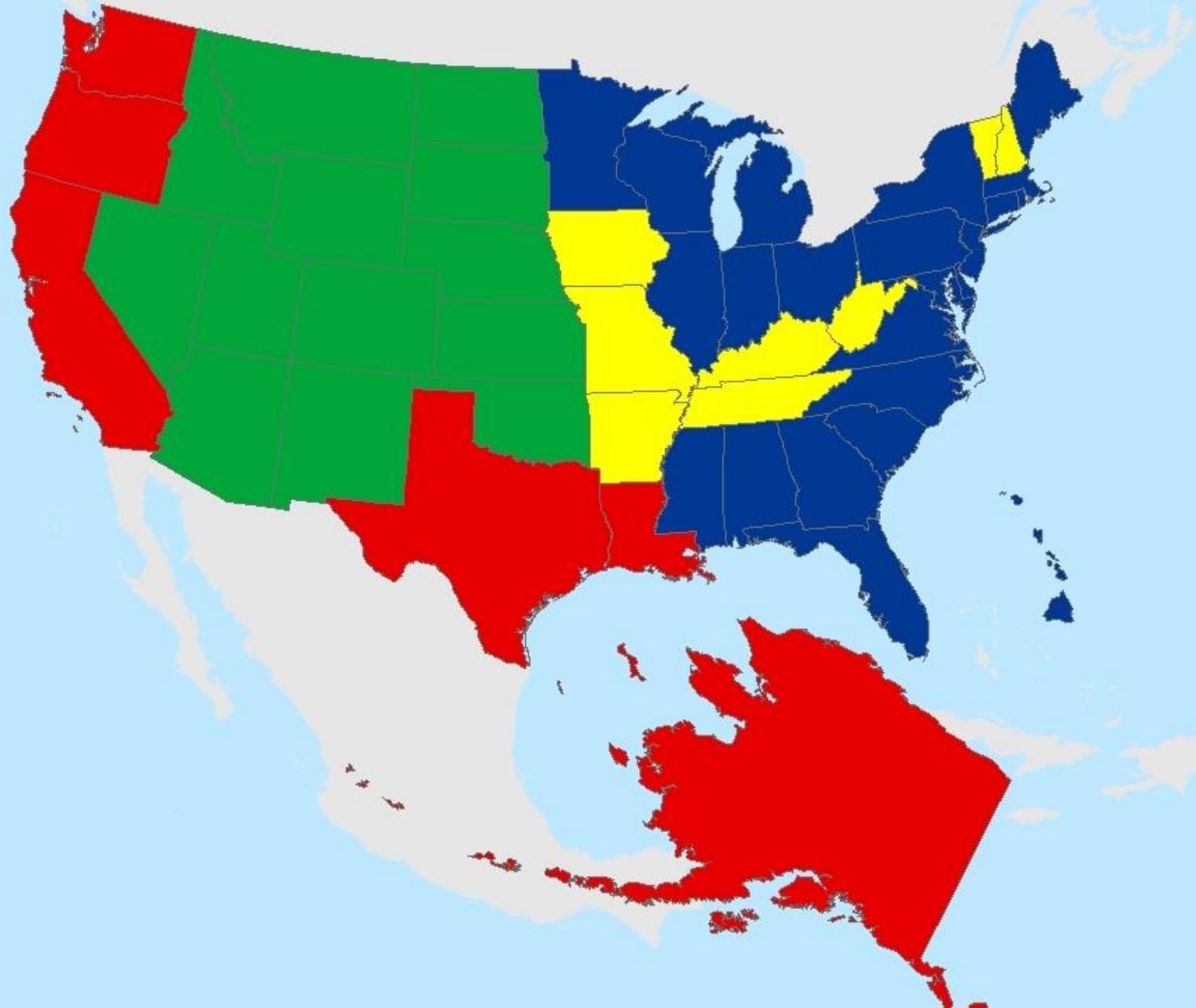
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# Prioritization

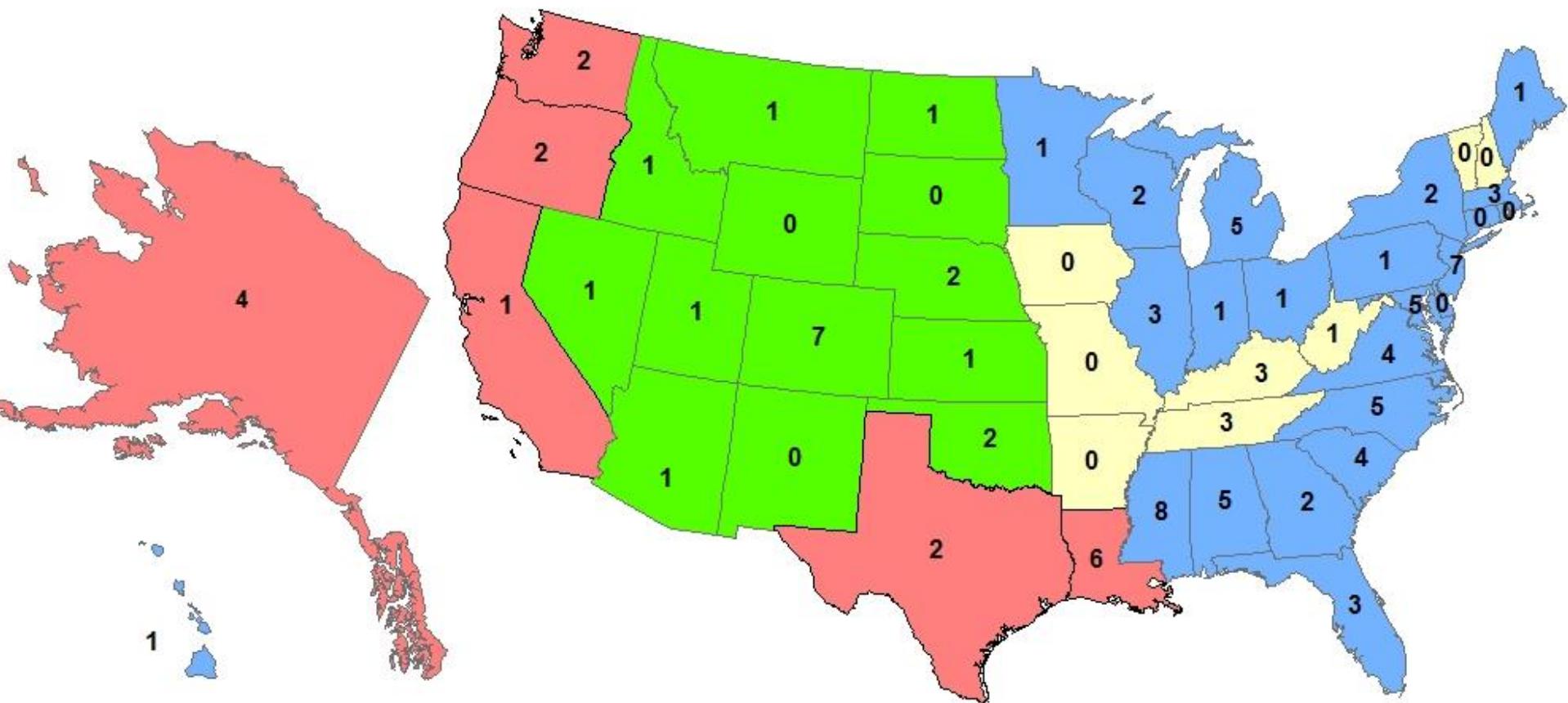
- Current map is for working with USCG.
- Based on ship traffic and general oil transport.
- Working on addressing inland risks (EPA).

ALL Spills involving  
wildlife would be  
coordinated with USFWS  
and state wildlife agency.





Number of Individuals Trained in Each State



# Preparation



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# Planning and Coordination



## Personnel Experienced with:

- Working with Law-enforcement
- Talking to the public
- Obtaining property access
- Acting as a liaison with other agencies



# Surveillance & Documentation of Oiled of Wildlife

## WILDLIFE FIELD RECONNAISSANCE FORM – SHORELINE OR ON-WATER OBSERVATION

Incident Name:	Observation Team:					
Date:	Start Time:	End Time:				
Segment Name:	Segment Number:					
Survey Length (ft):	Survey Width (ft):	Latitude (N):	Longitude (W):			
Survey Mode:	Foot	Vehicle	Boat/Ship	Airplane	Helicopter	Tide Table Data at Start or Survey (ft)
Weather:	Wind Direction:					Visibility: <0.1 mi. 0.5 mi. 1.0 mi.
(Describe briefly)	(Blowing toward or away from shore)					(<160) (800m) (1.6 km)
Round Trip Mileage (miles):	Round Trip Driving Time (hours):	Trip Prep Time (hours):				

Species Name	No. of Animals	Oiled Yes/No	Scavenged Yes/No	Location (Lat/Long)	Position on Beach	Photo Yes/No	Comments on Wil



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# Surveillance & Documentation



**Survey extent of oil spill impacting wildlife and new areas where spill may spread to.**

**Trapping of mammal species to determine evidence of oil.**



# WILDLIFE DETERRENCE



**Wildlife  
Services**

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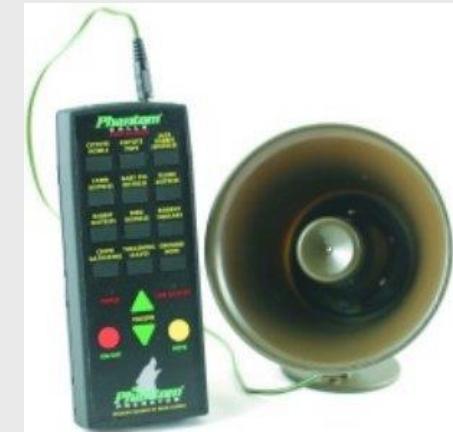
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# Visual Harassment of Wildlife



- Lasers
- Effigy
- Scarecrow/scaryman
- Mylar tape
- Kites
- Balloons

# Acoustic Harassment of Wildlife



- **Pyrotechnics**
- **Propane Cannons**
- **Sirens**
- **Natural Sounds**

# Chemical Deterrents

**Methyl Anthranilate- flavoring in grape products, naturally occurring compound, irritates birds causing dispersal and avoidance, does not affect other wildlife. Identified as a pleasant grape odor.**



# Other Methods to Harass Wildlife



- Dogs
- Falconry
- Remote Control
- Kites & Balloons



# Wildlife Capture Techniques - Nets



- Cannon Nets
- Air Cannon
- Rocket Nets
- Bow Nets



# Capture Techniques – Coda Nets



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# Wildlife Capture Techniques - Traps



**Padded Footholds – Methods developed and tested by USDA-WS-NWRC to safely capture birds.**



**Decoy Traps**



# Hand Capture of Wildlife



# Chemical Capture Methods

- **ALPHA CHLORALOSE** – chemical immobilization of birds (primarily ducks and geese). Used effectively during ATHOS spill.
- Selectively bait oiled birds and remove for cleaning.
- Restrictions during hunting seasons – emergency exemptions authorized



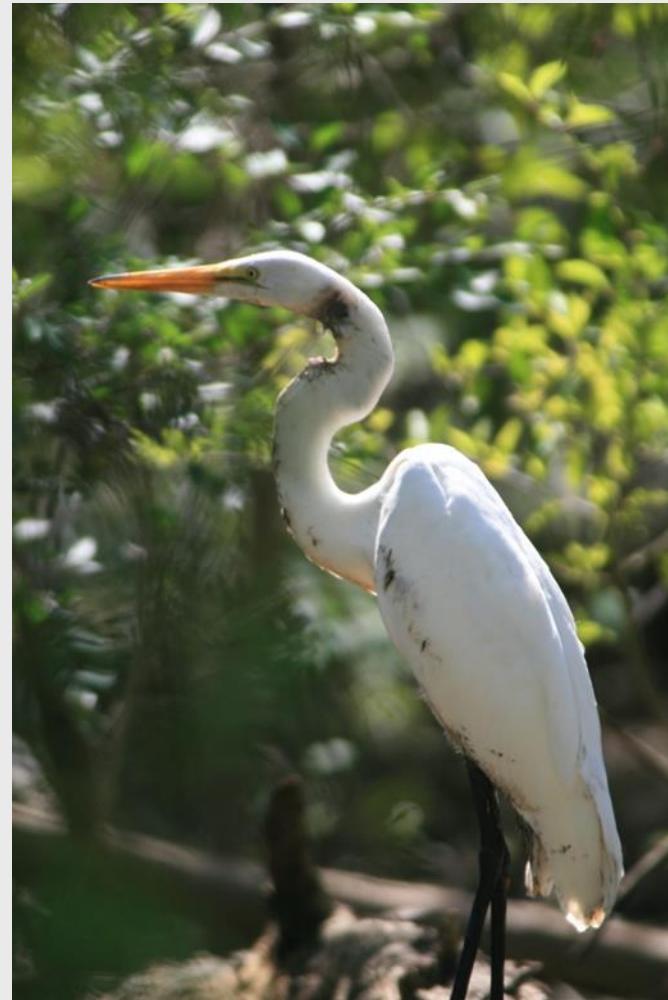
# Reporting, Recovery and Evidence Collection

Work with law enforcement and investigation team on collection of dead wildlife and processing for evidence. Experience with proper handing and report of wildlife mortality events.



# PRIORITY for WS – Continue to Partner with Coast Guard, EPA & FWS

- Continue to work with Coast Guard Sectors & EPA (ACP's)
- MOU June 2014
- PRFA Funding Template
- Wildlife Annex Template
- Trainings / Exercises
- Wildlife Training Module



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# QUESTIONS?



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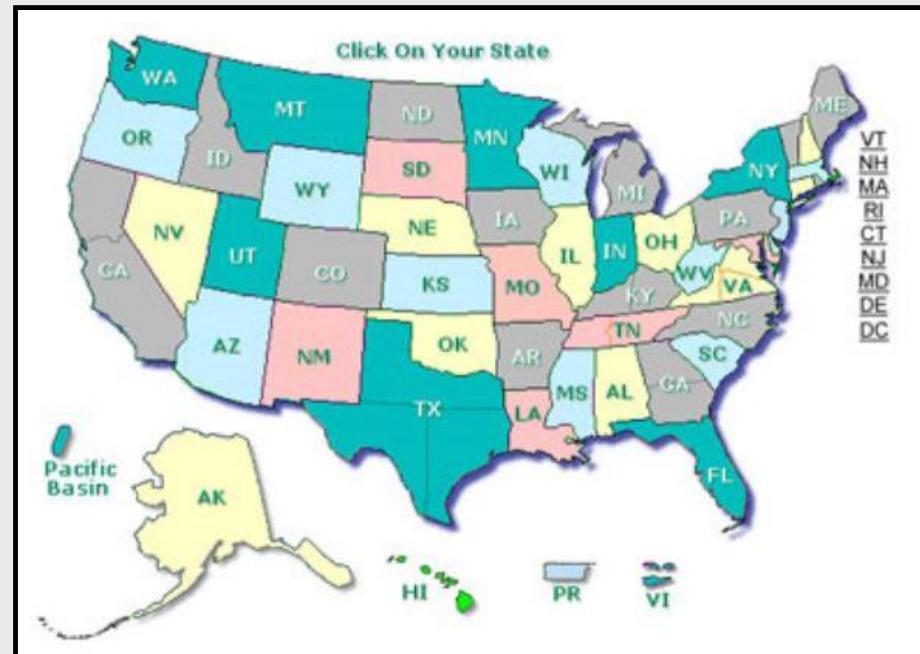
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# APHIS Wildlife Services Contacts in RRT4

**Call Toll Free (866) 4USDA-WS (866-487-3297)**

**Or use Interactive map on WS website; click on state for contact info:**

<http://www.aphis.usda.gov/wps/portal/aphis/ourfocus/wildlifedamage>



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# APHIS Wildlife Services Contacts in RRT4

**Alabama State**  
Director Ken  
Gruver  
**(334) 844-5670**

**Georgia State**  
Director Steve  
Smith  
**(706) 546-5637**

**North Carolina**  
State Director  
Keith Wehner  
**(919) 786-4480**

**Florida State**  
Director Ed  
Hartin  
**(352) 377-5556**

**Mississippi State**  
Director Kris  
Godwin  
**(662) 325-3014**

**South Carolina**  
State Director  
Noel Myers  
**(803) 786-9455**

**Tennessee/Kentucky State**  
Director Brett Dunlap  
**(615)-736-5506**