

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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TN/KY Wildlife Services
Knoxville, TN



Protecting People
Protecting Agriculture
Protecting Wildlife



United States Department of Agriculture
Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service



**Functions of Wildlife Services
first established in
1885**



Biological Survey



1939



Animal Damage Control (ADC)



December 1985



**Animal & Plant Health
Inspection Service, ADC**

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)**

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?

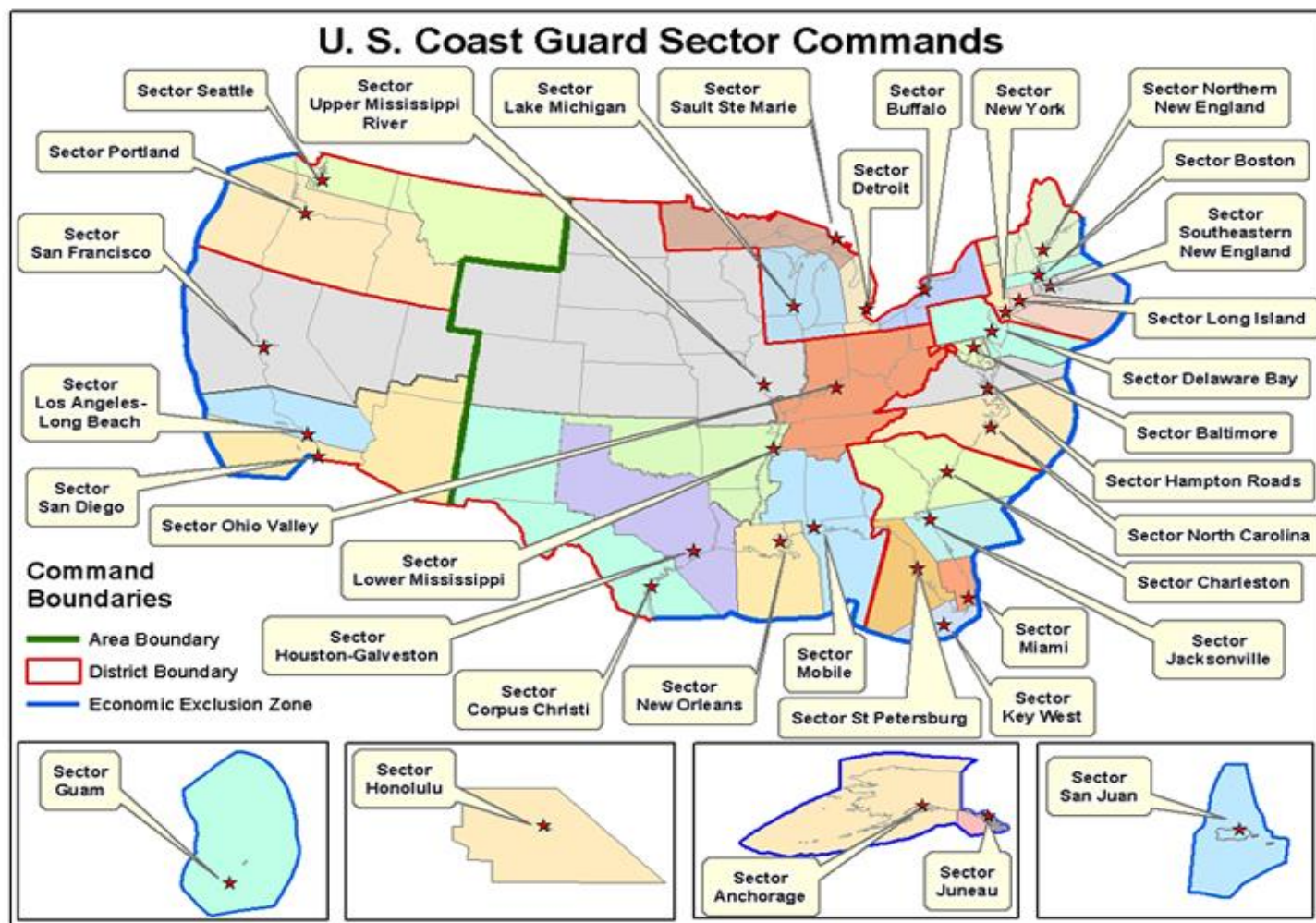
- **WS is not a regulatory agency. Any spill response activities will be done at the request of responding agencies and coordinated with the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service and the state wildlife agency.**

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.....





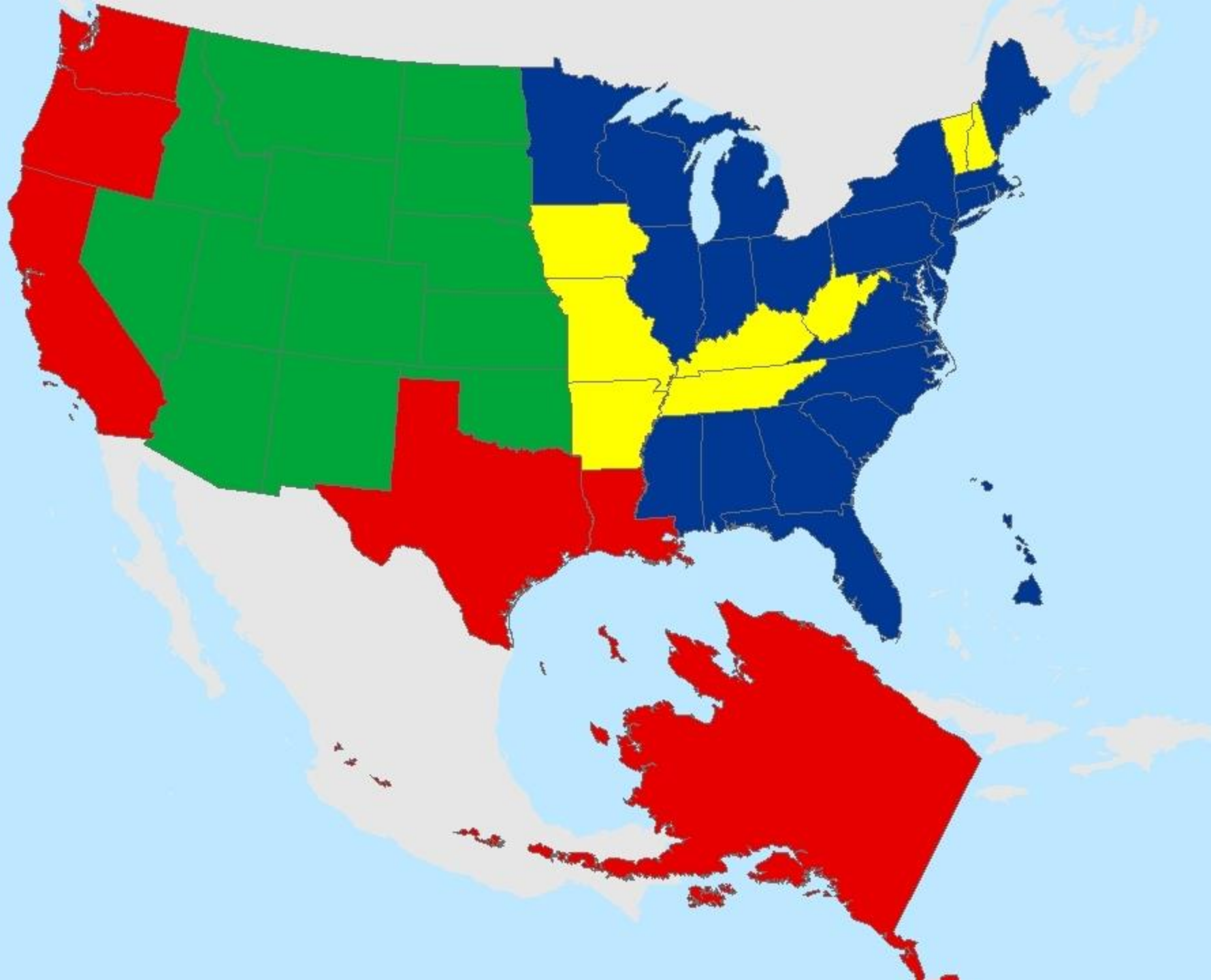
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Prioritization

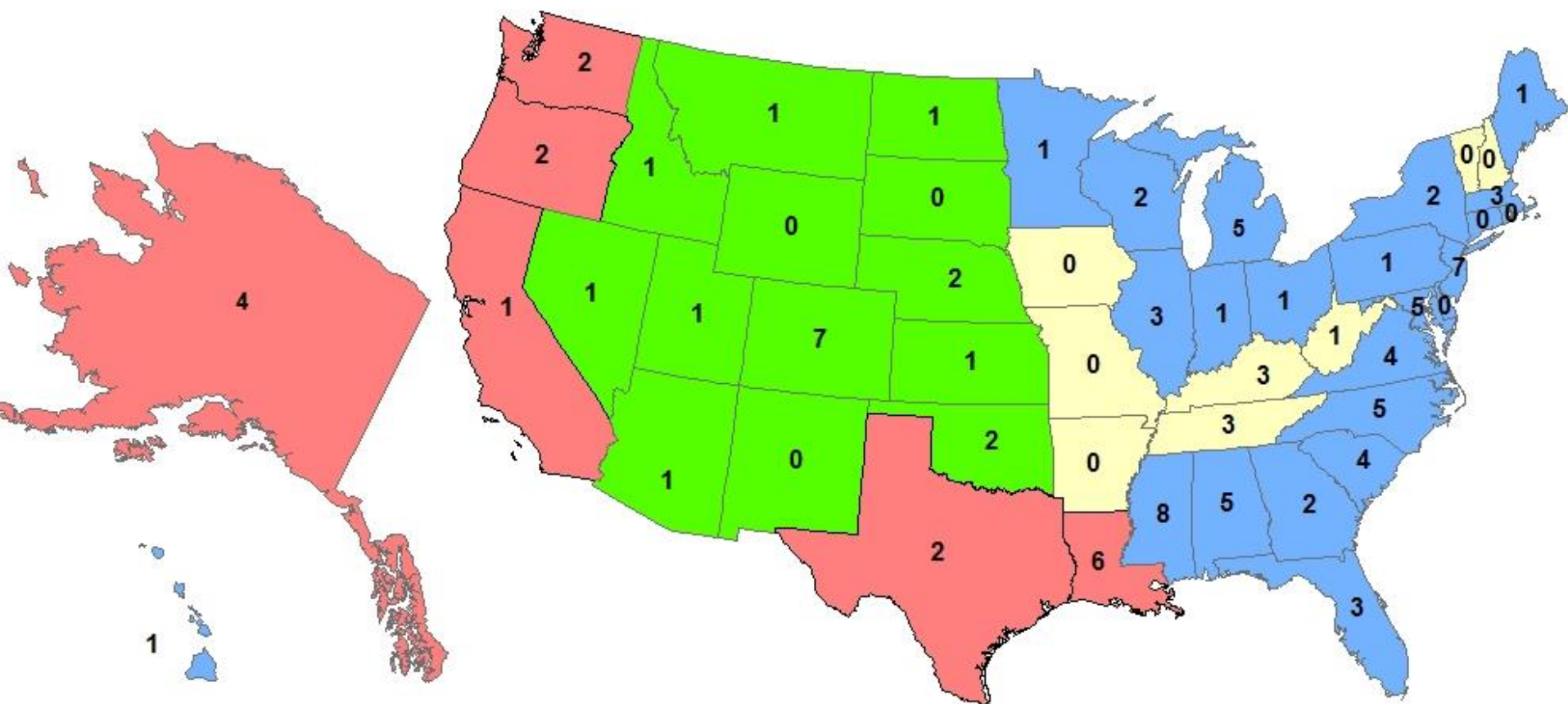
- Current map is for working with USCG.
- Based on ship traffic and general oil transport.
- Working on addressing inland risks (EPA).

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





Number of Individuals Trained in Each State



Preparation



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 Wildlife



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
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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



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 handling 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



QUESTIONS?

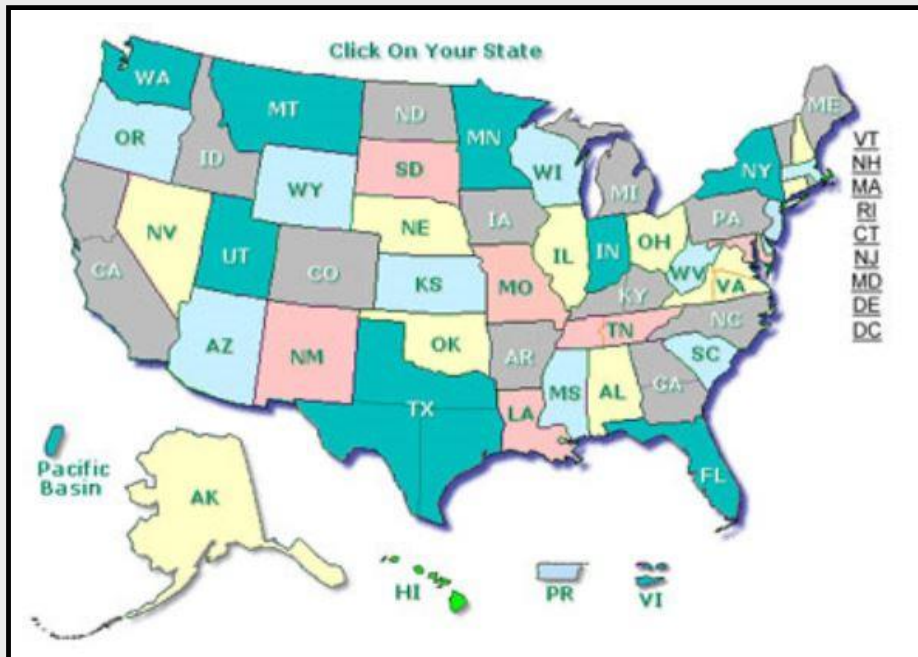


APHIS Wildlife Services Contacts in RRT4

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>



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
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(352) 377-5556

Mississippi State

**Director Kris
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South Carolina

**State Director
Noel Myers**

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Tennessee/Kentucky State

Director Brett Dunlap

(615)-736-5506