



United States Department of Agriculture

Mojave Desert Tortoise MOG Meeting

Wildlife Damage Management for the Mojave Desert Tortoise

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- 
- A close-up photograph of several large, speckled desert tortoise eggs resting on a sandy surface. The eggs are light-colored with dark brown spots and blotches. The background is a soft-focus view of more sand and some small pebbles.
- 1. APHIS-WS authorities and organization**
 - 2. Scope of WDM services for desert tortoise protection**
 - 3. Process for cooperators to obtain services**
 - 4. Associated costs and timelines**
 - 5. Regulatory hurdles and other challenges**



United States Department of Agriculture

<https://www.aphis.usda.gov/wildlife-services>

An official website of the United States government [Here's how you know](#) ▼



Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

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Wildlife Services

Last Modified: July 25, 2024

Wildlife are one of America's most valued public resources. Yet in the dynamic landscape we share, wildlife-related problems — disease threats, livestock predation, crop losses, property damage, and more — are common. Wildlife Services lead our Nation's efforts to manage these problems. Our programs and research find innovative solutions that protect people, agriculture, and wildlife so all of us can coexist.



Learn more about [our organization](#) and the [authorities](#) under which we work, including our [program directives](#).

APHIS' Wildlife Services leads our Nation's efforts to manage conflicts between people and wildlife so they can coexist.

Wildlife are one of America's most valued public resources. Yet in the dynamic landscape we share, wildlife-related problems — livestock predation, crop losses, property damage, disease threats, and more — are common. We work nationwide to help solve these problems while considering a wide range of public interests.

The four main goals of Wildlife Services are to:

1. **Provide wildlife services**, protecting agriculture, wildlife and other natural resources, property, and human health and safety.
2. **Develop effective methods** and strategies with technology that is biologically, environmentally, and socially sound.
3. **Value and invest in people** with an organizational culture that promotes innovation as Federal leaders of wildlife management.
4. **Inform and communicate**. Collect and analyze internal and external communication to build an understanding of the Federal role in these efforts.





7 U.S. Code § 8351

Predatory and other wild animals

(Formerly known as the The Animal Damage Control Act of March 2, 1931)

“The Secretary of Agriculture may conduct a program of wildlife services with respect to injurious animal species and take any action the Secretary considers necessary in conducting the program. The Secretary shall administer the program in a manner consistent with all of the wildlife services authorities in effect on the day before October 28, 2000.”

- Provides broad authority for the Wildlife Services program.**
- The word “may” imply an authorization, not a mandate.**
- The authority does not specify a regulatory function.**



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Federal Statutory Authority

7 U.S. Code § 8352

Authorization of expenditures for the eradication and control of predatory and other wild animals

“The Secretary of Agriculture is authorized to make such expenditures for equipment, supplies, and materials, including the employment of persons and means in the District of Columbia and elsewhere, and to employ such means as may be necessary to execute the functions imposed upon him by section 8351 of this title.”

- 🐾 Provides authority to expend appropriated funds to deliver the Wildlife Services program.**

7 U.S. Code § 8353

Control of nuisance mammals and birds and those constituting reservoirs of zoonotic diseases; exception

“On and after December 22, 1987, the Secretary of Agriculture is authorized, except for urban rodent control, to conduct activities and **to enter into agreements with States, local jurisdictions, individuals, and public and private agencies, organizations, and institutions** in the control of nuisance mammals and birds and those mammal and bird species that are reservoirs for zoonotic diseases, and to deposit any money collected under any such agreement into the appropriation accounts that incur the costs to be available immediately and to remain available until expended for Animal Damage Control activities.”

- Provides authority to enter into agreements with public and private entities to control nuisance wildlife, except urban rodent control.
- Provides authority to control wildlife that serve as reservoirs for zoonotic diseases. (i.e. Avian Influenza surveillance program)



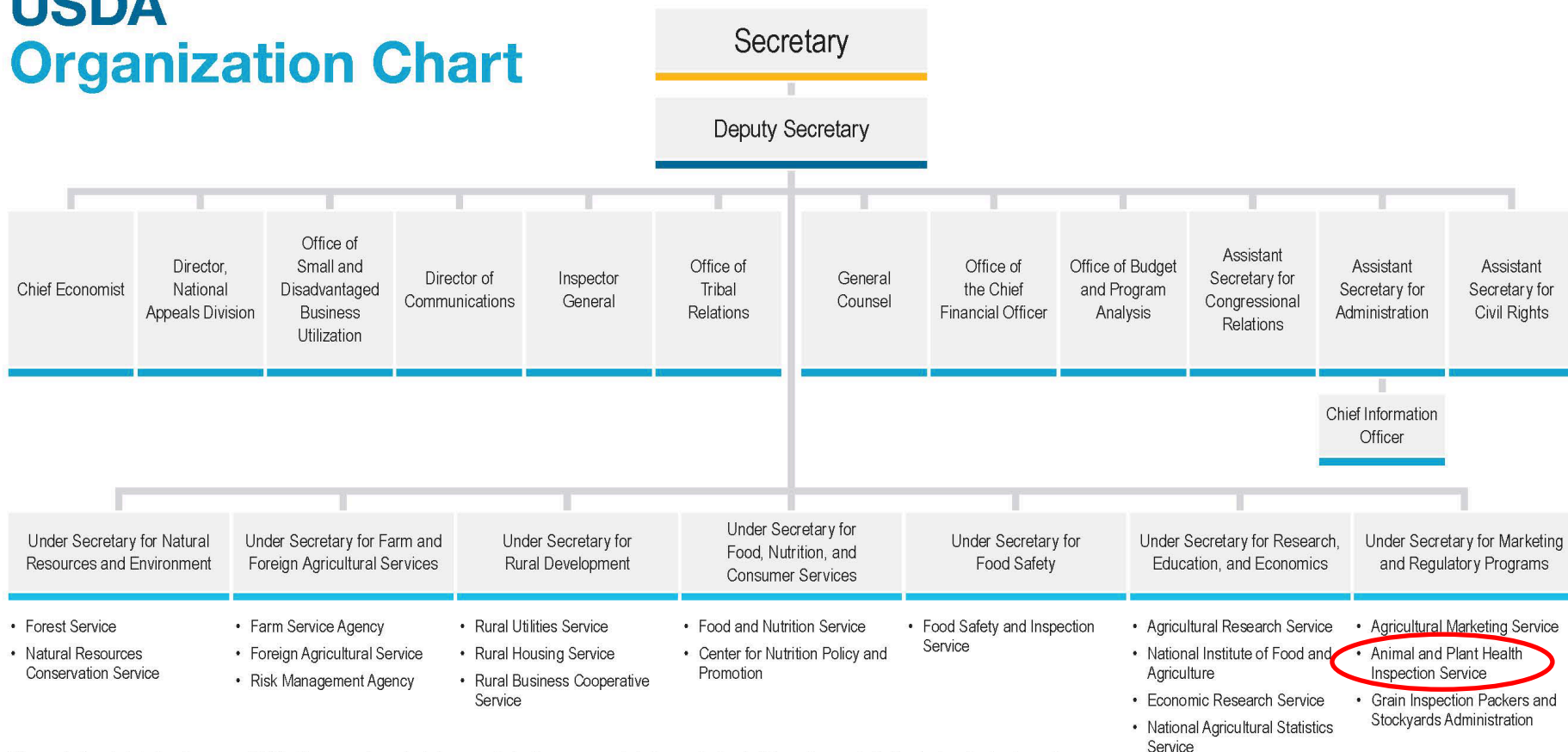
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APHIS Within USDA

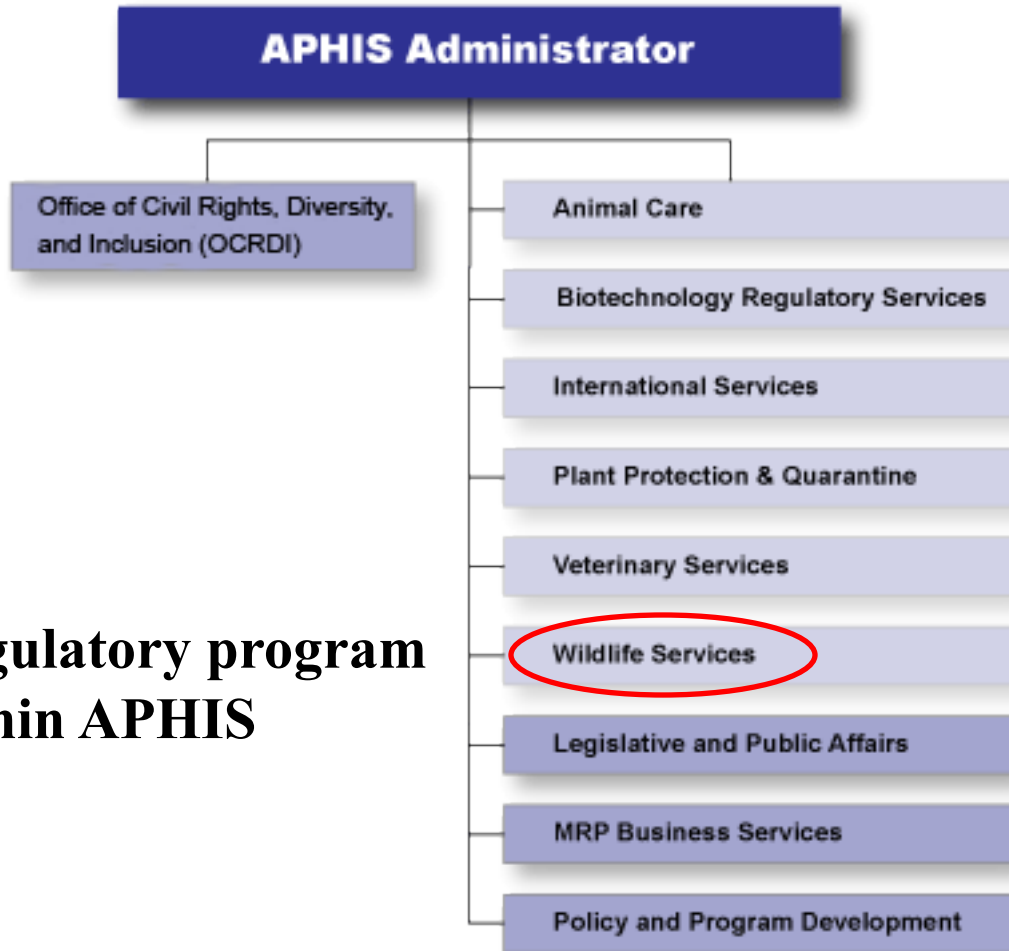


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USDA Organization Chart



This organization chart displays the names of USDA offices, agencies, and mission areas. Each office, agency, and mission area is placed within a cell connected by lines to show the structure and hierarchy (Under Secretary, Deputy Secretary, or Secretary) for which they fall under. An HTML version that lists [USDA Agencies and Offices](#) and [USDA Mission Areas](#) is also available on [usda.gov](#).

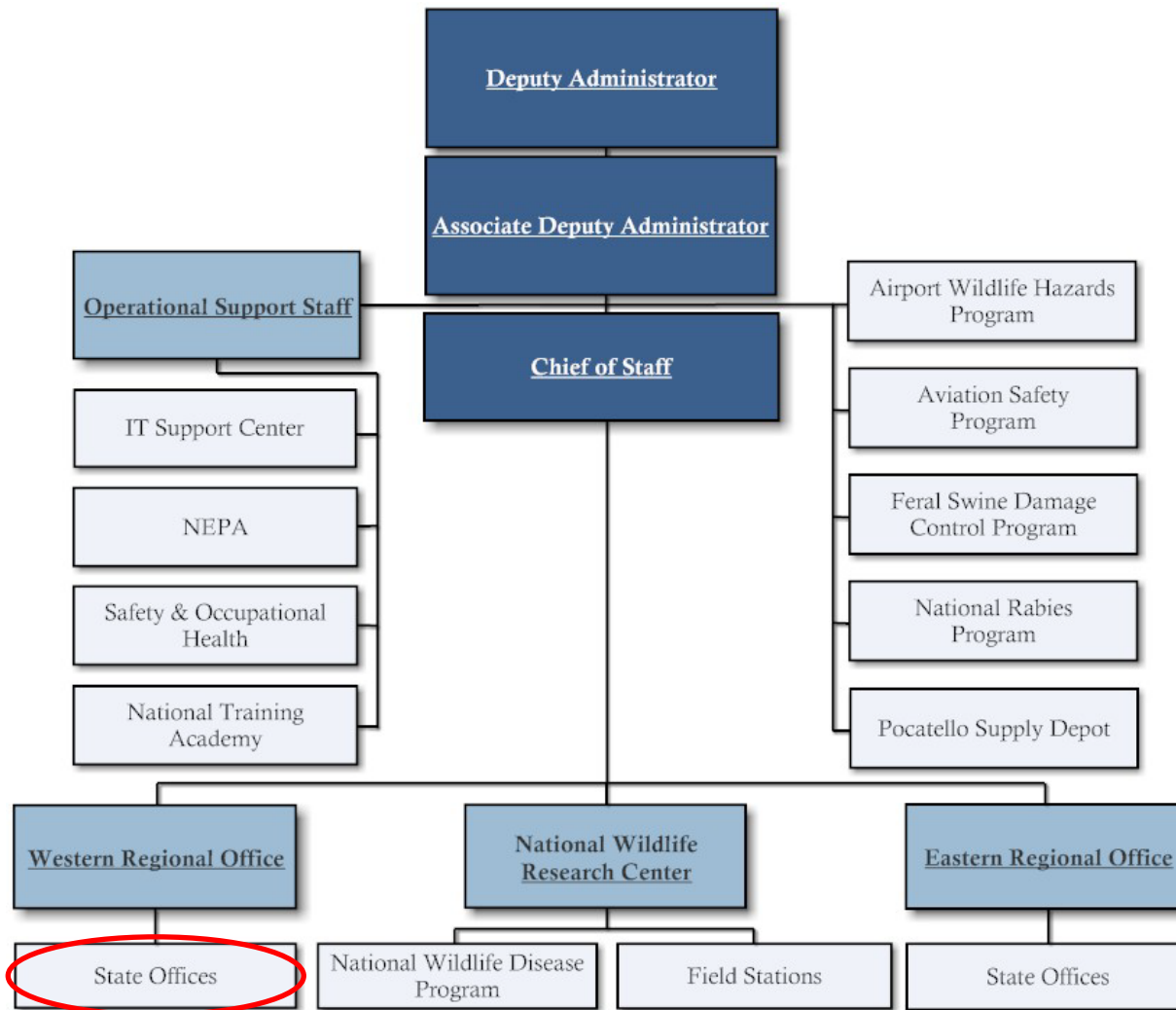


**Only non-regulatory program
within APHIS**

≈2200 nationwide



Nevada within WS





United States Department of Agriculture

WS Organization



Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Wildlife Services Staff and Offices

Western Regional Director: Wendy Anderson

B: (970) 494-7394 C: (970) 214-6367

Assistant Regional Directors: Terry Smith and Scott Alls

APHIS WS Western Region
2150 Centre Avenue
Building B, Mailstop 3W9
Fort Collins, CO 80526
Cory Oglesby, Admin Officer
B: (970) 494-7445

Terry Smith
Assistant Regional Director
C: (360) 545-2414

Alaska

9001 E Frontage Rd
Palmer, AK 99645
B: (907) 745-0871 C: (907) 707-4860

Arizona

8836 North 23rd Avenue, Suite 2
Phoenix, AZ 85021
B: (602) 870-2081 C: (602) 758-7803

California

3419-A Arden Way
Sacramento, CA 95825
B: (916) 979-2675 C: (916) 532-1507

Guam

233 Pangelinan Way
Barrigada, GU 96913
B: (671) 635-4400 C: (671) 747-1572

Hawaii

3375 Koapaka Street, Ste H-420
Honolulu, HI 96819
B: (808) 838-2840 C: (808) 306-7080

Idaho

9134 West Blackeagle Drive
Boise, ID 83709
B: (208) 373-1630 C: (208) 616-5778

Nevada

8775 Technology Way
Reno, NV 89521
B: (775) 851-4848 C: (775) 622-6927

Oregon

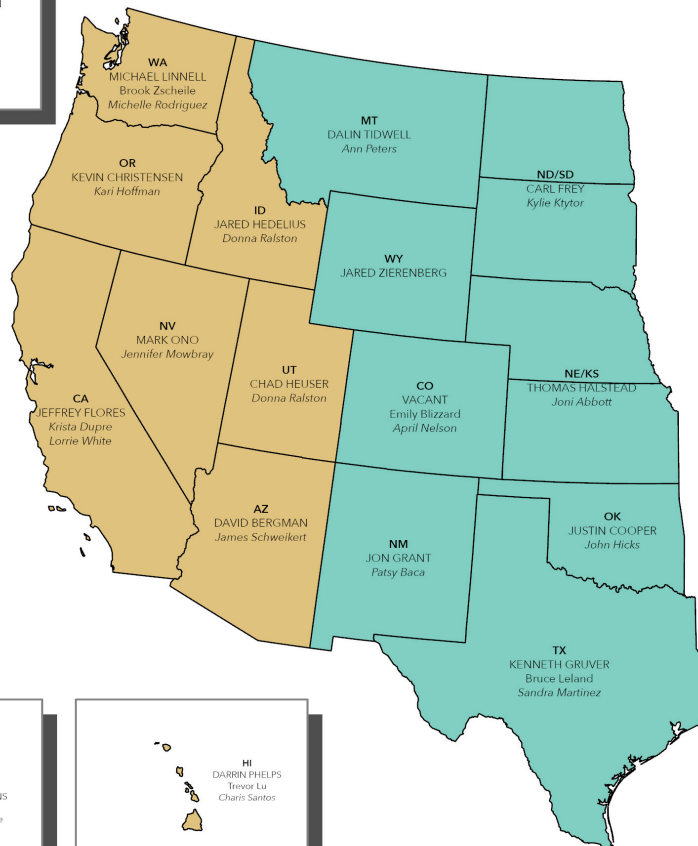
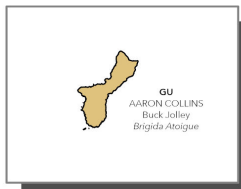
6035 NE 78th Ct, Ste 100
Portland, OR 97218
B: (503) 326-2346 C: (503) 329-9819

Utah

1860 W Alexander Street, Ste. A
West Valley City, UT 84119
B: (801) 975-3315 C: (385) 226-0296

Washington

720 O'Leary Street NW
Olympia, WA 98502
B: (360) 742-5500 C: (360) 463-4857



Scott Alls
Assistant Regional Director
C: (405) 213-6759

Colorado

13922 Denver West Pkwy, Suite 100-WS
Lakewood, CO 80401
B: (303) 328-9043 C: (720) 245-4260

Kansas

3705 Miller Parkway
Manhattan, KS 66503
B: (785) 537-6855 C: (785) 565-2727

Montana

Billings Logan Airt 2441 Overlook Drive
Billings, MT 59105
B: (406) 657-6464 C: (406) 200-2180

Nebraska

5940 S 58th Street
Lincoln, NE 68516-3639
B: (402) 434-2342 C: (402) 525-5779

New Mexico

8441 Washington St. NE
Albuquerque, NM 87113
B: (505) 208-3008 C: (505) 206-6474

North and South Dakota

2110 Miriam Circle, Suite A
Bismarck, ND 58501
B: (701) 355-3300 C: (701) 471-2178

Oklahoma

2800 N. Lincoln Blvd.
Oklahoma City, OK 73105
B: (405) 521-4039 C: (405) 213-6759

Texas

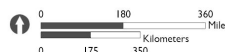
5730 Northwest Pkwy, Ste 700
San Antonio, TX 78249
B: (210) 472-5451 C: (210) 415-6127

Wyoming

6731 West Coal Road
PO Box 67
Casper, WY 82602
B: (307) 261-5336 C: (307) 253-9389

*TX and CA State Directors report directly to the Regional Director

Lettering Conventions: **State Abbreviation**
STATE DIRECTOR
Assistant State Director
Budget Analyst



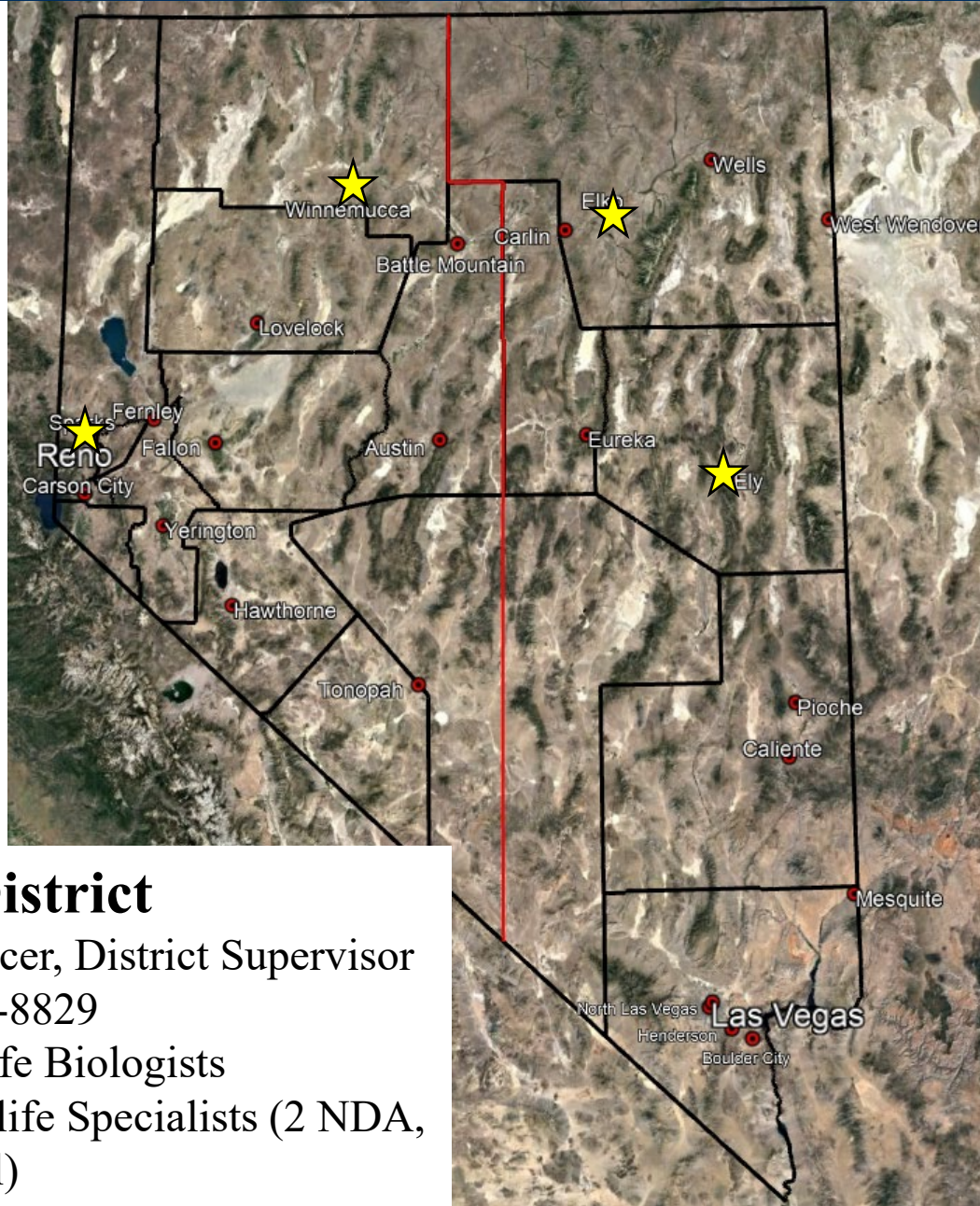
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9/10/2024



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WS-Nevada Organization



Nevada State Office

Mark Ono, State Director
(775) 322-3217

- 2 – District Supervisors
- 3 – Fixed-Wing Pilots
- 1 – Staff Biologist
- 1 – Budget Analyst
- 1 – Budget Technician

Aviation Hangars

Elko
Ely
Winnemucca

East District

Eric Covington, District Supervisor
(775) 289-7902

- 1 – Wildlife Biologist
- 12 – Wildlife Specialists (5 NDA)

★ WS Offices

38 Staff Total

West District

Jack Spencer, District Supervisor
(775) 851-8829

- 4 – Wildlife Biologists
- 12 – Wildlife Specialists (2 NDA, 4 seasonal)



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Resources Protected



*Protecting
People*

*Protecting
Natural Resources*

*Protecting
Agriculture*

*Protecting
Property*

- **Small and large-scale resources protection work**
- **Avian and mammalian conflict species**
- **IWDM – lethal and nonlethal methodologies**
- **Public and private lands**
- **Resources protection work can be proactive or responsive, or both**



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Process to obtain services

Contact state program (AZ, CA, NV, UT)

David Bergman

Arizona State Director

(602) 870-2081

david.l.bergman@usda.gov

Jeffrey Flores

California State Director

(916) 979-2675

jeffrey.b.flores@usda.gov

Mark Ono

Nevada State Director

(775) 322-3217



mark.ono@usda.gov

Chad Heuser

Utah State Director

(801) 975-3315

chad.m.heuser@usda.gov

 Critical Habitat Units
 Recovery Units 2010
Modeled Habitat Potential
High potential: 1
Low potential: 0

0 12.5 25 50 75 Kilometers
0 12.5 25 50 75 Miles
Redlands


Costs and Timelines

- **Costs will vary based on scope and locality**
- **Utilize Interagency Agreements (IA) and Cooperative Service Agreements (CSA)**
- **100% full cost recovery**
 - **WS does not receive Congressional appropriated funding for T&E species protection**
 - **Federal appropriations law – cannot augment funding of other federal agencies (DOI, DOD, etc.)**
- **Approx. \$150K-\$175K for a wildlife biologist FTE, slightly less for technicians**
- **Start up costs for capital assets**

- **Existing NEPA related to WDM for desert tortoise protection:**
 - **USFWS Reduce Common Raven Predation on the Desert Tortoise EA and FONSI (2008)**
 - **WS-Nevada Predator Damage Management EA and FONSI (2020)**
 - **USFWS Issuing Permits for Common Ravens in Nevada EA and FONSI (2024)**
 - **WS-California Wildlife Damage Management EIS and ROD (2024)**
- **If expanded flyway/population level raven management is desired, additional NEPA may be required**
- **Possible additional Section 7 compliance required**

- **WDM work conducted in Wilderness, ACECs and National Monuments may require additional NEPA for WS**
- **GIS exercise needed to identify land class types**
 - **Land class designation layers laid over desert tortoise areas in need of WDM**
 - **Private lands will require trespass agreements with landowners**



- **WS programs do not currently have staff stationed in the areas of interest in NV and CA**
 - **Will need facilities to house staff and equipment**
 - **Funding will be needed to establish positions**
 - **Providing “on call” services will be challenging**
- 
- A person wearing a light blue long-sleeved shirt, blue jeans, a blue baseball cap, and blue gloves is bent over in a dry, grassy field. They are holding a small white object, possibly a seed or a small animal, in their gloved hand. The background shows a dry, hilly landscape under a clear sky.

- **California statutes and regulations make WDM more challenging**
 - **Species-specific differences**
 - **Methodology limitations**
 - **Pesticide notification requirements**
 - **Firearm ammunition restrictions**
- **WS-California has figured out ways to comply with state regulations while delivering effective WDM services**
- **There are cost differences for services due to these regulatory restrictions**



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WDM Research - NWRC

- **World leader in WDM research**
- **Collaboration with WS operations to develop methods**
- **Logan Field Station**
 - **Mammalian predator research**
 - **DRC-1339/common raven research**





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Questions?



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