



Headquarters Campus—Fort Collins, CO

The National Wildlife Research Center (NWRC) functions as the research arm of the Wildlife Services program in the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS). Its mission is to apply scientific expertise to resolve human-wildlife conflicts while maintaining the quality of the environment shared with wildlife.

The NWRC employs more than 160 scientists, technicians, and support staff to develop and evaluate new wildlife damage management tools and techniques. More than half of its personnel are located at its headquarters campus at Colorado State University in Fort Collins, CO. The remaining personnel are located at several field stations and other sites across the United States and focus on regional wildlife damage management issues.

The 43-acre NWRC headquarters campus includes chemistry and disease laboratories, outdoor animal holding pens, tropical and temperate simulated natural environments (SNEs), and a Biosafety Level 3 (BSL-3) suite. These unique facilities enable NWRC scientists to study traditional laboratory animals and wildlife species in both laboratory and semi-natural settings and to test, evaluate, and modify new wildlife damage management tools and techniques.



Wildlife Science Building

Wildlife Science Building

The Wildlife Science Building (WSB) contains offices and laboratories for the majority of the NWRC headquarters staff. The building was completed in 1999 and has about 82,000 square feet of space. Approximately 30 percent of the WSB is dedicated to chemistry, genetics, and disease laboratories; and the remaining 70 percent comprises office and administrative areas, conference rooms, the library, and archives.



NWRC includes a 2,500 square-foot Biosafety Level 3 suite

NWRC's animal care specialist prepares food for captive animals on site.

Animal Research Building

The Animal Research Building houses NWRC's attending supervisory veterinarian and animal care staff and contains modern animal holding and research space, as well as animal care facilities. It was completed in 1995 and has about 33,000 square feet of space. It includes surgery and necropsy rooms, two simulated natural environments, a 2,500 square-foot BSL-3 suite, an industrial cage wash area, food preparation room, and loading docks.



The Outdoor Animal Research Facility includes a 1-acre flight pen.

Outdoor Animal Research Facility

The majority of NWRC's 43-acre headquarters campus consists of the Outdoor Animal Research Facility (OARF). The facility was completed in 2003 and totals 24 acres in size. It includes 20 specialized pen structures and four related support buildings. Testing the effectiveness of new wildlife damage management tools in a natural setting is challenging and very costly. The OARF provides researchers with the ability to house wild animals for study under controlled conditions. OARF buildings include the following:

- Mammal, predator, and raptor pens
- Indoor and outdoor aviaries
- Rodent buildings
- Waterfowl pens
- Small bird pens
- 1-acre flight pen
- Warehouse long-term storage space
- Bulk chemical storage
- Garage and facilities shop
- Equipment compound for storage of vehicles, trailers, and other large outdoor equipment



NWRC animal care specialist in one of the animal pens at the Outdoor Animal Research Facility.

Invasive Species Research Building

The Invasive Species Research Building (ISRB) allows NWRC scientists to study invasive species in many types of simulated climates. The building was completed in 2006 and consists



Invasive Species Research Building

of approximately 25,000 square feet of space. In the building's SNEs, scientists can control the temperature, moisture, and light to simulate an animal's native habitat. The ISRB is designed to help scientists study the ecology, behavior, and basic biology of invasive amphibians, reptiles, birds, and mammals. Scientist also study detection

methods and potential control methods, such as lures, repellents, capture devices, toxicants, and reproductive inhibitors. In addition to numerous temperate and tropical animal rooms, two large SNEs, and a laboratory, the ISRB contains several offices and cubicles, a quarantine area, food preparation and storage room, industrial cage wash, necropsy room, and digital x-ray facility.

Future Construction

NWRC is working to construct a new BSL-3 agriculture research facility called the Wildlife Disease Research Building (WDRB) at its headquarters campus. The WDRB will contain approximately 16,000 square feet of user space and will greatly expand APHIS' capabilities to respond to wildlife disease emergencies and resolve important disease issues that involve livestock-wildlife and human-wildlife interactions. The WDRB will provide support for the development of diagnostics methods and vaccines, risk assessments,

and wildlife disease surveillance and monitoring activities. The estimated completion date for the building is 2012.

Additional Information

**For more information, please contact:
National Wildlife Research Center
USDA, APHIS, WS
4101 LaPorte Avenue
Fort Collins, CO 80521**

You may also call NWRC at (970) 266-6000 or visit our Web site at http://www.aphis.usda.gov/wildlife_damage/nwrc/.

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