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THE POCATELLO SUPPLY DEPOT

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The Pocatello Supply Depot is operated by the Division of Wildlife Services, Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife, a branch of the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service --all a part of the Department of Interior.

The operation was originally started in McCammon, Idaho, in 1926. In 1931, the mill, grain facilities, and other equipment were moved to a new site in Pocatello, Idaho, where better location and transportation facilities were available. In 1938 an addition was completed under authority of an act of Congress June 1936 (49 Stat 1913 16 USC 667). This addition completed the facility as it now stands, consisting of approximately 15,000 square feet of office space and 30,000 square feet of storage and manufacturing space.

The major purpose of the Supply Depot is to provide rodent and predator control materials not available to the general public, to cooperating Federal, State and private agencies. On occasion materials are also provided to Canada and to South American countries as well as other foreign countries after a review of justification by the Central Office.

The Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife maintains its own research laboratory and scientists who devote their full time to developing materials and methods for controlling rodents, predators and birds. This laboratory is within the Division of Wildlife Research and most of the activity is headquartered at the Denver Research Center located at Denver, Colorado. The research and development of control materials sometimes takes years before all the requirements of Federal registration have been fulfilled. These requirements are based on collection of basic field data and safeguards to other target species. After the basic data has demonstrated the product's value, the safety demonstrated and all requirements met, the product is registered under the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide and Rodenticide Act. All proposed items for registration are reviewed by the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Health Education and Welfare and the Department of Interior. The Pesticides Regulation Division of the U.S. Department of Agriculture is responsible for the administration of the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act. It is concerned with the registration and enforcement activities relating to economic poisons that enter into interstate commerce. Following Federal registration the product must be registered in all states where it is to be sold. State requirements in some instances can be more restrictive than Federal regulations. As an item of note, control materials which are not shipped in interstate commerce do not need Federal registration. Upon satisfaction of both Federal and State registration requirements the product then can be manufactured and sold by the Supply Depot to governmental agencies and their cooperators.

In preparing toxic grain rodent bait materials only the highest quality, largest grained number-one oats and wheat are used, most of which are grown in the Buckskin Basin, east of Pocatello. The grain bait material, even though it will be coated with a toxic agent, must be pure and weed free because of interstate shipments. The oats are steamed and rolled which opens up the shell to enable the toxic agent to be placed directly onto the kernel.

Finished bait materials are not stockpiled for future orders. All orders are prepared the same day they are received by the Supply Depot. It has been proven that good freshly prepared bait material will be accepted more readily by the rodents and consequently provides better control. Since establishment of the Depot, several rodent and predator materials have become available through commercial outlets. Because of this, some toxic compounds have been dropped from the Depot's stock and others have been limited for sale only to governmental agencies. This is done to avoid government competition with private enterprise.

Approximately *70%* of the work done by the plant's twelve full and part-time employees is directed toward filling rodent control orders received from Division of Wildlife Services State Supervisors in various parts of the country. The remaining *30%* of the Depot work is devoted to manufacturing various predator control materials. No order is filled by the Supply Depot unless it is approved by the State Supervisor of the state placing the order.

The Pocatello Supply Depot functions on a non-profit basis. Prices are based on cost of materials plus manufacturing and overhead costs. It is a self supporting installation and requires no Federal or State supporting funds.

If control materials are purchased from the Supply Depot by cooperators for resale, it is requested that they be sold on a non-profit basis.

Over the years the products provided at a minimum cost by the Pocatello Supply Depot have made possible large scale control programs feasible for Federal, State and cooperating agencies. Because of the availability of these materials it has been possible for more effective cooperative control measures.

Through our research facilities, the Supply Depot is constantly keeping abreast and informed of the latest techniques and developments of control materials which are in turn relayed to our cooperators. As a result of the services we are able to offer and because of our long time experiences with public agencies the Supply Depot has become a liaison for the farmer, livestock producer and timber manager on control information and procedures.