

University of Nebraska - Lincoln

DigitalCommons@University of Nebraska - Lincoln

USDA National Wildlife Research Center - Staff
Publications

U.S. Department of Agriculture: Animal and
Plant Health Inspection Service

July 2003

NWRC: Providing World Leadership in Science-Based Problem Management

J. Russell Mason
USDA-APHIS-Wildlife Services

Follow this and additional works at: https://digitalcommons.unl.edu/icwdm_usdanwrc



Part of the [Environmental Sciences Commons](#)

Mason, J. Russell, "NWRC: Providing World Leadership in Science-Based Problem Management" (2003).
USDA National Wildlife Research Center - Staff Publications. 245.
https://digitalcommons.unl.edu/icwdm_usdanwrc/245

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by the U.S. Department of Agriculture: Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service at DigitalCommons@University of Nebraska - Lincoln. It has been accepted for inclusion in USDA National Wildlife Research Center - Staff Publications by an authorized administrator of DigitalCommons@University of Nebraska - Lincoln.

NWRC: Providing World Leadership in Science-Based Problem Management

BY J. RUSSELL MASON

The National Wildlife Research Center (NWRC) functions as the research arm of the Wildlife Services (WS) program, an agency of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service. Located on the Foothills campus of Colorado State University, WS-NWRC helps WS manage wildlife conflicts by providing scientific information on damage or threats to human health and safety, and by developing new tools and management techniques. WS-NWRC research activities emphasize economically, environmentally and socially acceptable methods that reduce or stop wildlife damage effec-



tively without risk to humans, wildlife or the natural environment.

In existence since the 1920s, WS-NWRC has been the leader in wildlife damage research for 80 years. At the headquarters facility in Fort Collins, Colorado, and at field stations in Hawaii, Washington, North Dakota, Utah, Mississippi, Ohio, Florida and Pennsylvania, an interdisciplinary staff of 160 wildlife biologists, ethologists, economists, chemists, physiologists, statisticians, microbiologists, epidemiologists, veterinarians and others address the needs of the WS program and other stakeholder groups. In the near future, the WS-NWRC will add an Invasive Species Research Building to other outstanding facilities at headquarters. Current resources include 25 acres of outdoor research pens, an indoor wildlife testing building, and an office and laboratory complex. Headquarters' resources serve to complement the unique research and development capabilities of the field stations.

Investigations occur under the organizational auspices of the Mammal, Bird, Wildlife Disease, and Product Development Research Programs and in accordance with WS Research Needs Assessments (RNAs) that occur every five years. Needs identified by the RNAs are addressed using a multiyear, multidisciplinary project management system implemented by WS-NWRC since 1996. Projects are three to five years in duration, have clearly stated goals and objectives, and identify projected milestones and expected outputs that require mid-term and final project

reviews, as well as annual project updates. Project planning, implementation and reviews routinely involve input from WS operational personnel, outside scientists and stakeholders. WS-NWRC uses the process not only to achieve specific research objectives within broader administrative directives, but also to develop new research projects to address important emerging wildlife-human conflict issues. As existing projects are completed, new projects that address different aspects of some of the same issues, or entirely new areas of research, are developed to address research needs. In addition to its own staff, NWRC relies on individuals with additional specialties through cooperative ties with universities, not-for-profit research facilities, and other public and private research entities. Many staff have affiliate or research faculty appointments at universities nationwide and abroad.

NWRC has achieved an integrated, multi-disciplinary research program that is uniquely suited to provide scientific information and solutions to wildlife damage problems. Specific activities include:

- Assessing damage and other problems caused by wildlife, not only in agricultural settings, but also at airports, in cities, on military installations, and within state and national parks.
- Investigating the biology and behavior of problem animals. For example, much of what is currently known about coyote biology and behavior is a result of research conducted over many years at the field station in Logan, Utah. This research has served as the

SUMMER SPECIAL 600XT Laser Rangefinder



A very affordable, tilt-compensated laser rangefinder. It measures horizontal or slope distance out to 1,800 feet. Great for measuring horizontal distance to trees for tree height and for traverses. It is also useful for marking buffer widths along streams. The 600XT has simple one-button operation and runs off a single nine-volt battery. Very accurate and can be set to measure in feet, yards, or meters. Includes a custom water resistant case and sells for only **\$385.00**. For more information, contact:

ATTERBURY CONSULTANTS, INC.
3800 SW Cedar Hills Blvd., #190
Beaverton, OR 97005
503/646-5393 • Fax 503/644-1683



Northwest
Forestry
Services

- ☐ Professional Forest Management
- ☐ Timber Inventories and Cruising
- ☐ Appraisals ☐ Mapping and GIS

(503) 684-8168
1-800-783-6818

11825 SW Greenburg Road 2A, Tigard, OR 97223

basis for developing and applying many strategies and techniques used today for protecting livestock from predators. Likewise, nearly all current data on the ecology and control of forest pest species such as the mountain beaver were developed by the staff of the field station in Olympia, Wash.

- Evaluating the impact of wildlife management practices on target species, non-target species and the environment. WS-NWRC designs studies to ensure that the methods developed to alleviate wildlife damage are biologically sound, effective, economical, and safe to the public and the environment.

- Developing and improving technology to reduce wildlife problems. A few examples of current projects include chemosensory repellents and attractants for birds and mammals; tactile repellents for aquatic rodents; management strategies to reduce bird hazards to aviation; toxicants for the control of invasive species such as

WS-NWRC research activities emphasize economically, environmentally and socially acceptable methods that reduce or stop wildlife damage effectively without risk to humans, wildlife or the natural environment.

brown tree snakes, Coqui frogs and nutria; barrier systems to manage disease transmission between wild and captive cervids; and techniques to reduce bird damage to fish hatcheries and cereal crops.

- Conducting registration activities required by environmental protection agencies for the application of management chemicals and drugs. The center works closely with the Environmental Protection Agency, other regulatory agencies, chemical registrants and the private sector. Approved agents are manufactured, stored and distributed at a USDA sup-

ply depot at Pocatello, Idaho, or by the private sector. The WS program uses the latest chemicals and drugs in its field operations to improve its ability to manage wildlife problems.

- Transferring scientific and technical information. The center maintains a world-class scientific library of publications and research papers and makes its materials available to other researchers. Like all federal organizations, NWRC maintains an open-door policy and welcomes inquiries. ♦

J. Russell Mason is the Mammal Research Program manager for NWRC in Fort Collins, Colorado. He can be reached at 970-266-6049.

SwiftNet

Website design, updates, redesigns, e-commerce, content maintenance, database maintenance & more

503.295.4024
fax 503.222.1504

www.swiftnet.com
leslieb@swiftnet.com



ADVANCED PHEROMONE TECHNOLOGY

InterceptTM Traps/IPMLuresTM/IPM ToolkitsTM

Introducing **INTERCEPTTM PTBB PANEL TRAP**
for detecting and surveying

**ASIAN LONGHORN BEETLE
and OTHER LONGHORN BEETLES.**

**IPM Tech researches, develops, manufactures,
and markets pheromone-based insect control
for pest management applications.**

**LIGHTWEIGHT DURABILITY • EASY ASSEMBLY
WEATHER RESISTANCE • CONVENIENT STORAGE**

*For Product and
Pricing Information
and Ordering, Contact:*

IPM TECH, INC.

1-888-IPM-TRAP (888-476-8727)



INTERCEPTPTBB PANEL TRAP

Email: <info@ipmtech.com> Website: <www.ipmtech.com>