The USGS National Wildlife Health Center mission is to provide national leadership to safeguard wildlife and ecosystem health through dynamic partnerships and exceptional science.
Designed biocontainment (BSL-3) diagnostic and research facility for wildlife located in Madison, Wisconsin

Field station in Hawaii
What We Do

Advancing Wildlife and Ecosystem Health

- Disease investigations
- Surveillance and monitoring
- Emergency response
- Applied research
- Education, training and outreach
Epidemiological and Diagnostic Investigations

- Work with partners to identify and respond to wildlife morbidity and mortality events
- Detect and identify both known and novel wildlife pathogens in samples submitted to the Center
- Provide information, investigation guidance, management options, and technical assistance regarding wildlife health and disease issues
Epidemiological and Diagnostic Investigations

Disease Investigations in FY2012-13:

- Sea star mortality on the West Coast
- Avian cholera in seabirds in Alaska
- Investigations of snake fungal disease east of the Mississippi
- Expanded marine mammal investigations (seal/sea otters)
- Suspected carbamate poisoning in Wisconsin songbirds
- Eustronglyoides mortality in Florida juvenile great egrets
- Amphibian mortality surveillance in the NE United States
- Coral disease outbreak investigation in Kauai
- Urchin, puffer mortality investigations in Hawaii
North American Wildlife Health Strategy

Establish proactive, collaborative partnerships to address the most pressing wildlife health issues
National Fish and Wildlife Health Network

- **Wildlife Diagnostic Laboratories Network**
  Capacity to detect wildlife diseases following standardized protocols

- **Data Management and Information Dissemination**
  Timely and accurate data to manage wildlife diseases

- **Disease Surveillance**
  Framework for consistent, coordinated wildlife disease surveillance

- **Communications and Response Plans**
  Preparedness to effectively respond and manage wildlife diseases
40 Years of Wildlife Mortality Data
Date, Number Dead, Diagnosis, Location
National Fish and Wildlife Health Network

Steering Committee:

USFWS
NPS
BIA
USDA/APHIS/VS
USDA/APHIS/WS
CDC
USGS
NOAA
Env. Canada

AFWA (States)
SCWDS
CCWHC
AAWV
WDA
EcoHealth Alliance
Tufts
UC Davis
MMC
Data Partnerships

Manage and disseminate wildlife health information to enable natural resource agencies to monitor wildlife mortality and morbidity events across North America.

Partners and Stakeholders:
Federal agencies, State & Tribal natural resource management agencies, academic & non-governmental partners, general public
WHISPers

Wildlife Health Information Sharing Partnership – event reporting system

- Partner driven – Web based
- Search, sort, download – verified wildlife disease event data
- Provide enhanced situational awareness of wildlife mortality & morbidity events
WHISPers

Data schema:

- Event
- Location
- Species
- Diagnosis
Public vs. Agency permissions
Logins distributed to partners
Data verification
Data visibility
“mortality event”
Definition and exceptions
Locational precision
WHISPers

North American Wildlife Mortality Event Reporting System

Search Events

Query Field: Diagnosis
Comparison: Contains
Query: cholera

And
Or

Select

Search

Results

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One Health
Human-Agriculture-Wildlife-Ecosystem

Diagram showing the interconnections between humans, ecosystem, and health through disease.