



Animal and Plant
Health Inspection
Service

Wildlife Services

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Dear Tribal Leaders:

October 06, 2021

The Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) values its developing partnership with the Tribal Nations. Our Agency strives to keep Tribes informed of actions that could have an impact on tribal members and resources. For this reason, I would like to notify you of a great opportunity from Wildlife Services (WS) to expand our partnership and hear directly from you.

APHIS WS is a program within the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA). WS has a mission to provide Federal leadership and expertise in resolving wildlife conflicts to allow people and wildlife to coexist. WS professionals apply science-based integrated wildlife damage management approaches to address wildlife-related issues. WS is a recognized leader in collaborative, partnership-based wildlife damage management and its success is achieved through the accomplishments of our employees as they work with our stakeholders, collaborators, tribal partners, and the public.

For WS to fulfill its mission, we need to continue to expand our collaboration, we need to hear more from our partners and customers and need to have a better understanding of their needs. One way this is accomplished is through the National Wildlife Services Advisory Committee (NWSAC).

The National Wildlife Services Advisory Committee (NWSAC), first established in 1986, is a 20-member Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA) Committee that advises the Secretary of Agriculture on policies and program issues necessary to manage damage caused by depredate wildlife to protect America's agricultural, industrial, and natural resources and to safeguard public health and safety in regard to the WS program. The NWSAC remains in place for two years from the date of inception. You can find documents and information about previous NWSACs on the APHIS website ([USDA APHIS | National Wildlife Services Advisory Committee](#)) and they include past recommendations to the Secretary, as well as the USDA's actions and responses to the recommendations. NWSAC activities include annual meetings, where members choose their Chairperson and develop recommendations for the Secretary's consideration. Travel expenses are covered by the Department, and accommodations at the meeting site are facilitated by the WS program. The first annual meeting may be held in the Washington, DC area, and the second annual meeting may be held at another location around the country.

The duties of the Committee involve advising the Secretary on:

- overall policy and guidance for the operation of the WS program;
- resources to accomplish the WS mission;

- impacts of depredating wildlife;
- public health and safety problems created by birds and other wildlife; and
- research activities and priorities to address wildlife damage management needs.

On July 1, 2021, the Secretary of Agriculture announced via the Federal Register, his intention to reestablish a NWSAC for 2021-2023 ([Federal Register :: National Wildlife Services Advisory Committee; Intent To Reestablish](#)). The previous NWSAC concluded in February 2021. Sometime in November 2021, we expect USDA will post a second Federal Register notice which will solicit NWSAC membership nominations with a goal to generate a large and diverse nomination pool from which the Secretary of Agriculture will select 20 members to serve on the NWSAC.

Today, I am reaching out to you to let you know about NWSAC, and to ask you to consider nominating yourself or a member of your tribe/organization to serve as a NWSAC member. Ideally, NWSAC membership is representative of the diversity of our WS stakeholders and partners. USDA is seeking individuals who represent various sectors, including, but not limited to, farming and ranching, wildlife management, animal welfare, academia and other research institutions, tribal, state/county/local governments, and natural resources associations/organizations. WS personnel are available to speak to your organization about NWSAC and the WS program in general, and you may also review additional information online ([USDA APHIS | Wildlife Services](#)).

If you have any questions about the NWSAC selection process, please reach out to Carrie Joyce at carrie.e.joyce@usda.gov.

Thank you for your time, and for considering NWSAC membership for yourself or your members.

Janet L. Bucknall, Deputy Administrator