



**National Wildlife Health Center  
Wildlife Health Bulletin 2014-03**

**USGS National Wildlife Health Center Reorganization  
and Update on Disease Investigation Services**

**To: Natural Resource/Conservation Managers**  
**From: Dr. Jonathan Sleeman, Center Director, USGS National Wildlife Health Center**  
**Date: July 23, 2014**

I am pleased to inform you of a recent reorganization of the Science Branches at the National Wildlife Health Center (NWHC). The purpose of this reorganization is to align the Center structure with our strategic science goals and objectives (see [Strategic Science Plan](#)), streamline and improve the technical services provided by the NWHC, foster collaborative interactions among scientists internal and external to the Center, and ensure our work meets the needs of our partners and stakeholders.

The NWHC provides epidemiological and diagnostic services to federal, state, and tribal natural resource partners, largely free of charge to help investigate, understand, and manage unusual morbidity and mortality events; as well as conducts surveillance for other diseases of significance. A summary of the epidemiological and diagnostic services we provide is available on our [Web site](#).

The [organizational structure](#) and functions ([Scientific Activities at the NWHC](#)) of our new cross-disciplinary Branches are briefly described below, and in more detail in a [Functional Statements document](#).

Applied Wildlife Health Research

The Research Branch conducts applied science to provide information; methods and techniques; tools; and quantitative models to address the priority wildlife health and disease issues of our principal stakeholders and partners, primarily bureaus within the Department of Interior and state wildlife and natural resource agencies. This Branch represents a wide array of expertise and capabilities, including wildlife biology, ecology, statistics, quantitative modeling, microbiology, molecular biology, veterinary medicine, epidemiology, toxicology, and immunology. Research partnerships are created to foster comprehensive research products from the molecular to the landscape level.

Wildlife Epidemiology and Emerging Diseases

The Epidemiology Branch provides epidemiological and disease management expertise for new and unusual wildlife mortality events; conducts emergency preparedness and response; collaborates with federal, state, and tribal partners on designing and conducting epidemiology and disease ecology studies for new or recurring priority diseases; and provides training for external partners. The Branch also provides quantitative and statistical support; manages Center-wide data systems to ensure that databases are well designed and managed; and prepares information products, including the [Quarterly Wildlife Mortality Report](#), [Wildlife Health Bulletins](#), and the [Wildlife Health Information Sharing Partnership-Event Reporting System](#).

Wildlife Disease Diagnostic Laboratories

The Diagnostic Branch conducts cause-of-death determinations; provides laboratory investigations of routine and unusual wildlife mortality events; designs and conducts research to characterize emerging and other priority pathogens of wildlife; and offers disease consultation services to external partners. The Branch includes laboratories specializing in microbiology, virology, parasitology, chemistry, and pathology.

## Disease Investigation Services

To request diagnostic services or report wildlife mortality events in the lower 48 states, Alaska, or Puerto Rico, please contact the NWHC at **608-270-2480** or by email at [NWHC-epi@usgs.gov](mailto:NWHC-epi@usgs.gov), and a field epidemiologist will be available to discuss the case. To request these services or report wildlife mortality events in Hawaii or Pacific Island territories, please contact the Honolulu Field Station (see below). You may be asked to complete the [Wildlife Mortality Reporting and Diagnostic Submission Request Form](#). A field epidemiologist will be your primary point of contact for questions on disease epidemiology and management. A wildlife pathologist will be your primary point of contact on diagnostic findings and cause of morbidity or mortality. Field epidemiology and pathology team members are listed below. Further information can be found at our Web site: <http://www.nwhc.usgs.gov/services/>.

### Field Epidemiology Team Contacts:

Anne Ballmann, 608-270-2445, [aballmann@usgs.gov](mailto:aballmann@usgs.gov)  
Barb Bodenstein, 608-270-2447, [bbodenstein@usgs.gov](mailto:bbodenstein@usgs.gov)  
Bob Dusek, 608-270-2403, [rdusek@usgs.gov](mailto:rdusek@usgs.gov)  
LeAnn White, 608-270-2491, [clwhite@usgs.gov](mailto:clwhite@usgs.gov)

Hawaii and Pacific Islands: Thierry Work, 808-792-9520, [thierry\\_work@usgs.gov](mailto:thierry_work@usgs.gov)

### Wildlife Pathology Team Contacts:

David Green, 608-270-2482, [degreen@usgs.gov](mailto:degreen@usgs.gov)  
Susan Knowles, 608-270-2462, [sknowles@usgs.gov](mailto:sknowles@usgs.gov)  
Julia Lankton, 608-270-2459, [jlankton@usgs.gov](mailto:jlankton@usgs.gov)  
Valerie Shearn-Bochsler, 608-270-2457, [vbochsler@usgs.gov](mailto:vbochsler@usgs.gov)

The NWHC consists of innovative scientists, technicians, students, and support staff dedicated to our mission to safeguard wildlife and ecosystem health through dynamic partnerships and exceptional science. A primary focus of the NWHC is to meet the needs of our partners in the field. If you have any questions or concerns regarding the scientific and technical services we provide, please do not hesitate to contact me at 608-270-2401, [jsleeman@usgs.gov](mailto:jsleeman@usgs.gov).

To see past Wildlife Health Bulletins, click [here](#).

WILDLIFE HEALTH BULLETINS are distributed to natural resource/conservation agencies to provide and promote information exchange about significant wildlife health threats. If you would like to be added to or removed from the mailing list for these bulletins, please contact Gail Moede Rogall at 608-270-2438 or e-mail: [nwhc-outreach@usgs.gov](mailto:nwhc-outreach@usgs.gov).