

professionalism within its staff and implement the wildlife health plan, thereby positioning NDOW to effectively fulfill its mission. In order for NDOW to achieve the long-term goals set forth in this plan and sustain long-term data collection, a strategic 5-year plan, business design and sound financial strategy are currently being developed to ensure adequate program support into the future.

Consistent with the goals of the National Fish and Wildlife Health Initiative, the Department is now committed to conducting proactive, coordinated and sustained surveillance for pathogens in wildlife species of importance in Nevada, and responding appropriately; developing policy and protocols for early detection and rapid response; developing integrated disease management strategies and contingency plans for emergency disease events; identifying appropriate technologies relevant to wildlife health management; initiating and conducting research relevant to wildlife health in Nevada and communicating and disseminating relevant health-related information to NDOW staff, agency partners, the public of Nevada and other interested parties through participation of Wildlife Health Specialist and staff in meetings and workshops, and through presentations, regular discussion, email and website updates.

C. OREGON WILDLIFE HEALTH PROGRAM

The Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife's (ODFW) Wildlife Health Program is based out of Oregon State University (OSU) which consists of several offices, a necropsy room and a biosecurity level 2 laboratory. The program is lead by a supervisor level senior wildlife veterinarian with a staff veterinarian and a laboratory biologist who supports the veterinary staff and conducts statewide aging and reproductive management-based studies. Annually, the program also supports up to 10 volunteers and temporary personnel working on management and research projects including fisheries and wildlife undergraduate and graduate students and veterinary students conducting externships and wildlife health research projects. The Wildlife Health Laboratory (WHL) works closely with the Oregon State University Veterinary Diagnostic Lab (OSU VDL) and the Oregon Department of Agriculture Animal Health Lab. The WHL is located adjacent to the ODFW Fish Pathology Lab, with both labs in close proximity to the OSU VDL.

The veterinary staff coordinates and directs the statewide program for wildlife animal health and animal disease management and control. The program principally supports both the Game and Wildlife Diversity Programs and also provides prescription assistance in the fisheries hatchery program. The program is directly supervised by a regional supervisor with Division Administrators directing many of the veterinary staff activities.

Specifically, veterinarians within Oregon's program conduct state level, federally-funded surveillance programs (e.g. avian influenza and chronic wasting disease). During morbidity and mortality events, the veterinary staff provides the expertise for epidemiological investigations and proper handling of pathological samples for diagnosis. Within the Wildlife Health Lab, Oregon's veterinarians conduct necropsies, prepare tissues for further diagnostic workup, and provide final diagnosis to field staff and administration. Veterinarians answer disease questions and calls from the field staff, administrators and the public on a daily basis and directly monitor a toll-free phone line that also provides 24/7 access to the supervisory veterinarian in the event of

emergencies. When requested, veterinary staff provides animal health and disease opinions and technical information to Commissioners and Legislators.

During high profile or sensitive field operations (media-covered wildlife confiscations, shipment of orphaned wildlife to zoos) veterinarians are utilized to ensure efficient and effective immobilizations, provide health evaluations and write certificates of veterinary inspection for interstate movement of animals. They also provide training and veterinary services related to agency wildlife relocation efforts including capture and immobilization, disease sampling, necropsy, humane euthanasia, and treatment of wildlife. The use of personal protective equipment and proper sanitation procedures when handling wildlife are included in annual training exercises for field staff. An important duty of the program's veterinarians is to provide agency acquisition, record keeping and compliance of prescription and scheduled drugs used for handling and capture of wildlife.

On a broader scale, Oregon's veterinary staff assists administration with input on policies and procedures related to wildlife health issues and provide advice during development of administrative rules concerning control of intrastate movement of wildlife species to prevent the introduction of disease to Oregon wildlife. The wildlife health program veterinarians maintain surveillance of the general welfare of Oregon wildlife as influenced by national and international activities and coordinate with the Oregon Department of Agriculture on issues of animal quarantine involving captive wildlife premises as may be necessary for the control or eradication of program diseases that could occur in wildlife.

Wildlife Health Program veterinarians consult with many intra- and inter- state and federal agencies in disease control activities affecting or involving wildlife and consult with wildlife health specialists and veterinarians, non-governmental organizations, public interest groups at both state and national levels to discuss problems and devise plans for the control of contagious and infectious diseases involving wildlife. Veterinary staff present at several professional venues annually to provide updates on Oregon wildlife health issues and to relay information back to administration and staff on current national wildlife health issues and initiatives.

The Wildlife Health Program provides the state with wildlife disease surveillance capability to efficaciously and expediently identify threats and react with defined management protocols. The program provides administrators with the ability to formulate policy and rules to institute proactive measures to protect the state's wildlife resource from infectious diseases, contaminants, and negative influences of internal and external actions and policies affecting the health of Oregon's wildlife populations.

D. SOUTHEASTERN COOPERATIVE WILDLIFE DISEASE STUDY

The Southeastern Cooperative Wildlife Disease Study (SCWDS) is the first regional research and diagnostic laboratory established specifically for wildlife diseases. Formed in 1957 by the Southeastern Association of Game and Fish Commissioners in response to several dramatic mortality events in white-tailed deer, SCWDS quickly became a partnership involving the University of Georgia's (UGA) College of Veterinary Medicine and 11 southeastern state fish and wildlife management agencies. Today, SCWDS membership includes the wildlife