

COOPERATIVE SERVICE AGREEMENT

Between

LANCASTER COUNTY

And

**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
ANIMAL AND PLANT HEALTH INSPECTION SERVICE
WILDLIFE SERVICES (WS)**

ARTICLE 1 – PURPOSE

APHIS-WS will provide assistance to facilitate wildlife damage management (WDM) program activities in and around Lancaster County to minimize wildlife damage caused a variety of wildlife species. The activities will include employing available technologies in an operational program as well as information transfer.

ARTICLE 2 - AUTHORITY

APHIS WS has statutory authority under the Act of March 2, 1931 (46 Stat. 1468; 7 U.S.C.426-426b) as amended, and the Act of December 22, 1987 (101 Stat. 1329-331, 7 U.S.C. 426c), for the Secretary of Agriculture to cooperate with States, individuals, public and private agencies, organizations, and institutions in the control of wild mammals and birds that are reservoirs for zoonotic diseases, or are injurious or a nuisance to, among other things, agriculture, horticulture, forestry, animal husbandry, wildlife, and public health and safety.

ARTICLE 3 - MUTUAL RESPONSIBILITIES

The Cooperator and WS agree:

- a. To confer and plan a WDM program that addresses the need for managing conflicts caused by wildlife in and around Lancaster County to minimize wildlife damage caused a variety of wildlife species, WS will formulate annually, in writing, the program work plan and associated budget and present them to the Cooperator for approval.
- b. Each year The Cooperator and APHIS-WS must agree to and sign the annual Work and Financial Plans, which upon execution are incorporated into this Agreement by reference.
- c. When either of the Cooperating parties address the media or incorporate information into reports and/or publications, both Cooperating parties must agree, in writing, to have their identities disclosed when receiving due credit related to the activities covered by this agreement.
- d. That APHIS-WS has advised the Cooperator that other private sector service providers may be available to provide wildlife management services and notwithstanding these other options, Cooperator requests that APHIS-WS provide wildlife management services as stated under the terms of this Agreement.

ARTICLE 4 - COOPERATOR RESPONSIBILITIES

The Cooperator agrees:

- a. To designate Lancaster County Chairman, 555 South 10th Street, Room 110 Lincoln NE 68508, (402) 441-6863 as the authorized representative who shall be responsible for collaboratively administering the activities conducted in this Agreement;
- b. To reimburse APHIS-WS for costs, not to exceed the annually approved amount specified in the Work and Financial Plan. If costs are projected to exceed the amount reflected in the Financial Plan, the Work and Financial Plan shall be formally revised and signed by both parties before services resulting in additional costs are performed. The Cooperator agrees to pay all costs of service submitted via an invoice within 30 days of the date of the submitted invoice or invoices as submitted by APHIS-WS. Late payments are subject to interest, penalties, and administrative charges and costs as set forth under the Debt Collection Improvement Act of 1996. If the Cooperator is delinquent in paying the full amount of the due service costs submitted by APHIS-WS, and/or is delinquent in paying the due late payments, and/or is delinquent in paying the interest, penalties, and/or administrative costs on any delinquent due service costs, APHIS-WS will immediately cease to provide the respective service associated with the submitted service costs. APHIS-WS will not reinstate or provide the respective service until all due service costs, and/or due late payments, and/or due interest, penalty, and/or administrative costs are first paid in full.
- c. To provide a Tax Identification Number or Social Security Number in compliance with the Debt Collection Improvement Act of 1996.
- d. As a condition of this Agreement, The Cooperator ensures and certifies that it is not currently debarred or suspended and is free of delinquent Federal debt.

ARTICLE 5 – WS RESPONSIBILITIES

WS agrees:

- a. To designate Timothy Veenendaal, State Director, 5940 S. 58th Street, Lincoln, NE 68516, (402) 434-2340 as the authorized representative who shall be responsible for collaboratively administering the activities conducted in this Agreement;
- b. The performance of wildlife damage management actions by WS under this agreement is contingent upon a determination by WS that such actions are in compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act, Endangered Species Act, and any other applicable environmental statutes. WS will not make a final decision to conduct requested wildlife damage management actions until it has made the determination of such compliance;
- c. To provide qualified personnel and other resources necessary to implement the approved WDM activities delineated in the Work and Financial Plan referenced in 3.a of this Agreement.
- d. To bill the Cooperator for costs incurred in performing WDM activities as authorized in the approved annual Work and Financial Plan as may be amended.

- e. To notify the Cooperator if costs are projected to exceed the amounts estimated and agreed upon in the Financial Plan. WS will cease providing goods or services until a revision to the Work and Financial Plan, as appropriate, have been agreed to and signed by both parties to this Agreement.
- f. Authorized auditing representatives of the Cooperator shall be accorded reasonable opportunity to inspect the accounts and records of WS pertaining to such claims for reimbursement to the extent permitted by Federal laws and regulations.

ARTICLE 6 – WS CONDITIONS

For costs borne by WS, this agreement is contingent upon the passage of the Agriculture, Rural Development, and Related Agencies Appropriation Act for the current fiscal year from which expenditures may be legally met and shall not obligate APHIS upon failure of Congress to so appropriate. This Agreement also may be reduced or terminated if Congress provides APHIS funds only for a finite period under a Continuing Resolution.

ARTICLE 7 – ASSURANCES

Nothing in this agreement shall prevent any other State, agency, organization or individual from entering into separate agreements with WS the Cooperator for the purpose of managing wildlife damage.

ARTICLE 8 – CONGRESSIONAL RESTRICTIONS

Pursuant to Section 22, Title 41, United States Code, no member of or delegate to Congress shall be admitted to any share or part of this agreement or to any benefit to arise therefrom.

ARTICLE 9 – APPLICABLE REGULATIONS

All WDM activities will be conducted in accordance with applicable Federal, State, and local laws and regulations.

This agreement is not a procurement contract (31 U.S.C. 6303), nor is it considered a grant (31 U.S.C. 6304). In this agreement, APHIS provides goods or services on a cost recovery basis to nonfederal recipients.

ARTICLE 10 – LIABILITY

APHIS assumes no liability for any actions or activities conducted under this agreement except to the extent the recourse or remedies are provided by Congress under the Federal Tort Claims Act (28 USC 1346(b), 2401(b), 2671-2680).

ARTICLE 11 – AGREEMENT EFFECTIVE DATE

This Agreement shall become effective upon date of final signature and shall continue for a period of five years. Further, this Agreement may be amended or extended at any time by mutual agreement of the parties in writing. The Cooperator must submit a written request to extend at least 30 days prior to expiration of the agreement. It may be terminated by either party upon 60 days' notice in writing to the other party.

AUTHORIZATION:

Lancaster County Commissioners
555 S. 10th Street, Room 110
Lincoln, NE 68508
Tax Identification Number:

Chairman

Date

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
ANIMAL AND PLANT HEALTH INSPECTION SERVICE
WILDLIFE SERVICES
Tax Identification Number: 41-0696271

Timothy Veenendaal, State Director Nebraska

Date

Director, Western Region

Date