

Washington State
Interagency
Feral Swine Response Plan



Manage the Damage
Stop Feral Swine



Washington State Interagency Feral Swine Response Plan

**Adopted March 2016
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OBJECTIVE

In order to reduce the environmental and economic harm caused by feral swine in Washington State, the above agencies developed the following plan for interagency feral swine response activities. This plan is intended to be living document that is reviewed, improved, and updated yearly or upon request.

1. BACKGROUND

Feral swine (*Sus scrofa*) are aggressive and pose serious ecological, economic, and health threats. They are aggressive animals that can be extremely destructive to fields, fences, and facilities. Their wallows can affect ponds and wetlands, muddying the water and destroying aquatic vegetation. They can strip a field of crops in one night and pose a threat to ground-nesting birds and some endangered species. Feral swine also can transmit diseases and parasites, such as pseudorabies, brucellosis, and tuberculosis, to livestock and people.

Feral swine are defined as (WAC 16.54.010):

- Animals of the genus *Sus* that are free roaming on public or private lands and do not appear to be domesticated;
- Swine that have been released or born into the wild state;
- European wild hogs and their hybrid forms (also known as European wild boars or razorbacks), regardless of whether they are free roaming or kept in confinement; or
- Animals of the family *Tayassuidae* such as peccaries and javelinas, regardless of whether they are free roaming or kept in confinement.

Feral swine are prohibited in Washington (WAC 16.54.111 and 16.54.065). If found, feral swine will be eradicated and disposed of in a humane manner (WAC 16.80.060).

2. DETECTION REPORTS

The Washington Invasive Species Council is responsible for collecting reports of invasive species through the 1-888-268-9219 Squeal on Pigs! hotline, an online reporting form (<http://www.invasivespecies.wa.gov/report.shtml>), a smartphone app titled 'WA Invasives', and other forms of public/agency personnel reports. When a report of feral swine in Washington State is received the Washington Invasive Species Council (WISC) will collect the following information from the reporting individual:

- Date and time of the report
- Date and time and location of the sighting(s)
- Name and contact information of the reporting party
- Number of animals seen
- Photos of swine and/or swine damage if possible

In the event a coordinating authority receives a feral swine report in person, direct telephone call, or other reporting pathway, the recipient will immediately summarize the report information in an invasive species sighting form. Invasive species sighting forms may be accessed by visiting <http://www.invasivespecies.wa.gov/report.shtml>.

3. NOTIFICATION OF APPROPRIATE AUTHORITIES

When a report of feral swine is received, it is the responsibility of WISC to notify coordinating agencies—the US Department of Agriculture Animal and Plant Health Division Wildlife Services (WS), Washington Department of Agriculture Animal Services Division (WSDA), and additional coordinating authorities as deemed appropriate (See Appendix 1. Coordinating Authorities).

4. VERIFICATION OF SPECIES PRESENCE

After receiving notification of the sighting, WS will lead in verifying the presence/absence of feral swine. With help from the WISC and WSDA, WS representatives will gather additional information on the swine sighting and may conduct a site visit to verify the presence of feral swine.

If there is sufficient evidence of swine presence, WS representatives will notify the WISC and contact additional coordinating authorities, the landowner, and county authorities (animal services or enforcement) to determine whether swine are feral or livestock.

5. DETERMINATION OF DISTRIBUTION

If feral swine are present, WS representatives will work with landowners and representatives from the coordinating authorities to determine the population size,

reproductive capability, range of the animals, and options for eradication. Survey data will be collected and mapped, which may illustrate the following features:

- Locations of reported sightings
- Estimated population of feral swine
- Locations of apparent damage from feral swine
- At-risk conservation or restoration sites and locations with rare, threatened, or endangered species
- At-risk agricultural and other economic resources

Appropriate information will be input into the national feral swine database:

<http://swine.vet.uga.edu/nfsms/>

6. RAPID RESPONSE PREPARATIONS

After confirming presence of swine, WS may convene a workgroup of applicable coordinating authorities to discuss resource needs and availability along with permitting requirements. Response preparations may occur concurrently with the verification of species presence and distribution determination sections of this plan.

The workgroup of applicable coordinating authorities will select a Public Information Officer (PIO) for the incident, who will be responsible for coordinating all releases of information between the coordinating authorities and media. In the event the coordinating authorities wish to issue a press release regarding a response, PIO for the incident will be responsible for coordinating the development and release of all information from the coordinating authorities to the media and public.

7. RAPID RESPONSE ACTION

Wildlife Services will develop and implement a rapid response focused on immediate eradication of the feral swine (methods may include, but not limited to, aerial gunning, dogs, shooting, and trapping). Using their Decision Model, WS will develop a response plan which could include the following:

- A list of available resources
- Evaluation of appropriate eradication methods
- Commitment from partners and agencies on roles and responsibilities, depending on land ownership
- A timeline for control and eradication actions
- A list of necessary permits for control measures (e.g., body-gripping traps)
- An outreach/education strategy
- Monitoring of results

8. PREVENTING FURTHER SPREAD

After a positive verification of swine is determined, representatives from WS, WISC, and coordinating authorities shall design and implement measures to prevent the spread of feral swine throughout Washington State. The potential measures include, but are not limited to education/outreach, barriers, and reduced access.

9. INCIDENT REPORTING

Following a rapid response action, an incident report will be prepared for distribution to WISC and other coordinating authorities. The incident report may include, but not be limited to:

- Naming of the incident; e.g. “Angry Mountain” population
- Date of notification
- Landowner name
- Land Manager (if different)
- Address
- Contact info: phone, email
- Legal Description of Property with swine damage
- Map of sighting location and coordinates (WGS84, decimal degrees)
- Date of contact and/or investigation
- Results of investigation (swine presence or likelihood of alternative species)
- History: Any past action(s) taken.
- Potential next steps

10. INTERAGENCY RESPONSE DEBRIEFING

Following rapid response activities, WISC and WS will facilitate an after action debriefing with designated coordinating authorities involved in the incident. The debriefing will ensure that coordinating authorities receive information on the incident and have the opportunity to discuss lessons learned in order to improve future response activities.

APPENDIX 1. COORDINATING AUTHORITIES

Core Coordinating Authorities

Washington Invasive Species Council (WISC)

1. Justin Bush, Executive Coordinator
Justin.Bush@rco.wa.gov, 360-902-3088 (office), 360-704-0973 (cell)

U.S. Department of Agriculture, Animal Plant Health Inspection Service, Wildlife Services (WS)

1. Terry Smith, Assistant State Director

Terry.L. Smith@aphis.usda.gov , 360-753-9884 (office), 360-545-2414 (cell)

Washington State Department of Agriculture Animal Services Division (WSDA)

1. Dr. Brian Joseph, State Veterinarian
BJoseph@agr.wa.gov, 360-902-1881
2. Dr. Dana Dobbs, Region 3 Field Veterinarian
ddobbs@agr.wa.gov, (509) 607-4974

Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW)

1. Mick Cope, Deputy Assistant Director
Mick.Cope@dfw.wa.gov, 360-902-2362

Situational Coordinating Authorities

Washington State Fish and Wildlife Department Enforcement (WDFW LE)

1. Mike Cenci, Deputy Chief
Mike.Cenci@dfw.wa.gov, 360-902-2938

Washington Department of Natural Resources (WDNR)

1. Michael Kearney, Rights of Way Program
Michael.Kearney@dnr.wa.gov, 360-902-2143

Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission (Parks)

1. Lisa Lantz, Stewardship Manager
Lisa.Lantz@parks.wa.gov, 360-902-8641

U.S. Forest Service Pacific Northwest Region (USFS)

1. Josh Chapman, Region 6 Wildlife Program Leader
joshuachapman@fs.fed.us, 503-808-2901

National Parks Service (NPS)

1. John (Jay) Goldsmith, Pacific West Chief of Natural Resources
Jay_Goldsmith@nps.gov, 415-623-2206

US Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS)

1. Bridgette Flanders, Chief, Branch of Refuge Biology and Inventory & Monitoring
bridgette_flanders-wanner@fws.gov , 503-231-2232

Washington State University (WSU)

1. Todd Murray, ANR Unit Director
tmurray@wsu.edu, 509-335-8744

APPENDIX 2. ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

Washington Invasive Species Council Information

Invasive Species Sighting Reports

<http://www.invasivespecies.wa.gov/report.shtml>

Squeal on Pigs! Campaign

http://www.invasivespecies.wa.gov/council_projects/squealompigs.shtml

Feral Swine Factsheet

http://www.invasivespecies.wa.gov/priorities/feral_swine.shtml

Feral Swine Detection and Reporting Poster

https://invasivespecies.wa.gov/documents/wapestwatch/FirstDetectorposter_bikerAnimal24x36.pdf

Washington State Department of Agriculture

Definitions

<http://app.leg.wa.gov/wac/default.aspx?cite=16-54-010>

Prohibited Entries

<http://app.leg.wa.gov/wac/default.aspx?cite=16-54-065>

Swine Importation and Testing Requirements

<http://app.leg.wa.gov/wac/default.aspx?cite=16-54-111>

Swine Diseases regulated in Washington State

<http://app.leg.wa.gov/wac/default.aspx?cite=16-80>

Feral Swine

<http://app.leg.wa.gov/wac/default.aspx?cite=16-80-060>

Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife

Deleterious Exotic Wildlife

<http://apps.leg.wa.gov/wac/default.aspx?cite=232-12-017>