Wendy Anderson, TWS Certified Wildlife Biologist, USDA APHIS

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Wendy Anderson is a TWS (The Wildlife Society) Certified Wildlife Biologist with the USDA -Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service's Wildlife Services program where she works as the Assistant Program Manager for the National Feral Swine Damage Management Program based in Fort Collins, Colorado. Wendy has worked for Wildlife Services for 18 years in various locations and positions, ranging from Field Biologist in Arizona to State Director in New Jersey. She is originally from Alaska. Wendy received a B.S. in Wildlife Biology and Natural Resource Sciences from Washington State University and a Masters of Public Administration from Troy University. In her current position with the National Feral Swine Damage Management Program, she coordinates with Wildlife Services' programs in 41 states and 2 territories that receive federal feral swine allocations, and their multi-agency partners, on managing damage caused by feral swine through population suppression or, where possible, elimination.

Jillian Day, Aquatic Plant Control Coordinator, LDWF/Inland Fisheries

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While attending Southeastern Louisiana University, Jillian Day worked as a student intern for U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. After graduating from SLU in 2009, she began working for the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries. Since then, she has worked for LDWF for seven years in various capacities. For approximately two years Jill served as the Nutria Control Program Biologist, followed by four years as a Wildlife Management Area Biologist. In October of 2015, she took over the position of Aquatic Plant Control Coordinator. Over the years she has dealt with management and control of invasive species of all sorts. Current duties include coordinating research for the aquatic plant control program, managing statewide spray contracts, coordinating biological control efforts, compiling vegetation management plans, providing technical assistance and other various program related duties.

Rodrigo Diaz, Assistant Professor, Dept. of Entomology, Louisiana State University

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Rodrigo is an assistant professor in the Department of Entomology at Louisiana State University in Baton Rouge. Rodrigo's research focuses on the biological control of exotic weeds and insects. His current projects include the biological control of giant salvinia, and the ecology and management of the crape myrtle bark scale. Rodrigo obtained his master's degree from Texas A&M University and PhD from the University of Florida.

Thomas Hall, Environmental Coordinator/Wildlife Biologist, USDA APHIS

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Tom Hall has been a wildlife biologist with the United States Department of Agriculture, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Wildlife Services Program for the past 32 years. He currently is an Environmental Coordinator for Wildlife Services in Fort Collins Colorado. He has also worked in Nevada, Oklahoma, California, Guam, Oregon, and Denver. Tom received a Masters in Wildlife from Oklahoma State University. He has worked with several invasive species including feral swine, brown tree snakes, nutria, and feral dogs and cats protecting a variety of resources including T&E species and agriculture. He has been a member of the APHIS Climate Change Working Group and on the Invasive Species, Climate Change Task Force. His talk is on a paper produced by this group that he co-chaired, "Bioinvasions in a Changing World."

Jennifer Hogue Manuel, Biologist Supervisor, Furbearer Biologist, Louisiana Dept. of Wildlife & Fisheries

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Dwight LeBlanc, State Director, USDA APHIS Louisiana Wildlife Services

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Dwight LeBlanc is current State Director of the USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service's Wildlife Services program in Louisiana. He is a TWS Certified Wildlife Biologist and received a B.S. in Wildlife Management from the University of Southwestern Louisiana and an M.S. in Wildlife Biology from Louisiana State University. A lifelong resident of Louisiana, he has worked with Wildlife Services for almost 39 years. He has supervisory oversight over wildlife damage management projects across Louisiana, including several involving management of feral swine damage. He has also participated, in various capacities, on several emergency responses during Hurricanes Katrina and Rita and during the Bayou Perot, Mississippi River DLM-932, and Deepwater Horizon Oil Spills.

Lori Moshman, Graduate Student, Louisiana State University

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Lori Moshman received her BS in Plant Science and Entomology from Cornell University in 2012. After her graduation she spent three years on an organic farm as greenhouse manager and entomologist for an 8-acre vegetable growing operation, and reared black soldier fly larvae on agricultural byproducts for use as chicken feed. Lori is currently pursuing her MS in Entomology at LSU studying biological control of invasive weeds. Her research focuses on cold tolerance of the salvinia weevil, with emphasis on methods of winter cold protection to improve weevil establishment on giant salvinia in northern Louisiana. Lori has been involved in additional projects relating to invasive species monitoring in Louisiana including air potato, water hyacinth, and tawny crazy ant.

Catherine Normand, Biologist, Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries

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Catherine Normand graduated in 2011 from Louisiana State University with a BS in Natural Resource Ecology and Management, with a concentration in Wildlife Ecology and a minor in Forestry. In 2014, she got her MS from Arkansas Tech University where she studied survival, diseases prevalence, and multi-scale space use of feral cats in an exurban environment. Ms. Normand has contributed to ecological research on raccoons, wild turkeys, Louisiana black bears, white-tailed deer, Baccman's sparrows, and a variety of other passerine birds. In 2015, she became the biologist for the Louisiana Coastwide Nutria Control program at Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries.

Ronald Paille, Senior Field Biologist, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

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After obtaining a Masters in Marine Sciences from LSU in 1980, Ronny has worked continuously since then in Louisiana's coastal marshes for LSU, Little Pecan Hunting Club, and finally, with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service where he is now a senior field biologist with over 29 yrs experience in that position. WIth the Service, Ronny has worked with several coastal wetland restoration programs including CWPPRA, LACPR, LCA, and Restore.

Myra Price, Environmental Protection Specialist, U.S. EPA Wetlands Division

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Myra Price is an Environmental Protection Specialist for EPA's Wetlands Division in the Office of Wetlands, Oceans, and Watershed and the Office of Water. She has work for EPA in Washington, DC for seventeen years in both regulatory and non-regulatory programs. Her main focus in the Wetlands Division is on the wetlands grant program and voluntary wetland restoration and protection. Myra is the EPA coordinator for the 5-Star Wetland Restoration Challenge Grant program which supports small local or community restoration training grants. She has received degrees in Watershed Management, Chemistry and Biology from New Mexico State University and the University of Arizona.

Julie Whitbeck, Ecologist, Jean Lafitte National Historical Park and Preserve

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Julie Whitbeck is a terrestrial ecologist and a lifelong naturalist. She earned her BA from Swarthmore College and her PhD from Stanford University. Her scholarly research addresses whole plant and ecosystem scale responses to environmental variation, focusing on responses to climate change. She has worked mainly in coastal wetlands for the past two decades, including projects addressing cypress swamp restoration and the impacts of rapidly rising relative sea level on coastal forests. After many years working in academia, in 2011 she began working for the National Park Service as the Ecologist for Jean Lafitte National Historical Park and Preserve. Supporting natural resource management in the interior coastal wetland landscape of the Mississippi river delta, her work ranges from monitoring and controlling invasive species, to large scale hydrologic (and ecosystem) restoration, to monitoring and preparing for this area's rapid rate of relative sea level rise. Besides this work, she continues to learn, teach and practice ecology in formal and informal contexts.