

Wildlife Hazard Management Program

Background

Wildlife strikes with aircraft pose a significant threat to public safety and airport operations. Many types of vegetation, habitats, and land use practices on or near an airport can attract animals and create a wildlife hazard threat. This threat is exacerbated by hazardous species' adaptation to living in urban environments, including airports. Through federal grant assurances, the FAA tasks airports that are part of the National Plan of Integrated Airport Systems (NPIAS) with maintaining an appropriate environment for the safe and efficient operation of aircraft including modification of the landscape to deter wildlife, installation of wildlife hazard mitigation measures, or removal of wildlife that are hazardous to aircraft.

Program Areas

To assist NC NPIAS airports in meeting FAA requirements, NCDOT Aviation established the Wildlife Hazard Management Program in 2004. At no cost to the airports, the program provides the following services through a Cooperative Service Agreement with the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA):

1. **Wildlife Hazard Site Visits to General Aviation (GA) Airports**

The USDA completes Wildlife Hazard Site Visits (WHSV) to GA airports. The site visit extends across a 24-hour period and identifies wildlife observed on the airport, areas presenting wildlife attractants on or around the airport and assesses wildlife hazard hot spots. A report is provided that includes a summary of observations and recommendations tailored to the airport. The report provides justification for wildlife hazard mitigation projects such as wildlife fencing.

2. **"Quick Response" Direct Management Activities at GA Airports**

The USDA provides "on-call" direct management activities (e.g., wildlife harassment, direct removal of wildlife, etc.) for GA airports across the state experiencing wildlife hazards.

3. **Annual Wildlife Hazard Mitigation Training**

The USDA holds regional wildlife hazard mitigation trainings annually across the state for NPIAS airports in NC. They are designed to meet the training requirements for airport personnel actively involved in overseeing or implementing FAA-approved Wildlife Hazard Management Plans and are recommended for any personnel involved in controlling wildlife hazards at airports. At the trainings, USDA biologists cover the types of wildlife hazards on airports, permits and regulations associated with wildlife hazard management, basic wildlife identification, wildlife hazard log and strike reporting, and wildlife management techniques for airports.

Resources

77 FR 73511, *Clarification of Wildlife Hazard Management Requirements for Non-Certificated Federally Obligated Airports in the National Plan of Integrated Airport Systems (NPIAS)*

FAA Advisory Circular (AC) 150/5200-33, *Hazardous Wildlife Attractions on or Near Airports*

FAA AC 150/5200-36B, *Qualifications for Wildlife Biologist Conducting Wildlife Hazard Assessments and Training Curriculums for Airport Personnel Involved in Controlling Wildlife Hazards on Airports*

FAA AC 150/5200-38, *Protocol for the Conduct and Review of Wildlife Hazard Site Visits, Wildlife Hazard Assessments and Wildlife Hazard Management Plans*