Graduate Education Program

Individual Units develop graduate training opportunities for students enrolled in graduate programs at the host university. More than 500 graduate students participate annually. Students interested in pursuing graduate degrees in the natural resources sciences are encouraged to visit our website to learn more about the expertise and research interests of specific Units, and then to correspond with individual Units and host universities to inquire about graduate programs and fellowship opportunities.

For more information, please contact either your local Cooperative Research Unit:

USGS Arkansas Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit
Department of Biological Sciences, WAA 203
University of Arkansas
Fayetteville, AR 72701
Phone: 501-575-6709 Fax: 501-575-3330
E-mail: coopunit@uark.edu
Website: http://biology.uark.edu/coop
David G. Krementz, Unit Leader

Or the National Program Headquarters:

Cooperative Research Units
U.S. Geological Survey
12201 Sunrise Valley Drive
Mail Stop 303
Reston, Virginia 20192
Phone: 703.648.4260 Fax: 703.648.4269
Website: http://biology.usgs.gov/coop
Byron K. Williams, Chief

Cover Photo: Biologists at the Oregon Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit are studying predation by Caspian terns on young Pacific salmon passing through the Columbia River estuary. Photo of tern colony on Rice Island, Oregon.
Cooperative Research Units Program

The Cooperative Research Units Program is a formal partnership among the USGS, land-grant universities, State natural resource agencies, and the Wildlife Management Institute. Established in 1935, Cooperative Wildlife Research Units were created to fill the vacuum of wildlife management information and the shortage of trained wildlife biologists. In 1960, the Unit Program was formally sanctioned with the enactment of the Cooperative Units Act.

Today, there are 39 Cooperative Fish and/or Wildlife Research Units located on university campuses in 37 states. The broad geographic dispersion of Units provides the USGS and other Federal agencies access to a network of scientists to address national and regional information needs that transcend traditional political and organizational boundaries. Individual Units focus on natural resource issues of importance to their individual States and regions, as well as to the Nation. Units coordinate information needs among multiple agencies and facilitate collaborations to achieve cost effectiveness for participating agencies.

The USGS provides Federal coordination and oversight of the national program through the Cooperative Research Units headquarters office in Reston, Virginia. The USGS, State agencies, university cooperators, and the Wildlife Management Institute, along with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, provide guidance for individual Units.

Research Activities

Unit research addresses applied information needs identified by management agencies, as well as scientific theory and basic research topics. The information generated by the program supports science-based resource management programs of participating State and Federal agencies.

Research topics include fish and wildlife biology and management, conservation biology, habitat management, environmental contaminants, landscape ecology, physiology, genetics, limnology, human dimensions in natural resource management, and geographic information system technologies. Most research projects are carried out by graduate students participating with or under the direction of Unit or other university scientists. Collectively, Units currently have over 1,200 research projects underway and generate more than 300 scientific publications annually.