

2005 Survey of U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Ecological Services Employees in the Southeast Region (GA, AL, AR, FL, KY, LA, MS, TN, NC, SC, PR)

Return Rate: 29.4% for Region 4 (77 out of 262); 29.4% National (414 out of 1410)

Note: A certain percentage of responses for most questions were left blank. These figures are not included below causing, in many cases, the percentages listed to equal less than 100%.

1. I feel that I am allowed to do my job as a scientist.

	<i>strongly agree</i>	<i>agree</i>	<i>don't know</i>	<i>disagree</i>	<i>strongly disagree</i>
Region 4	11.7%	48.1%	3.9%	27.3%	9.1%
National	6.8%	56.8%	3.6%	22.0%	9.9%

2. Within the agency I can openly express my concerns about the biological needs of species and habitats without fear of retaliation.

	<i>strongly agree</i>	<i>agree</i>	<i>don't know</i>	<i>disagree</i>	<i>strongly disagree</i>
Region 4	14.3%	44.2%	5.2%	16.9%	19.5%
National	12.6%	49.0%	7.5%	18.1%	11.6%

3. Outside the agency I can openly express my concerns about the biological needs of species and habitats without fear of retaliation.

	<i>strongly agree</i>	<i>agree</i>	<i>don't know</i>	<i>disagree</i>	<i>strongly disagree</i>
Region 4	5.2%	46.8%	13.0%	20.8%	14.3%
National	5.6%	38.4%	13.0%	29.2%	12.8%

4. USFWS fosters a work place ethic consistent with the agency's mission to "conserve, protect and enhance fish and wildlife and their habitats for the continuing benefit of the American people."

	<i>strongly agree</i>	<i>agree</i>	<i>don't know</i>	<i>disagree</i>	<i>strongly disagrees</i>
Region 4	10.4%	46.8%	3.9%	24.7%	14.3%
National	7.7%	44.9%	6.0%	29.7%	9.9%

5. USFWS Ecological Services is acting effectively to maintain or enhance species and their habitats, so as to avoid possible listings under the Endangered Species Act.

	<i>strongly agree</i>	<i>agree</i>	<i>don't know</i>	<i>disagree</i>	<i>strongly disagree</i>
Region 4	2.6%	19.5%	9.1%	44.2%	24.7%
National	1.9%	13.3%	9.2%	52.2%	22.9%

6. USFWS Ecological Services is effectively accomplishing efforts toward recovery of Endangered Species Act listed species.

	<i>strongly agree</i>	<i>agree</i>	<i>don't know</i>	<i>disagree</i>	<i>strongly disagree</i>
Region 4	1.3%	27.3%	6.5%	42.9%	22.1%
National	1.2%	19.1%	10.1%	48.3%	20.5%

7. In my opinion, USFWS Ecological Services is moving in the right direction.

	<i>strongly agree</i>	<i>agree</i>	<i>don't know</i>	<i>disagree</i>	<i>strongly disagree</i>
Region 4	1.3%	32.5%	10.4%	35.1%	20.8%
National	0.7%	21.0%	12.8%	44.0%	20.3%

8. I trust USFWS decision makers to make decisions that will protect species and habitats.

	<i>strongly agree</i>	<i>agree</i>	<i>don't know</i>	<i>disagree</i>	<i>strongly disagree</i>
Region 4	0%	29.9%	10.4%	29.9%	28.6%
National	0.5%	20.0%	10.6%	37.7%	29.7%

9. Scientific input from Ecological Services research staff receives appropriate consideration in decisions regarding protection of species and habitats.

	<i>strongly agree</i>	<i>agree</i>	<i>don't know</i>	<i>disagree</i>	<i>strongly disagree</i>
Region 4	7.8%	35.1%	22.1%	19.5%	14.3%
National	3.1%	23.2%	19.3%	33.8%	18.1%

10. My Regional Directorate will stand up for scientific staff or supervisors who take controversial stands.

	<i>strongly agree</i>	<i>agree</i>	<i>don't know</i>	<i>disagree</i>	<i>strongly disagree</i>
Region 4	5.2%	19.5%	24.7%	19.5%	29.9%
National	2.2%	17.6%	25.6%	30.0%	23.4%

11. I have been directed by USFWS decision makers to provide incomplete, inaccurate or misleading information to the public, media or elected officials.

	<i>frequently</i>	<i>occasionally</i>	<i>seldom</i>	<i>never</i>	<i>not applicable</i>
Region 4	3.9%	7.8%	3.9%	70.1%	11.7%
National	1.4%	7.7%	9.4%	68.1%	11.8%

12. In my experience, scientific documents generally reflect technically rigorous evaluations of impacts to listed species and associated habitats.

	<i>strongly agree</i>	<i>agree</i>	<i>don't know</i>	<i>disagree</i>	<i>strongly disagree</i>
Region 4	6.5%	50.6%	13.0%	19.5%	9.1%
National	7.5%	54.3%	13.8%	18.1%	4.3%

13. I have been directed to inappropriately exclude or alter technical information from a USFWS scientific document.

	<i>frequently</i>	<i>occasionally</i>	<i>seldom</i>	<i>never</i>	<i>not applicable</i>
Region 4	3.9%	6.5%	7.8%	70.1%	10.4%
National	2.2%	8.9%	9.2%	68.8%	10.4%

14. I have been directed, for non-scientific reasons, to refrain from making jeopardy or other findings that are protective of species.

	<i>frequently</i>	<i>occasionally</i>	<i>seldom</i>	<i>never</i>	<i>not applicable</i>
Region 4	6.5%	15.6%	14.3%	42.9%	19.5%
National	3.6%	14.0%	13.3%	39.4%	29.2%

15. As a norm, USFWS scientific documents and reports rely upon the best available science.

	<i>strongly agree</i>	<i>agree</i>	<i>don't know</i>	<i>disagree</i>	<i>strongly disagree</i>
Region 4	15.6%	59.7%	3.9%	14.3%	5.2%
National	15.0%	60.1%	9.2%	11.6%	2.9%

16. I know of cases where U.S. Department of Interior political appointees have injected themselves into Ecological Services determinations.

	<i>strongly agree</i>	<i>agree</i>	<i>don't know</i>	<i>disagree</i>	<i>strongly disagree</i>
Region 4	20.8%	31.2%	42.9%	2.6%	1.3%
National	43.2%	30.0%	22.9%	2.7%	0.5%

17. I know of cases where political appointees from other federal departments or agencies (for example, OMB, CEQ, USDA, DOD) have injected themselves into Ecological Services determinations.

	<i>strongly agree</i>	<i>agree</i>	<i>don't know</i>	<i>disagree</i>	<i>strongly disagree</i>
Region 4	18.2%	16.9%	54.5%	7.8%	1.3%
National	21.3%	21.0%	51.0%	5.3%	0.7%

18. I know of cases where members of Congress have injected themselves into Ecological Services determinations.

	<i>strongly agree</i>	<i>agree</i>	<i>don't know</i>	<i>disagree</i>	<i>strongly disagree</i>
Region 4	22.1%	28.6%	42.9%	5.2%	0%
National	26.3%	28.0%	40.3%	3.9%	0.7 %

19. I know of cases where state, tribal or local governments/elected officials have injected themselves into Ecological Services determinations.

	<i>strongly agree</i>	<i>agree</i>	<i>don't know</i>	<i>disagree</i>	<i>strongly disagree</i>
Region 4	20.8%	31.2%	39.0%	7.8%	0%
National	23.7%	31.9%	37.0%	6.3%	0.5 %

20. I know of cases where commercial interests have inappropriately induced the reversal or withdrawal of USFWS scientific conclusions or decisions through political intervention.

	<i>strongly agree</i>	<i>agree</i>	<i>don't know</i>	<i>disagree</i>	<i>strongly disagree</i>
Region 4	18.2%	31.2%	39.0%	6.5%	2.6%
National					

25.4%

30.9%

36.2%

5.6%

1.0%