

WHISPers Partner Organization Roles

Background: The Wildlife Health Information Sharing Partnership event reporting system (WHISPers) is a data-rich, web-based platform that contains current and historic information on wildlife morbidity or mortality events. This information, such as county-level locations, onset and ending dates, species affected, and diagnosis has generously been shared over time by hundreds of natural resource managers and stakeholders across the U.S. and beyond.

WHISPers solves the problem of managing and sharing wildlife health information and knowing where wildlife health events are occurring for better preparation and decision making. This provides situational awareness not only on a local level but also regional, national, and international scales.

WHISPers 2.0 introduces Authenticated Partner features such as access to more detailed event information than the public can see, the ability to enter and update event information, and a communication interface with the USGS National Wildlife Health Center (NWHC). Through crowdsourced, near real-time information from a network of federal, state, and tribal resource managers and wildlife professionals, WHISPers is the place to see, store, share, and understand wildlife disease occurrence information.

Benefits of participating in WHISPers as an **Authenticated Partner Organization:**

- Allows password-protected, real-time access to more detailed wildlife disease event data than the public can see (such as specific locations, field conditions, and disease management actions).
- Provides a secure space for partners to easily store and share event information within your organization and with select personal colleagues.
- Facilitates collaboration and communication on events and disease response within and across agencies.
- Provides access to the portal for carcass submission and communication with staff at the USGS National Wildlife Health Center.
- Provides complete control over what information is shared and seen by other partners and the public.
- Provides access to map layers and a planned suite of analytical tools.

WHISPers is managed by the USGS National Wildlife Health Center. We understand that event information can be sensitive and control over who can enter and access information is very important to partners. Data security is an integral part of every aspect of WHISPers. All information in WHISPers is securely stored behind firewalls, on enterprise hosting systems, and in compliance with the U.S. Department of the Interior security and encryption standards.

WHISPers 2.0 provides flexibility for organizations of all sizes.

“Partner users” are typically staff such as wildlife biologists (or their designee) with direct knowledge of happenings in the field and are the primary people entering events and communicating with a diagnostic lab regarding carcass submission. Partner users are often going to be the “event owner” in WHISPers for self-entered events. Partner users can enter data, edit data on self-entered events, and view data across their organization. There can be multiple partner users within an organization. To help ensure data integrity, new potential

partner users must first be authorized by their internally designated “**Partner Organization Administrator**” as being part of their stated organization. NWHC can assist with this task if needed, especially for smaller organizations that might not have need for roles beyond users. The Organization Administrator (generally only one per organization) may be the supervisor overseeing several biologists or field staff. In addition to verifying users, the Administrator has control over all the data entered for that organization and can edit, delete, and manage information access across all events entered by their organization staff. Large organizations with multiple users across a state or region can choose to designate one or more internal “**Partner Organization Manager(s)**” who have the ability to add or edit data in any event entered within their own organization. This person may be the lead biologist for a state or region, for example. More details on the WHISPers roles are in the table below.

Primary WHISPers partners include state, federal, and tribal natural resource management agencies and wildlife diagnostics laboratories. To facilitate sharing of event data with other organizations that do not have management over species or land, such as not-for-profit organizations and universities, the role of “**WHISPers Affiliate**” can be assigned to share read-only or read-and-write capabilities for an event with someone outside state, federal, or tribal natural resource affiliation.

In order to manage and maintain the WHISPers database, select NWHC WHISPers administrative staff will have the ability to view and edit all records within WHISPers regardless of organization applied settings. Information will never be modified or shared externally without consultation with the Partner Organization.

	Partner Organization Administrator	Partner Organization Manager	Partner User	Public User
Verify organization members	√			
Edit or delete any data entered within own organization	√	√		
Verified prior to being granted access to advanced functions	√	√	√	
Ability to enter, edit, and delete self-created event information	√	√	√	
View non-public event information such as field conditions, management actions, diagnostic results, and communication for own organization’s events	√	√	√	

Share non-public event information within own organization	√	√	√	
Create a “Contacts” list and invite external colleagues to view and collaborate on events	√	√	√	
Request carcass submission to NWHC Diagnostic Branch	√	√	√	
Request disease consultative assistance from the NWHC Epidemiology Branch	√	√	√	
Set privacy settings on self-created events for data viewing and access	√	√	√	
Access only basic event information including county-level locations, start and end dates, species, numbers sick and dead, and diagnosis	√	√	√	√
View event maps and data layers	√	√	√	√
Search event data and, if create a username and password, can save and share searches	√	√	√	√

Interested? Follow these 4 steps to become an authenticated partner.

1. Review this Partner Roles document
2. Determine who within your organization might fill the administrator, manager, and user roles.
3. Click on the “Natural Resource Management Professional” button on the left side of the home page. Complete the pop-up registration form, being sure to scroll down to agree to the Terms of Use.
4. You will receive an email from a WHISPers administrator indicating log in setup is complete.

Questions? Contact WHISPers Administrative team at whispers@usgs.gov