

WHISPerS Fast Track Guide to Creating an Event

Below are the required fields to enter an event into the Wildlife Health Information Sharing Partnership event reporting systems (WHISPerS).

Green (🌐) indicates publically viewable information. Blue (*) indicates that information is required in at least one of these text fields but isn't necessary in all four text fields.

Field	What Does it Mean?	Tips, Pointers, Examples
Event Type🌐	“Mortality/Morbidity” - one or more sick and/or dead animals. “Surveillance” - research project with a study plan and sampling protocol.	Select Mortality/Mortality for repeat visits to a mortality/morbidity site to observe the progression of an existing event. If sick or dead animals are found during a surveillance research project then create a separate mortality/morbidity event.
Event Visibility	Default is to make public the summary information (fields highlighted in green here and marked by 🌐).	If active legal case or otherwise sensitive data, select “Not Visible to Public”.
WHISPerS Record Status🌐	Indicates whether data entry is permissible. Default is “Incomplete” meaning more data entry to come. “Complete” means event data entry is finished and event is locked.	Select:” Incomplete” if adding more information later or “Complete” when no further information will be added. Switch complete to incomplete if need to edit record.
Contact Organization🌐	Organization with management oversight of the location and/or the species involved. Organization to contact for more information.	Select organization(s) from drop down. To request new organizations in the list, go to the dashboard and fill out “Request New Species, Organization, or Diagnosis” form.
Location Start Date🌐	Best estimate as to when the event started, taking into account environmental factors, post mortem conditions, and predators.	Click on calendar and select start date, or can type in date.
Country🌐	Country where event occurs. Default is United States.	Select from drop down.
State (or equivalent)🌐	State, Territory, Province, or equivalent where event occurs.	Select from drop down.
County (or equivalent)🌐	County, Parish, Borough, or equivalent where event occurs. The public map displays events in the center of the county.	After enter state, select county, or equivalent from drop down.

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Land Ownership	The main entity that owns the land at this location.	Example: Yellowstone National Park is Federal/National Land.
Species🌐	From the Integrated Taxonomic Information System (ITIS) wildlife taxonomy standard.	Example: for “Mallard”, typing “mal” will bring up all the mallard options. To request new species in the list, go to the dashboard and fill out “Request New Species, Organization, or Diagnosis” form.
Dead or Sick🌐	Must have a number in at least one of the following at one location: known dead, estimated dead, known sick, estimated sick.	Can enter estimates and update numbers later. The purpose of requiring a number to create an event is simply to get a rough idea of the magnitude (i.e., is it 1 affected or 1000 affected).
Captive🌐	Defaults to “Wild and/or free-ranging”.	Change to “Captive >72 hours” for animals in rehabilitation centers for an extended period, zoo animals, farm animals, etc.
History*	Chronological description of observations leading up to finding sick or dead wildlife, plus historical information about past events.	Example: “1000 mallards migrated through in May. Drought this summer resulted in dropping water levels. ~100 dead fish noticed 4 days ago. Avian botulism here in July 2017.”
Site Description*	Animal and human land use (e.g., other species present, hunting and agricultural activities), habitat types (e.g., vegetation, water features), nearby structures (e.g., buildings, power lines, wind turbines), public health warnings, or other major characteristics of the area.	Example: “Lake is heavily used for boating and fishing. Algae has increasingly been an issue this summer. Most of the adjacent land is state forest. Approx a dozen summer cabins and one farm with cattle in pens and corn fields on the west side of the lake. Closest town (Hamletburg) is 5 miles away.”
Environmental Factors*	Storms, precipitation, temperature changes, migration, toxins, or other factors that may contribute to stress in the animals.	Example: “No rain for past 8 weeks. Temps in the 80s-90s. Water is stagnant with increasing algae. Decreasing water levels over the past few weeks leaving small pools of water along the shoreline.”
Clinical Signs*	Any unusual behavior or physical appearance in the animals.	Example: “Affected birds appear paralyzed and unable to swim or fly.”
Event Diagnosis🌐	Defaults to “Pending” and automatically switches to “Undetermined” if event is marked as “Complete” and no other diagnosis is selected.	To select a diagnosis that summarizes the event, first enter the diagnosis at the species level and then it will be available to select from the drop down at the event level.

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