# **Intro Statement**

We are looking to understand the experiences, attitudes, and opinions of wildlife biologists in Alabama toward wildlife health to improve our understanding of the state of knowledge of wildlife professionals regarding zoonotic diseases. Understanding what YOU as a wildlife professional know and think about wildlife health will give YOU an actionable voice and seat at the table. This project is funded by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and developed by personnel in Auburn University’s College of Forestry, Wildlife and Environment. Your survey responses will be anonymous, and no identifying factors will be collected. If you have any questions, comments, or concerns about the survey, please reach out to Rylee Tomey (MS student) at rdt0029@auburn.edu. We greatly appreciate your input. To begin, click the next button below. Thank you for your participation

# **Demographics**

1. What year were you born?
   1. Open-ended numeric response
      1. *if greater than 2005, the survey ends as the participant is not eligible to participate.*
2. Do you live and/or work in Alabama?
   1. Yes
   2. No
3. What is the zip code of your current residence? (5-digit zip code)
   1. Open-ended numeric response
      1. *Validation for range within AL*
4. Select the race that best describes you:
   1. American Indian or Alaskan Native
   2. Asian
   3. Black or African American
   4. Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander
   5. White
   6. Other (fill in)
   7. I prefer not to answer.
5. Do you identify with Latino, Hispanic, or Spanish origin?
   1. Yes
   2. No
   3. I prefer not to answer.
6. What is your gender?
   1. Male
   2. Female
   3. Other
   4. I prefer not to answer.
7. What was your approximate household income in 2023?
   1. $0-20,000
   2. $20,001-30,000
   3. $30,001-40,000
   4. $40,001-50,000
   5. $50,001-60,000
   6. $60,001-70,000
   7. $70,001-80,000
   8. $80,001-90,000
   9. $90,001-100,000
   10. $100,001+
8. What is the highest degree or level of education you have completed?
   1. Did not graduate high school/no GED
   2. High school graduate/GED
   3. Technical/Vocational School
   4. Some College/AA or AS (2-year degree)
   5. College Graduate/BA or BS (4-year degree)
   6. Graduate or Professional School
9. Do you have a degree in wildlife biology, ecology, or management or related field?
   1. Yes
   2. No
10. Are you certified by The Wildlife Society (TWS) as a wildlife biologist?
    1. Yes
    2. No
11. Have you had a formal course on wildlife health?
    1. Yes (*dynamic response*)
       1. When did you take a formal course on wildlife health?
          1. < 5 years
          2. 5 - 10 years
          3. > 10 years
    2. No
12. Do you consider yourself to be a wildlife biologist?
    1. Yes
    2. No
13. For how many years have you been employed as a wildlife biologist?
    1. < 1 year
    2. 1-5 years
    3. 5-10 years
    4. 10-20 years
    5. >20 years
14. Which type of activities best describe the primary focus of your work in wildlife biology?
    1. Land/wildlife management
    2. Research
    3. Administration
    4. Consulting
    5. Education
    6. Other \_\_\_
15. What is your primary affiliation in the field of wildlife biology?
    1. Federal Government
    2. State/Provincial Government
    3. Private Industry
    4. Academic/Research Institution
    5. Nonprofit/Conservation Organization
    6. Tribal
    7. Professional Societies or Associations
    8. Other \_\_\_

# **Practices & Activities**

1. How frequently do you come into direct physical contact with wildlife in Alabama as part of your employment duties?
   1. Daily
   2. Weekly
   3. Monthly
   4. Rarely
   5. Never
2. What percentage of the time do you spend in the field as part of your employment duties?
   1. Slide bar 0% - 100% (increments of 10%)
3. Do you regularly collect samples in the field from wildlife in Alabama?
   1. Yes
   2. No
4. Do you regularly handle samples in the laboratory or field that have been collected from wildlife in Alabama?
   1. Yes
      1. *Dynamic question.* 
         1. At collection of samples, the animal is:
            1. Alive – Not Sedated
            2. Alive - Sedated
            3. Dead
   2. No
5. If you handle or collect samples from wildlife in Alabama, do you utilize personal protective equipment (PPE)?
   1. Yes
      1. *Dynamic question.*
         1. How often do you use PPE when handling or collecting samples?
            1. Never (0%)
            2. Rarely (< 25%)
            3. Sometimes (25% - 75%)
            4. Usually (> 75%)
            5. Always (100%)
   2. No
6. In which counties do you regularly come into contact with wildlife in Alabama? Select all that apply.
   1. A dropdown list of AL counties
7. Did you have a hunting/trapping license for the state of Alabama in the past three years (2020-2023)?
   1. Yes
   2. No

# **Health Knowledge**

1. Wild pigs may serve as a source of infectious disease transmission to both humans and domestic animals in Alabama.
   1. **True**
   2. False
   3. I don’t know.
2. Brucellosis affects reproduction in domestic animals but is not a concern for wildlife.
   1. True
   2. **False**
   3. I don’t know.
3. Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) is primarily transmitted among cervids (deer/elk) through ticks.
   1. True
   2. **False**
   3. I don’t know.
4. Avian influenza has been found in wild and domestic birds in Alabama.
   1. **True**
   2. False
   3. I don’t know.
5. Avian influenza does not kill wildlife.
   1. True
   2. **False**
   3. I don’t know.
6. SARS CoV2 (COVID) can infect deer.
   1. **True**
   2. False
   3. I don’t know.
7. SARS CoV2 (COVID) from wildlife can infect humans.
   1. True
   2. **False**
   3. I don’t know.
8. Rabies has been found in ALL states that border Alabama.
   1. True
   2. **False**
   3. I don’t know.
9. How is rabies transmitted? Select all that apply.
   1. **Bites**
   2. Blood
   3. Arthropods
   4. Urine
   5. Feces
   6. I don’t know.
10. How should you dispose of a fresh wild turkey carcass that was found in Alabama?
    1. **Incinerate**
    2. Bury
    3. Field harvest and consumption
    4. Place in a dumpster
    5. Ignore
    6. Not Sure

# **Attitudes & Beliefs**

*Likert scale*

1. CWD was present in Alabama before the 21st century.
   1. Strongly agree
   2. Agree
   3. Neutral
   4. Disagree
   5. Strongly disagree
2. Bats are significant carriers of many infectious diseases in Alabama.
   1. Strongly agree
   2. Agree
   3. Neutral
   4. Disagree
   5. Strongly disagree
3. Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) is necessary when conducting fieldwork that does not directly involve zoonotic diseases.
   1. Strongly agree
   2. Agree
   3. Neutral
   4. Disagree
   5. Strongly disagree
4. Epizootic Hemorrhagic Disease (EHD) is a major threat to human health.
   1. Strongly agree
   2. Agree
   3. Neutral
   4. Disagree
   5. Strongly disagree
5. The only way to deal with zoonotic diseases in wildlife (such as rabies) is to let nature take its course.
   1. Strongly agree
   2. Agree
   3. Neutral
   4. Disagree
   5. Strongly disagree

**Statement: “I believe that…”**

*Likert scale*

1. Reducing the population of certain wild species in affected areas will eliminate infectious diseases in Alabama.
   1. Strongly agree
   2. Agree
   3. Neutral
   4. Disagree
   5. Strongly disagree
2. Current plans to manage wildlife populations in Alabama will be effective in controlling infectious diseases.
   1. Strongly agree
   2. Agree
   3. Neutral
   4. Disagree
   5. Strongly disagree
3. Surveillance is essential to successful infectious disease management
   1. Strongly agree
   2. Agree
   3. Neutral
   4. Disagree
   5. Strongly disagree
4. The vaccination of wildlife, such as for rabies, should be considered for other diseases.
   1. Strongly agree
   2. Agree
   3. Neutral
   4. Disagree
   5. Strongly disagree

**Statement: “I am concerned…”**

*Likert scale*

1. about the current prevalence of wildlife diseases in Alabama.
   1. Strongly agree
   2. Agree
   3. Neutral
   4. Disagree
   5. Strongly disagree
2. that infectious diseases will affect Alabama’s biodiversity.
   1. Strongly agree
   2. Agree
   3. Neutral
   4. Disagree
   5. Strongly disagree
3. that wildlife diseases in my region will affect my health or my family’s health today.
   1. Strongly agree
   2. Agree
   3. Neutral
   4. Disagree
   5. Strongly disagree
4. that climate change will impact wildlife health in Alabama.
   1. Strongly agree
   2. Agree
   3. Neutral
   4. Disagree
   5. Strongly disagree

# **Education**

*Likert scale*

1. A course on wildlife health should be required for a major in wildlife biology.
   1. Strongly agree
   2. Agree
   3. Neutral
   4. Disagree
   5. Strongly disagree
2. Information on wildlife health can be acquired through continuing education rather than in undergraduate courses.
   1. Strongly agree
   2. Agree
   3. Neutral
   4. Disagree
   5. Strongly disagree
3. All critical elements (including aspects of wildlife health) can be acquired through on-the-job training and experience.
   1. Strongly agree
   2. Agree
   3. Neutral
   4. Disagree
   5. Strongly disagree
4. Is the information you need regarding wildlife health in Alabama easily accessible to you?
   1. Yes
   2. No
5. What is your preferred source to obtain information regarding wildlife health in Alabama? Please select all that apply.
   1. Friends/Family
   2. State Wildlife Agency
   3. Academic Publications
   4. Social Media
   5. News Sources
   6. Conferences
   7. I have not looked for health information before
   8. Other (fill in)
6. Would you be interested in learning more about wildlife health in Alabama?
   1. Yes
   2. No
   3. Unsure
7. If there was a free course on wildlife health in Alabama, how would you like to participate? Please select all that apply.
   1. One day, in-person conference
   2. One day, virtual conference
   3. Year-long, once a month, virtual conference
   4. Other (fill in)
8. What topics would you like to obtain more information regarding wildlife health in Alabama? Please select all that apply.
   1. Rabies
   2. Influenza
   3. Leptospirosis
   4. Raccoon roundworm
   5. Vector borne diseases
   6. CWD
   7. SarsCoV2
   8. One Health
   9. Other (fill in)

# **Final Remarks**

1. Please write any additional comments, questions, or concerns below
   1. Long response open end