



Dr. Katherine L. D. Richgels

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Katie Richgels is the Chief of the Applied Wildlife Health Research Branch at the USGS National Wildlife Health Center. In this role, she oversees research on the risks, impacts, and mitigations strategies for wildlife diseases that are important for human health, agricultural health, or conservation in the United States. Currently, the research branch is developing new diagnostic tests, such as bed-side lateral flow tests to detect an invasive fish tapeworm, and new assays to detect chronic wasting disease in live cervids. In addition, the branch is studying the epidemiology of important wildlife diseases, such as sylvatic plague, avian influenza, and white nose syndrome. Lastly, the branch develops management tools that can help mitigate disease effects, such as field applicable vaccines targeted at wildlife hosts and disease forecasts that allow managers to improve efficiency and effectiveness of management actions.

Dr. Richgels is a broadly trained disease ecologist with a background in metacommunity and spatial ecology, GIS, and epidemiology. She completed post-doctoral training at the USGS National Wildlife Health Center on modeling vaccination strategies for management of sylvatic plague in western prairie dog populations and completing a nation-wide risk assessment for the emerging fungal pathogen, Bsal. She completed her PhD in 2014 at the University of Colorado studying metacommunity dynamics and diseases of pond breeding amphibians. She completed her undergraduate degree at the University of Wisconsin in Forest and Wildlife Ecology with a certificate in GIS.