

April 2020

The Trapline

United States Department of
Agriculture
Animal & Plant Health
Inspection Service
Wildlife Services



Cooperating with:
Nevada
Department of Agriculture
Division of Animal Industry



www.agri.nv.gov
#775-851-4848

Mission Statement

The Nevada Wildlife Services Program (WS) is a collaborative program involving the Nevada Department of Agriculture's Division of Animal Industry (State) and the USDA-APHIS-Wildlife Services Program (federal), whose mission is to protect agriculture, natural resources, property, and the human health and safety of the citizens of Nevada from the threat of injury, damage, or resource loss due to wildlife.

Introduction

During April, wildlife damage management work was conducted on an estimated **5.3** million acres of land under agreement. On these lands, WS personnel helped Nevada's farmers and ranchers protect over **\$146.2** million in agricultural resources such as cattle, sheep, and livestock feed; and over **\$25.6** million in natural resources. Additionally, WS assisted **113** persons and entities with technical assistance which involves providing information or equipment to cooperators so they can resolve problems themselves. Cooperators reported **\$29,591.00** in damage and WS Specialists verified **\$83,055** in damage to agricultural resources and property. These losses would be much higher without an effective wildlife damage management program. During April, coyotes accounted for **\$30,384** in verified losses, mostly to livestock, and **276** coyotes were taken with a variety of management methods to resolve these and other ongoing complaints. WS routinely collects blood samples or oral swabs from species taken or handled during normal control activities for monitoring the presence of plague, avian influenza, and other diseases. In April, **4** samples were processed.

The following excerpts are a selection of activities and events of this program which occurred during the months of April, 2020.

Resource Protection State Office

During the reporting period, the State Office provided non-lethal recommendations to Nevadan's to assist in alleviating their conflicts with wildlife, particularly coyotes and raccoons. For more information about resolving conflicts with wildlife, please go to the following website: <http://agri.nv.gov/Wildlife>. Where wildlife biology and damage management methods are offered by species.

East District

On April 1st, the Elko Pilot and Crew Member (CM) responded to a call concerning problems with ravens. An Elko County cattle rancher reported that a large number of ravens were attacking his newborn calves, fatally injuring 2. As the weather was bad and the aerial crew could not fly, they responded to the location in northern Elko County. Hard boiled eggs treated with DRC-1339 were used to remove the depredating ravens. The rancher was very happy with the quick response he received from the WS and Nevada Department of Agriculture (NDA) employees. Technical assistance in the form of non-lethal recommendations were also provided in an effort to help reduce future losses.

On April 2nd, the Elko plane responded to 4 cattle ranchers in Elko County. All 4 ranches have experienced losses from coyote predation and were just starting to calve. During the flight, the plane was able to remove 21 coyotes in the calving pastures. Work will be ongoing as calving season gets into full swing in northeastern Nevada.

On April 2nd, the Ely plane responded to a call from a cattle rancher and a sheep and cattle rancher in northeastern White Pine County. Both ranchers have had predation from coyotes recently. With help from WS Nathan Fowler as the ground crew, the plane was able to remove 4 coyotes. Work will be ongoing as needed.



On April 3rd, the Elko plane responded to a call from 3 sheep producers in eastern Elko County. The ranchers had lost at least 6 lambs and 4 ewes, valued at \$2,200, to coyote predation. With help from Wildlife Specialist (WS) Tom Smith as the ground crew, the plane removed 2 coyotes near the kills. No further losses have been reported and WS Smith provided technical assistance in the form of non-lethal recommendations in an effort to help minimize future losses.

April 8th, the Ely plane responded to a call from 2 cattle ranches in northern White Pine County. Both ranches had lost at least 7 calves, valued at \$4,200, to coyote predation. During the flight, the plane was able to remove 4 coyotes near the kills. Work will be ongoing as needed.

On April 10th, the Elko plane responded to a call from a cattle rancher in central Elko County. The rancher had recently lost 2 calves, valued at \$1,600, to coyote predation. During the flight, the plane was able to remove 7 coyotes near the kills, bringing an end to the damage.

On April 13th, the Ely plane responded to a call from 2 sheep ranchers in western White Pine County. Both sheep producers had lost several yearling sheep to coyote predation. During the flight, the plane was able to remove 3 coyotes near the kills. No further losses have been reported.

On April 14th, the Ely plane responded to a call from a sheep producer in eastern Nye County. The sheep producer raises a special breed of sheep for wool. During the past several days, coyotes had killed at least 7 yearling rams, valued at \$4,500. With the assistance of NDA Field Assistant (FA) Allen Eldridge as the ground crew, the plane was able to remove 3 coyotes near the kills. FA Eldridge also trapped 1 coyote and shot another, bringing an end to the damage. The sheep producer was very happy and phoned the district office to express his appreciation.

On April 16th, the Ely plane flew on Nevada Department of Wildlife (NDOW) project 38. The project is designed to protect mule deer and antelope fawns from coyote predation. During the flight, the plane was able to remove 4 coyotes. Work will be ongoing during the next few months.

On April 17th, the Elko plane responded to a call from a sheep producer in central Elko County. The rancher had lost at least 3 adult ewes to coyote predation. During the flight, the plane was able to remove a pair of coyotes near the kills. No further losses have been reported.

On April 17th, the Ely plane responded to a call from a sheep rancher in northern White Pine County. The rancher had lost at least 2 ewes, valued at \$500, to coyote predation. With help from WS Nathan Fowler as the ground crew, the plane was able to remove 2 coyotes near the kills. No further losses have been reported. WS Fowler also provided technical assistance in the form of non-lethal recommendations to help prevent future losses.

On April 20th, the Elko plane responded to a call from a cattle rancher in northern Elko County. The rancher had lost 3 calves, valued at \$1,800, to coyote predation. During the flight, the plane was able to remove 4 coyotes. No further losses have been reported.

On April 21st, the Elko plane responded to a call from a sheep producer in southern Elko County. The sheep rancher had just started to lamb and had already documented the loss of 6 lambs, valued at \$1,200, to coyote predation. During the morning flight, the plane was able to remove 2 coyotes near the kills. WS Randy Evans and FA Jordan Bracken assisted as the ground crewed, also providing technical assistance in the form of non-lethal recommendations to help prevent future losses.



On April 21st, the mountain lion specialist (MLS) received a call concerning a lion problem on a sheep ranch in southern Nye County. Upon arriving at the ranch, the MLS confirmed the lion had killed 5 lambs, valued at \$1,000. The MLS put 6 of his well-trained tracking hounds on the scent at the kills. After a several mile pursuit, a 4 year old male lion was treed and dispatched. No further losses have been reported. The rancher was very pleased with the quick response from the MLS.

On April 21st, the Ely plane responded to a call from a cattle rancher in northern White Pine County. The rancher had lost at least one calf to coyote predation. The rancher told Wildlife Services that in the past he left the coyotes alone on his property because he wanted the coyotes to control rodents. However, once coyotes killed one of his prized calves he changed his mind. During the flight, a pair of coyotes were removed near the kill. So far, no further losses have been reported.

On April 22nd, the Elko plane responded to a call from a cattle rancher that had lost at least one calf, valued at \$600, to coy-



ote predation. During the flight the plane was able to remove 4 coyotes near the kill. No further losses have been reported.

On April 22nd, the Ely plane responded to a call from a sheep producer in Eureka County. The rancher reported the loss of several yearlings. During the flight the plane was able to remove 4 coyotes. Work will be ongoing as needed.

On April 24th, the Ely plane flew NDOW project 38. The project is designed to protect mule deer and antelope fawns from coyote predation. During the flight, the plane was able to remove 5 coyotes. Work will be ongoing during the next few months.



On April 27th, the Elko plane responded to a call from a sheep rancher in central Elko County. The rancher reported the loss of several sheep to coyote predation. During the flight the plane was able to remove 5 coyotes near the kills. No further losses have been reported.

On April 29th, the Ely plane responded to a call from 2 sheep producers in western White Pine County. One producer had lost 2 lambs, valued at \$400, and the other had lost at least 4 lambs, valued at \$800, to coyote predation. During the flight the plane was able to remove 3 coyotes near the kills. WS Scott Little and FA Eldridge both helped as the ground crew. Work will be ongoing as needed.

West District

On April 1st, Instructor Pilot (IP) Wes Gossard and CM Brandon VanderMay removed 8 coyotes from Mason Valley Wildlife Management Area, in Lyon County, as part of NDOW project 43. An additional 3 coyotes and one den were also removed by the aircrew and ground crew (WS Cameron Green) on April 24th. The project is designed to reduce excessive predation to wild turkey poults and eggs caused by coyotes and mesopredators. Protection efforts are ongoing.

On April 2nd, IP Gossard and CM VanderMay flew several lambing and calving areas in Lyon County in response to the reported loss of 3 lambs, valued at \$600, to coyotes. During the flight, 6 coyotes



were removed. FA Alex Wallis provided ground support, locating several of the coyotes for the plane to remove. Protection efforts will continue.

On April 3rd, IP Gossard and CM VanderMay flew several sheep bands headed to their traditional trailing routes in Pershing County. A herder reported the loss of one ewe, valued at \$200, to coyotes. During the operation, the aerial crew removed one coyote and FA Doug Koepke removed another with the use of foothold traps that he had previously set. FA Koepke performed necropsies on the coyotes, which indicated that both coyotes had been eating sheep meat. Protection efforts will be ongoing.

During the first week of April, FA Wallis determined that coyotes had killed 3 lambs, valued at \$500. In response, FA Wallis placed foothold traps near the depredation site, which resulted in the removal of 2 coyotes. FA Wallis will continue to protect livestock in his work area.

During the first 2 weeks of lambing in Washoe County, a sheep producer reported that coyotes had killed 20 lambs across 4 bands of sheep, loss valued at \$4,000. In response, FA Koepke removed 2 coyotes with the use of foothold traps. The majority of the losses occurred in a BLM Wilderness Study Area (WSA) where protection efforts can't be implemented due to court settlement. WS Koepke and the aerial crew will continue to protect sheep outside the WSA.

During the month of April, WS Josiah Yoder set equipment on a lambing area in Lander County. The sheep producer is currently using guard dogs to help protect sheep. On April 17th, WS Yoder inspected lambs at daylight and discovered one lamb killed by a coyote. The lamb kill was still warm and WS Yoder noticed a large coyote track headed up a brushy draw. WS Yoder followed the track for a ways and then made a calling stand using pup in distress sounds, resulting in the removal of one coyote. WS Yoder performed a necropsy and found fresh lamb meat in the coyote's stomach. WS Yoder will continue to protect livestock in his work area.

On April 10th, IP Gossard and CM VanderMay flew several lambing areas in Lander County in response to the the loss of one ewe, valued at \$200, to coyotes. With the assistance of WS Yoder as the ground support, 3 coyotes were removed. Protection efforts will continue.

On April 14th, IP Gossard and CM VanderMay flew several lambing areas in Washoe County in response to the reported loss of 3 lambs, valued at \$600, to coyotes. During the flight, 6 coyotes were removed. FA Koepke provided ground support and located several of the coyotes for the plane to remove. Protection efforts will continue.

On April 27th, IP Gossard and CM VanderMay flew several lambing areas and goat kidding areas in Lyon County. Livestock losses have been minimal lately according to FA Wallis. With the assistance of FA Wallis as the ground crew, 6 coyotes were removed. Protection efforts will continue.

During the month of April, WS John Peter continued surveillance for feral swine in Humboldt County.



During the month, WS Peter continued to monitor bait sites and trail snares for sign of feral swine. Despite the effort and a private helicopter flying for coyotes in the area, no sign of feral swine was noted. WS Peter will continue to monitor for and remove feral swine as they are found.

During the month of April, WS Ben Miller continued protecting California bighorn sheep from lion predation as part of NDOW project 37. Specifically, WS Miller removed 2 adult female lions from hunt unit 014 and 1 adult male from hunt unit 013. WS Miller has been maintaining and moving equipment throughout the month to maintain protection around the wild sheep as they adjust to the conditions. WS Miller will continue to protect bighorn sheep.



During the first 2 weeks of lambing in northern Washoe County, a sheep producer reported that golden eagles had killed 15 lambs, valued at \$3,013. Golden eagles are protected by the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act. Fortunately, once the lambs start to put on weight, they become less likely to be killed by the eagles. Golden eagles weigh between 6-15 pounds, but often kill prey larger than them. The eagles likely kill far more lambs than are reported because they fly off with them to a nest or rock pile, leaving no remains behind.

During the month of April, Wildlife Biologist (WB) David Carrasco performed wildlife damage management duties at a military aviation facility in southern Nevada. Specifically, WB Carrasco dispersed 257 birds, including blackbirds, doves, raptors and waterfowl from the active airfield. WB Carrasco also removed 33 great tailed grackles, 24 mourning doves, 7 killdeer, 6 pigeons, 1 double-crested cormorant, 3 black-tailed jack rabbits and 3 desert cottontail rabbits that failed to properly respond to non-lethal methods. Also of interest, WB Carrasco trapped/translocated a red-tailed hawk and a Swainson's hawk to a suitable habitat away from aviation facilities. WB Carrasco continues to conduct bird surveys and protect the airfield from threat of wildlife.



New and Developing Methods

Nothing to Report

Valuing and investing in Employees

Nothing to Report

Information and Communication

Nothing to Report

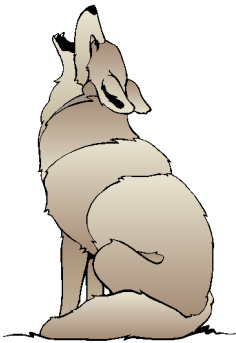
Future Meeting and Events

Nothing to Report



USDA-APHIS-WS-NV
8775 Technology Way
Reno NV 89521

«AddressBlock»



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