

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 December, wildlife damage management work was conducted on an estimated **7.0** million acres of land under agreement. On these lands, WS personnel helped Nevada's farmers and ranchers protect over **\$164.2** million in agricultural resources such as cattle, sheep, and livestock feed; and over **\$10.7** million in natural resources. Additionally, WS assisted **210** persons and entities with technical assistance which involves providing information or equipment to cooperators so they can resolve problems themselves. Cooperators reported **\$4,834.00** in damage and WS Specialists verified **\$19,275** in damage to agricultural resources. These losses would be much higher without an effective wildlife damage management program. During December, coyotes accounted for **\$18,517** in verified losses, mostly to livestock, and **262** 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 December, **4** samples were processed.

The following excerpts are a selection of activities and events of this program which occurred during the month of December, 2019.

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 December 2nd, the Ely plane responded to a call from a sheep rancher in eastern White Pine County. The rancher had lost 2 ewes, valued at \$500, to coyote predation. With the assistance of Nevada Department of Agriculture (NDA) Field Assistant (FA) Scott MacDonald, the plane was able to remove 8 coyotes near the band of sheep experiencing the damage. FA MacDonald also provided the rancher with technical assistance in the form of non-lethal recommendations to help prevent future losses.



On December 3rd, the Ely plane responded to a call from a sheep producer in northwestern White Pine County. The rancher has had very high historical losses and reported hearing and seeing several coyotes in areas that have had losses in the past. During the flight, the plane was able to remove 6 coyotes. The rancher was very pleased with the help he received.

On December 3rd, District Supervisor (DS) Joe Bennett confirmed the loss of 10 chickens and 3 pet cats to coyote predation. During the next several days, DS Bennett was able to call and shoot 2 coyotes near the location of the damage. No further losses have been reported. DS Bennett also provided technical assistance to the homeowner in the form of non-lethal advice to help prevent future losses.



On December 4th, the Ely plane responded to a call from WS Nathan Fowler concerning the loss of 1 ewe, valued at \$250. The damage occurred on a band of sheep in northeastern White Pine County. With the assistance of WS Fowler, the plane was able to locate and remove 3 coyotes. 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 December 10th, the Ely plane responded to a call in Nye County from a cattle rancher and a sheep producer that share the same allotment. The rancher reported losing at least 3 calves, valued at \$1,500, while the sheep producer reported experiencing a long history of high losses in the area. With the help of DS Bennett as the ground crew, the plane was able to locate and remove 7 coyotes. Work will be ongoing as needed. DS Bennett also provided technical assistance in the form of non-lethal recommendations to both the sheep producer and the cattle rancher in an effort to help reduce future losses.

On December 11th, the Ely Plane responded to a call from 2 sheep producers in Lincoln County. Both ranchers have had very high losses during the past 2 winters in the area and were just arriving with several bands of sheep. With the assistance of FA Allen Eldridge as the ground crew, the plane was able to remove 5 coyotes. Work will be ongoing as needed this winter.

On December 16th, the Elko plane responded to a call from a cattle rancher in eastern Elko County that reported seeing a high number of coyotes in his calving pastures. The rancher has had high losses to coyotes in the past. During the morning's flight, the plane was able to remove 22 coyotes. The rancher was very happy with the help he received.

On November 17th, the Elko plane responded to a call from a cattle rancher in northern Elko County. The rancher reported the loss of 3 calves, valued at \$1,500, to coyote predation. During the flight, the plane was able to locate and remove 10 coyotes. No further losses have been reported.

On December 17th, the Ely plane responded to a call from a sheep and cattle rancher in Nye County. The rancher has experienced very high losses to coyotes in the past and reported seeing and hearing many coyotes near his sheep and cattle. With the assistance of Wildlife Specialist (WS) Scott Little as the ground crew, the plane was able to remove 6 coyotes. Work will be ongoing as needed.

On December 20th, the Elko plane responded to 2 cattle ranches and 1 sheep ranch. All 3 ranches have experienced very high historical losses to coyotes. During the flight, the plane was able to remove 19 coyotes. Work will continue as needed.

During the last week of December, FA Eldridge confirmed the loss of 2 ewes, valued at \$500, to coyote predation. The damage occurred on a band of sheep in central Lincoln County. FA Eldridge used traps and shooting to remove 3 coyotes near the kills, including 2 that he caught feeding on 1 of the kills. The Ely plane responded on a later morning and was able to locate and remove 1 additional coyote. The sheep producer was very happy with the work FA Eldridge provided and even commented that FA Eldridge was still working late in the day on Christmas Eve. No further losses have been reported.

West District

During the month of December, WS John Peter continued surveillance for feral swine (FS) in Humboldt County. Specifically, WS Peter monitored trail snares placed in potential FS travel corridors, inspected and maintained his bait sites. No feral swine sign was found during the month. Work will continue.

During the month of December, WS Ben Miller continued monitoring and placing trail snares around 2 California bighorn sheep populations in Washoe County (hunt units 013 and 014). During his trail snare inspection, WS Miller removed an adult male lion near the sheep. WS Miller will continue to protect bighorn sheep in his work area.

On December 10th, Instructor Pilot (IP) Wes Gossard and Crew Member (CM) Brandon VanderMay conducted a morning flight around several calving areas in Humboldt County. During the flight, 14 coyotes were removed. WS Peter provided ground support and located several of the coyotes for the plane to remove. Protection efforts will begin if any new problems arise.

On December 16th, IP Gossard and CM VanderMay conducted a morning flight around several win-



ter sheep bands in Pershing County. The sheep herder reported the loss of 10 ewes, valued at \$2,000, to coyotes. During aerial operations, no coyotes were found around the sheep carcasses. After another morning flight of no observed coyotes, the aerial crew flew other sheep bands the following day and returned to the depredation site later in the day, observing 3 coyotes feeding on a new kill. The aerial crew promptly removed the depredating coyotes with FA Koepke providing ground support. No additional sheep kills were reported since the removal of the coyotes. Protection efforts will renew if any new problems arise.

On December 18th, IP Gossard and CM VanderMay conducted a morning flight around several calving areas in Humboldt County as 2 ranchers had reported coyote problems around their calving areas. During the flight, the aerial crew removed 13 coyotes in and around the newborn calves. WS Peter provided ground support. To date no other livestock complaints have been reported from these ranches.

On December 19th, IP Gossard and CM VanderMay flew several calving areas in Humboldt County. Ranchers reported coyotes moving in around their calving areas. During the flight, the aerial crew removed 16 coyotes. WS Peter provided ground support. To date no other livestock complaints have been reported from these particular ranches.

During the month of December, WS Peter set equipment on various calving areas in response to numerous calls from cattle producers in Humboldt County regarding coyote damage. On December 19th, WS Peter removed 5 coyotes from a calving area that had lost a calf, valued at \$400, to coyote predation. To date, no further livestock losses have occurred and the ranchers are pleased with WS Peter's efforts.



On December 10th, a sheep producer from Lyon County reported that a sheep, valued at \$300, was killed by a lion. On December 11th, FA Alex Wallis confirmed that the loss was caused by a lion and placed foothold traps with heavy pan tension in close proximity of the sheep carcass to remove the lion if it returns. FA Wallis will continue to monitor the situation.

On December 30th, IP Gossard and CM VanderMay flew several calving areas in Humboldt County to reduce losses to coyotes, resulting in the removal of 9 coyotes. WS Peter provided ground support and located several of the coyotes for the plane to remove. Protection efforts will continue if any new problems arise.



On December 31st, IP Gossard and CM VanderMay flew several move calving areas in Humboldt County that typically lose calves to coyotes, resulting in the removal of 15 coyotes. WS Peter provided ground support and located several of the coyotes for the plane to remove. Protection efforts will continue and the ranchers were pleased with the removal efforts.

During the month of December, WB Carrasco continued to reduce potential hazards to military aircraft and personnel at a facility in southern Nevada. Wildlife dispersed from the facility include 60 European starlings, 240 mourning doves, 20 western meadowlarks, a common raven, Cooper's hawk, mallard and red-tailed hawk. A coyote, 1 feral dog, 5 black-tailed jackrabbits, 3 European starlings, 8 mourning doves and 1 northern mockingbird were lethally removed to resolve imminent threats to aviation safety along with reinforcing non-lethal methods.

New and Developing Methods

Nothing to Report

Valuing and Investing in Employees

December was the final month of work for WS George Hansen, after a combined 30 years of trapping in Idaho and Nevada for Wildlife Services and the State. A retirement party was attended by his family and co-workers in Winnemucca, NV. WS Hansen has been a solid trapper, a hard worker and an excellent employee who will be missed by many. WS Hansen was presented with a retirement plaque in honor of his service. The Nevada Wildlife Service's program wishes George the very best in his retirement.



Information and Communication

Nothing to report.

Emerging Trends/Issues

Nothing to Report

Equal Employment Opportunity/Civil Rights (EEO/CR)

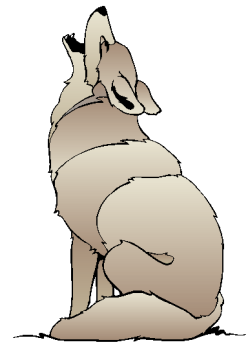
Nothing to Report

Future Meeting and Events

January 17th, N-1 Grazing Board meeting in Elko. State Director Mark Jensen and DS Bennett to attend.



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



USDA APHIS
Wildlife Services

