

January-February 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 January-February, wildlife damage management work was conducted on an estimated **8.6** million acres of land under agreement. On these lands, WS personnel helped Nevada's farmers and ranchers protect over **\$282** million in agricultural resources such as cattle, sheep, and livestock feed; and over **\$7.8** million in natural resources. Additionally, WS assisted **479** persons and entities with technical assistance which involves providing information or equipment to cooperators so they can resolve problems themselves. Cooperators reported **\$8,623.00** in damage and WS Specialists verified **\$69,235** in damage to agricultural resources. These losses would be much higher without an effective wildlife damage management program. During January-February, coyotes accounted for **\$53,178** in verified losses, mostly to livestock, and **949** 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 January-February, **4** samples were processed.

The following excerpts are a selection of activities and events of this program which occurred during the months of January and February, 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 January 2nd, Nevada Department of Agriculture (NDA) Field Assistant (FA) Scott MacDonald confirmed the loss of 2 ewes, valued at \$500, to coyote predation. The damage occurred on a band of sheep in eastern White Pine County. FA MacDonald set 25 traps near the location of the kills. Over the next 2 weeks, FA MacDonald was able to remove 5 coyotes, bringing an end to the losses. FA MacDonald also provided technical assistance in the form of non-lethal recommendations to help prevent future losses.



On January 2nd and 3rd, FA Allen Eldridge confirmed the loss of 3 ewes, valued at \$750, to coyote predation. The damage took place on a band of sheep in central Lincoln County. FA Eldridge used traps, snares and shooting to remove 4 coyotes near the kills. No further losses were reported. FA Eldridge also provided technical assistance in the form of non-lethal recommendations to help with future losses.

On January 6th, the Elko plane responded to calls from several sheep producers in eastern Elko County. Earlier, Wildlife Specialist (WS) Tom Smith had confirmed the loss of at least 11 ewes on 4 different bands of sheep. The value of the sheep was placed at \$2,750. During the morning flight, the plane was able to remove 12 coyotes including at least 5 that WS Smith had previously spotted on a fresh sheep kill. WS Smith will continue to work the more than 12 bands of wintering sheep in his area.

On January 6th, the Ely plane responded to a call from 2 sheep producers in central Lincoln County. The 2 producers had lost at least 8 ewes, valued at \$2,000 to coyote predation. During the flight, the plane was able to remove 8 coyotes including a pair that had just killed a ewe and was in the process of eating it. Work will continue as needed.

On January 7th, the Elko plane responded to a call from a cattle rancher in northern Elko County. The rancher had started having some early calves and reported the loss of at least 5, valued at \$2,500, to coyote predation. During the flight, the plane was able to remove 35 coyotes in the calving pastures. Work will be ongoing as needed.

On January 8th, FA Eldridge confirmed the loss of 3 ewes, valued at \$750, to coyote predation. The following day, FA Eldridge shot 3 coyotes as they fed on one of the kills. No further losses have since been reported. The sheep producer was very happy with the assistance he has received from FA Eldridge. FA Eldridge also provided technical assistance in the form of non-lethal recommendations to help prevent future losses.

On January 10th, the Elko plane responded to calls from 3 cattle ranchers in central Elko County. All 3 ranches were just about to start calving and reported seeing a large number of coyotes in their calving pasture. During the morning flight, the plane was able to remove 34 coyotes in the 3 ranchers calving pastures, work will continue as needed.

On January 13th, the Ely plane responded to calls from 2 sheep producers in western White Pine County and southern Eureka County. Both ranchers have had a history of high predation losses

from coyotes and reported hearing and seeing coyotes near their flocks. During the flight the plane was able to remove 10 coyotes. Work will be ongoing.

During the week of January 13th, FA Allen Eldridge confirmed the loss of 4 ewes, valued at \$1,000, to coyote predation. The damage took place on a band of sheep in central Lincoln County. FA Eldridge used traps and shooting to remove 4 coyotes, including 3 that were feeding on the most recent kill. No further losses have been reported. FA Eldridge also provided technical assistance in the form of non-lethal recommendations to help prevent future losses.

On January 14th, FA MacDonald confirmed the loss of 2 ewes, valued at \$500, to coyote predation. The damage occurred on a band of sheep in eastern White Pine County. FA MacDonald used traps to remove the depredating coyotes. No further losses have been reported. FA MacDonald also provided technical assistance in the form of non-lethal recommendations to help prevent future losses.

On January 15th, the Elko plane responded to calls from 2 cattle ranchers in northeastern Elko County. One rancher had lost at least 4 calves, valued at \$2,000, to coyote predation while the other rancher was just starting to calve out and reported seeing several coyotes in his calving pastures. During the flight, the plane was able to remove 11 coyotes, bringing an end to the damage. Work will be ongoing as needed.

On January 15th, the Ely plane responded to a call from a sheep and cattle rancher in northeastern White Pine County. WS Nathan Fowler had confirmed the loss of at least 6 ewes, valued at \$1,500, to coyote predation. With the assistance of WS Fowler as the ground crew, the plane was able to remove 10 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 January 15th, WS Tom Smith confirmed the loss of 1 ewe, valued at \$250. WS Smith used traps, calling and shooting to remove the depredating coyotes. No further losses have been reported. WS Smith continues to protect 14 bands of wintering sheep in eastern Elko County.

On January 18th, the Elko plane responded to a call from a large Indian Reservation in northern Elko County. The reservation had lost several calves to coyote predation in the past and were just starting to calve out. During the flight, the plane was able to remove 32 coyotes. Work will be ongoing as needed.

On January 21st, the Ely plane responded to calls from several cattle ranchers in northwestern White Pine County. At least 1 of the ranchers reported the loss of 3 calves, valued at \$1,500, to coyote predation. During the flight, the plane was able to remove 13 coyotes. Work will continue as needed.

On January 21st, the Elko plane responded to a call from a cattle rancher in northern Eureka County. The rancher had just started calving out and had already lost 2 calves, valued at \$1,000, to coyote predation. During the flight, the plane was able to remove 6 coyotes in the calving pastures. No further losses have been reported.

On January 22nd, WS Fowler confirmed the loss of 2 ewes, valued at \$500, in eastern White Pine County. During the next week, WS Fowler was able to remove the depredating coyotes. Using

shooting and traps. WS Fowler also provided technical assistance in the form of non-lethal recommendations in an effort to help minimize future losses. Work will be ongoing as needed.

On January 23rd, the Elko plane responded to calls, from 4 cattle ranchers in central Elko County. The ranchers were just starting to calve out and reported seeing a large number of coyotes in their calving pastures. All ranchers have experienced high predation losses in the past several years due to coyotes. During the flight, the plane was able to remove 42 coyotes. All of the ranchers were very happy with the help from Wildlife Services and commented that they believe it was only a matter of time before they lost calves to the coyotes. Work will be ongoing as needed.



On January 27th, the Ely Plane responded to calls from 2 sheep producers in Eureka County. One sheep producer reported the loss of 1 ewe, valued at \$250, to coyote predation. During the flight, the plane was able to remove 9 coyotes. Work will be ongoing as needed.

On January 28th, the Ely plane responded to a call from a sheep rancher in southeastern White Pine County and northern Lincoln County. The rancher had lost several ewes to coyote predation recently. With the help of FA MacDonald as the ground crew, the plane was able to remove 4 coyotes near the location of the kills. No further losses have been reported. FA MacDonald also provided technical assistance in the form of non-lethal recommendations to help reduce and prevent future losses.

On January 29th, the Ely plane responded to a call from a sheep and cattle rancher in northeastern White Pine County. The rancher had recently lost several ewes to coyote predation. With the assistance of WS Fowler as the ground crew, the plane was able to remove 4 coyotes near the location of 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 February 3rd, WS Randy Evans confirmed the loss of 1 ewe, valued at \$250, to coyote predation. The damage took place on a band of sheep in central Nye County. WS Evans used calling and trapping to remove 4 coyotes near the kill. WS Evans also provided technical assistance in the form of non-lethal recommendations to help prevent future losses. No further losses have been reported and WS Evans continues to monitor the livestock in his assigned work area.

During the week of February 3rd, FA MacDonald confirmed the loss of 2 ewes, valued at \$500, to coyote predation. The damage took place on 2 bands of sheep in southeastern White Pine County and northeastern Lincoln County. FA MacDonald used traps to remove the depredating coyotes. FA MacDonald also provided technical assistance in the form of non-lethal recommendations to help prevent future losses. Work will continue as needed.

During the first week of February, FA MacDonald confirmed the loss of 1 calf, valued at \$500, to coyote predation. FA MacDonald used calling and the plane to remove 9 coyotes near the kill. No further losses have been reported. FA MacDonald also provided technical assistance to help mini-

mize future losses.

On February 8th, the Elko plane responded to a call from a cattle rancher that just started his calving season and had already lost 3 calves, valued at \$1,500, to coyote predation. The rancher had observed a group of 7 coyotes attacking a newborn calf. During the flight, the plane was able to remove 18 coyotes near the calves. Work will be ongoing as needed.

On February 11th, the Elko plane responded to a cattle ranch in northern Elko County. The ranch had just recently started to calve out and had already lost 6 calves to coyote predation. During the flight, the plane was able to remove 32 coyotes in the calving pastures near the kills. The rancher contacted the East District Office and expressed his appreciation for all the help he has received. Work will be ongoing as needed.

On February 11th, the Ely plane responded to 2 cattle ranches in central Nye County. One of the ranches had lost 6 calves, valued at \$3,000, to coyote predation. With the help of WS Evans and District Supervisor (DS) Joe Bennett, the plane was able to remove 5 coyotes near the kills. Work will be ongoing as needed.



On February 11th, WS Scott Little confirmed the loss of 3 ewes to coyote predation. The value of the losses was placed at \$750. WS Little used traps, snares and calling with the aid of his well-trained coyote decoy dogs to remove the depredating coyotes. No further losses have been reported. WS Little also provided technical assistance in the form of non-lethal recommendations to help prevent future losses.

On February 12th, the Elko plane responded to calls from 3 Elko County cattle ranches. All 3 ranches have had a history of high predation losses from coyotes and were about to start calving. During the flight, the plane was able to remove 23 coyotes from the 3 ranches. Work will be ongoing as needed.

On February 12th, the Ely plane responded to 3 cattle ranches in Lander County. All 3 ranches were just starting to calve and reported seeing several coyotes in their calving pastures. During the flight, the plane was able to locate and remove 8 coyotes. Work will be ongoing as needed.

On February 14th, the Ely plane responded to a call in northeastern White Pine County concerning the loss of 1 calf to coyote predation. With the assistance of WS Fowler as the ground crew the plane was able to remove 6 coyotes near the kill. No further losses have been reported.

On February 14th, the Elko plane responded to a call from several sheep producers in eastern Elko County. Previously, WS Smith had confirmed the loss of 4 ewes and 4 lambs, valued at \$1,800, to coyote predation. With the assistance of WS Smith as the ground crew, the plane was able to remove 4 coyotes near the location of the kills. WS Smith also removed 2 coyotes near the kills, bringing an end to the problem. WS Smith also provided technical assistance in the form of non-lethal recommendations to help prevent future losses.

On February 18th, the Elko plane responded to a call from a cattle rancher in Eureka County. The rancher had just started to calve out and had already lost 2 calves, valued at \$1,000, to coyote predation. During the flight, the plane was able to remove 22 coyotes in and around the calving pastures. No further losses have been reported.

On February 26th, DS Bennett confirmed the loss of 3 newborn calves to raven predation. The damage occurred on 2 ranches in central Nye County. The value of the 3 calves was placed at \$1,500. DS Bennett used hard boiled chicken eggs treated with DRC-1339 to remove the depredating ravens. No further losses have been reported. DS Bennett also provided technical assistance in the form non-lethal recommendations to help prevent future losses.

West District

During the month of January, WS John Peter continued surveillance for feral swine in Humboldt County. WS Peter has not observed any feral swine sign during the past 3 months, despite maintaining bait sites and monitoring historic travel corridors. WS Peter will continue to monitor for and remove feral swine.

During the month of January, WS Ben Miller placed trail snares to protect 2 California bighorn sheep populations in Washoe County (hunt units 013 and 014) as part of a Nevada Department of Wildlife (NDOW) project. In one area, NDOW recently translocated additional bighorn sheep into areas where WS Miller works. WS Miller will continue to monitor for and remove lions in the project area.

On January 6th, Instructor Pilot (IP) Wes Gossard and Crew Member (CM) Brandon VanderMay flew around several calving areas in Humboldt County. During the flight, 5 coyotes were removed. WS Peter provided ground support and located several of the coyotes for the plane to remove. Protection efforts will be reinitiated if any new problems arise.

On January 10th, IP Gossard and CM VanderMay flew around several winter sheep bands in Pershing County. A sheep producer reported that coyotes had killed 2 sheep, valued at \$400. FA Doug Koepke set foothold traps in the vicinity of the depredated lambs, prior to the aerial operations. During the flight, 4 coyotes were removed. The aircrew also reported to FA Koepke that he had captured an additional coyote with a foothold trap, of which he removed. Protection efforts will continue if any new problems arise.

On January 15th, IP Gossard and CM VanderMay flew several calving areas in Humboldt County in response to several cattle producers reporting calf losses and injuries. During the aerial operation, 20 coyotes were removed. WS Peter provided ground support and located several of the coyotes for the plane to remove. The ranchers were pleased with protection efforts and to date no further calf damage has been reported.

On January 23rd, IP Gossard and CM VanderMay flew around several winter sheep bands in Pershing County. Two sheep producers reported the loss of 3 sheep, valued at \$900. During the flight the aerial crew removed 4 coyotes. FA Koepke and WS Peter provided ground support. To date no other livestock losses have been reported.

On January 27th, IP Gossard and CM VanderMay flew several calving areas in Humboldt and Pershing Counties, resulting in the removal of 12 coyotes. WS Peter provided ground support and located several of the coyotes for the plane to remove. Protection efforts will continue.

On January 29th, IP Gossard and CM VanderMay flew around 2 sheep bands in Nye County, remov-

ing 2 coyotes standing in the sheep. The sheep producer reported that in the past week 3 ewes, valued at \$900, had been killed by coyotes. The aerial crew had made an attempt to fly around the sheep earlier in the week, unfortunately they were winded out. FA Wallis provided ground support. This sheep producer has several guard dogs with the sheep, however, coyotes still kill livestock. Protection efforts will continue.

During the week of January 24th through January 28th, District Supervisor (DS) Jack Spencer visited several military facilities in western Nevada with WS' National Airport Program Staff Biologist Jenny Washburn. During the week, Staff Biologist Jenny Washburn rode with WB Bowers at a location in northern Nevada and then with WB David Carrasco in southern Nevada. On January 26th, DS Spencer and WB Carrasco attended an Air National Guard meeting in Las Vegas.

During the month of January, FA Wallis set foothold traps on several sheep and cattle ranches in Lyon County. Livestock losses had been few, although coyotes have started to move in around calving areas. FA Wallis has scheduled the plane to fly all the calving areas the first week of February. FA Wallis will continue to protect livestock.

On February 3rd, FA Wallis checked foothold traps on several sheep and cattle ranches in Lyon County, resulting in the removal of 2 coyotes. FS Wallis also removed a pair of coyotes from a different property as the coyotes were moving into their livestock. FA Wallis will continue to protect livestock in his work area.

On February 4th, IP Gossard and CM VanderMay flew several calving areas in Humboldt County in response to cattle producers' reports of coyotes moving in around their calving areas. The flight resulted in the removal of 14 coyotes. WS Peter provided ground support and located several of the coyotes for the plane to remove. Protection efforts will continue.

During the first week of February, a livestock producer reported the loss of 2 calves, valued at \$980, to coyote predation in Humboldt County. In response, WS Peter placed equipment around the calving area, resulting in the removal of 5 coyotes. The ranchers were pleased with WS Peter's protection efforts.

On February 6th, IP Gossard and CM VanderMay flew several calving areas in Humboldt County in response to cattle producer's report of a calf, valued at \$200, being injured by a large group of coyotes. The effort resulted in the removal of 14 coyotes. Protection efforts are ongoing.

On February 7th, IP Gossard and CM VanderMay flew a sheep lambing area, goat farm and several calving areas in Lyon County in response to the loss of: 2 ewes, valued at \$500; a goat, valued at \$150; and the threat of calf loss. The flight resulted in the removal of 13 coyotes. FA Wallis also removed 2 additional coyotes with the use of foothold traps after ground crewing.

On February 11th, IP Gossard and CM VanderMay flew several calving areas in Humboldt County in response to cattle producers reporting coyotes moving in around the calving areas. The flight resulted in the removal of 17 coyotes. WS Peter provided ground support and located several of the coy-



otes for the plane to remove. Protection efforts will continue.

On February 12th, IP Gossard and CM VanderMay flew several winter sheep bands in Pershing County in response to the loss of 12 sheep, valued at \$2,675, to coyote predation. The aerial crew located a pair of coyotes eating on a freshly killed ewe, which they removed. WS Peter provided ground support. Protection efforts are ongoing.

On February 12th, WS Miller was contacted by an NDOW Biologist regarding mortality signals coming from a California bighorn ewe. In response, WS Miller traveled to the general area of the mortality signal coordinates and mouth called with squalls in case a lion was on the sheep in the tall riparian willows. After a few moments, an adult male lion came out from the tall vegetation, which WS Miller dispatched. After dispatching the lion, WS Miller found the bighorn ewe which had been killed by it.



On February 13th, WS Peter checked ground equipment on several livestock damage sites in Humboldt County, resulting in the removal of 4 coyotes with the use of M-44s and snares. The action ended the damage. WS Peter will continue to protect livestock in his large work area.

On February 18th, IP Gossard and CM VanderMay flew several calving areas in Pershing County in response to producers reporting coyotes moving in around their calving areas. The effort resulted in the removal of 5 coyotes. FA Koepke provided ground support, locating several of the coyotes for the plane to remove. Protection efforts will continue.

On February 21st, WS Miller checked trail snares on an NDOW bighorn sheep project in north Washoe County (NDOW hunt unit 014), removing an adult female lion. WS Miller will continue to monitor for and remove lions from the project area.

During the month of February, FA Koepke responded to the loss of 3 calves, valued at \$1,500, to raven predation on private property in several western Nevada counties. To end the damage, FA Koepke placed treated DRC-1339 egg baits around livestock damage sites, removing the depredating ravens.

On February 24th, IP Gossard and CM VanderMay flew several calving areas and a lambing area in Lyon County in response to coyotes moving in around the calving areas and killing 2 ewes, valued at \$400. The flight resulted in the removal of 3 coyotes. FA Wallis provided ground support, locating several of the coyotes for the plane to remove. Protection efforts will continue.

During the week of February 23rd through February 26th, DS Spencer and FA Wallis conducted a DRC-1339 European starling treatment project at a dairy in Lyon County in response to consumption and contamination



of several tons of medicated animal feed, valued at \$6,000. The dairy owners were very pleased with the results.

During the month of January, Wildlife Biologist (WB) Zack Bowers continued protection efforts at a military installation in northern Nevada. Six hundred twenty seven individuals from 20 species were dispersed from on and near the airfield. Seven problem animals from 3 species were lethally removed near the airfield. WB Bowers will continue efforts to protect aviation safety at this facility.

During the month of January, WB Carrasco removed 6 pigeons and 2 red-tailed hawks, that wouldn't respond to non-lethal harassment, from a military aviation facility in southern Nevada. WB Carrasco dispersed 5 common ravens and a red-tailed hawk (RTHA) from the active runway. WB Carrasco also deployed a Bal-chatri trap and set a modified Swedish goshawk trap in the surrounding area of the airfield where 2 RTHAs and an American kestrel were observed. All 3 birds were captured and translocated to suitable habitat away from aviation facilities. WB Carrasco also continued to conduct bird surveys and protect the airfield from threats of wildlife.

During the month of February, WB David Carrasco performed wildlife damage management duties at a military aviation facility in southern Nevada. Specifically, WB Carrasco removed 2 coyotes that were posing a risk to aircraft in a runway approach; dispersed 8 Canada geese from the golf course that is adjacent to the airfield using pyrotechnics; and trapped/translocated 3 red-tailed hawks, 1 American kestrel and 1 prairie falcon to suitable habitat away from aircraft.

New and Developing Methods

Nothing to Report

Valuing and investing in Employees

During the month of January, WB Bowers was recognized for exemplary performance of his duties while serving as Wildlife Biologist, for the Operations Department. The quarterly award recognized the top tier accomplishments WB Bowers has completed during his time at the above mentioned facility. WB Bowers' breadth of knowledge, level of commitment and personal conduct are indeed exemplary and greatly appreciated by Wildlife Services' and clearly his cooperators as well.

During the Month of February, WB Carrasco was awarded the 57th Wing Staff Agency Annual Award in Civilian Category 1 for 2019.

After 30 years of Service, State Director Mark Jensen retired on February 29th. Mark's WS career included working for the New Jersey, Illinois, Oklahoma, California and Oregon WS' programs prior to Nevada. Fair winds and following seas Mark!



Information and Communication

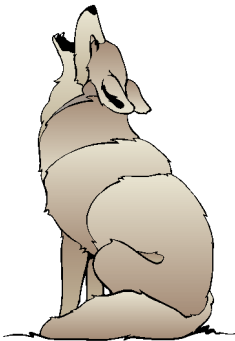
Nothing to Report

Future Meeting and Events

Nothing to Report

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Wildlife Services

