

June 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 June, wildlife damage management work was conducted on an estimated **4.5** million acres of land under agreement. On these lands, WS personnel helped Nevada's farmers and ranchers protect over **\$105.8** million in agricultural resources such as cattle, sheep, and livestock feed; and over **\$9** million in natural resources. Additionally, WS assisted **128** persons and entities with technical assistance which involves providing information or equipment to cooperators so they can resolve problems themselves. Cooperators reported **\$19,650.00** in damage and WS Specialists verified **\$19,282** in damage to agricultural resources and property. These losses would be much higher without an effective wildlife damage management program. During June, coyotes accounted for **\$16,773** in verified losses, mostly to livestock, and **153** 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 June, **no** samples were processed.

The following excerpts are a selection of activities and events of this program which occurred during the months of June, 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 June 1st, the Elko plane responded to a call from a sheep rancher in northern Elko County. The rancher had lost at least 2 adult sheep and 6 lambs, valued at \$1,700, to coyote predation. When the plane first arrived at the band of sheep, 3 adult coyotes were spotted in the sheep killing yet another lamb. All 3 coyotes were promptly removed.

On June 2nd, the Elko plane responded to a call from a sheep producer in northern Elko County. The rancher reported the loss of 2 lambs, valued at \$400, to coyote predation. During the flight, the plane removed 1 adult coyote leaving the band of sheep and removed it. No further losses have been reported.

On June 3rd and June 4th, a Wildlife Specialist (WS) confirmed the loss of 4 lambs, valued at \$800. The damage took place in northwestern White Pine County. The WS used snares to remove 2 coyotes near the location of the kills and called for the support of the Elko plane. The plane responded and was able to remove an additional coyote near the kills. No further losses have been reported. The WS also provided technical assistance in the form of non-lethal recommendations in an effort to help reduce future predation.

On June 4th, the Elko plane responded to a call from a sheep producer in southern Elko County. The rancher had lost at least 12 lambs during the past several days. With the help of a WS as the ground crew, the plane was able to remove 1 coyote near the kills. Work will continue as needed.

On June 11th, the Ely plane responded to a call from a sheep producer in southern White Pine County. The sheep herder had previously reported that a pair of coyotes was hanging around the band of sheep. He had not found any kills but suspected that they may have killed some that he could not find. With the help of a Nevada Department of Agriculture (NDA) Field Assistant (FA) as the ground crew, the plane was able to remove both coyotes. When the FA arrived at the location at daylight, the sheep were scattered and appeared to be in a panic. When the plane arrived they observed the 2 coyotes eating a ewe that they had just killed. Both coyotes were removed. One additional coyote was killed near the sheep too. No further problems have been reported. The FA also provided technical assistance in the form of non-lethal recommendations to help prevent future losses.

On June 11th, the Elko plane responded to a call from a sheep producer and a cattle rancher in northern Elko County. Both ranchers have had very high predation losses in the recent past. During the flight, the plane was able to remove 6 coyotes. Work will continue as needed.

On June 15th, the Ely plane responded to a call from a sheep and cattle rancher in eastern White Pine County. The rancher had just recently lost 6 lambs, valued at \$1,200, to coyote predation. During the morning flight, the plane was able to remove 4 coyotes near the location of the kills. No further losses have been reported. The rancher was very pleased with the help he received from Wildlife Services and expressed that in a call to the East District Supervisor (DS).

On June 22nd, the Ely plane responded to a call for 2 ranchers in western White Pine County. The first rancher had lost 9 lambs and 3 adult sheep, valued at almost \$3,000, to coyote predation. The other adjoining ranchers reported losing at least 15 calves, valued at more than \$13,000, to coyote predation. During the morning flight, the plane was able to remove 4 coyotes, near the location of the kills. Work will be ongoing. The DS provided both ranchers with technical assistance in the form of non-lethal recommendations in an effort to help prevent future losses.



On June 30th, the Elko plane responded to a call from a sheep producer in southern Elko County. The rancher had just lost 4 lambs, valued at \$800, to coyote predation. During the morning flight, the plane was able to remove 2 coyotes near the sheep. No further losses have been reported.

During the month of June, a WS was busy protecting livestock in Elko County. During the month, he confirmed the loss of 6 lambs, valued at \$1,200, to coyote predation. The WS used calling and foothold traps to remove 3 coyotes near the kills. On several occasions, the WS also provided technical assistance in the form of non-lethal recommendations in an effort to help minimize losses.

During the month of June, a WS confirmed the loss of 13 lambs, valued at \$2,611, to coyotes. The damage took place in northern White Pine County. Using foothold traps and snares, 3 adult coyotes and 1 den near the location of the kills were removed. No further losses have been reported. The WS also provided technical assistance in the form of non-lethal recommendations to help prevent future losses.



During the middle of June, a WS confirmed the loss of 2 lambs, valued at \$400, to coyote predation. The damage took place on a band of sheep in central Nye County. The WS used foothold traps and snares to remove 6 coyotes, bringing an end to the damage. The WS also provided technical assistance in the form of non-lethal recommendations to help prevent future losses.

West District

On June 1st, the West District plane flew several sheep lambing areas and calving areas in Lander County in response to the reported loss of 2 lambs, valued at \$600, to coyotes. During the flight, 2 coyotes were removed. A WS provided ground support during the fixed wing operation. Protection efforts will continue.

On June 3rd, the West District plane flew several goat kidding and lambing areas in Pershing County in response to the loss of 3 kids, valued at \$600, to coyotes. During the morning flight, 2 coyotes were removed. A FA provided ground support during the fixed wing operation. Protection efforts will continue.

On June 9th, the West District plane flew 2 cooperators lambing and calving areas in northern Washoe County in response to the reported loss of 8 lambs, valued at \$1600, to coyotes. During the morning flight, 2 coyotes were removed while feeding on a freshly killed lamb. A FA provided ground support during fixed wing operations. Protection efforts will continue.

During the month of June, a WS completed a Wildlife Hazard Management Plan (WHMP) for an airport in Washoe County. This plan outlines the measures that will be taken to reduce the wildlife hazards to aircraft noted during the Wildlife Hazard Assessment (WHA). The same WS will continue to implement the WHMP at the airport and provided required training for airport staff.

During the month of June, a FA placed equipment around several goat ranches in Churchill County in response to the loss of 4 kids, valued at \$1,100, to coyote predation. The effort resulted in the removal of 3 coyotes. The FA will continue to protect livestock in his work area.

On June 29th, a sheep producer from Douglas County reported that 2 lambs, valued at \$600, had been killed by a predator, which was later confirmed by a FA to be a lion. In response, the FA placed a large cage trap

baited with a dead lamb at the kill site. The following morning the adult male lion was captured. The sheep producer was pleased with the prompt effective response. To date, no other livestock losses have been reported.

During the month of July, a Wildlife Biologist (WB) was hired to protect DoD aircraft and safety at a joint-use facility in Washoe County. The WB has considerable applicable skill and experience: having prepared the WHA referenced above; gaining additional experience at a similar facility in Florida and a prior career in law enforcement. The Nevada Wildlife Services program is thankful for the return of such a good and capable hand.

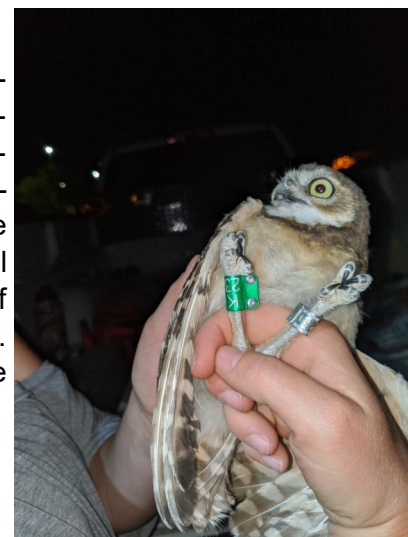


During the month of June, a WB continued protection efforts at a military installation in northern Nevada. Seven hundred ninety six individuals from 27 species were dispersed from on and near the airfield. Twenty three problem animals from 9 species were lethally removed near the airfield. Aviation safety protection efforts will continue to be implemented at this facility.

During the reporting period, a WB received a report of an injured American white pelican on the previously mentioned military facility. Upon responded to the situation, the WB found the pelican with what appeared to be an injured wing. After some consideration about how to safely handle a bird of this size, the pelican was successfully caught and put into a large dog crate. The bird was then transferred to the custody of the Nevada Department of Wildlife.

During the first part of June, a WB removed the propane cannon from the heron/egret rookery site after the third year of successfully dissuading the herons/egrets from nesting at the site at the above mentioned facility. The rookery site was considered a threat to aviation safety, due to the herons/egrets daily movements between the rookery and feeding locations. These flights would take them across the airfield in conflicting airspace with departing and landing aircraft. Convincing the herons/egrets to nest at an alternate location has been labor intensive, but the results have been positive.

During the month of June, a WB performed wildlife damage management activities at a military aviation facility in southern Nevada. WB Carrasco dispersed a total of 107 from the active airfield, specifically blackbirds, doves, waterfowl, and a vulture. The WB also removed 35 mourning doves, 31 jackrabbits, 10 great-tailed grackles, 10 desert cotton-tailed rabbits, 1 great blue heron, 1 redhead duck, and 1 turkey vulture that failed to respond to non-lethal methods. Expanding experience, the WB also assisted the Environmental staff on base in capturing and banding burrowing owls for their population study. The WB continues to conduct bird surveys and protect the airfield from the threat of wildlife.



New and Developing Methods

Nothing to Report

Valuing and investing in Employees

An iconic WS chose to retire after 35 years of dedicated and honorable federal service. The WS began his long and distinguished service with the United States Fish and Wildlife Service's Animal Damage Control (ADC) Program in 1985 in a small ranching community within Humboldt County.

During his time, the Program was transferred to the United States Department of Agriculture, which evolved into the current "Wildlife Services" program. Prior to the WS's ADC career, he worked as a buckaroo for several large cow/calf outfits in Northern Nevada. Respected as an expert in all aspects of capturing and removing predatory animals to protect livestock and wildlife, this employee has been awarded numerous awards over the years including; West District Wildlife Specialist of the year, Western Region Wildlife Specialist of the Year and the 2018 National Wildlife Specialist of the Year. His supervisor considered him a "supervisor's dream employee", always working hard, never needing help, willing to go the extra mile, an honest and ethical man. Many ranchers in northern Nevada can attest to the WS's work ethic, honesty and expert protection efforts from depredating predators. On his last work day, the Deputy Director of the WS Program personally called to wish him a happy retirement...quite a statement. When asked what his retirement will entail, the new retiree divulged that he would remain hard at work with his wife ranching, farming, hunting, fishing and fall trapping. We wish him a wonderful retirement!

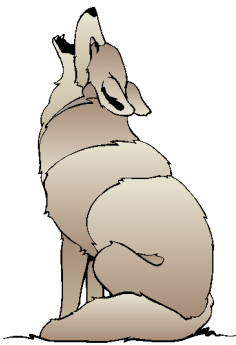
Information and Communication

Nothing to Report

Future Meeting and Events

Nothing to Report

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