

August 2019

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 August, wildlife damage management work was conducted on an estimated **4** million acres of land under agreement. On these lands, WS personnel helped Nevada's farmers and ranchers protect over **\$97.3** million in agricultural resources such as cattle, sheep, and livestock feed; and over **\$4.5** million in natural resources. Additionally, WS assisted **424** persons and entities with technical assistance which involves providing information or equipment to cooperators so they can resolve problems themselves. Cooperators reported **\$3,100.00** in damage and WS Specialists verified **\$24,777** in damage to agricultural resources. These losses would be much higher without an effective wildlife damage management program. During August, coyotes accounted for **\$17,193** in verified losses, mostly to livestock, and **169** 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 August, **4** samples were processed.

The following excerpts are a selection of activities and events of this program which occurred during the month of August, 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 August 1st, Nevada Department of Agriculture (NDA) Field Assistant (FA) Tyler Bodily confirmed the loss of 5 lambs, valued at \$1,000, to coyote predation. The damage occurred on a band of sheep in central Eureka County. FA Bodily used traps to remove 3 coyotes near the sheep, no further losses have since been reported. FA Bodily also provided technical assistance in the form of non-lethal recommendations to help prevent future losses.

On August 1st, Mountain Lion Specialist (MLS) Jim Buhler confirmed the loss of 5 yearling sheep, valued at \$1,250, to mountain lion predation. The damage occurred in central White Pine County. MLS Buhler used his well-trained tracking and trailing hounds to trail and remove the depredating lion. The lion was an adult male approximately 7 years old. The cooperator was very pleased with MLS Buhler's help. No further losses have been reported.



On August 5th, Wildlife Specialist (WS) Tom Smith confirmed the loss of 2 lambs, valued at \$400, to coyote predation. The damage took place on a band of sheep in northern Elko County. WS Smith used traps and calling to remove 3 coyotes near the kills. No further losses have been reported. WS Smith also provided technical assistance in the form of non-lethal recommendations to help prevent future losses.

On August 5th, WS Scott Little confirmed the loss of 2 lambs, valued at \$400, to coyote predation. The damage occurred on a band of sheep in western White Pine County. The same day, WS Little was able to shoot the depredating coyote, bringing an end to the damage. WS Little also provided technical assistance in the form of non-lethal recommendations to help prevent future losses.

On August 6th, FA Bodily confirmed the loss of 3 adult sheep to coyote predation. The value of the sheep was placed at \$750, with the damage occurring in central Eureka County. FA Bodily used traps to remove 5 coyotes near the kills. No further damage has been reported. FA Bodily also provided non-lethal technical assistance in an effort to prevent future losses.



On August 6th, Crew Member (CM) Wayne Rowley confirmed the loss of 2 lambs, valued at \$400, to coyote predation. The damage occurred on a remote band of sheep only accessible by horse back in central Elko County. CM Rowley used calling and shooting to remove the offending coyotes. No further losses have been reported.

On August 6th, FA Allen Eldridge verified the loss of 2 lambs, valued at \$400, to coyote predation. The damage happened on a band of sheep in central White Pine County. FA Eldridge used calling and shooting to remove 2 coyotes near the kills. 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 August 7th, WS Nathan Fowler confirmed the loss of one lamb, valued at \$200, to coyote predation. The damage took place on a band of sheep in northern White Pine County. WS Fowler used traps and calling to remove 3 coyotes near the location of the kills. No further losses have been reported. WS Fowler provided technical assistance in the form of non-lethal recommendations to help prevent future losses.

On August 12th, District Supervisor (DS) Joe Bennett received a call concerning the loss of 10 domestic ducks to red fox predation. The value of the ducks was placed at \$200. DS Bennett set several traps near the location of the damage. During the next several days, DS Bennett was able to remove 2 red fox, bringing an end to the damage. DS Bennett also provided non-lethal technical assistance in the form of recommendations to help prevent future problems. No further losses have been reported.

During the first week of August, a ranch in western White Pine County reported the loss of 1 lamb and 7 adult sheep to coyote predation. The value of the loss was placed at \$1,950. DS Bennett traveled to the location and confirmed the losses. On at least 3 occasions, the Ely plane responded to the location, removing 4 coyotes near the kills. DS Bennett used traps to remove an additional 2 coyotes. No further losses have been reported. DS Bennett provided technical assistance in the form of non-lethal recommendations to help prevent future losses.



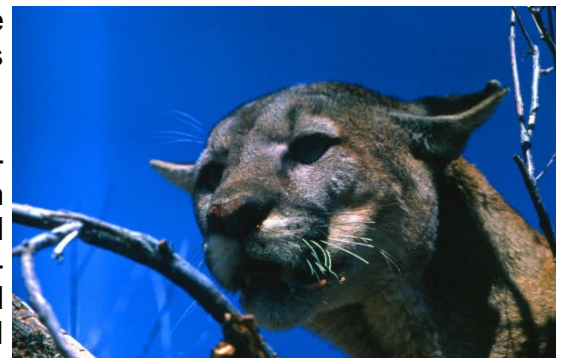
On August 23rd, WS Scott Little confirmed the loss of 2 calves, valued at \$1,000, to raven predation. The damage occurred on a ranch in central Nye County. WS Little used hard boiled chicken eggs treated with DRC-1339 to remove the depredating ravens. WS Little also provided technical assistance in the form of non-lethal recommendations in an effort to help prevent future losses. No further losses have been reported.

During August, a rancher in western White Pine County lost more than 12 adult sheep, valued at \$3,000, to coyote predation. Making matters worse was the fact that this was a small farm flock of only 60 sheep. The rancher was night penning the sheep but the coyote would ambush the sheep during the day. DS Bennett traveled to the location and set several traps near the location of the damage. DS Bennett was able to trap 2 coyotes and shoot another. The Ely plane also responded to the location and remove 6 additional coyotes, bringing an end to the damage. DS Bennett provided non-lethal technical support to help prevent future losses.

West District

During the week of August 1st, FA Doug Koepke responded to a livestock producer in Washoe County that was having problems with ravens going after their calves. FA Koepke placed DRC-1339 treated eggs near the calving area to stop the damage. The cattle producer was pleased with the quick protection efforts.

On August 1st, WS Ben Miller was setting, checking and inspecting equipment and areas where California bighorn sheep reside in northern Washoe County (hunt units 011 and 013) as part of Nevada Department of Wildlife (NDOW) project 22-01. During an equipment check, WS Miller removed an adult 135 pound male lion that he had captured in a trail



snare. WS Miller also hiked into a collared bighorn that was sending out a mortality signal in his area. Upon inspection, WS Miller determined that the wild sheep, though dead, did not die from predation, which he reported to NDOW. WS Miller will continue to protect California bighorn sheep.

On August 13th, Instructor Pilot (IP) Wes Gossard and CM Brandon VanderMay conducted a morning flight around several sheep and calving areas in Washoe County. The livestock producers reported coyotes moving in and causing damage. Because the ranches were on the Nevada/California state line, WS-California WS George Affonso provided ground support. During the flight, 10 coyotes were removed. To date, no further livestock problems have been reported. Protection work will continue.

On August 19th, IP Gossard and CM VanderMay conducted a morning flight around several sheep areas in Humboldt County. The livestock producer reported coyotes moving in around their sheep operation. During the morning flight, 8 coyotes were removed. WS Peter provided ground support during aerial operations. Protection work will continue.



During the week of August 19th, through August 23rd, FA Koepke responded to a call for assistance at 2 locations in Churchill County. One ranch had problems with coyotes killing a calf, loss valued at \$500, with the other ranch losing a lamb to coyotes, loss valued at \$200. WS Koepke placed foothold traps and trail snares at both locations and promptly removed male coyotes at each location. To date, no further livestock losses have been reported.

On August 16th, FA Alex Wallis spent the week placing foothold traps around several sheep and goat bands and a calving area in Lyon County, resulting in the removal of 4 coyotes. FA Wallis will continue to protect livestock in his work area.

On August 19th, IP Gossard and CM VanderMay conducted a morning flight around several sheep areas in Humboldt County. The livestock producer reported coyotes had started moving in around their sheep operation. During the flight, 8 coyotes were removed. WS Peter provided ground support during aerial operations. Protection work will continue.

On August 21st, IP Gossard and CM VanderMay conducted a morning flight around several calving areas in Lander County. The livestock producers reported coyotes had started moving in around their cattle operations. During the flight, 5 coyotes were removed. WS George Hansen provided ground support during aerial operations. Protection work will continue.

On August 23rd, IP Gossard and CM VanderMay conducted a morning flight around several calving areas in Lander County. The livestock producers reported coyotes moving in around their cattle operations. During the flight, 4 coyotes were removed. WS Hansen provided ground support during

aerial operations. Protection work will continue.

On August 27th, NDOW requested that a lion be removed that was near a sensitive bighorn sheep area, west of Lovelock. The lion had been observed near the sheep on trail cameras by an NDOW biologist. On August 28th, DS Spencer placed trail snares in the area where the lion was observed. WS Miller will continue to monitor and set equipment to remove the lion.

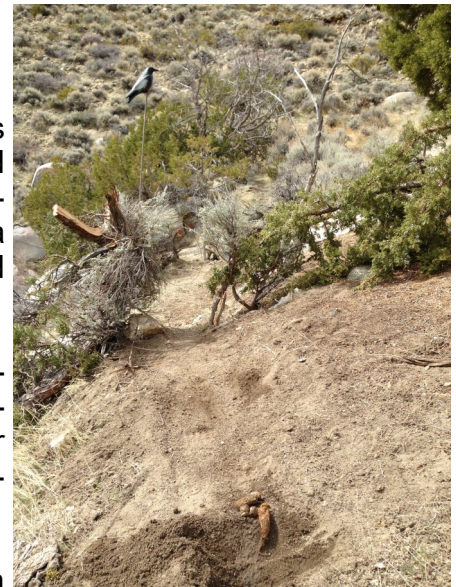
On August 28th, IP Gossard and CM VanderMay conducted a morning flight around several calving areas in Pershing County. The livestock producers reported coyotes had started moving in around their cattle operations. During the flight, 12 coyotes were removed. Protection work will continue.

During the month of August, WB Zack Bowers continued protection efforts at a military installation in northern Nevada. WB Bowers utilized harassment with several methods to disperse 3,095 individuals from 28 species. Additionally, 18 problem animals were lethally removed from on and near the airfield that failed to respond properly to non-lethal approaches. Also of importance, large numbers of birds are coming into an agricultural field within the perimeter fence. The field was planted with a type of wheat, which has attracted many species including yellow-headed blackbirds and Canada geese. Many of these species are known to be hazardous to aviation safety due to their size, density and gregarious behavior. This is especially troubling considering this field is near the departure end of the primary runways. Hopefully in the future, crops such as this will be prohibited from being used in the agricultural leases, both on and near the airfield. WB Bowers will continue efforts to protect aviation safety at this facility.

During the week of August 19th, WB David Carrasco continued to protect the flying service members and aircraft property at a military facility in southern Nevada. To that end, an American kestrel and a Cooper's hawk were captured using a Bal-Chatr trap. The kestrel was translocated to the Overton wildlife management area, whereas the Cooper's hawk was translocated to the Pahrangat National Wildlife Refuge to reduce the chance that they would threaten aviation safety. A coyote was also caught at the facility with the use of a foothold trap between the perimeter fence and the runway. Harassment was also used to disperse 299 mourning doves, 80 black-headed cowbirds, 20 killdeer, 4 turkey vultures, and 2 kestrels away from the active runways.



For the week of August 26th, WB Carrasco continued work at the above facility, trapping an American kestrel using a Bal-chatri trap, which was translocated to Mount Charleston. Various harassment methods were used to disperse 90 mourning doves and a turkey vulture away from the active runways.



New and Developing Methods

Nothing to Report

Valuing and Investing in Employees

On August 5th through August 7th, the West District held its annual district meeting. Various topics were discussed and mandatory annual firearm training was completed by all employees. Western Regional Director (RD) Jason Suckow presented the Western Region "Wildlife Specialist of the Year" award to WS John Peter. DS Jack Spencer also presented: WS Cameron Green with the West District "Wildlife Specialist of the Year" award; IP Gossard with a certificate of merit; and WB Carrasco and FA Alex Wallis with WS' belt buckles. To commemorate the event, a barbeque was held at the State office for all.



RD Suckow (right) presenting award to WS Peter.



DS Spencer (left) presenting award to WS Green.



IP Gossard receiving award.



WB Carrasco receiving buckle.



FA Wallis receiving buckle.



West District Picture.

Information and Communication

On August 16th and August 17th, FA Bodily, WS Billy Taylor and DS Bennett attended the Nevada Trapper's Associations annual rendezvous in Panaca, Nevada. The rendezvous was attended by approximately 100 people from Nevada and other states including California and Utah. FA Bodily, WS Taylor and DS Bennett provided a demo and instructional session and discussed the Nevada Wildlife Services program. The rendezvous and presentation went very well with many questions asked about the Nevada Wildlife Services program. Interaction between the Nevada Wildlife Services Program and the Nevada Trapper's Association is very important.



FA Bodily (left), DS Bennett (center),
WS Taylor (right).



During the month of August, WB Bowers and WB Carl Frey attended the 2019 North American Bird Strike Conference, which was held in Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada and the west district meeting at the State office in Reno. The meeting and conference both provided training and allowed for opportunities to network and learn of what is occurring in and outside of the program at the district, state and national level.

Emerging Trends/Issues

Nothing to Report

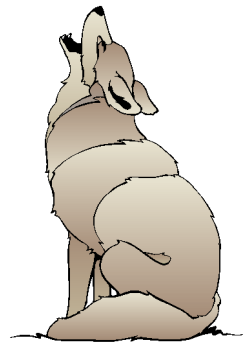
Equal Employment Opportunity/Civil Rights (EEO/CR)

Nothing to Report

Future Meeting and Events

Nothing to Report

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



USDA APHIS Wildlife Services

