

January 2018

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

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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, 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 **\$106.8** million in agricultural resources such as cattle, sheep, and livestock feed; and over **\$4.6** million in natural resources. Additionally, WS assisted **1,545** persons and entities with technical assistance which involves providing information or equipment to cooperators so they can resolve problems themselves. Cooperators reported **\$3,150** in damage and WS Specialists verified **\$16,763** in damage to natural and agricultural resources. These losses would be much higher without an effective wildlife damage management program. During January, coyotes accounted for **\$13,457** in verified losses, mostly to livestock, and **322** 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, **35** samples were processed.

The following excerpts are a selection of activities and events of this program which occurred during the month of January, 2018.

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, the Ely plane responded to a sheep producer in Lincoln County. Nevada Department of Agriculture (NDA) Field Assistant (FA) Hunter Bodenchuk had recently confirmed the loss of three ewes, valued at \$750, to coyote predation. With the help of FA Bodenchuk, the plane removed a pair of coyotes near the kills. FA Bodenchuk also set several traps near the location of the kills. During the next two weeks, FA Bodenchuk removed 4 more coyotes, bringing an end to the damage. No further losses have been reported. FA Bodenchuk also provided technical assistance in the form of non-lethal recommendations to help prevent future losses.



On January 3rd and 4th, FA Allen Eldridge confirmed the loss of 3 ewes, valued at \$750. The damage occurred on a sheep and cattle ranch in northern White Pine County. FA Eldridge set several traps near the kill sites. During the next several days, FA Eldridge was able to trap, call and sight shoot 9 coyotes near the band of sheep experiencing the losses. No further losses have been reported. The sheep producer was very thankful for the help he received from FA Eldridge and NDA. Several times, FA Eldridge also provided technical assistance in the form of non-lethal recommendations to help prevent losses in the future.

On January 4th, FA Bodenchuk confirmed the loss of 3 ewes valued at \$750, to coyote predation. The damage occurred on an allotment in central Lincoln County. FA Bodenchuk set 10 traps near the location of the kills. A very old female coyote was removed near the kills.

On January 4th, the Ely plane responded to a request for assistance from a sheep and cattle rancher in western White Pine County. The sheep producer had lost 8 ewes, valued at \$2,000, to coyote predation. With the help of FA Bodenchuk as the ground crew, the plane was able to remove a pair of coyotes near the location of the kills. Work will be ongoing.

On January 5th, the Ely plane responded to a call from a sheep producer in Eureka County. The producer had been hearing several coyotes near his flock and was concerned since he had experienced considerable losses to coyotes in the past. During the morning flight, the plane removed a pair of coyotes near the band of sheep. Work will be ongoing as needed.



On January 11th, the Ely plane responded to a request from a sheep producer in north eastern White Pine County. The producer had lost several yearling sheep and was seeing and hearing several coyotes near three bands of sheep. With help from FA Eldridge as the ground crew, the plane was able to remove 5 coyotes near the sheep. Work will be ongoing as needed. FA

Eldridge also provided technical assistance in the form of non-lethal recommendations to help prevent losses in the future.

On January 12th, the Ely plane responded to a call from a cattle rancher and a sheep rancher in eastern White Pine County. The sheep producer had lost a ewe to coyotes, valued at \$250. The cattle rancher was just starting to calve out and observed that coyotes were coming into their yard and attacking their pets. With the assistance of FA Scott MacDonald as the ground crew, the plane was able to remove 4 coyotes. FA Mac-

Donald also provided technical assistance to both ranchers in the form of non-lethal recommendations to help prevent future problems.

On January 12th, Wildlife Specialist (WS) Scott Little confirmed the loss of a calf, valued at \$500, to coyote predation. The damage occurred on a cattle ranch in southern White Pine County. WS Little set several trail snares near the location of the kill. During the next several days, WS Little was able to remove 3 coyotes, 2 by snare and one by calling/shooting. No further damage was reported. WS Little continues to monitor the area for losses.

On January 16th, work began on Nevada Department of Wildlife (NDOW) project 40. NDOW project 40 is designed to remove coyotes to protect both mule deer and sage-grouse in several hunt units in Eureka County. A contract helicopter was used to remove coyotes near mule deer fawning areas/sage-grouse habitat. Work will continue into early summer.



On January 16th, FA Eldridge confirmed the loss of a ewe valued at \$250 to coyote predation. The damage occurred on a band of sheep in north eastern White Pine County. FA Eldridge was able to shoot the offending coyote as it returned to the kill. No further losses have been reported and FA Eldridge continues to monitor all of the livestock in his work area.

On January 17th, the Ely plane responded to a call from a cattle rancher in central Nye County. The cattle rancher had recently started to calve out and had already lost 2 calves, valued at \$1,000, to coyote predation. During the morning flight, the plane was able to remove 4 coyotes near the kills. Work will be ongoing as needed.

On January 18th the Ely plane responded to a call from a cattle rancher in Lincoln County. The rancher reported that he had just started to calve out and coyotes attacked and killed the very first calf of the season. Coyotes had also killed another calf two nights later. During the flight, the plane was able to remove 4 coyotes at the location of the kills. So far, no further problems have been reported. District Supervisor (DS) Joe Bennett also provided technical assistance in the form of non-lethal recommendations to help prevent losses in the future.



On January 18th, FA MacDonald confirmed the loss of 2 ewes, valued at \$500, to coyote predation. The damage happened on a band of sheep in eastern White Pine County. FA MacDonald set several traps near the location of the kills. FA MacDonald was able to trap a large adult coyote near the kills. No further losses have been reported and the sheep producer was very pleased with all the assistance he has received from the NDA. FA MacDonald also provided technical assistance in the form of non-lethal recommendations to help prevent future losses.

On January 22nd, WS Mac Crome confirmed the loss of 2 ewes, valued at \$500, to coyote predation. The following morning, WS Crome spotted 2 adult coyotes in the band of sheep near the location of the kills. WS Crome was able to shoot 1 of the coyotes. The other coyote decided to leave the area. No further losses have been reported and WS Crome continues to monitor more than 10 bands of sheep in his work area. WS Crome also provided technical assistance in the form of non-lethal recommendations to help prevent losses in the future.

On January 23rd, the Ely plane responded to a call from a cattle rancher in northern Lincoln County. The rancher had just recently started to calve out and had already lost 2 calves to coyote predation. The 2 calves were valued at \$1,000. With the assistance of FA Bodenчук and DS Bennett as the ground crew, the plane was able to remove 8 coyotes near the kills. No further losses have been reported. Technical assistance in

the form of non-lethal recommendations was also provided.

On January 26th, the East District Office received a call from a cattle rancher in Nye County. The rancher reported that while one of his cows was having a calf, a group of about 12 ravens attacked her and the newborn calf. The ravens caused very serious damage to the cow, while she was down and having the calf, and they pecked the calf to death as it was being born. The cow had to be put down from her injuries. The total amount of the loss was set at \$1,500 for the cow and calf. After confirming the loss, WS Scott Little used hard boiled chicken eggs treated with DRC-1339 to remove the responsible ravens. No further losses have been reported and the rancher was very happy with the help he received. WS Little also provided technical assistance in the form of non-lethal recommendation to help prevent losses in the future.



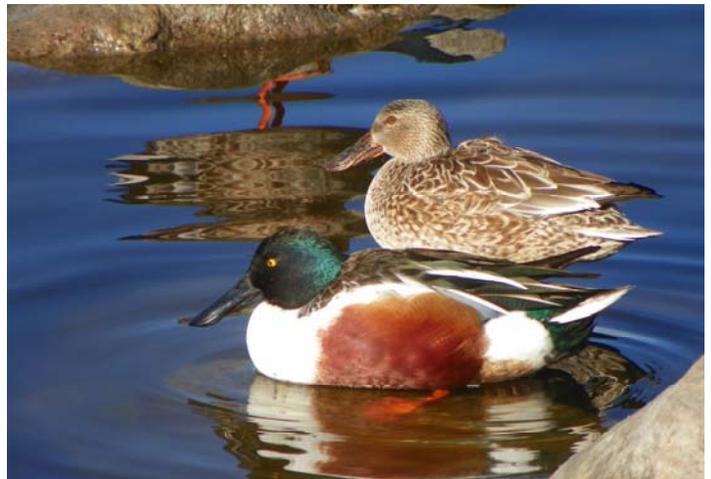
On January 30th, the Ely plane responded to a call from a sheep and cattle producer in central White Pine County. The rancher has experienced very high losses in the past. FA Eldridge acted as the ground crew. During the morning flight, 3 coyotes were removed in the sheep pastures. Work will be ongoing as the rancher gets ready for lambing and calving season.

On January 31st, the Ely plane responded to a call from a sheep producer in Eureka County. The rancher had lost at least 2 yearling sheep to coyote predation. During the flight, the plane was able to remove 10 coyotes near the sheep. Work will be ongoing as needed.

West District

On January 3rd, Instructor Pilot (IP) Wes Gossard and Crew Member (CM) Brandon VanderMay conducted a morning flight around several winter bands of sheep in Nye County after a sheep producer reported the loss of three ewes (valued at \$600). During the flight, 4 coyotes were removed. WS Hansen provided ground crew efforts. To date, no further livestock complaints have been reported for this particular producer. Aerial protection efforts will be ongoing in the West District.

On January 3rd, DS Jack Spencer and WS Rick Laffins conducted a mid-winter waterfowl survey in the Truckee Meadows area. This waterfowl survey is a collaboration between NDOW, United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and WS employees each year. A total of 1,657 waterfowl were observed during the 4 hour survey and over 8,000 Canada geese were observed in the Reno area alone.



On January 4th, IP Gossard and CM VanderMay conducted a morning flight around several cattle producers in Humboldt County after receiving several requests from cattle producers. During the flight, 12 coyotes were removed. WS John Peter provided ground crew efforts. Aerial protection efforts will be ongoing in the West District.

On January 5th, IP Gossard and CM VanderMay conducted a morning flight around several cattle and a sheep producers in Pershing County. During the flight, 5 coyotes were removed. FA Doug Koepke provided ground crew efforts. Protection efforts will be ongoing.

On January 8th, IP Gossard and CM VanderMay conducted a morning flight around several cattle producers in Humboldt County after receiving several requests from cattle producers. During the flight, 4 coyotes were removed. WS Peter provided ground crew efforts. Aerial protection efforts will be ongoing in the West District.

On January 10th, DS Spencer and FA Mark Bentz responded to a potential lion issue in Carson City. DS Spencer and FA Bentz inspected the area and located two dead sheep (valued at \$600) verified to have been killed by a lion. Trail snares and a cage trap were set near the sheep carcasses and removed after 4 days as the lion had not returned, which happens from time to time.



On January 9th, a sheep producer from Pershing County reported the loss of 7 ewe's (valued at \$1,400). FA Koepke inspected the livestock losses and confirmed the damage was caused by coyotes. WS Koepke placed foothold traps in the vicinity of the livestock losses and requested assistance from the plane. The following morning IP Gossard and CM VanderMay conducted a morning flight that resulted in the removal of 4 coyotes. WS Koepke also removed 3 additional coyotes with the use of foothold traps. To date no further livestock losses have occurred and the livestock producer was pleased with the protection efforts.

On January 26th, IP Gossard and CM VanderMay conducted a morning flight around several cattle producers in Pershing County. During the flight, 4 coyotes were removed. Lately there have been several cows dropping calves. FA Koepke provided ground crew efforts. Protection efforts will be ongoing.

On January 22nd, WS Peter checked ground equipment around several calving areas in Humboldt County, resulting in the removal of 5 coyotes that had been snared. This is WS Peter's 33rd year protecting livestock in Humboldt County. Protection efforts will be ongoing.

During the month of January, WS Ben Miller continued setting and monitoring trail snares and call boxes as part of an NDOW project in Washoe County (hunt unit 013) designed to protect existing and translocated California bighorn sheep from lion predation. WS Miller will continue to run equipment and monitor this area for lions.

On January 29th, IP Gossard and CM VanderMay conducted a morning flight around several cattle producers and a sheep producer in Lyon County after receiving several requests from livestock producers. During the flight, 8 coyotes were removed. FA Bentz provided ground crew efforts. Aerial protection efforts will be ongoing in the West District.

On January 30th, IP Gossard and CM VanderMay conducted a morning flight around several cattle producers in Humboldt County after receiving several requests from cattle producers. During the flight, 10 coyotes were removed. WS George Hansen provided ground crew efforts. Aerial protection efforts will be ongoing in the West District.



During the month of January, WB Zack Bowers continued protection efforts at a military installation in northern Nevada. WB Bowers utilized harassment with several methods to disperse 573 individuals from 19 species. 2 species of mammals and 2 species of birds were removed from the airfield to reinforce nonlethal measures. WB Bowers will continue efforts to protect aviation safety at this facility.

During the month of January, WB Dean Pyzik reported zero wildlife strikes to aircraft at a military installation in southern Nevada. Also during the reporting period, WB Pyzik removed 6 mammals from the installation while dispersing 1,047 birds with his truck, firearms and pyrotechnics. Of those 1,047 birds dispersed while patrolling and conducting perimeter checks, starlings accounted for 47% of the birds. The majority of the mammals removed were black-tailed jackrabbits which are removed because they are a direct threat to aviation (strike hazard) and an indirect threat to aviation by drawing in birds of prey, coyotes and feral dogs into occupied airspace, runways and taxiways.

Throughout the month of January, WB Carl Frey continued daytime and nighttime Wildlife Hazard Assessments at several military installations (one in California, one in Nevada). During the surveys, 527 birds and mammals were observed. Survey numbers are trending down, due in part to: decreasing water levels from freeze up and lack of snow; and livestock trailing from the area.

During the reporting period, WB Frey also attended a meeting and field tour with the NVANG Flight Safety Wing Command staff and the Depot' command staff. Future plans for the continued partnership and use of the airfield were discussed. Which included WB Frey's roll on the facility for airfield safety, wildlife damage control and health and human safety of the 1,500 employees.

During the month of January, WS Cameron Green and WS Rick Laffins continued implementing a wildlife hazard management plan at a joint use aviation facility in Washoe County. Specifically, 3,151 animals were dispersed from the facility (primarily Canada geese) using vehicles, pyrotechnic devices and firearms. Firearms were also utilized to remove 36 animals that failed to respond properly to non-lethal approaches. A free ranging cat was captured and transferred to the custody of Washoe County Animal Services to: reduce the chance that the cat would impede aviation safety; and provide the opportunity for the cat to be adopted out/returned to its owner. In addition, 6 red-tailed hawks and 1 Cooper's hawk were trapped and translocated to reduce the chance of a wildlife strike to aircraft.



WS Laffins also conducted structured "point-count" wildlife surveys on the airfield and offsite in the general zone during the month. The purpose of the surveys is to document wildlife abundance, frequency, diversity and behavior on/near the airfield over the course of a year, which will then be analyzed for seasonal trends and threats to aviation in a wildlife hazard assessment (WHA). Of interest, 40,120 animals were surveyed throughout the month during daytime and nighttime hours.

WS' also met with representatives from the Regional Transportation Commission (RTC) this month about utilizing pyrotechnics to disperse gulls from a designed wetlands area of the South East Connector project. This large concentration of gulls is directly east of above mentioned facility and poses a threat to the flying public. Pyrotechnics will be used to disperse the gulls from this area in the future.

New and Developing Methods

Nothing to Report

Valuing and Investing in Employees

On January 31st, Wildlife Specialists Miller, Evans, Nathan Fowler and Green attended the Benelli armorer training. The Specialists practiced breaking the firearms down to individual components and then putting them all back together with a functional test following to ensure the fundamentals were being practiced and learned. Guidance on which parts wear the fastest (mainly springs) and how to diagnose failing parts was provided.

Information and Communication

On January 18th, WB Frey provided a presentation in Reno, to over 100 middle school-aged kids, about being a USDA WS' Wildlife Biologist at the Youth Wildlife Conservation Experience (YWCE) for the Wild Sheep Foundation. The presentation included a mammal identification workshop. WB Frey also outlined the WS' Wildlife Hazards Management program, including the importance of: protecting the flying public; developing trend analysis to predict future seasonal patterns of wildlife; WS Birds of prey (raptors) banding and translocation program. The latter of which is used to determine with confidence adequate translocations distances for hatch year and mature raptors. Translocation distances tend to be situation/habitat specific, which is why such site specific research is necessary.



Throughout the reporting period, WB Frey and WS Miller sampled hunter harvested waterfowl throughout the Central Lahontan Watershed for Highly Pathogenic Avian influenza. The goal of the project (funded by APHIS-Veterinary Services via the WS' National Wildlife Disease Program) was to sample birds weekly throughout the waterfowl hunting season to increase the chance that the disease would be detected from resident and migratory dabbling ducks. Thanks to the dedicated after hours sampling by WB Frey and WS Miller, the goal of sampling 310 ducks during Fall and Winter was achieved.

On January 12th, State Director (SD) Mark Jensen and DS Bennett attended the N-1 Grazing Board Meeting in Elko.

On January 17th, SD Jensen and DS Spencer attended the N-2 Grazing Board Meeting in Winnemucca.

Emerging Trends/Issues

Nothing to Report

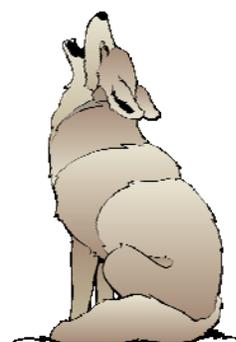
Equal Employment Opportunity/Civil Rights (EEO/CR)

Nothing to Report

Future Meeting and Events

Nothing to Report

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USDA APHIS
Wildlife Services

