

July 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

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 July, wildlife damage management work was conducted on an estimated **3.0** million acres of land under agreement. On these lands, WS personnel helped Nevada's farmers and ranchers protect over **\$81.3** million in agricultural resources such as cattle, sheep, and livestock feed; and over **\$5.1** million in natural resources. Additionally, WS assisted **1,350** persons and entities with technical assistance which involves providing information or equipment to cooperators so they can resolve problems themselves. Cooperators reported **\$2,500** in damage and WS Specialists verified **\$13,659** in damage to aviation, natural and agricultural resources. These losses would be much higher without an effective wildlife damage management program. During July, coyotes accounted for **\$12,203** in verified losses, mostly to livestock, and **115** 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 July, **25** samples were processed.

The following excerpts are a selection of activities and events of this program which occurred during the month of July, 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 July 2nd, Nevada Department of Agriculture (NDA) Field Assistant (FA) Allen Eldridge confirmed the loss of 4 yearling sheep, valued at \$800, to coyote predation. The damage occurred on a flock of sheep in northeastern White Pine County. FA Eldridge set several traps just outside the fence the sheep were in. During the next several days, 4 coyotes were removed to end the damage. FA Eldridge will continue to monitor the sheep in his assigned work area.



During the first 2 weeks of July, Crew Member (CM) Nathan Fowler was very busy protecting 3 bands of sheep in central White Pine County. During that period of time, CM Fowler confirmed the loss of 3 adult sheep and 4 lambs, valued \$1,350, to coyote predation. CM Fowler was able to remove 7 coyotes using traps and calling with the help of his well-trained coyote decoy dogs. CM Fowler also provided non-lethal technical assistance in the form of recommendations to help prevent future losses. CM Fowler continues to monitor the sheep in his area when not flying as the crew member for the Ely plane.

During the first week of July, a sheep producer in central White Pine County reported the loss of 12 lambs, valued \$1,800, to coyote predation. District Supervisor (DS) Joe Bennett traveled to the location and confirmed the losses. DS Bennett set several traps near the kills. During the next several days, DS Bennett was able to trap a large male coyote and call and shoot a pair bringing an end to the damage. DS Bennett also provided technical assistance in the form of non-lethal recommendations to help prevent future losses.

On July 6th, CM Wayne Rowley received a call from a homeowner in Elko County concerning a problem with a striped skunk. The homeowner reported the skunk had sprayed their pet and their house and the smell was unbearable. CM Wayne Rowley took a cage trap to the location and was able to remove the problem skunk. The homeowner was very pleased with CM Rowley's willingness to help. CM Rowley also provide technical assistance in the form of non-lethal recommendations to try to prevent future problems with skunks and other wildlife.

On July 9th, FA Scott MacDonald confirmed the loss of 2 lambs, valued at \$300, to coyote predation. The damage occurred on a band of sheep in northern White Pine County. Using traps and shooting, FA MacDonald was able to remove 6 coyotes near the kills. No further losses have been reported. FA MacDonald will continue to monitor the sheep in his assigned work area.



On July 9th, and again on July 13th, Wildlife Specialist (WS) Mac Crome confirmed the loss of 1 lamb for each day to coyotes. Total loss was placed at \$400. WS Crome used traps, calling and his well-trained coyote decoy dogs to remove 3 coyotes near the kills. No further losses were reported. WS Crome also provided technical assistance in the form of non-lethal recommendations in an effort to help prevent future losses.

On July 10th, FA Hunter Bodenchuk confirmed the loss of 2 lambs to coyote predation. The damage

occurred on a band of sheep in central Eureka County. Using traps, FA Bodenchuk was able to trap and remove the responsible coyote a few days later. To date, no further losses have been reported on the band of sheep. FA Bodenchuk also provided technical assistance in the form of non-lethal recommendations to help prevent future losses. The sheep producer has been very pleased with FA Bodenchuk's hard work and the help he has received from the Nevada Department of Agriculture and the Wildlife Services' Program.

On July 10th, DS Bennett and Mountain Lion Specialist (MLS) Jim Buhler confirmed the loss of at least 8 lambs, valued at \$1,200, to coyote predation. The damage occurred on a band of sheep in southern White Pine County. On July 13th, the Ely plane responded to the location. During the morning flight, 3 coyotes were removed. No further losses have been reported. DS Bennett also provided non-lethal recommendations in an effort to help minimize future losses.

On July 12th, WS Evans received a call concerning a problem with coyotes in the Ruby Mountains in southern Elko County. The sheep producer had lost at least 12 lambs, valued at \$1,800, to coyote predation. Using his mule, WS Evans rode into the remote band of sheep and confirmed the losses. The coyotes had returned and recently killed another lamb. Using calling and his well-trained coyote decoy dog "Lucy", WS Evans was able to call and shoot 3 coyotes near the kill. No further losses have been reported. WS Evans also provided technical assistance in the form of non-lethal recommendations to help prevent future losses. The sheep producer is very pleased with all of WS Evans hard work and commitment to solving predation issues.

On July 13th, the East District Office received a call from a rancher that owned a small 20 acre property near Ely. The rancher said for the past month, coyotes have been coming onto his and his neighbor's properties and had killed at least 12 chickens, 12 Guinea fowl, and 4 turkeys. Both parties had tried several non-lethal methods but somehow the coyotes managed to dig into the pens. On July 16th, the Ely plane responded to the location. A group of 3 coyotes were observed near the properties. All 3 coyotes were removed, bringing an end to the problem. Technical assistance was also provided in an attempt to help prevent future losses.



On July 16th, FA Bodenchuk confirmed the loss of 1 lamb, valued at \$200, to coyote predation. The damage occurred on a band of sheep in southern Eureka County. FA Bodenchuk used calling to remove a very old coyote with worn down teeth. No further losses have been reported. FA Bodenchuk also provided technical assistance in the form of non-lethal recommendations to prevent future losses. The sheep producer was very pleased with the help he received from the Nevada Department of Agriculture and the Wildlife Services' Program.



On July 18th, CM Fowler confirmed the loss of 3 lambs, valued at \$600. On the same day, the sheep herder told CM Fowler where the kills were and that he had just heard a coyote howl near the kills. CM Fowler hiked into the location and was able to call and shoot the responsible coyote. No further losses have been reported. CM Fowler also provided technical assistance in the form of non-lethal recommendations to help prevent future losses.



On July 19th, FA MacDonald confirmed the loss of 1 yearling sheep, valued at \$250, to coyote predation. The damage occurred on a band of sheep in central White Pine County. FA Eldridge set several traps near the location of the kill. The next trip into the location he trapped 2 adult coyotes, bringing an end to the damage. FA MacDonald also provided technical assistance in the form of non-lethal recommendations to help prevent future losses.

On July 20th, a sheep producer in Nye County called concerning a problem with coyotes. The producer reported that a pair of coyotes was in and around his sheep on a regular basis. The sheep rancher has had problems in the past and knew it was only a matter of time before the coyotes started killing his sheep. On July 23rd, the Ely plane responded to the location. During the morning flight, the plane saw 2 coyotes near the sheep and removed both. The sheep producer was very pleased with the help he received from Wildlife Services.

On July 24th, WS Scott Little confirmed the loss of 1 lamb, valued at \$150, to coyote predation. The damage happened on a band of sheep in western White Pine County. WS Little called and shot an adult coyote near the kill using his well-trained coyote decoy dogs. No further losses have been recorded on that band of sheep. WS Little also provided technical assistance in the form of non-lethal recommendations to help prevent future losses.

On July 24th, WS Mac Crome confirmed the loss of 1 lamb, valued at \$150, to coyote predation. The damage occurred on a band of sheep in northern Elko County near the Idaho border. The following morning, WS Crome was able to shoot a coyote as it returned to the kill. WS Crome set several traps near the location of the kill as well. A couple days later 1 other coyote was trapped, bringing an end to the damage. No further losses have been reported. WS Crome also provided non-lethal technical assistance to help prevent future losses.

West District

During the month of July, WS John Peter kept busy pre-baiting and monitoring for feral pig sign in Humboldt County. The feral pig population is small in Humboldt County, but WS Peter continues to place trail snares in the areas where feral pigs have known to inhabit over the years. On July 3rd, WS Peter inspected trail snares and removed a sub adult feral pig. WS Peter will continue to place trail snares and pre-bait around potential feral swine locations.

On Saturday July 7th, DS Jack Spencer backpacked several hours into a road-less mountain area in Pershing County (NDOW hunt area 041), removing a male lion caught in a trail snare complimented with a call box and raven decoys near several bighorn sheep watering areas. DS Spencer had removed the female lion responsible for most of the



depredations the previous month. With the problem solved, DS Spencer removed his equipment and will rely on NDOW to notify him if they need more help.

During the week of July 9th through July 13th, WS George Hansen kept busy protecting several lamb bands in Lander County. WS Hansen inspected his equipment and removed 4 coyotes right by the lambs. WS Hansen will continue to protect these lamb bands.

During the week of July 23rd through July 27th, FA Mark Bentz placed equipment around sheep and cattle areas in Lyon and Douglas Counties, resulting in the removal of 6 coyotes with the use of foot-hold traps. FA Bentz will continue to protect livestock in his large work area.

During the month of July, WS Green and WS Laffins continued implementing a wildlife hazard management plan at a joint use aviation facility in Washoe County. Specifically, 389 animals were dispersed from the facility and adjoining properties using vehicles, pyrotechnic devices and firearms. Firearms and snares were also utilized to remove 114 animals that failed to respond properly to non-lethal approaches. One raptor was captured and translocated.

WS Laffins surveyed 7,564 animals during structured "point-count" wildlife surveys on the airfield and offsite in the general zone during the month.

During the month of July, 4 bird strikes were reported at the airport. A noted increase in pigeons, mourning doves and Canada geese have occurred in the Truckee Meadows this month. Mourning doves and pigeons are attracted to freshly mowed areas on the airport property.



New and Developing Methods

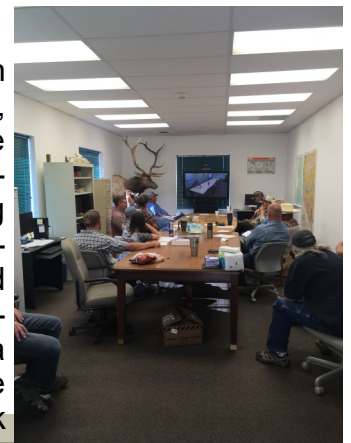
Nothing to Report

Valuing and Investing in Employees

During the reporting period, FA Bentz recently placed first in a National Wildlife Services' photo contest. A challenge email was sent to every person in Wildlife Services by managers to help obtain quality photos for the Wildlife Services image library, offering prize money for the best pictures. FA Bentz has an eye for capturing the essence of the moment. Congratulations to FA Bentz!

Information and Communication

On July 11th and July 12th, the East District held its annual district meeting in Ely, Nevada. Several annual trainings were completed including, first aid, firearms safety, aerial operations and pesticide training. Several awards were handed out at the meeting, WS Randy Evans and WS Billy Taylor both received certificate of merit awards for the hard work and dedication to solving wildlife predation problems. FA Scott MacDonald received an award for completing the most technical assistances during the past year. FA MacDonald completed 161 technical assistances. WS Casey Shields and WS Mike Eldridge both received knives as appreciation for all their hard work on Nevada Department of Wildlife (NDOW) special projects this past year. FA Eldridge received the "East District Employee of the Year" award for all his hard work



and dedication to the Nevada Department of Agriculture and the USDA Wildlife Services' program. Staff Biologist (SB) Jack Sengl and WS Cameron Green traveled from Reno and were extremely



helpful with the trainings provided. WS Green's first aid trauma training was greatly appreciated and both employees provided help with the firearms training and other policy and data questions.



During the week of July 23rd through July 25th, the West District held its mandatory annual district meeting. The meeting started off with a BBQ steak lunch followed by a wolf identification presentation provided by the California WS' program. There was a full day of firearms training, medical survival training and M-44 training. Several employees (WS Peter, WS Ben Miller and WS Rick Laffins) were presented with certificates of merit for all their hard work for going above and beyond in their daily duties.



Emerging Trends/Issues

Nothing to Report

Equal Employment Opportunity/Civil Rights (EEO/CR)

Nothing to Report

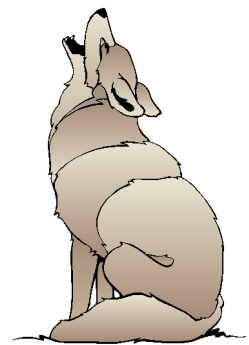
Future Meeting and Events

Nothing to Report

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