

July 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 July, wildlife damage management work was conducted on an estimated **3.8** million acres of land under agreement. On these lands, WS personnel helped Nevada's farmers and ranchers protect over **\$82.2** million in agricultural resources such as cattle, sheep, and livestock feed; and over **\$4.2** million in natural resources. Additionally, WS assisted **331** persons and entities with technical assistance which involves providing information or equipment to cooperators so they can resolve problems themselves. Cooperators reported **\$2,569.00** in damage and WS Specialists verified **\$16,967** 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 **\$15,188** in verified losses, mostly to livestock, and **104** 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, **2** samples were processed.

The following excerpts are a selection of activities and events of this program which occurred during the month of July, 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 July 1st, Wildlife Specialist (WS) Nathan Fowler confirmed the loss of 1 lamb, valued at \$200. The damage occurred on a band of sheep in northern White Pine County. WS Fowler used trapping and calling to remove 2 coyotes near the kill. WS Fowler also provided technical assistance in the form of non-lethal recommendations to help prevent future losses.

On July 2nd, Nevada Department of Agriculture (NDA) Field Assistant (FA) Allen Eldridge confirmed the loss of 2 lambs, valued at \$400, to coyote predation. The damage occurred on a remote band of sheep in central White Pine County. FA Eldridge used foothold traps and calling to remove 3 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 July 2nd, WS Scott Little confirmed the loss of 2 lambs, valued at \$400, to coyote predation. The damage took place on a remote band of sheep in western White Pine County. WS Little used calling and his well-trained coyote decoy dogs to remove 2 large male coyotes near the kills. No further losses have been reported. WS Little also provided technical assistance in form of non-lethal recommendations to help prevent further losses.



On July 3rd, WS Little confirmed the loss of 12 lambs, valued \$1,800, to coyote predation. The damage took place on a band of sheep in western White Pine County. WS Little used trapping, calling and shooting to remove 4 coyotes near the location of the kills. 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 July 8th, WS Little confirmed the loss of 2 calves, valued at \$950, to coyote predation. The damage happened on a cattle ranch in southwestern White Pine County. WS Little used traps to remove the 2 depredating coyotes. No further losses have been reported. WS Little also provided technical assistance in form of non-lethal recommendations to help prevent further losses.

On July 15th and July 18th, WS Fowler confirmed the loss of 4 lambs, valued at \$800, to coyote predation. The damage occurred on a band of sheep in northern White Pine County. WS Fowler used shooting and foothold traps to remove 3 coyotes. No further losses have been reported. WS Fowler also provided non-lethal technical assistance to help prevent future losses.



On July 19th, FA Eldridge confirmed the loss of 6 lambs, valued at \$1,200, to coyote predation. The damage occurred on a band of sheep in central White Pine County. FA Eldridge used foothold traps and calling to remove 3 coyotes near the kills. The sheep producer was very pleased with the help he received from the USDA APHIS Wildlife Services and the Nevada Department of Agriculture.

On July 24th, FA Eldridge confirmed the loss of 4 lambs, valued at \$1,000, to coyote predation. FA

Eldridge was able to call and shoot 1 coyote near the location of the kills. FA Eldridge used traps to remove 2 additional coyotes, ending the damage. FA Eldridge also provided technical assistance in the form of non-lethal recommendations to help prevent further losses.

During the week of July 29th, WS Tom Smith confirmed the loss of 2 adult ewes and 2 lambs, valued at \$900, to coyote predation. The damage occurred on a remote band of sheep in Elko County, near the Idaho border. Using calling and foothold traps, WS Smith was able to remove 4 coyotes near the kills. No further losses have since been reported. WS Smith also provided technical assistance in the form of non-lethal recommendations to help prevent future losses.



During July, WS Randy Evans confirmed the loss of 4 lambs, valued at \$800, to coyote predation. The damage took place on a band of sheep in southern Elko County. WS Evans used his well-trained coyote decoy dogs and calling to remove 6 coyotes. No further losses have been reported.

Also during July, FA Tyler Bodily confirmed the loss of 1 ewe and 5 lambs, valued at \$950, to coyote predation. The damage took place in central Eureka County. FA Bodily used shooting and foothold traps to remove 9 coyotes near the kills, bringing an end to the damage. 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.

With most bands of sheep moving into the high country, there was very little flying in the East District during July. Warm weather and very high elevations do not make for good flying conditions. The Ely plane did fly on 3 mornings but flight times were limited.

West District

During the week of July 1st through July 5th, FA Doug Koepke ran equipment around several lamb and goat bands in Churchill County, removing 3 coyotes with the use of foothold traps and trail snares. FA Koepke reports minimal live-stock losses lately and will continue to protect livestock in his work area.

On July 8th, WS Reed Thomas began work as the new intermittent Wildlife Specialist in Reno. WS Thomas's primary duties will be assisting with protecting aviation safety and property and other urban related work. WS Thomas comes from an aviation background from his military time and also has considerable law enforcement background. His combined background will serve him and our cooperators well in his new position. Congratulations to WS Thomas and we hope he finds his new position both challenging and rewarding.





On July 19th, Instructor Pilot (IP) Wes Gossard and CM Brandon VanderMay flew around several sheep and goat grazing areas in Lyon County. The livestock producers had reported that coyotes were moving in and around their operations causing some livestock damage. During the flight, 3 coyotes were removed. FA Alex Wallis provided ground support during aerial operations. Protection efforts will continue.

During the week of July 15th through July 19th, WS

George Hansen ran equipment around several lamb bands in Lander County. During the week, WS Hansen removed 4 coyotes by using foothold traps. WS Hansen reports minimal sheep losses, although it is expected that as the sheep move through the country they will run into new coyote territories and losses will increase. The high temperatures make trapping a little tough, but WS Hansen presses on. WS Hansen will continue to protect livestock in his work area.



During the month of July, WB David Carrasco continued to protect the flying Service members and property at a Department of Defense (DoD) facility in southern Nevada. Specifically, WB Carrasco removed a barn owl, 4 black-tailed jack rabbits, 4 desert cotton tail rabbits and 99 mourning doves that were a potential strike risk near the active runways. Additionally, 320 mourning doves were harassed away from the flight paths of aircraft.

New and Developing Methods

Nothing to Report

Valuing and Investing in Employees

During the week of July 8th through July 12th, WS Cameron Green traveled to Wyoming for rocket net training provided by WS' National Training Academy (NTA). During the training, the NTA requested WS Green provide his "First aid and trauma kit" training to his fellow trainees. WS Green has been perfecting this training over the last 2 ½ years. The training was so well received that the WS-Wyoming program requested that he return to provide the same training to their program during their State conference. WS Green's law enforcement background, passion for the job and eagerness to share his knowledge and experience with others is greatly appreciated by our program, his cooperators and many others.

During the week of July 22nd, WB's Carl Frey and Carrasco attended the Advanced Airport training in Salt Lake City, Utah. In addition to learning new Federal Aviation Administration regulations relative to wildlife management at airports, the Wildlife Biologists touched up on DoD policies for airbases and networked with fellow colleagues.

On July 22nd and July 23rd, the East District held its annual district meeting in Ely, Nevada. Most of the meeting dealt with mandatory trainings such as firearms, pesticide and safety items (including WS Green's First Aid and Trauma Kit training). Several awards were also given out. WS Fowler received an extra effort award, FA Scott MacDonald received an award for providing the most technical assistance in the District and CM Hunter Bodenchuk was awarded the "East District Employee of the Year" award.

Information and Communication

On July 22nd, District Supervisor (DS) Jack Spencer attended the N-2 Grazing Board meeting in Winnemucca, Nevada.

Emerging Trends/Issues

Nothing to Report

Equal Employment Opportunity/Civil Rights (EEO/CR)

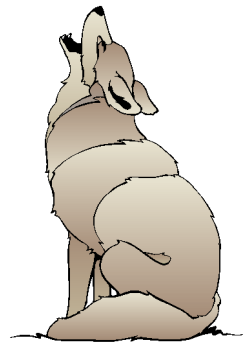
Nothing to Report

Future Meeting and Events

Nothing to Report



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



USDA APHIS Wildlife Services

