

August 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 August, 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 **\$103.3** million in agricultural resources such as cattle, sheep, and livestock feed; and over **\$4.5** million in natural resources. Additionally, WS assisted **165** persons and entities with technical assistance which involves providing information or equipment to cooperators so they can resolve problems themselves. Cooperators reported **\$10,044.00** in damage and WS Specialists verified **\$35,766** in damage to agricultural resources and property. These losses would be much higher without an effective wildlife damage management program. During August, coyotes accounted for **\$31,552** in verified losses, mostly to livestock, and **193** 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, **10** samples were processed.

The following excerpts are a selection of activities and events of this program which occurred during the months of August, 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 August 3rd, the Nevada Department of Agriculture (NDA) field specialist (FA) in Eureka County confirmed the loss of 3 lambs, valued at \$600, to coyote predation. The following day the FA snuck into the location of the most recent kill and observe a large male coyote as it was leaving the kill. One well-placed shot and the damage was over. No further losses have been reported. The FA also provided technical assistance in the form of non-lethal recommendations to help prevent future losses.



During the first week of August, a Wildlife Specialist (WS) in southern White Pine County confirmed the loss of 6 lambs, valued at \$1,200, to coyote predation. On August 5th, the WS was successful in removing the adult pair of coyotes near the most recent kill by making calling stands. No further losses have been reported. The WS also provided technical assistance in the form of non-lethal recommendations to help minimize future losses. The sheep producer was very pleased with all the help he received from the local trapper.

On August 6th, the Elko plane responded to a call from a sheep and cattle rancher in southern Elko County. The rancher reported the loss of several lambs, valued at \$1,200, to coyote predation. With the help of the local WS, the plane was able to remove 3 coyotes near the sheep. Work will continue as needed. Technical assistance in the form of non-lethal recommendations was also provided.

On August 7th, the Elko plane responded to 2 cattle ranchers in central Elko County. Both ranchers have experienced high losses to coyotes in the past and reported seeing several groups of coyotes in and around their calving pastures. During the flight, the plane was able to remove 11 coyotes. Both ranchers were very appreciative of the help they received from Wildlife Services and the Elko aerial crew.

On August 13th, the WS for Nye County confirmed the loss of 1 calf, valued at \$500, to raven predation. The rancher reported seeing a group of ravens as it attacked a newborn calf. The rancher had already tried several non-lethal tactics but to no avail. The WS used hard boiled chicken eggs, treated with DRC-1339, to remove approximately 12 ravens near the kill. No further losses have been reported.

On August 15th, an NDA Mountain Lion Specialist (MLS) for the East District confirmed the loss of 1 ewe and 1 lamb, valued at \$500, to mountain lion predation. The following morning the MLS returned to the kills and started the lion track off the kills. After a short race, his well-trained tracking and trailing dogs treed the adult male lion, which was promptly dispatched. No further losses have been reported. The sheep producer was very pleased with the assistance provided by the NDA MLS. He commented that his losses would be substantially higher without the help provided.



On August 17th, the WS for western White Pine County confirmed the loss of 1 goat, valued at \$250, to coyote predation. The long-time rancher reported that up until now, he didn't bother the coyotes and appreciated the coyote's efforts with gopher and squirrel control. However, that all changed when one of his wife's prized goats fell victim to the coyotes. The Ely Plane responded to the location and removed a coyote the following day. The WS followed up with several traps and snares, removing an additional 5 coyotes. No further losses have been reported. The WS also provided technical assistance.

On August 23rd, the WS for northern White Pine County confirmed the loss of 9 lambs, valued at \$1,800, to

coyote predation. The WS used traps to remove an adult coyote near the location of the kills. No further losses have been reported. Technical assistance in the form of non-lethal recommendations was also provided by the WS for the area.

On August 26th, the WS for northeastern White Pine County confirmed the loss of 2 lambs, valued at \$400, to coyote predation. The WS set several trail snares near the kills. A couple days later, 2 large adult coyotes were removed. No further losses have been reported. The WS provided non-lethal recommendations to help prevent future losses.

On August 28th, the WS for northwestern White Pine County confirmed the loss of 3 lambs to coyote predation. The value of the loss was placed at \$600. The WS used traps to remove several coyotes near the kills. No further losses have been reported. Technical assistance was also provided to help prevent future losses.

On August 24th, the WS in northern Elko County documented the loss of 3 lambs, valued at \$600, to coyote predation. The WS used calling and traps to remove 3 adult coyotes near the kills. Work will continue as needed but no further losses have been reported in that area.

Also on August 24th, the Ely Crew Member (CM) confirmed the loss of 3 lambs, valued at \$600, to coyote predation. In response, the CM used calling and spot and stalk to remove the 3 depredating coyotes. No further losses have been reported. It is very common for the CM to also cover bands of sheep during lambing when they aren't flying.

On August 26th, the Elko plane responded to a call from a cattle rancher in central Elko County. The rancher has had a history of high losses to his calves and reported seeing several coyotes in his calving pastures. During the flight, the plane was able to remove 8 coyotes. Work will be ongoing.

On August 28th, the Elko plane responded to a call from the WS in northern Elko County. The WS reported that he had confirmed several lambs killed on 2 bands of sheep near the Idaho border. With assistance from the local WS as the ground crew, the plane was able to remove 3 coyotes near the kills. The WS will continue to monitor the area for future problems.

During the month of August, a sheep producer in southern Elko County experienced extremely high losses due to coyote predation. The producer reported more than 100 lambs lost to coyotes on one band of sheep. The value of the losses was placed at more than \$20,000. During the month, a WS and FA worked on the band of sheep removing 15 coyotes, but the losses continued. At the rancher's request and dime, a helicopter was brought in from Utah for 2 mornings. In response, 13 additional coyotes were removed which slowed down the killing. On at least 5 occasions, both Elko and Ely planes responded to the location, but success was limited due to extremely steep and brushy conditions. On August 31st, the WS removed a large male coyote in the sheep. A necropsy revealed the coyote's stomach was full of lamb. Work will continue until the lambs are shipped.



West District

On August 5th, the West District plane flew on a sheep producer in Lander County in response to the reported loss of 7 lambs, valued at \$672, to coyotes. The effort resulted in the removal of 4 coyotes. A WS returned to the area of the kills the following morning, removing 2 more coyotes with the use of calling. No further losses have been reported. The WS will continue to provide livestock protection efforts.

During the week of August 1st through August 4th, a FA in Lyon County responded to the loss of 5 lambs, valued at \$480. In response, the FA stayed the night with the sheep in the pens and removed 1 of 2 coyotes and then placed an electronic call box playing loud noises (e.g. aircraft engine noise, gunshots and train whistles) to deter the coyote from returning. The FA will continue to protect livestock in his work area.



On August 10th, the West District plane flew for a sheep and cattle producer in Washoe/Lassen Counties in response to reports of coyote damage along the Nevada and California line. During the operation, the plane was able to remove 5 coyotes. A California WS provided ground support during the flight. No further coyote problems have been reported since then.

During the month of July, a WS placed and maintained trail snares around translocated California bighorn sheep (California BHS) in Washoe County as part of a Nevada Department of Wildlife (NDOW) project (project 22-01). The objective of the project is to remove lion predation from the California BHS population so that it becomes viable. On August 12 and August 13th, the Wildlife Specialist trail snared an adult male and female lion. Both lions were close to a California BHS population. The WS will continue to protect California BHS in the project area.

On August 18th, a sheep producer in Douglas County reported that 4 sheep, valued at \$800, had been killed by a lion in the past week. The local NDOW warden had also received several calls in the area from neighbors who had seen a large lion walking through yards. In response, the West District supervisor confirmed the damage was caused by a lion by way of necropsy and tracks. Foothold traps were set that evening for the lion near the kills, resulting in the removal of an adult male the next morning. The rancher was extremely pleased with the protection efforts and to date no further livestock losses have been reported.

During the month of August, a WS in Lander County responded to the loss of 3 sheep, valued at \$600, to coyotes. To stop the damage, the WS placed foothold traps around the damage site and a few days later removed a pair of coyotes. Protection efforts are ongoing.

On August 27th, several sheep and goat producers in Pershing County reported that coyotes moved in around their livestock. Another cattle producer reported that he was calving, and coyotes were moving in around the calving areas and consuming afterbirth. On August 28th, the West District plane flew all the ranches in the area, removing 11 coyotes out of sheep, goat and calving areas. A FA provided ground support during aerial operations.

During the month of August, a WB performed wildlife damage management duties at a military aviation facility in southern Nevada. Specifically, the WB: dispersed 764 birds (mourning doves, blackbirds, waterfowl and birds of prey); removed 118 doves, 37 black-tailed jack rabbits, and 19 desert cotton tailed rabbits; and several waterfowl to reinforce non-lethal measures and effect prey-base reduction. The WB also captured and translocated a red-tailed hawk, and removed 2 coyotes from on and near the facility with the use of foothold traps and calling stands. Wildlife surveys for the Wildlife Hazard Assessment were completed during the reporting period and the WB will continue protecting the flying Service members and their aircraft.



New and Developing Methods

Nothing to Report

Valuing and investing in Employees

Nothing to Report

Information and Communication

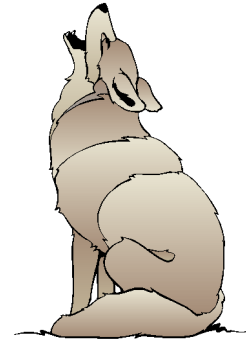
Nothing to Report

Future Meeting and Events

Nothing to Report



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