

March 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](http://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 March, wildlife damage management work was conducted on an estimated **6.7** million acres of land under agreement. On these lands, WS personnel helped Nevada's farmers and ranchers protect over **\$236** million in agricultural resources such as cattle, sheep, and livestock feed; and over **\$8.5** million in natural resources. Additionally, WS assisted **256** persons and entities with technical assistance which involves providing information or equipment to cooperators so they can resolve problems themselves. Cooperators reported **\$2,885.00** in damage and WS Specialists verified **\$81,634** in damage to agricultural resources and property. These losses would be much higher without an effective wildlife damage management program. During March, coyotes accounted for **\$22,996** in verified losses, mostly to livestock, and **375** 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 March, **6** samples were processed.

*The following excerpts are a selection of activities and events of this program which occurred during the months of March, 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 March 2<sup>nd</sup>, the Elko plane responded to requests from 2 cattle ranches. One ranch had lost 1 calf to coyotes, valued at \$500, and the other reported seeing several coyotes in their calving pastures. The damage took place in central Elko County. During the morning flight, the plane removed 7 coyotes. Work will continue as the calving season progresses.

On March 2<sup>nd</sup>, Nevada Department of Agriculture (NDA) Field Assistant (FA) Allen Eldridge confirmed the loss of 2 ewes, valued at \$500, to coyote predation. The damage occurred on a band of sheep in central Lincoln County. FA Eldridge used snares to remove the 2 depredating coyotes near the location of the kills, bringing an end to the damage. 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 March 3<sup>rd</sup>, Wildlife Specialist (WS) Nathan Fowler confirmed the loss of 1 ewe, valued at \$250, to coyote predation. The damage occurred on a band of sheep in northern White Pine County. WS Fowler used traps to remove the depredating coyote. No further losses have been reported. WS Fowler also provided technical assistance in the form of non-lethal recommendations to help prevent future losses.

On March 3<sup>rd</sup>, the Elko aerial crew was weathered out, so they took the opportunity to respond to 2 cattle ranches that had lost 3 calves, valued at \$1,500, to raven predation. The Elko crew used hard boiled chicken eggs treated with DRC-1339 to remove the depredating ravens. Both ranchers were very happy with the help they received. Technical assistance in the form of non-lethal recommendations was also provided.

On March 4<sup>th</sup>, the Elko plane responded to 5 cattle ranches that had requested help. The ranchers reported losing at least 3 calves, valued at \$1,500, to coyote predation. During the flight, the plane was able to remove 33 coyotes in the calving pastures. Work will be ongoing as needed.

On March 5<sup>th</sup>, the Ely plane responded to a ranch in central Nye County that had recently lost at least 2 calves, valued at \$1,000, to coyote predation. With the help of WS Randy Evans and District Supervisor (DS) Joe Bennett as the ground crew, the plane was able to remove 7 coyotes near the location of the kills. No further losses have been reported. DS Bennett also provided technical assistance in the form of non-lethal recommendations in an effort to help minimize future losses.

On March 5<sup>th</sup>, 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 eastern Elko County. WS Smith used calling to remove 2 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 March 5<sup>th</sup>, the Elko plane responded to calls from a cattle ranch, 2 cattle and goat ranches and 1 cattle and sheep ranch in southern Elko County. All 4 ranches have had a history of high predation losses and reported hearing and seeing several coyotes in their pastures. During the flight, the plane was able to remove 17 coyotes. Work will continue as needed.

On March 6<sup>th</sup>, the Ely plane responded to a call from a cattle rancher in southern Elko County. The rancher had witnessed 4 coyotes attack and kill one of his newborn calves. The calf was valued at \$500. During the flight the plane located 3 of the coyotes near the kill and removed them. No further losses have been reported.



On March 6<sup>th</sup>, WS Fowler confirmed the loss of 2 ewes, valued at \$500, to coyote predation. The damage took place on a band of sheep in eastern White Pine County. On March 10<sup>th</sup>, the Ely plane responded to the location. With the help of FA Jordan Bracken, WS Randy Evans and WS Nathan Fowler, the plane was able to remove 3 coyotes near the kills. Work will be ongoing as needed. WS Fowler also provided non-lethal recommendations in an effort to help prevent future losses.

On March 9<sup>th</sup>, DS Bennett traveled to Nye County and conducted a raven and starling project at a landfill. Both the starlings and ravens had caused a great deal of damage to machinery at the landfill as well as posing a public safety threat from all of the droppings and scattered trash. DS Bennett used DRC-1339 treated eggs to remove the depredating ravens and starlings. DS Bennett also provided technical assistance in the form of non-lethal recommendations, many of which had already been implemented at the landfill prior to the project.



On March 9<sup>th</sup>, the Elko crew member (CM) confirmed the loss of 1 calf, valued at \$600, to raven predation. The cattle rancher reported that several ravens were attacking his cows as they gave birth and had just recently killed 1 calf. Using hard boiled eggs treated with DRC-1339, the ravens were removed. Technical assistance in the form of non-lethal recommendations were provided to help prevent future losses.

On March 9<sup>th</sup>, FA Bracken started working in the East District covering the Eureka/Ely area. FA Bracken is from Utah and lives on a ranch near Ely. We would like to welcome FA Bracken to the Nevada Department of Agriculture and the Nevada Wildlife Services Program.



On March 10<sup>th</sup>, the Elko CM responded to a call from a cattle rancher in Eureka County experiencing problems with ravens. The rancher reported that ravens had killed at least 2 calves, valued at \$1,200. The rancher went on to report that several ravens were also harassing all of his cows as they gave birth. The Elko CM used hard boiled chicken eggs treated with DRC-1339 to remove the ravens. No further problems have been reported. Technical assistance in the form of non-lethal recommendations were provided to help prevent future losses.

On March 10<sup>th</sup>, the Elko plane responded to a call from a rancher in Eureka County that had lost 1 calf, valued at \$600, to coyote predation. The rancher reported seeing several coyotes in his calving pastures. During the flight, the plane was able to remove 15 coyotes, bringing an end to the damage.

On March 11<sup>th</sup>, the Elko plane responded to a call from a rancher in western Elko County. The rancher reported losing a calf earlier and also reported a large number of coyotes harassing his cows while they gave birth. During the flight, the plane was able to remove 16 coyotes in the pastures where the problem was occurring. Work will continue as needed.

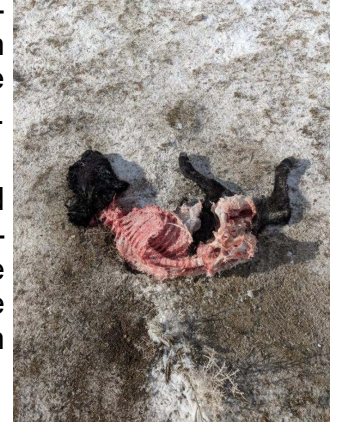
On March 12<sup>th</sup>, DS Bennett and FA Jordan Bracken responded to a call from a power distribution company in eastern Nevada. The power company was experiencing problems with ravens nesting on power lines causing both fires and power outages. DS Bennett used eggs treated with DRC-1339 to remove the ravens. Work will continue as needed during the raven nesting season. Technical assistance in the form of non-lethal recommendations were provided to help prevent future losses.

On March 17<sup>th</sup>, FA Scott MacDonald confirmed the loss of 2 ewes, valued at \$500, to coyote predation. The damage occurred on a band of sheep in northeast Lincoln County. FA MacDonald used ground equipment to remove the coyotes. No further losses have been reported. FA MacDonald also provided technical assistance in the form of non-lethal recommendations to help prevent future losses.



On March 23<sup>rd</sup>, the Elko plane responded to calls from a sheep producer and 2 cattle ranchers in southern Elko County. All 3 ranchers reported seeing a large number of coyotes in the stock. The sheep producer reported seeing 7 coyotes in one bunch in the pasture with his calves and sheep. During the flight, the plane was able to remove 16 coyotes, including 6 of the 7 the sheep producer had seen. Work will continue as needed.

On March 23<sup>rd</sup>, CM Hunter Bodenchuk confirmed the loss of 3 calves, valued at \$1,500, to coyote predation. The damage occurred on a cattle ranch in central White Pine County. CM Bodenchuk set trail snares near the location of the kills. During the next several days, CM Bodenchuk was able to remove the coyotes. CM Bodenchuk also provided technical assistance in the form of non-lethal recommendations to help prevent future losses.



On March 31<sup>st</sup>, the Elko CM responded to a call in northern Elko County concerning a problem with ravens. The CM was able to confirm the loss of 1 calf, valued at \$600, to raven predation. The rancher reported that every time 1 of his cows was giving birth, a large number of ravens would harass her and start pecking at the newborn calf as it was being born. The CM used hard boiled chicken eggs treated with DRC-1339 to remove the ravens. The rancher was very happy with the assistance he received. Technical assistance in the form of non-lethal recommendations was also provided in an effort to help prevent future losses.

## **West District**

On March 3<sup>rd</sup>, Instructor Pilot (IP) Wes Gossard and CM Brandon VanderMay conducted aerial operations around several calving areas in Humboldt County to reduce losses to coyotes. During the flight, the aerial crew witnessed a pair of coyotes trying to separate a calf from a cow and promptly removed them along with 21 other coyotes that were moving into the calving grounds. WS John Peter provided ground support and located several of the coyotes for the plane to remove. Protection efforts will continue.

On March 4<sup>th</sup>, IP Gossard and CM VanderMay flew several calving areas and a lambing area in Lyon County in response to the loss of 4 lambs, valued at \$600, to coyotes. During the flight, 5 coyotes were removed. FA Alex Wallis provided ground support, locating several of the coyotes for the plane to remove. Protection efforts will continue.



During the first week of March, WS Josiah Yoder began the onboarding process to back fill behind retired WS George Hansen. WS Yoder has prior livestock protection experience and has already made positive progress as a hard working employee. We welcome WS Yoder to the Nevada Wildlife Services Program.

During the month of March, WS Peter continued surveillance for feral swine in Humboldt County. For the Calendar year, WS Peter has yet to detect presence of feral swine. Surveillance efforts will continue.

During the month of March, WS Peter also worked on NDOW project 37, specifically protecting California bighorn sheep from lion predation in Humboldt County. WS Peter has checked his field equipment and travel corridors for lion sign over the last several months and has found none. WS Peter

will continue protection efforts.

On March 10<sup>th</sup>, IP Gossard and CM VanderMay conducted aerial operations in Mason Valley as part of NDOW Project 43, which is designed to assist NDOW in wild turkey and pheasant recruitment. During the flight, 11 coyotes were removed. WS Green provided ground support during aerial operations.

On March 12<sup>th</sup>, IP Gossard and CM VanderMay flew several lambing and calving areas in Lander County, resulting in the removal of 4 coyotes. One cattle producer had reported the loss of one calf, valued at \$400, and sheep were moving into the lambing grounds nearby. WS Yoder provided ground support during aerial operations. Protection efforts are ongoing.

On March 13<sup>th</sup>, IP Gossard and CM VanderMay flew several calving areas in Humboldt County, resulting in the removal of 15 coyotes. Cattle producers had reported coyotes moving in around the calving areas.

WS Peter provided ground support and located several of the coyotes for the plane to remove. Protection efforts will continue.

On March 23<sup>rd</sup>, IP Gossard and CM VanderMay again flew several calving areas in Humboldt County, removing 10 coyotes. Cattle producers had again reported coyotes moving in around the calving areas. WS Peter provided ground support and located several of the coyotes for the plane to remove. Protection efforts will continue.

During the month of March, WS Ben Miller continued work on NDOW project 37, protecting specific populations of California bighorn sheep (hunt units 041 and 014) that were experiencing predation issues. WS Miller checked and placed trail snares in the areas and on March 16<sup>th</sup>, WS Miller removed an adult male lion from Unit 041, an adult male lion from Unit 014 on March 26<sup>th</sup> and a 2<sup>nd</sup> adult male lion from Unit 041 on March 31<sup>st</sup>. WS Miller will continue protection efforts as requested by NDOW.

During the week of March 23<sup>rd</sup> through March 30<sup>th</sup>, WS Yoder placed field equipment on a lambing area in Lander County to reduce predation during lambing. During the week, WS Yoder removed 8 coyotes with the use of foothold traps and calling. WS Yoder will continue protection efforts.

During the month of March, FA Wallis worked on several lamb bands in Lyon County. These lamb bands often start lambing a month prior to the northern lamb bands because of more favorable





lambling conditions. FA Wallis reported minimal lamb loss for the month. FA Wallis will continue to protect livestock in his work area.

During the month of March, WB Zack Bowers continued protection efforts at a military facility in northern Nevada. WB Bowers will once again provide input for the newsletter when his work schedule permits it.

During the month of March, WB David Carrasco performed wildlife damage management duties at a military aviation facility in southern Nevada. WB Carrasco dispersed 2 mallards and a Canada goose at the golf course that is adjacent to the airfield. WB Carrasco also dispersed 60 California gulls, 10 common ravens, 2 American kestrels, 2 red-tailed hawks, and 2 turkey vultures from an active runway. WB Carrasco removed 2 American kestrels, 2 common ravens, 2 mallards, one Canada goose, and a red-tailed hawk, that wouldn't respond to non-lethal harassment. WB Carrasco also trapped/translocated one American kestrel, one Cooper's hawk, and one red-tailed hawk to suitable habitat away from aviation facilities. WB Carrasco continues to conduct bird surveys and protect the airfield from threat of wildlife during the spring migration.



## **New and Developing Methods**

Nothing to Report

## **Valuing and investing in Employees**

Nothing to Report

## **Information and Communication**

The Nevada Wildlife Services Program is very pleased to announce that **Mark Ono has been selected as the APHIS-WS Nevada State Director** with an official **report date of March 10<sup>th</sup>**.

Mark graduated from the University of Hawaii at Manoa (UHM) with a B.A. in Zoology in 1996. Like some in the Wildlife Services (WS) program, he attended a college that lacked a wildlife ecology/management major. So he assembled available coursework, during and after his studies at UHM, to suit the 0486, Wildlife Biology OPM requirements. In September 1997, he immediately started his career with WS as an intermittent Biological Science Technician assisting with wildlife hazard management work at Lihue Airport on his home island of Kaua'i. In May 1998, he was then asked to serve on the Big Island as a technician to assist the Department of the Army with ungulate and feral dog management at a training base to protect threatened and endangered (T&E) plant species, some of which are found nowhere else in the world. This was the only WS position on the Big Island at the time, and this is when he was made the luckiest man on earth due to meeting his future bride. In July 2000, Mark and his new wife moved to the island of O'ahu to serve as the Assistant District Supervisor of Hawaii and supervised field staff stationed on O'ahu. In May 2001, he was promoted to the Hawaii District Supervisor position which eventually led to supervision of statewide operations. In 2010, Congressional appropriations for FY 2011 excluded earmarks (aka Congressional Directives), thereby creating a funding crisis for the Hawaii program. Mark, along with many others within WS, were designated as displaced employees and were found homes in different parts

of the WS program. Fortunately, a recently vacated District Supervisor position was available in Sacramento, CA due to a retirement. In November of 2011, Mark graciously moved his young family of 5 to the greater Sacramento area serving as the Sacramento District Supervisor. He served in that capacity for almost 5 years when he was promoted to his current position as Assistant State Director of the California program in July 2016.

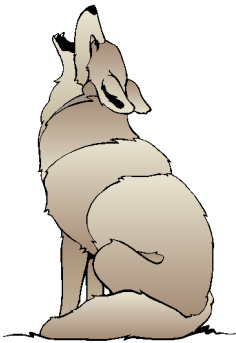
Over his almost 23-year career with WS at 4 different locations, he has met some of the most sincere and dedicated professionals, some of which he is fortunate enough to call close friends (and hunting/fishing buddies!). He has also gained valuable experiences from a broad cooperator and stakeholder base as well as with many effective interagency collaborations. From the rewarding work in Hawaii involving wildlife hazard management at airports, T&E species protection, property protection, and invasive species management – to the challenging work in California involving live-stock and crop protection, human health and safety protection, invasive species management, property protection, and different T&E projects – Mark has been very fortunate to be given a chance to experience a diversity of human-wildlife conflicts that WS assists with in the West. He looks forward to utilizing these experiences with this new chapter in Nevada by working with the dedicated WS-NV staff, agriculture producers, state and federal agencies, as well as the cooperators whom the Nevada WS program serves.

### **Future Meeting and Events**

Nothing to Report

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