

November 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 November, wildlife damage management work was conducted on an estimated **7.5** million acres of land under agreement. On these lands, WS personnel helped Nevada's farmers and ranchers protect over **\$131.2** million in agricultural resources such as cattle, sheep, and livestock feed; and over **\$7.8** million in natural resources. Additionally, WS assisted **262** persons and entities with technical assistance which involves providing information or equipment to cooperators so they can resolve problems themselves. Cooperators reported **\$335.00** in damage and WS Specialists verified **\$7,175** in damage to agricultural resources. These losses would be much higher without an effective wildlife damage management program. During November, coyotes accounted for **\$6,425** in verified losses, mostly to livestock, and **282** 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 November, **no** samples were processed.

The following excerpts are a selection of activities and events of this program which occurred during the month of November, 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 November 1st, Wildlife Specialist (WS) Scott Little confirmed the loss of 3 calves, valued at \$1,500, to coyote predation. The damage took place on a cattle ranch in northeastern Nye County. WS Little used traps, snares and calling to remove 6 coyotes from near the kills. No further losses have been reported and the cattle rancher was very pleased with the help he received. WS Little also provided technical assistance in the form of non-lethal recommendations to help prevent future losses.



On November 1st, the Ely plane responded to a call from a sheep producer in eastern White Pine County that had lost 1 ewe, valued at \$250, to coyote predation. During the flight, the plane was able to remove 5 coyotes near the kill, bringing an end to the damage. No further losses have been reported. Work will continue as needed.

On November 1st, Nevada Department of Agriculture (NDA) Field Assistant (FA) Scott MacDonald confirmed the loss of 1 ewe, valued at \$250, to coyote predation. FA MacDonald was able to call and shoot 3 coyotes near the kill. FA MacDonald also set several foothold traps near the kill, removing 2 more coyotes and bringing an end to the damage. No further losses have been reported. FA MacDonald also provided technical assistance in form of non-lethal recommendations to help prevent future losses.



On November 1st, WS Randy Evans confirmed the loss of 1 ewe, valued at \$250, to coyote predation. The damage took place on a band of sheep in northwestern White Pine County. WS Evans was able to call and shoot the depredating coyote near the kill. No further losses have been reported and WS Evans will continue to monitor the livestock in his assigned work area.

On November 4th, the Ely plane flew on an allotment in Nye County that had experienced very high losses on sheep this past season. During the morning flight, the plane was able to remove 6 coyotes near the location of last year's damage. Removing coyotes just prior to the arrival of the sheep helps to reduce or prevent losses. Work will continue as needed.

On November 6th, the Ely plane responded to a call from several ranchers in western White Pine County. The ranchers reported hearing and seeing several coyotes on the allotments near their livestock. During the morning flight, the plane was able to remove 7 coyotes. Work will continue as needed.

On November 7th, WS Tom Smith confirmed the loss of 1 lamb, valued at \$200, to coyote predation.

The damage took place on a band of sheep in eastern Elko County. WS Smith used foothold traps, snares and calling to remove the depredating coyote. 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 November 8th, the Ely plane responded to a call from a sheep producer in northern White Pine County. The producer has experienced very high losses in the past and his sheep herders were reporting several coyotes very close to the sheep. During the flight, the plane was able to remove 4 coyotes. Work will continue as needed.

During the week of November 12th, WS Smith confirmed the loss of 6 ewes, valued at \$1,500, to coyote predation. The damage occurred on a band of sheep in eastern Elko County. WS Smith used calling and shooting to remove 2 adult 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 November 18th and November 26th, FA MacDonald confirmed the loss of 2 ewes, valued at \$500, to coyote predation. FA MacDonald used traps to remove the depredating coyote. 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 November 19th, WS Little confirmed the loss of 1 calf, valued at \$500, to coyote predation. WS Little set several foothold traps and snares near the kill, removing 1 coyote. Work is ongoing. WS Little also provided technical assistance in the form of non-lethal recommendations to help prevent future losses.



On November 26th, the Ely plane responded to call from a sheep producer in northeastern White Pine County. The sheep rancher reported the loss of 2 ewes, valued at \$500, to coyote predation. With the assistance of WS Nathan Fowler, the plane was able to remove 10 coyotes, bringing an end to the damage. No further losses have been reported.

West District

On November 1st, Instructor Pilot (IP) Wes Gossard and Crew Member (CM) Brandon VanderMay conducted a morning flight around several calving areas in Lander County, resulting in the removal of 17 coyotes. WS George Hansen provided ground support and located several of the coyotes for the plane to remove. Protection efforts will continue if any new problems arise.

During the month of November, WS John Peter responded to requests from cattlemen in Humboldt County. The main concern was coyotes moving into calving areas. One particular ranch reported

injury and predation to calves in the past, therefore, WS Peter placed M-44s around the calving areas. On November 2nd, WS Peter checked his M-44s, resulting in the removal of 6 coyotes. WS Peter will continue protect livestock in his work area.



During the month of November, the Nevada Department of Wildlife (NDOW) requested assistance with protecting California Bighorn sheep in NDOW hunt unit 032 near Denio. WS Peter volunteered to work on the weekends to assist with the bighorn sheep protection efforts. During a site visit to the protection area, WS Peter recently found where a lion was traveling from one big game water guzzler to another, hunting the wild sheep in the process. In response, WS Peter placed equipment to capture the lion.



During the month of November, WS Ben Miller continued to protect California bighorn sheep in NDOW hunt units 011 and 013. NDOW recently requested that WS Miller return to work a small area of hunt unit 014 to protect a small population of bighorn sheep. WS Miller inspected the area and confirmed the presence of several lions around the bighorn sheep. In response, WS Miller began setting trail snares around lion travel corridors to protect the bighorn sheep.

On November 15th, IP Gossard and CM VanderMay conducted a morning flight around several calving areas in Humboldt County. Two ranchers reported coyote problems around their calving areas. During the flight, the aerial crew removed 8 coyotes that were near the newborn calves. WS Peter provided ground support during the operation. To date no further livestock complaints have been reported from these ranches.

During the month November, FA Alex Wallis ran equipment around sheep, goat and cattle producers in Lyon County. Sheep have been trailing into the valleys and calving has also started. During the month, FA Wallis verified the loss of 6 sheep (valued at \$1,200) and 2 goats (valued at \$320). FA Wallis made some call stands and placed equipment around the kill sites, resulting in the removal of 12 coyotes. FA Wallis will continue to protect livestock in his work area.



On November 26th, IP Gossard and CM VanderMay flew around several calving areas in Humboldt County. The ranchers reported coyote problems around the calving areas in the past week. During the flight, the aerial crew removed 18 coyotes that were around the calves. WS Peter provided ground support during the operation. To date no other livestock complaints have been reported from these ranches.

During the month of November, Wildlife Biologist (WB) Zack Bowers continued protection efforts at a military installation in northern Nevada. WB Bowers was only present on base 11 days during the month of November due to leave taken, and vehicle issues. During the time WB Bowers was on base, 135 individuals from 16 species were dispersed from on and near the airfield. One problem animal was lethally removed near the airfield. WB Bowers will continue efforts to protect aviation safety at this facility.

During the month of November, WB David Carrasco dispersed an American kestrel, 2 red tailed

hawks, 9 killdeer and 311 mourning doves from a military installation in southern Nevada to protect the flying service members and military property. To reinforce the nonlethal methods being used, WB Carrasco also euthanized a northern mocking bird, a killdeer, 3 American kestrels, 17 pigeons and 35 mourning doves. Airfield surveys for the upcoming wildlife hazard assessment were also completed during the reporting period.

WS Cameron Green and WS Reed Thomas continued to implement a wildlife hazard management plan at an aviation facility in northern Nevada. Specifically, non-lethal harassment was utilized to disperse 61 Canada geese, 268 ducks, 137 mourning doves and 60 red-tailed hawks from aircraft movement areas and the surrounding critical zone. Five red-tailed hawks were also trapped, banded and translocated away from aircraft for the benefit of the flying public and the hawks. WS Green placed coyote decoys on waters in the general zone of arriving aircraft, which reduces the number of California gulls loafing on an island created during a wetland mitigation project. This has proven to be a very effective deterrent, reducing the number of gulls flying over the airport.



New and Developing Methods

Nothing to Report

Valuing and Investing in Employees

Nothing to Report

Information and Communication

During the week of November 18th through November 22nd, State Director (SD) Mark Jensen, IP's Gossard and Tim Keogh and WS Green attended the annual aviation safety meeting in Cedar City, Utah. WS Green presented Trauma Kit training to 60 WS pilots and supervisors from all over the country. The training was well received and WS Green will be providing this training to more WS employees in the future.

On November 20th through November 22nd, SD Jensen, District Supervisor (DS) Jack Spencer, CM Wayne Rowley and WS Smith attended the Nevada Cattleman's and Woolgrower's meeting in Elko. A USDA Wildlife Services exhibit and table was crewed by staff, with informational leaflets and discussion provided to the public.

During the reporting period, WS hired Mitchell Goicoechea as the new Elko Pilot. The new prospective pilot will have to successfully complete pilot training at the WS' Aviation Training Center before flying on livestock.

Emerging Trends/Issues

Nothing to Report

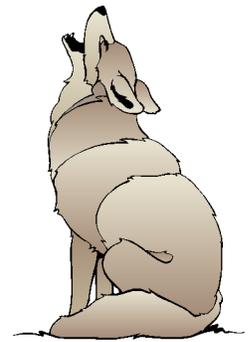
Equal Employment Opportunity/Civil Rights (EEO/CR)

Nothing to Report

Future Meeting and Events

Nothing to Report

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



USDA APHIS
Wildlife Services

