

October-December 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 October-December, wildlife damage management work was conducted on an estimated **9.4** million acres of land under agreement. On these lands, WS personnel helped Nevada's farmers and ranchers protect over **\$334.4** million in agricultural resources such as cattle, sheep, and livestock feed; and over **\$4.1** million in natural resources. Additionally, WS assisted **1,298** persons and entities with technical assistance which involves providing information or equipment to cooperators so they can resolve problems themselves. Cooperators reported **\$2,139.00** in damage and WS Specialists verified **\$91,962** in damage to agricultural resources and property. These losses would be much higher without an effective wildlife damage management program. Coyotes accounted for **\$57,049** in verified losses, mostly to livestock, and **1,715** 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. During the reporting period, **6** samples were processed.

*The following excerpts are a selection of activities and events of this program which occurred during the months of October-December, 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.

**State Director's Message**

During the reporting period, WS-Nevada worked with the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and Forest Service (FS) to prepare the annual Wildlife Damage Management (WDM) activities plans for calendar year 2021. As the proposed activities included WDM for the protection of livestock in wilderness and wilderness study areas, considerable communication and effort was shared between Wildlife Services-Nevada, the BLM and FS to ensure that the proposed work was consistent with the National Environmental Policy Act, Federal Land Policy Management Act, Wilderness Act and agency policies. Concurrently, WS-Nevada assisted the BLM with their drafting of a Minimum Requirements Decision Guide (MRDG) for the proposed work in wilderness areas. The MRDG is the tool that is used by the BLM and FS to conduct a Minimum Requirements Analysis which is required to determine if administrative actions are necessary in wilderness areas.

Additionally, WS-Nevada also worked with the BLM to create a chemical application notification (CAN) form and protocol to respect the National BLM-APHIS MOU that was finalized in 2020. The intent of the CAN is to ensure that BLM District and Field Office Managers are aware of any restricted use pesticide applications proposed on BLM-administered lands.

**East District****Livestock Protection**

During the reporting period, the East District transitioned to winter operations as livestock have been moved mainly to private grounds. 589 damage conflicts were responded to, primarily related to coyote, common raven and mountain lion damage. Damage from coyotes, lions and ravens was managed using technical assistance, aircraft, foothold traps, snares, firearms and DRC-1339 treated eggs.

Fixed wing aircraft flew 138.1 hours, removing 318 coyotes to assist with livestock protection efforts on the ground.

**Public Safety Protection**

On November 17<sup>th</sup>, the East District Supervisor removed 4 coyotes with the use of foothold traps and firearms in response to a golfer being bitten by a small coyote in Clark County. As the golfer reached for her sandwich, the coyote bit her hand and held on. Eventually the coyote let go of her hand and retreated. The damage caused by the coyote was estimated at \$5,000. Samples were taken from all coyotes for rabies testing. No further incidents have been reported. To reduce the chance of a reoccurrence, the East District Supervisor provided technical assistance recommendations.

**West District****Livestock Protection**

During the reporting period, the West District transitioned to winter operations as sheep have been moved mainly to private grounds and cattle have been moved down to the flats and private grounds as fall calving begins. 188 damage conflicts were responded to, primarily related to coyote, common raven and mountain lion damage. Damage from coyotes, lions and ravens was managed using

technical assistance, electronic harassment devices, aircraft, foothold traps, snares, firearms and DRC-1339 treated eggs.

Fixed wing aircraft flew 145.6 hours, removing 564 coyotes to assist with livestock protection efforts on the ground.

### Aviation Safety Protection

During the reporting period, public safety protection efforts were conducted at 3 military air stations/airbases and 1 joint use facility. As the fall migration commenced, Wildlife Biologists and technicians received influxes of migrating birds competing for air/ground space with aircraft, along with resident wildlife. 77 conflict projects were conducted to respond to threats from 14 bird species and 4 mammal species. The primary approach used to respond to the conflicts was non-lethal approaches including harassment methods and trap/translocation for birds of prey. Lethal methods such as application of firearms, traps and snares were used to reinforce non-lethal measures.

### Public Safety Protection

During the reporting period, the West District Supervisor and state office Wildlife Biologist responded to a lion complain in a Lyon County suburb. A large lion was reportedly roaming around the neighborhood prompting a resident to shoot at it. After confirmation of the situation, a large cage trap was set near a house where the lion had been frequenting. A few days later, a neighbor found 3 goats that had been killed by the lion, so the cage trap was moved to the depredation site. The following morning, the lion returned to the dead goats and was shot by the homeowner. No further lion sightings have been reported in the neighborhood.

### Natural Resource Protection

During the reporting period, work continued on an ongoing bighorn sheep protection project in the northwestern portion of the state. The intent of the project is to reduce excessive predation from lions where bighorn sheep populations are not meeting the Nevada Department of Wildlife's (NDOW) management objectives. To that end, 1 mountain lion was removed during the time frame with the use of a snare.

### New and Developing Methods

Nothing to Report

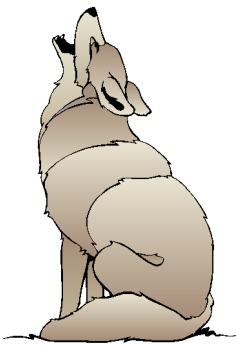
### Valuing and investing in Employees

Nothing to Report

### Future Meeting and Events

Annual WDM Activities Plan virtual meeting with BLM, FS, NDOW and the Nevada Department of Agriculture in January-February.

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**USDA APHIS**

