

September 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 September, wildlife damage management work was conducted on an estimated **4.2** million acres of land under agreement. On these lands, WS personnel helped Nevada's farmers and ranchers protect over **\$169.9** million in agricultural resources such as cattle, sheep, and livestock feed; and over **\$4.5** million in natural resources. Additionally, WS assisted **119** persons and entities with technical assistance which involves providing information or equipment to cooperators so they can resolve problems themselves. Cooperators reported **\$16,014.00** in damage and WS Specialists verified **\$61,643** in damage to agricultural resources and property. These losses would be much higher without an effective wildlife damage management program. During September, coyotes accounted for **\$9,090** in verified losses, mostly to livestock, and **339** 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 September, **4** samples were processed.

*The following excerpts are a selection of activities and events of this program which occurred during the months of September, 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 September 1<sup>st</sup>, a Wildlife Specialist (WS) in northern Elko County confirmed the loss of 6 lambs, valued at \$1,200, to coyote predation. The WS used traps and calling to remove the coyotes responsible for the losses. Technical assistance, in the form of non-lethal recommendations, was provided to help reduce future losses.

On September 2<sup>nd</sup>, a WS in southwestern White Pine County confirmed the loss of 1 calf, valued at \$500, to raven predation. The WS used hard boiled chicken eggs treated with DRC-1339 to remove the depredating ravens. No further losses have been reported. Technical assistance was also provided in the form of non-lethal recommendations to help prevent future losses.

On September 3<sup>rd</sup>, the Elko plane responded to a call from 4 cattle ranches in eastern Elko County. All 4 ranchers have had high calf loss to coyote predation. During the flight, the plane was able to remove 25 coyotes. Work will continue as needed.

On September 10<sup>th</sup>, the Ely plane responded to a sheep and cattle ranch in southeastern White Pine County. The rancher reported the loss of 2 lambs, valued at \$400, to coyote predation. During the flight, the plane was able to remove 5 coyotes. The Nevada Department of Agriculture Field Assistant (FA) that was ground crewing was also able to shoot a coyote near the sheep. No further losses have been reported.

On September 14<sup>th</sup>, a WS in southwestern White Pine county confirmed the loss of one calf, valued at \$800, to raven predation. Ravens often attack newborn calves pecking at their eyes and soft tissue. The WS used hard boiled chicken eggs treated with DRC-1339 to remove at least 25 ravens near the kill. Technical assistance in the form of non-lethal recommendations was also provided. Many of these recommendations were already in use by the rancher.

On September 17<sup>th</sup>, the Elko plane responded to a call from 4 cattle ranches in eastern Elko County. All 4 ranches have experienced high predation losses in the past and reported seeing many coyotes in their calving pastures. During the flight, the plane was able to remove 21 coyotes from the calving pastures. Work will continue as needed.

On September 17<sup>th</sup>, a WS in northwestern White Pine County confirmed the loss of 3 ewes to coyote predation. The value of the sheep was placed at \$750. The WS used calling and shooting to remove 2 adult coyotes near the kills. No further losses have been reported. Technical assistance in the form of non-lethal recommendations was also provided to help prevent future losses.

On September 21<sup>st</sup>, the Ely plane responded to a call from a sheep and cattle rancher in western White Pine County concerning the loss of one ewe, valued at \$250, to coyotes. During the flight, the plane was able to remove 7 coyotes, including a pair near the kill. No further losses have been reported.

On September 28<sup>th</sup>, a WS and FA responded to a call from a farmer in Lincoln County. The farmer reported





the loss of at least \$25,000 worth of feed corn to feral swine. During the next 3 days, 7 feral swine were removed of which 4 were sampled for disease. The corn farmer was very pleased with the help he received from the Nevada Department of Agriculture and Wildlife Services. Technical assistance was also provided to help reduce future losses.



On September 29<sup>th</sup>, the Elko plane responded to 2 cattle ranches in central Elko County. Both ranches have had coyote predation problems in the past and reported seeing several coyotes in their calving pastures. During the morning flight, the plane was able to remove 15 coyotes. Work will continue as needed.

On September 30<sup>th</sup>, the Elko plane responded to a call from a cattle rancher in northern Eureka County. The rancher reported seeing many coyotes around his calves. During the flight, the plane was able to remove 9 coyotes. Work will continue as needed.

During the month of September, a WS covering northern White Pine County and southern Elko County confirmed the loss of 2 lambs, valued at over \$400, to coyote predation. The WS used calling, traps and snares to remove 12 coyotes near the sheep. No further losses have been reported.

During the month of September, the East District Supervisor (DS) confirmed the loss of 1 ewe, valued at \$250, to coyote predation. The DS used traps and shooting to remove 4 coyotes near the kill. The Ely plane also responded to the location and was able to remove 7 more coyotes near the kill. No further losses have been reported. Technical assistance was also provided to help prevent future losses.

A FA in Eureka County confirmed the loss of 10 lambs, valued at \$2,000, to coyotes during the month of September. The FA was able to remove 3 coyotes near the location of the kills. No further losses have been reported. Technical assistance was also provided to help minimize future losses.

During September, a WS in southern Elko County confirmed the loss of 1 ewe and 1 lamb, valued at \$450, to coyote predation. The WS removed 5 coyotes near the kill, including a large male with a belly full of lamb. Work will continue as needed. Technical assistance was provided to help reduce or prevent future losses.

During the month of September, a WS covering western White Pine County and Nye County confirmed the loss of 3 ewes and 1 calf, valued at \$1,500, to coyote predation. The WS used traps and calling to remove 23 coyotes near the location of the damage. Work will continue as needed.

## **West District**

During the month of August, a WS continued protecting California bighorn sheep in Washoe County (hunt units 011-013) from lion predation as part of a Nevada Department of Wildlife (NDOW) project (project 22-01). On September 9<sup>th</sup>, the WS removed an adult male lion with the use of a trail snare, which was near a population of the wild sheep. Protection efforts will continue.

On September 2<sup>nd</sup>, a pilot and crew member flew several livestock ranches in the Pershing County area, removing 9 coyotes out of sheep, goat and calving areas. The local WS provided ground crew assistance. Protection efforts are ongoing.

On September 2<sup>nd</sup>, a FA in Lyon County responded to the loss of 3 sheep, valued at \$450, to coyotes. The FA made some calling stands and drove around the sheep bands, removing 7 coyotes. Technical assistance



was provided to reduce future losses, although guard dogs were already in use. No further livestock losses have been reported since.

On September 9<sup>th</sup>, a pilot and crew member flew several ranches in Humboldt County in response to the loss of a calf, valued at \$400, to coyote predation. The aircrew removed 3 coyotes with the assistance of a ground crew. The rancher was pleased with the protection efforts.

On September 12<sup>th</sup>, the West District DS verified that a bobcat had caused a power pole fire when it grounded out the power lines. The fire chief that responded to the fire, which resulted in the loss of \$30,000 to power distribution and range, had requested assistance from the DS in identifying the remains of the burned animal. The fire chief was pleased with the assistance and information provided.



During the last half of September, the West District DS rode along with the new Humboldt County WS and was pleased to see how knowledgeable and capable the new employee is. The Wildlife Services program and the new employees' producers are very thankful for the ability and tenacity of the new employee.

During the month of September, a FA placed equipment around several sheep, goat and calving areas in Churchill County. Livestock damage had been on the rise, resulting in the Wildlife Specialist removing the coyotes responsible for the damage. Protection efforts are ongoing.

On September 21<sup>st</sup>, a pilot and crew member flew several livestock calving areas in Humboldt County, removing 16 coyotes from the calving grounds. Losses have been minimal with the help of aerial operations and the prior mentioned new employee.

On September 29<sup>th</sup>, a pilot and crew member flew several livestock calving areas in Humboldt County, removing 17 coyotes from the calving grounds to reduce future losses. Losses have been minimal but the increase in coyotes moving into calving areas was of concern. Ground support was provided by a WS.



During the month of September, a Wildlife Biologist (WB) performed wildlife damage management duties at a military aviation facility in southern Nevada. Specifically, the WB dispersed 503 birds of mixed species from the airfield. Sixty six birds consisting of mourning doves and green winged teal were removed from the airfield for failing to comply with non-lethal measures. Two coyotes were also captured and euthanized to prevent them from being ingested by aircraft. During the reporting period, the WB began drafting the Wildlife Hazard Assessment for the facility after spending a year conducting structured surveys documenting wildlife abundance and frequency. WB will continue to protect the airfield from the threat of wildlife during the fall migration.

## **New and Developing Methods**

Nothing to Report



**Valuing and investing in Employees**

Nothing to Report

**Information and Communication**

Nothing to Report

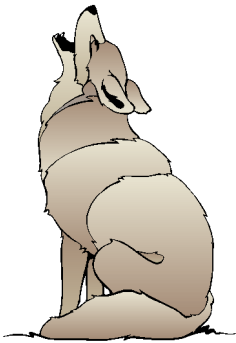
**Future Meeting and Events**

Nothing to Report



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