

August 2018

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 **4.4** million acres of land under agreement. On these lands, WS personnel helped Nevada's farmers and ranchers protect over **\$83.4** million in agricultural resources such as cattle, sheep, and livestock feed; and over **\$6.5** million in natural resources. Additionally, WS assisted **2,097** persons and entities with technical assistance which involves providing information or equipment to cooperators so they can resolve problems themselves. Cooperators reported **\$2,200** in damage and WS Specialists verified **\$35,595** in damage to aviation, natural and agricultural resources. These losses would be much higher without an effective wildlife damage management program. During August, coyotes accounted for **\$31,524** in verified losses, mostly to livestock, and **205** 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, **18** samples were processed.

The following excerpts are a selection of activities and events of this program which occurred during the month of August, 2018.

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

During the last 2 weeks of July and the first part of August, a lion was killing sheep in Central White Pine County. The lion killed at least 9 lambs and one ewe that were confirmed by Mountain Lion Specialist (MLS) Jim Buhler. MLS Buhler pursued the lion on several occasions only to lose the track due to dry hot conditions. On one occasion, MLS Buhler caught up with the lion, but it went deep into a hole and could not be dispatched. On August 13th, the lion killed another lamb. This time luck was on MLS Buhler's side. The lion was caught on a ledge on a high cliff and was dispatched with one well-placed shot. The lion was a female in poor condition due to a broken jaw that had since healed up. Plague, tularemia and DNA samples were taken and the head was turned into the Nevada Department of Wildlife (NDOW). MLS Buhler will continue to monitor the area for future losses.



On August 1st, the Ely plane responded to a call from a ranch in western White Pine County. The ranch has a small farm flock of sheep and a number of poultry including ducks, geese, turkeys, guinea fowl and chickens around the ranch. The rancher reported that coyotes had killed all their turkeys, at least 12 chickens and 2 lambs. The total value of the depredations was placed at \$650. During the morning flight, the plane was able to locate and remove 6 coyotes near the ranch house. No further losses have been reported. Technical assistance in the form of non-lethal recommendations was also provided to help prevent future losses.



On August 6th, the East District Office received a call from a sheep producer in eastern Nye County concerning the loss of 4 lambs, valued at \$800, to coyote predation. On August 8th, the Ely plane responded to the location. The plane was able to locate and remove a pair of coyotes near the location of the kills. District Supervisor (DS) Joe Bennett also set several traps near the field where the losses occurred. During the following days, 2 additional coyotes were trapped. DS Bennett also provided technical assistance in the form of non-lethal recommendations to help prevent future losses.

On August 9th, DS Bennett and Nevada Department of Agriculture (NDA) Field Assistant (FA) Allen Eldridge confirmed the loss of 15 lambs valued at \$2,250 to coyote predation. The damage occurred on a remote band of sheep in central White Pine County. After talking to the sheep herder, DS Bennett and FA Eldridge walked into a canyon where most of the kills were located. Calling was used to remove 2 adult coyotes and 1 yearling coyote. No further losses have been recorded. Technical assistance in the form of non-lethal recommendations was also provided in an attempt to

help prevent future losses.

On August 10th, the Ely plane responded to a call from 2 sheep producers in Nye County. Both sheep producers had lost a combined 6 lambs and 4 ewes, valued at \$1,900, to coyote predation. During the morning flight, the plane was able to remove 3 coyotes near the location of the kills. No further losses have been reported.

On August 11th, DS Bennett and Wildlife Specialist (WS) Billy Taylor attended the Nevada Trapper's Association's 2018 rendezvous in Lamoille Canyon near Elko, Nevada. Both DS Bennett and WS Taylor provided demonstrations. Topics covered included predator control techniques, non-lethal control methods and feral swine in Nevada. Approximately 150 people attended the 3 day event. Several other Nevada Wildlife Services employees also attended the event.

On August 16th, the Ely plane responded to a cattle ranch that had a small farm flock of sheep in Nye County. The rancher had lost at least 3 turkeys and 4 ewe sheep to coyote predation. The rancher was seeing coyotes every day near her farm flock of sheep. The total value of the loss was placed at \$1,075. During the morning flight, with the assistance of DS Bennett as the ground crew, the plane was able to remove 3 coyotes near the sheep. No further losses have been reported. DS Bennett also provided technical assistance in the form of non-lethal recommendations to help prevent future losses.

On August 20th, the Ely plane responded to a call from a rancher in central White Pine County. The rancher reported that he was seeing several coyotes near his house and that on one occasion a coyote came into his yard and killed a pet turkey. The rancher has had a history of high losses from coyotes on his calves as well. With the assistance of FA Hunter Bodenchuk, the plane was able to remove 3 coyotes near the ranch house. No further problems have been reported.

Between August 20th and August 27th, WS Mac Crome confirmed the loss of 6 lambs, valued at \$900, to coyote predation. The damage occurred on a band of sheep in northern Elko County near the Idaho border. WS Crome set several traps and snares near the location of the kills. A couple days later, WS Crome was able to trap 2 coyotes and snare yet another. No further losses have been reported. WS Crome will continue to work the area until the lambs are shipped in late September. WS Crome also provided technical assistance in the form of non-lethal recommendations to help prevent future losses.

On August 22nd, WS Scott Little confirmed the loss of 2 calves, valued at \$1,000 to coyote predation. The damage occurred on a ranch in southwestern White Pine County. WS Little set several traps near the kills. The following morning, WS Little returned to the location and was able to shoot 2 coyotes as they fed on the kills. During the next several days, WS Little also removed 8 more coyotes with the use of foothold traps and 2 more with help from his dogs. No further losses have been reported. The cattle rancher was very pleased with WS Little fast response to his problem. WS Little also provided technical assistance in the form of non-lethal recommendations to help prevent future losses.



On August 22nd, the Ely plane responded to a request from a sheep producer in Elko County. Earlier, Crew Member (CM) Wayne Rowley had confirmed the loss of 4 ewes valued at \$1,000 to coyote

predation. Despite CM Rowley removing a coyote and the sheep producer shooting another, the killing persisted. During the flight, the plane was able to locate and remove one additional coyote, bringing an end to the damage. The sheep producer was very pleased with the assistance he received from Wildlife Services and the Nevada Department of Agriculture. CM Rowley also provided technical assistance in the form of non-lethal recommendations to help prevent future losses.

On August 22nd, the Ely plane responded to a request for assistance from a sheep producer in southern Elko County. A few days prior, WS Randy Evans had confirmed the loss of 4 lambs, valued at \$600, to coyote predation. During the morning flight, with the assistance of WS Evans as the ground crew, the plane was able to remove 5 coyotes. No further losses have been reported. WS Evans continues to monitor the area for predation. WS Evans also provided technical assistance in the form of non-lethal recommendations to help prevent future losses.

On August 27th, FA Bodenchuk confirmed the loss of 4 lambs, valued at \$800, to coyote predation. The damage occurred on a band of sheep in central Eureka County. The following day, FA Bodenchuk was able to call in and remove 2 coyotes near the kills. No further losses have been reported. FA Bodenchuk also provided technical assistance in the form of non-lethal recommendations to help prevent future losses.

On August 30th and August 31st, CM Nathan Fowler and DS Bennett traveled to Elko County and met the USDA helicopter from Utah. NDOW and the Nevada Department of Agriculture had requested Wildlife Services remove some estray goats on a peak in eastern Elko County. During the 2 day operation, 15 estray goats were spotted and removed by the helicopter and crew. Nevada Department of Wildlife (NDOW) will continue to monitor the location for possible estray animals in the future.



During the month of August, CM Fowler was busy protecting 3 bands of sheep in central White Pine County during the days he was not flying. CM Fowler confirmed the loss of at least 8 lambs, valued at \$1,200, to coyote predation. CM Fowler was able to remove 3 coyotes near the location of the kills. The sheep producers were very pleased with the help they received from CM Fowler.

West District

On August 1st, a livestock producer from Lyon County reported that 3 sheep, valued at \$600, had been killed by some type of predator. FA Mark Bentz inspected the dead sheep and confirmed the damage was caused by coyotes.



FA Mark Bentz set foothold traps in the vicinity of the dead sheep and in the next several days, removed 3 coyotes from his sets. This long time sheep producer uses guard dogs for sheep protection, unfortunately some coyotes are seasoned enough to avoid the guard dogs. No further livestock losses have been reported and the sheep producer was pleased with FA Bentz's livestock protection efforts. FA Bentz will continue to protect livestock in his work area.

During the month of August, WS John Peter was busy pre-baiting and monitoring for feral pig sign in Humboldt County. The feral pig population is small in Humboldt County, but WS Peter continues to place trail snares in the areas where feral swine have occupied over the last 10 or more years. WS

Peter did find sign of an adult pig on an isolated waterhole. WS Peter placed trail snares around the pond anticipating the pig may return.

On August 8th, Instructor Pilot (IP) Wes Gossard and CM Brandon VanderMay conducted a morning flight around a sheep producer in Lander County. The sheep producer reported the loss of 4 lambs, valued at \$800 to coyotes. During the flight, 4 coyotes were removed. No further livestock losses have been reported since the removal of the coyotes. WS George Hansen and FA Bentz provided ground support.

On August 10th, a sheep producer from Humboldt County reported that a lion had moved in around the sheep, killing 5 lambs that were valued at \$1,000. WS Peter placed trail snares in the vicinity of the dead lambs and 2 days later removed an old 120 pound lion with worn down teeth. The sheep producer was pleased that WS Peter was able to remove the lion before it caused him further loss. No additional livestock losses have been reported.

On August 10th, an NDOW Game Warden met with DS Jack Spencer where a lion had killed 2 goats, valued at \$400, on a small ranch in Reno near the airport. DS Spencer and the Warden set a large cage trap in a nearby cornfield where a goat had been killed. The following morning, DS Spencer inspected the cage trap and removed a 124 pound male lion. The rancher was very pleased with DS Spencer's livestock protection efforts.



During the week of August 13th through August 17th, FA Bentz placed equipment around sheep and cattle areas in Lyon and Douglas Counties to reduce losses to coyotes. The work resulted in the removal of 11 coyotes with the use of foothold traps. FA Bentz will continue to protect livestock in his large work area.

During the first two weeks of August, WS Hansen placed and checked traps around several sheep bands and calving areas in Lander County. Trapping conditions were tough with 90°+ temps, however, WS Hansen was still able to remove 6 coyotes with the use of foothold traps. WS Hansen will continue to protect livestock in Lander County.

On August 24th, IP Gossard and CM VanderMay conducted a morning flight around several calving areas in Humboldt County. During the flight, 11 coyotes were removed. WS Peter provided ground support during aerial operations. Protection work will continue.

During the week of August 24th through August 28th, WS Ben Miller removed a male and female lion as part of NDOW project (22-01) (hunt units 011 and 013), while checking his callbox assisted equipment around California bighorn sheep. This is the 10th lion WS Miller has removed since mid-June on this project.

On August 29th, WS Peter inspected several lamb bands in Humboldt County and found evidence where a lion had moved in around the sheep (killing several). WS Peter placed trail snares in the vicinity and on August 30th, captured an adult male lion. This was the second adult male lion removed in the same canyon in the past 20 days for killing sheep. Although the sheep producer has various guard dogs around the sheep, lions have still been able to kill his sheep. The rancher was pleased for the livestock protection efforts. WS Peter will continue to protect livestock in his work area.



On August 30th, IP Gossard and CM VanderMay conducted a morning flight around several calving areas in Washoe County. During the flight, 16 coyotes were removed. The aerial crew noticed several of the coyotes right in the newborn calves. One of the cattle producers called DS Spencer, praising the early protection efforts. WS Koepke provided ground support during aerial operations. Protection work will continue.

On August 31st, IP Gossard and CM VanderMay conducted a morning flight around several calving areas in Washoe County. During the flight, 17 coyotes were removed. WS Peter provided ground support during aerial operations. Protection work will continue and the cattle ranchers were pleased with the protection efforts.

During the month of August, Wildlife Biologist (WB) Zack Bowers continued protection efforts at a military installation in northern Nevada. WB Bowers utilized harassment with several methods to disperse 153 individuals from 18 species. Twelve problem animals were lethally removed from the airfield that failed to respond to non-lethal approaches. The individuals removed came from 2 species of mammals and 2 species of birds. Generally, hot temperatures keep wildlife activity fairly low at this location from about mid-June to mid-August. WB Bowers will continue efforts to protect aviation safety at this facility.

Also during the month of August, WB Bowers was in travel status for 2 weeks attending training and a conference. The training (which was held in Green Bay, Wisconsin) was for the APHIS Native American Working Group that WB Bowers is a part of. The training helps train members how to establish successful, productive partnerships between APHIS and American Indian tribes. It also encourages collaborative efforts across APHIS programs and with other USDA agencies. The conference (which was held in Baltimore, Maryland) was the 2018 North American Bird Strike Conference. The conference brings together various components of the aviation industry, as well as those such as Wildlife Services (WS) who work to prevent and minimize the effects of bird strikes. This is a good place to network and see all the latest gadgets available for use in Integrated Wildlife Hazard Management Plans at airfields all around the world. In addition to the training/conference attended, WB Bowers also completed 2 mandatory online trainings for the Navy.

During the month of August, WS Cameron Green and WS Rick Laffins continued implementing a wildlife hazard management plan at a joint use aviation facility in Washoe County. Specifically, 2250 animals were dispersed from the facility and adjoining properties using vehicles, pyrotechnic devices and firearms. Firearms and snares were also utilized to remove 150 animals that failed to respond properly to non-lethal approaches. Five raptors were captured and translocated.

WS Laffins surveyed 14,572 animals during structured "point-count" wildlife surveys on the airfield and offsite in the general zone during the month.

During the month of August, pigeons and mourning doves continued to congregate in large numbers feeding on weed and grass seeds. Canada geese are beginning to become more active and visible in the Truckee Meadows.



New and Developing Methods

Nothing to Report

Valuing and Investing in Employees

WB Carl Frey returned back to the U.S. from his 4 month voluntary temporary duty in the Middle East. While deployed, WB Frey was tasked with protecting Air Force assets as well as our military Service members from wildlife hazards. While away, he visited several bases and countries, providing Bird Aircraft Strike Hazard (BASH) planning and advice to combat wildlife related issues that the airfields were experiencing. He also provided wildlife dispersal technics, firearms and pyrotechnic awareness training as requested. WB Frey is happy to be back in NV, but glad he was able to be of assistance to the Air Force mission and safety of the deployed troops.

**Information and Communication**

Nothing to Report.

Emerging Trends/Issues

Nothing to Report

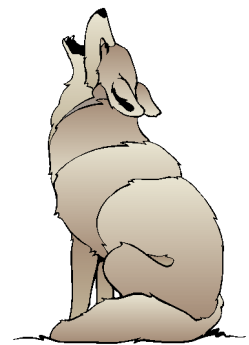
Equal Employment Opportunity/Civil Rights (EEO/CR)

Nothing to Report

Future Meeting and Events

Nothing to Report

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USDA APHIS Wildlife Services

