

July 2016

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 July, wildlife damage management work was conducted on an estimated **3.9** million acres of land under agreement. On these lands, WS personnel helped Nevada's farmers and ranchers protect over **\$98** million in agricultural resources such as cattle, sheep, and livestock feed; and over **\$6.5** million in natural resources. Additionally, WS assisted **1,597** persons and entities with technical assistance which involves providing information or equipment to cooperators so they can resolve problems themselves. Cooperators reported **\$202** in damage and WS Specialists verified **\$161,205** in damage to natural and agricultural resources. These losses would be much higher without an effective wildlife damage management program. During July, coyotes accounted for **\$7,876** in verified losses, mostly to livestock, and **82** 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 July, **2** samples were processed.

The following excerpts are a selection of activities and events of this program which occurred during the month of July, 2016.

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 July 5th, a sheep producer contacted the East District office concerning the loss of three lambs, valued at \$450. The damage occurred on a remote band of sheep in central White Pine County. The Ely Crew Member (CM) responded to the location and confirmed that coyotes had killed all three lambs. The Ely CM watched the kills to dark the first evening and returned at daylight the next morning. Walking to his observation point, the Ely CM found a freshly killed lamb no more than 25 feet from the spot he was sitting the previous evening. Using his well-trained coyote decoy dog, he was able to call and shoot a large adult female coyote. A necropsy revealed that the coyote was full of lamb and wool. No further losses have been reported. Technical assistance in the form of non-lethal recommendations was provided to help prevent future losses.



On July 6th, District Supervisor (DS) Joe Bennett responded to a call concerning a large utility company that was having problems with ravens. The ravens had caused more than \$50,000 in damage to the power company over the past several months. Ravens were nesting on the poles causing both power outages and fires. DS Bennett used hard boiled chicken eggs treated with DRC-1339 to remove 35 ravens in the locations with the worst problems. Work will be ongoing.

On July 10th, the East District office received a call concerning a problem with a mountain lion. The caller reported that a lion had killed two of his lambs, valued at \$300. On July 11th, CM Wayne Rowley and DS Bennett traveled to the remote band of sheep in central Elko County and confirmed that a lion had killed both sheep. The following day, Mountain Lion Specialist (MLS) Jim Buhler and CM Rowley started searching for the offending lion. After searching for several days, the lion returned to the location of the kills. After several hours tracking and trailing, the adult male lion was successfully removed by MLS Buhler. The lion was processed and turned into the Nevada Department of Wildlife (NDOW). No further losses have been reported and technical assistance in the form of non-lethal recommendations were provided in an attempt to prevent future losses. The sheep producer was very pleased with the help he received from MLS Buhler and Wildlife Services.



On July 14th, Wildlife Specialist (WS) Allen Eldridge confirmed the loss of six lambs, valued at \$900, to coyote predation. WS Eldridge set several traps near the location of the kills. During the next several days, WS Eldridge removed two coyotes near the kills, bringing an end to the damage. No further losses have been reported. The sheep producer was very pleased with the help he received from Wildlife Services.

On July 20th, WS Scott MacDonald confirmed the loss of two lambs, valued at \$300. WS MacDonald used traps to remove two adult coyotes near the location of the kills. WS MacDonald provided

technical assistance in the form of non-lethal recommendations to help prevent future losses.

On July 22nd, WS Randy Evans confirmed the loss of one lamb, valued at \$150. After hiking into the location of the kill, WS Evans was able to call and shoot three coyotes bringing an end to the damage. No further losses have been reported and WS Evans continues to monitor the many bands of sheep in his designated work area. WS Evans also provided technical assistance in the form of non-lethal recommendations to help prevent future losses.

During the month of July, DS Bennett conducted field inspections with CM Rowley, WS Scott Little, WS MacDonald, MLS Buhler, WS Eldridge and WS Mac Crome. During field inspections, safety equipment is checked as well as ensuring that all directives and policies are being followed. It is also a way for the District Supervisors to check with cooperators concerning their needs and concerns.

During the month of July, WS Crome confirmed the loss of two lambs, valued at \$300. WS Crome removed nine coyotes using traps and calling and also located and removed two dens near the location of the kills. On July 27th, the Ely plane responded to the location after herders reported hearing coyotes near the sheep. The plane was able to remove two coyotes near the sheep. WS Crome also provided technical assistance in the form of non-lethal recommendations to help prevent future losses.



During the month of July, the Ely pilot assisted a homeowner in Ely, Nevada with a skunk problem. The homeowner had borrowed and set a cage trap but had not thought everything through. When she checked the cage trap, two young skunks had been trapped. After the East District received a call from the White Pine County Sheriff's office, the Ely pilot took care of the skunks for the home owner. Technical assistance was also provided to help prevent future problems. The homeowner was very pleased with the help she received from the East District pilot.



On July 26th, DS Bennett received a call from NDOW about ravens damaging silage sacks in eastern White Pine County, loss estimated at \$1000. Although the ravens consume some silage, the majority of the damage comes from aeration of the silage which if not resolved, will result in total loss. In response to the damage, the Ely Crew Member placed 120 DRC-1339 treated eggs for the ravens, ending the damage. Although non-lethal measures were already in place, technical assistance was provided to reduce the need for further lethal measures.

During the month of July, CM Wayne Rowley was busy protecting sheep in Elko County. CM Rowley confirmed the loss of six lambs valued at \$900 to coyote predation on a remote band of sheep in central Elko County. The only way to get to the band of sheep was by horseback. CM Rowley was able to call and shoot the offending coyote and stopped the damage. No further losses have been reported.

West District

During the week of July 25th through July 29th, WS Carl Frey protected several bands of sheep in a Lander County Wilderness area. WS Frey backpacked and camped near the 11,000 feet peaks to protect the sheep, resulting in the removal of one coyote. WS Frey will continue to protect these sheep for another month or so.



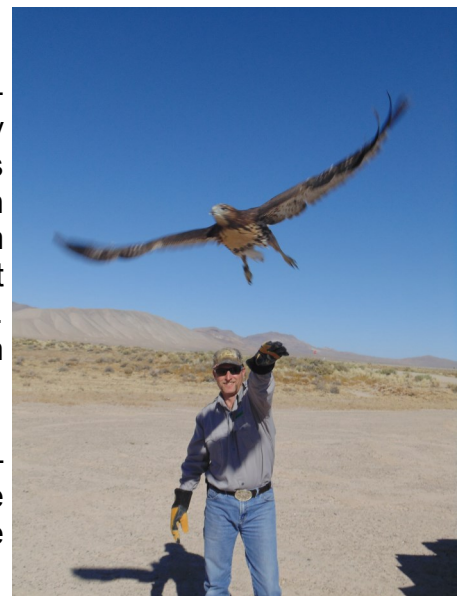
Also during the month of July, WS Frey removed six problem coyotes in Lyon County with the use of foothold traps, snares and an M-44s. WS Frey is still having great success utilizing the call box to lure in coyotes away from livestock and into nearby ground equipment. Providing audio and a visual aid is highly effective at targeting problem coyotes. WS Frey will continue to protect livestock in his large work area.

During the month of July, WS Doug Koepke transitioned from working on lamb bands in Washoe County to lamb bands in Pershing County and farm flocks of sheep in Churchill County. In the summer months, WS Koepke received a lot of requests for help in the Fallon area. WS Koepke will continue to help his many livestock cooperators.

During the month of July, WS John Peter used M-44s to remove five coyotes and firearms to remove an additional three to protect sheep in Humboldt County. July was a hot month to work in with temperatures in and around 100 F. WS Peter will continue to work sheep through the next couple of months, but soon many cattle producers will start calling WS Peter for help as they do each early fall.

During the month of July, Wildlife Biologist (WB) Zack Bowers continued to deter wildlife from using/crossing the airfield at a military installation in northern Nevada. In an effort to keep these species from crossing the airfield, WB Bowers has utilized harassment with several methods. 310 birds from 21 species were dispersed from the airfield. Wildlife numbers are finally starting to subside, but there are still quite a number of species on and around the airfield. This is primarily due to irrigation season and an overall increase in water levels compared to the last couple of years.

Also in July, three bird strikes were reported at the previously mentioned military installation. Fortunately none of these strikes were damaging. Samples were collected from two of the strikes. These samples were sent to the Smithsonian, identification is pending.



During the month of July, WB Moyles continued protection work on an international airport in Washoe County and multiple military installations in multiple counties. During the month, WB Moyles continued to deter wildlife from using/crossing the airfield property. In an effort to deter these avian/mammalian species from crossing the airfield, WB Moyles utilized several methods of harassment. WB Moyles dispersed 431 birds and mammals from the airfield. Wildlife dispersed from the airfield included 15 species of birds and mammals. WB Moyles will also continue to monitor the airfield and surrounding area using formal surveys and general observations.

Also during the month of July, WB Moyles and WS Green had noticed the presence of more raptors on the international airport. The increased presence of raptors is due to the fledglings leaving the nest to start to fend for themselves. During the month two captured and translocated four red-tailed hawks, one American kestrel, and one Cooper's hawk. Trapping efforts will continue to reduce the threat of these young inexperienced birds colliding with aircraft. Lethal reinforcement of non-lethal approaches was also



utilized for imminent threats to aviation and for species unresponsive to non-lethal approaches. Specifically, one Red-tailed hawk, eight pigeons, four Mourning doves, one Mallard duck and 14 California ground squirrels utilizing trapping, and shooting. Implementation of the wildlife hazard management plan will continue to reduce threats to aviation safety. Of interest, three non-damaging wildlife strikes to aircraft occurred during the reporting period.



Again in July, WB Moyles continued his wildlife assessments on an off-site drop Zone that local military uses on a weekly basis. During the visit, WB Moyles observed 17 different species of mammalian and avian species. The most common species found where Common raven, Horned larks, and Red-tailed hawks. The work beginning on the off-site facility couldn't come at a better time as there were two bird strikes including one with damage during the last week in June and first week of July. After further examination, the remains were determined to be that of a bat species and a Peregrine falcon. The strike involving the Peregrine falcon caused an estimated \$90,000 dollars in damage to the aircraft.



Valuing and Investing in Employees

During the West District meeting, CM Brandon VanderMay received a spot



award for valuable live-stock protection efforts as a Crew Member. CM VanderMay has set the bar high as an exemplary employee always striving to be the best. Additionally, WB Hunter Moyles received the West District's "Most Valuable Employee" as WB Moyles has



assisted as the Acting District Supervisor and has successfully expanded his joint use position to include military installations in multiple counties and states. DS Spencer is very pleased with his crew.

Information and Communication

Dean Pyzik was recently selected to fill the new Wildlife Biologist position at a military installation in Clark County. WB Pyzik is transferring from the New Jersey Wildlife Services program where he provided protection efforts at a large airport and assisted with feral pig projects across the state. WB Pyzik will also assist other military facilities in the area. Welcome aboard Dean.



On July 20th through July 21st, the West District held its annual district meeting. During the two day meeting, presentations were provided regarding airport protection and wolves. On the first day of the meeting, employees enjoyed a BBQ and the last day there was mandatory firearms training for all the employees. Wildlife Services employees ran through required firearms classroom training and a shotgun practical session. Of interest, a past safety audit found that WS' utilizes firearms on a daily basis more frequently than any agency outside of the military.

Emerging Trends/Issues

Nothing to Report

Equal Employment Opportunity/Civil Rights (EEO/CR)

Nothing to Report

Future Meetings and Events

Nothing to Report

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