

May 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

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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 May, wildlife damage management work was conducted on an estimated **5.1** million acres of land under agreement. On these lands, WS personnel helped Nevada's farmers and ranchers protect over **\$100.6** million in agricultural resources such as cattle, sheep, and livestock feed; and over **\$19.1** million in natural resources. Additionally, WS assisted **1,444** persons and entities with technical assistance which involves providing information or equipment to cooperators so they can resolve problems themselves. Cooperators reported **\$20,634** in damage and WS Specialists verified **\$41,375** in damage to aviation, natural and agricultural resources. These losses would be much higher without an effective wildlife damage management program. During May, coyotes accounted for **\$21,871** in verified losses, mostly to livestock, and **497** 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 May, **18** samples were processed.

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

On April 30th, WS' Western Regional Director (WRD) Jason Suckow traveled to Ely to visit with East District employees at the East District office and hanger. Then on May 1st, WRD Suckow spent the day ground crewing, checking equipment, conducting sage-grouse nest and egg protection activities, and meeting with cooperators. WRD Suckow was good help, locating coyotes for the aircrew and Wildlife Specialist (WS) Scott Little to remove (next paragraph), and even finding a clean-out for WS Little to make a note of for next year's lambing season. Face time between leadership of this level and operations personnel is mutually beneficial as both walk away with a better understanding and appreciation for each others efforts. Although time can't be created for WRD Suckow to make up for these visits, it is greatly appreciated by the field and cooperators and a great moral booster. One long standing sheep producer also pointed out that he had never seen anyone from the Region before and appreciated this change and interest at the field level.

On May 1st, the Ely plane responded to a call from a sheep producer in eastern White Pine County. The sheep producer reported the loss of 1 ewe, valued at \$250, to coyote predation. Wildlife Specialist (WS) Scott Little was able to confirm the loss. During the morning flight, the plane was able to remove 2 coyotes near the location of the kill. WS Little also set several traps in the area. During the next several days, WS Little was able to remove 5 more coyotes, bringing an end to the damage. No further losses have been reported and the sheep producer was very pleased with the help he received from the Nevada Department of Agriculture and the Wildlife Services program.



On May 2nd, WS Randy Evans confirmed the loss of 7 lambs, valued at \$1,400, to coyote predation. The damage occurred on a band of sheep in northwestern White Pine County. WS Evans used his well-trained coyote decoy dogs to remove 3 adult coyotes near the location of the kills. WS Evans also located and removed 1 active coyote den, bringing an end to the damage. WS Evans provided technical assistance in the form of non-lethal recommendations to help prevent future losses.

On May 2nd, Nevada Department of Agriculture (NDA) Field Assistant (FA) Hunter Bodenchuk confirmed the loss of at least 2 lambs, valued at \$300, to raven predation. The ravens were attacking and pecking the eyes out of the newborn lambs. The sheep producer had tried several non-lethal attempts to haze the ravens away but did not have any luck. FA Bodenchuk used hard boiled chicken eggs treated with DRC-1339 to remove the depredating ravens. No further losses have been reported. FA Bodenchuk also provided technical assistance in the form of non-lethal recommendations to help minimize future losses.



On May 3rd, the Ely plane responded to a call from several cattle ranchers in central Elko County. The ranchers had lost at least 6 calves, valued at more than \$3,000, to coyote predation during the past few weeks. During the flight, 7 coyotes were removed. Work will be ongoing as needed.

On May 4th, the Ely plane responded to a call from a sheep producer in northern Elko County. WS

Mac Crome had confirmed the loss of at least 5 lambs, valued at \$1,000, to coyote predation. With the help of WS Crome as the ground crew, the plane was able to remove 12 coyotes near the location of the kills. Work will be ongoing as needed. WS Crome also provided technical assistance in the form of non-lethal recommendations to help minimize future losses.

On May 5th, the Ely plane responded to a call from a sheep producer in southwestern Elko County. The sheep producer had just started to lamb out and had already lost 7 lambs, valued at \$1,400. During the morning flight, the plane was able to remove 4 coyotes near the location of the kills. Work will be ongoing as needed.

On May 7th, the Ely plane responded to a request from a sheep and cattle producer in northern White Pine County. The rancher had just recently started to lamb out and had already lost several lambs to coyote predation. With the help of FA Allen Eldridge as the ground crew the plane was able to remove 3 coyotes near the location of the kills. The plane also located 3 dens that were removed by FA Eldridge in close proximity to the band of sheep experiencing the losses.

On May 8th, the Ely plane responded to a request from a sheep and cattle producer in northwestern White Pine County. The sheep producer had just started to lamb out and had already lost at least 1 lamb valued at \$150 to coyote predation. With the help of WS Scott Little and FA Scott MacDonald, as the ground crew, the plane was able to remove 11 coyotes and also located 1 den that was removed by the ground crew. No further losses have been reported. WS Little also provided technical assistance in the form of non-lethal recommendations to help prevent future losses.



On May 10th, the Ely plane responded to a call from a sheep producer in eastern White Pine County. The sheep producer had recently lost 1 ewe valued at \$250 to coyote predation. With the help of District Supervisor (DS) Joe Bennett, the plane was able to remove a pair of coyotes. Work will continue as needed. DS Bennett also provided non-lethal technical assistance to help prevent future losses.

On May 16th, the Ely plane responded to a request for assistance from a sheep producer in northern White Pine County. The producer had lost several lambs to coyotes and was hearing and seeing several coyotes near his sheep. During the flight, with the help of FA Eldridge as the ground crew, the plane was able to locate and remove 3 coyotes. FA Eldridge also provided non-lethal technical assistance to help prevent future losses.

On May 24th, an agency owned helicopter responded to a call from 2 sheep producers in Elko County. The first producer had lost at least 10 lambs, valued at \$1,500, to coyote predation. The second producer had not lost any lambs but has had a history of high losses in the area. During the morning flight, 20 coyotes were removed. Both sheep producers were very happy with the assistance they received.

On May 25th, the Ely plane responded to a call from a sheep producer in Eureka County. The producer reported the loss of at least 4 lambs, valued at \$600, to coyote predation. During the morning flight, 6 coyotes were removed. Work will be ongoing as needed.

On May 25th and 30th, an agency owned helicopter responded to 2 sheep producers in northern White Pine County. Both producers reported the loss of several lambs to coyote predation and had experienced very high historical losses in the past. During the 2 mornings, the helicopter was able to locate and remove 18 coyotes, several of which were removed while they were attacking lambs. Work will be ongoing.



On May 26th, an agency helicopter responded to 2 sheep producers in western White Pine County. Both producers had lost high numbers of lambs to coyote predation. During the morning flight, 6 coyotes were removed, including a pair that were observed chasing lambs, and 2 others that had just killed lambs. Both producers were very pleased with the help they received.

On May 29th, the Ely plane responded to a call from a sheep producer in northern White Pine County. The producer had lost at least 6 lambs, valued at \$400, to coyote predation. During the morning flight, the plane was able to remove 4 coyotes near the location of the kills. Work will be ongoing as needed.

On May 29th, an agency owned helicopter was used to fly 2 sheep producers in central White Pine County. Both producers have had very high losses in the past. The area is too rough to fly with a fixed wing plane. During the flight, 9 coyotes were removed. Both sheep producers were very pleased with the help they received. Work will be ongoing as needed.

On May 30th, WS Crome confirmed the loss of 1 lamb, valued at \$200, to coyote predation. The damage occurred on a remote band of sheep in northern Elko County. WS Crome used his horse to ride to the kill site and confirm that coyotes had killed the lamb. WS Crome then used his well-trained coyote decoy dogs to call and shoot the depredating pair of coyotes. No further losses have been reported.



On May 30th, FA Eldridge confirmed the loss of 2 lambs, valued at \$400, to coyote predation. The damage occurred on a band of sheep in northern White Pine County. FA Eldridge used calling and traps to remove 2 coyotes near the kills. No further losses have been reported on that band of sheep. FA Eldridge also provided non-lethal technical assistance to help prevent future losses.

During the month of May, a contract helicopter was used on NDOW Project 40 and NDOW project 38. NDOW project 40 is located in Eureka County and is designed to remove coyotes to protect

sage-grouse and mule deer. During 2 days of flying, the helicopter was able to remove 17 coyotes and 1 den near mule deer fawning grounds. This concluded the work on this project for the year. NDOW project 38 is designed to remove coyotes to protect antelope as they are having their fawns. During the week long project, 147 coyotes and several dens were removed. On several occasions the helicopter removed coyotes that had just killed antelope or were in the process of attacking them as they had their fawns. This concludes this project for the season as well.



During May, WS Little confirmed the loss of 3 lambs to coyote predation and 4 lambs to raven predation. WS Little used traps and snares to remove 13 coyotes while protecting the several bands of sheep in his work area. WS Little also removed 32 ravens that had attacked the lambs. WS Little's cooperators are very pleased with his hard work and dedication in preventing/reducing losses. WS Little also provided technical assistance in the form of non-lethal recommendations to help prevent future losses.

Also during the reporting period, FA Scott MacDonald confirmed the loss of 6 lambs, valued at \$900, to coyote predation. The damage occurred on two bands of sheep in northwestern White Pine County. FA MacDonald used traps to remove 13 coyotes near the location of the kills. Work will be ongoing as needed. FA MacDonald also provided technical assistance in the form of non-lethal recommendations to help prevent future losses.

West District

On May 3rd, WRD Suckow, DS Jack Spencer, Instructor Pilot (IP) Wes Gossard and Crew Member (CM) Brandon VanderMay conducted a morning flight around a calving area in Humboldt County that resulted in the removal of 20 coyotes. 2 livestock producers reported the calf losses right where the aerial crew removed the offending coyotes. WRD Suckow also conducted a ride along with WS John Peter to check: M-44 devices set to resolve coyote damage and field equipment set to capture feral swine.

On May 1st, IP Gossard and CM VanderMay conducted a morning flight around a sheep producer in Lander County. During the flight, 4 coyotes were removed. WS George Hansen provided ground support during aerial operations. Protection efforts will be ongoing throughout the lambing season.

On May 2nd, IP Gossard and CM VanderMay conducted a morning flight around a sheep producer in Washoe County. During the flight, 5 coyotes were removed. FA Doug Koepke provided ground support during aerial operations. Protection efforts will be ongoing throughout the lambing season.



On May 3rd, WS John Peter inspected M-44 units he had placed previously in response to the loss of several calves in Humboldt County. During the M-44 inspection, WS Peter removed 12 coyotes for the day by using M-44 devices. The livestock producers were pleased with WS Peter's dedication and effective response. WS Peter will continue to protect livestock in his area.

On May 4th, IP Gossard and CM VanderMay conducted a flight around a sheep producer in Humboldt County. During the flight, 2 coyotes were removed and the plane spotted 1 den. WS Peter provided ground support during aerial operations. Protection efforts will be ongoing throughout the lambing season.



On May 7th, IP Gossard and CM VanderMay conducted a flight around 5 bands of sheep in Lyon County. The sheep producer reported the loss of 5 lambs (valued at \$1,000). In addition, the herder had seen a pair of coyotes run out of the lambs. During the flight, 3 coyotes were removed within close proximity of the livestock losses. FA Mark Bentz provided ground support during aerial operations. Protection efforts will be ongoing throughout the lambing season.

During the month of May, WS Peter and WS Miller placed DRC-1339 treated egg baits around known sage-grouse nesting locations in Humboldt, Lander and Washoe counties. The goal of the NDOW projects is to reduce the raven predation of sage-grouse eggs and chicks so that they can be recruited into the population.

On May 10th, IP Gossard and CM VanderMay conducted a flight around a sheep producer in Pershing County. The sheep producer reported that coyotes had killed 6 lambs (valued at \$1,200). During the flight, 2 coyotes were removed and the plane spotted 1 den which FA Koepke removed. FA Koepke also shot 1 coyote in the middle of the lamb band. Protection efforts will be ongoing throughout the lambing season.



On May 14th, IP Gossard and CM VanderMay conducted a flight around a long time sheep producer in Washoe County. During the flight, 8 coyotes were removed. FA Koepke and WS-CA Affonso provided ground support during aerial operations. Protection efforts will be ongoing throughout the lambing season.

On May 15th, IP Gossard and CM VanderMay conducted a flight around a sheep producer in Humboldt County. During the flight, 4 coyotes were removed. WS Peter provided ground support during aerial operations. Protection efforts will be ongoing throughout the lambing season.

On May 19th, IP Gossard and CM VanderMay conducted flight around a sheep producer in Lyon County. The sheep producer reported the loss of 3 lambs valued at \$600. Like most livestock producers, this sheep producer employs non-lethal methods such as guard dogs and propane cannons to reduce predation. During the flight, 3 coyotes were removed within close proximity of the livestock losses. FA Bentz provided ground support during aerial operations. Protection efforts will be ongoing throughout the lambing season.

On May 18th, WS Koepke inspected trail snares around a lambing area in Washoe County that lost several lambs to lion predation. The depredating male lion was caught in a trail snare that FA Koepke had set in a nearby rocky draw. To date no further livestock losses have occurred. FA Koepke will continue to protect the sheep in his lambing area.

On May 22nd, IP Gossard and CM VanderMay conducted a flight around a sheep producer in Pershing County. The sheep producer reported that coyotes had killed 8 lambs, valued at \$1,600. During the flight, 3 coyotes were removed and the plane located a den for FA Koepke, which he removed. FA Koepke also removed a coyote in the middle of a lamb band with his firearm. Protection efforts will be ongoing throughout the lambing season.

On May 22nd, DS Spencer, WS Billy Taylor and WS George Hansen provided ground support to help the agency helicopter locate some problem coyotes around a lambing area in Lander County for removal. This particular lambing area is difficult to protect because of the mountainous terrain. The ground crew located several coyotes and the helicopter crew removed 6 coyotes in close proximity to the sheep. Special thanks to WS Taylor for ground crewing and FA Bodenchuk for air crewing for the West District. Protection efforts will be ongoing.



On May 24th, IP Gossard and CM VanderMay conducted a flight around a sheep producer in Washoe County who reported 17 lambs, valued at \$3,400, lost to coyotes in the past week. During the flight, 9 coyotes were removed. The livestock losses dropped significantly after the aerial crew removed the coyotes. FA Koepke and WS-CA Affonso provided ground support during aerial operations. Protection efforts will be ongoing throughout the lambing season.

On May 29th, IP Gossard and CM VanderMay conducted a flight around a sheep producer in Lander County. The sheep producer reported the loss of 3 lambs, valued at \$600. During the flight, 4 coyotes were removed. WS Hansen provided ground support during aerial operations. Protection efforts will be ongoing throughout the lambing season.

During the month of May, WB Zack Bowers continued protection efforts at a military installation in northern Nevada. WB Bowers utilized harassment with several methods to disperse 726 individuals from 24 species. Considering WB Bowers was only present 12 working days during the month of May due to leave taken, these numbers are relatively high. 5 problem animals were lethally removed from the airfield. The individuals removed came from 1 species of mammal and 3 species of birds. WB Bowers will continue efforts to protect aviation safety at this facility.

Also during the reporting period at the above mentioned facility, WB Bowers continued knocking down nests. Nests are generally knocked down in the off season, then if the birds try to rebuild, the material is knocked down on a regular basis until the birds either give up, or move to another location. During the month of May, this included 1 raven nest and 1 Swainson's hawk nest.

During the month of May, at the above mentioned facility, efforts to deter nesting at the heron/egret rookery continued. These efforts have encouraged the herons and the egrets to nest elsewhere. The effort involved running two propane cannons directly under the nest trees. This method was



very effective in a couple of aspects. For 1, the cannons were set to run at night which kept the birds from getting comfortable. Secondly, the cannons are able to cover the area in the absence of an individual being present. This is important considering workload and priority levels often require WB Bowers to be at other areas of the airfield vicinity. Additional harassment was provided in the form of pyrotechnics and cracker shells as needed.

During the month of May, WS Cameron Green and WS Rick Laffins continued implementing a wildlife hazard management plan at a joint use aviation facility in Washoe County. Specifically, 35 animals were dispersed from the facility and adjoining properties using vehicles, pyrotechnic devices and firearms. Firearms and snares were also utilized to remove 46 animals that failed to respond properly to non-lethal approaches. 14 birds were captured and relocated.

WS Laffins surveyed 7,345 animals during structured "point-count" wildlife surveys on the airfield and offsite in the general zone during the month for the observation phase of the Wildlife Hazard Assessment.

Work on NDOW Project 43 concluded this month at Mason Valley Wildlife Management Area (WMA), which was designed to protect the nests and eggs of turkeys and pheasants during the breeding season from predation by coyotes, raccoons, skunks and ravens. 4 coyotes and 1 skunk were removed from the WMA this month. WS Laffins and WS Green did an excellent job protecting these species while ensuring that aviation safety in Washoe County was properly covered. To that end, the two would work on weekends and alternate as necessary.



New and Developing Methods

Nothing to Report

Valuing and Investing in Employees

In addition to meeting with employees and cooperators in the field, WRD Suckow also met with field employees and office staff at the WS-Nevada State Office during the reporting period (see picture next page). To appreciate and commemorate this occurrence, a proper barbeque was implemented during the lunch break.

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

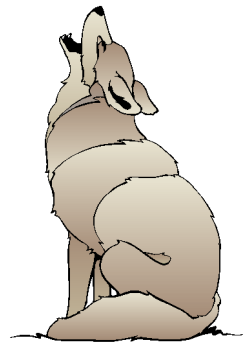
N-1 Grazing Board Meeting in Elko. June 26th. State Director (SD) Mark Jensen and DS Bennett to attend.

N-4 Grazing Board meeting in Panaca. June 28th. SD Jensen and DS Bennett to attend.





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USDA APHIS Wildlife Services

