

November 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 November, wildlife damage management work was conducted on an estimated **7.8** million acres of land under agreement. On these lands, WS personnel helped Nevada's farmers and ranchers protect over **\$175.8** million in agricultural resources such as cattle, sheep, and livestock feed; and over **\$4.2** million in natural resources. Additionally, WS assisted **305** persons and entities with technical assistance which involves providing information or equipment to cooperators so they can resolve problems themselves. Cooperators reported **\$2,491** in damage and WS Specialists verified **\$30,703** in damage to aviation, natural and agricultural resources. These losses would be much higher without an effective wildlife damage management program. During November, coyotes accounted for **\$5,534** in verified losses, mostly to livestock, and **567** 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 November, **no** samples were processed.

The following excerpts are a selection of activities and events of this program which occurred during the month of November, 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 November 2nd, the Ely plane responded to a call from a cattle rancher in northern White Pine County. The rancher reported that several coyotes had killed their chickens very close to their ranch. Since the rancher has several ewes and lambs and a history of losing sheep to coyotes, he asked for aerial assistance. During the morning flight, 2 coyotes were removed near the ranch house. Work will be ongoing as needed.



On November 5th, the Ely plane responded to a call from a sheep and cattle producer in eastern White Pine County. The rancher had lost one ewe, valued at \$250, to coyote predation. During the flight, the plane was able to remove a pair of coyotes near the kill. The rancher called the East District Supervisor and expressed his appreciation for the help Wildlife Services and the Nevada Department of Agriculture (NDA) has provided him.

On November 6th, the Elko plane responded to a call from a cattle rancher in central Elko County. The rancher has had very high predation losses to coyotes in the past and reported seeing several coyotes in his calving pastures. During the morning flight, 5 coyotes were removed. Work will be ongoing as needed.

On November 6th, the Ely plane responded to a call from a cattle and sheep producer in southern White Pine County. The producer has had a very high history of losses in that area. During the flight, the plane was able to remove 5 coyotes. Work will be ongoing as needed.

On November 7th, the Elko plane responded to calls from several adjoining cattle ranches in central Elko County. All of the ranches have experienced high losses to coyotes during calving season and all the ranchers reported seeing higher than normal coyote numbers in the calving pastures. During the flight, the plane was able to remove 34 coyotes. All of the ranchers were very pleased with the help they received from the Elko plane. Work will be ongoing as needed.

On November 7th, the Ely plane responded to a call from a sheep and cattle producer in northern White Pine County. The rancher had lost at least 4 ewes valued at \$1,000 to coyote predation. With the assistance of Wildlife Specialist (WS) Nathan Fowler as the ground crew, the plane was able to remove 3 coyotes near the kill. Work will be ongoing as needed.

On November 8th, the Ely plane responded to 2 different sheep producers in western White Pine County. Both producer have had very high losses in the past and reported seeing several coyotes near their bands of sheep. During the flight, the plane was able to remove 6 coyotes near the sheep. Work will be ongoing as needed.

On November 8th, the Elko plane responded to a call from several cattle ranchers in Lander County. All of the ranches have a history of high coyote predation losses in the past. During the morning flight, the plane was able to remove 21 coyotes. Work will continue as needed.

On November 9th, the Elko plane responded to a cattle ranch in northern Elko County. The rancher has very high losses in the past and reported seeing and hearing a high number of coyotes in his calving pastures. During the flight, the plane was able to remove 18 coyotes. The rancher was very happy with the help he received and contacted the East District Supervisor and expressed his appreciation. He commented that without the assistance he has received in the past he would not be able to stay in business.



On November 13th, the Elko plane responded to a call from a cattle rancher in Lander County that was having trouble with coyotes. The rancher had lost at least one calf valued at \$500. The rancher reported seeing several coyotes in his calving pasture. During the flight the plane was able to remove 20 coyotes during the flight. Work will be ongoing as needed.

On November 14th, the Ely plane responded to a call from a sheep producer in western White Pine County. The rancher reported that coyotes had killed 8 ewes valued at \$2,000. During the flight, the plane was able to remove 6 coyotes near the location of the kills. Work will be ongoing as needed.

On November 14th, the Elko plane responded to 2 calls from sheep producers in Elko County. One was a rancher that had a small farm flock of sheep and had lost at least 4 of his sheep, valued at \$1,000, to coyote predation. The other was a large sheep and cattle rancher that has suffered high losses in the past. During the flight, 5 coyotes were removed including 2 near the location of the kills. Work will be ongoing as needed.

On November 15th, the Elko plane responded to a call from 2 ranchers in central Elko County. One ranch was a cow/calf operation and the other rancher had sheep and cattle. Both ranches have experienced very high predation losses in the past to coyotes. During the flight, the plane was able to remove 12 coyotes. Work will be ongoing as needed.

On November 15th, the Ely plane responded to a call from 2 cattle ranchers in Nye County. Both ranches have had a history of high coyote predation on their calves and both reported seeing several coyotes in their calving pastures. During the flight, 6 coyotes were removed. Work will be ongoing as needed.

On November 16th, the Elko plane responded to a sheep ranch and a cattle ranch in western Elko County. Both ranches reported seeing several coyotes near their livestock. During the flight, the plane was able to remove 12 coyotes. Both ranchers were very pleased with the help they received from Wildlife Services and the Nevada Department of Agriculture. Work will continue as needed.

On November 16th, the Ely plane responded to several cattle ranches in northern White Pine County. One rancher reported seeing a group of at least 10 coyotes near his cows and calves. Another rancher reported that coyotes had killed at least one of the children's 4-H lambs at the ranch house. During the morning flight, the plane was able to remove 10 coyotes. Work will be ongoing as needed.

On November 19th, a cattle rancher in Lander County called and reported that coyotes had killed at least 2 of his calves, valued at \$1,000. He also reported that he was seeing far more coyotes than normal in his calving pastures. On November 20th, the Elko plane responded to the ranch. During the flight, the plane was able to remove 22 coyotes, including 10 that were in the calving pastures. No further losses have been reported. District Supervisor (DS) Joe Bennett also provided the rancher with technical assistance in the form of non-lethal recommendations to help prevent future losses.



On November 19th, the Elko plane responded to a call from a cattle rancher in northern Elko County. The rancher had lost several calves to coyote predation in the past and reported seeing far more coyotes than usual in and around his cattle. During the flight, 23 coyotes were removed. Work will be ongoing as needed.

On November 20th, a rancher in eastern White Pine County contacted FA Scott MacDonald concerning the loss of a ewe, valued at \$250, to coyote predation. The rancher primarily raises cattle but also has a farm flock of sheep at his ranch. FA MacDonald set several traps near the kill. During the next week, FA MacDonald removed 2 coyotes, bringing an end to the damage. FA MacDonald also removed 16 other coyotes during November protecting several bands of sheep in eastern White Pine County.



On November 21st, the Elko plane responded to a call from a cattle rancher in central Elko County. The rancher reported seeing several coyotes near his calves and has experienced high coyote losses in the past. During the flight, the plane was able to remove 4 coyotes near the calves. Work will be ongoing as needed.

WS Nathan Fowler was very busy, during the month of November, confirming the loss of 8 ewes valued at \$2,000. The damage occurred on several bands of sheep in northern White Pine County. WS Fowler used calling and trapping to remove 15 coyotes near the kills. No further losses have been reported. WS Fowler will continue to monitor the livestock in his assigned work area. WS Fowler also provided technical assistance in the form of non-lethal recommendations to help prevent future losses.

On November 28th, WS Mac Crome confirmed the loss of a ewe to coyote predation. The damage occurred on a band of sheep on the Nevada/Utah border. WS Crome used snares and calling to remove a pair of coyotes near the kill. WS Crome will spend the winter protecting 10-12 bands of sheep that winter in northeastern Nevada.

WS Scott Little was very busy during November, protecting livestock on his winter range which has a history of coyote predation. WS Little used calling, snares and traps to remove 22 coyotes. Although no losses were reported, WS Little's control efforts helped to prevent losses. WS Little will continue

to work his winter range.

During the reporting period, WS Evans provided firearms training to one new employee and also removed 7 coyotes protecting several bands of sheep in White Pine, Elko and Eureka Counties. WS Evans will continue to monitor the livestock in his assigned work area as winter continues.

West District

On November 2nd, Instructor Pilot (IP) Wes Gossard and Crew Member (CM) Brandon VanderMay conducted a morning flight around several calving and winter sheep band areas in Pershing County. During the morning flight, 19 coyotes were removed. FA Doug Koepke provided ground support during aerial operations. Protection work will continue.

During the month of November, WS Ben Miller continued placing trail snares out and monitoring populations of California bighorn sheep for lion activity in Washoe County (hunt units 011/013) as part of NDOW project 22-01. On November 7th, WS Miller removed an estimated 125 pound male lion in close proximity to the bighorn sheep. WS Miller will continue to protect these bighorn sheep.



On November 6th, IP Gossard and CM VanderMay conducted a morning flight around several calving areas in Lander County. During the flight, 20 coyotes were removed. No further livestock complaints have been reported on these particular areas since the removal of the coyotes in the calving fields. WS George Hansen provided ground support.

On November 7th, IP Gossard and CM VanderMay conducted a morning flight around several calving areas in Humboldt County. During the flight, 34 coyotes were removed. WS John Peter provided ground support during aerial operations. Protection work will continue.

During the month of November, WS Peter placed out M-44s and trail snares around several calving and winter sheep band area. WS Peter noted a sharp rise in livestock producers requesting service this fall compared to other years. WS Peter will continue to protect livestock in Humboldt County.

On November 9th, IP Gossard and CM VanderMay conducted a morning flight around several calving areas in Humboldt County. During the flight, 13 coyotes were removed. WS Peter provided ground support during aerial operations. Protection work will continue.



During the week of November 13th - 16th, WS Hansen removed 21 coyotes using foothold traps and trail snares around several calving and winter sheep bands in Lander County. WS Hansen reports minimal livestock losses and will continue to place equipment around his many livestock producers.

On November 14th, IP Gossard and CM VanderMay conducted a morning flight around several calving areas in Humboldt County. During the flight, 17 coyotes were removed. WS Peter provided ground support during aerial operations. Protection work will continue.

On November 2nd, IP Gossard and CM VanderMay conducted a morning flight around several calving and winter sheep band areas in Pershing County. During the flight, 16 coyotes were removed. WS Koepke removed an additional coyote from the calving area with his fire-arm. WS Koepke also provided ground support during aerial operations. Protection work will continue.

On November 19th, IP Gossard and CM VanderMay conducted a morning flight around several calving areas in Humboldt County. During the flight, 21 coyotes were removed. WS Peter provided ground support during aerial operations. Protection work will continue.

On November 20th, IP Gossard and CM VanderMay conducted a morning flight around several calving areas in Lander County. During the flight, 19 coyotes were removed. No further livestock complaints have been reported on these particular areas since the removal of the coyotes in the calving fields. WS Hansen provided ground support.

During the month of November, Wildlife Biologist (WB) Zack Bowers continued protection efforts at a military installation in northern Nevada. WB Bowers utilized harassment with several methods to disperse 1319 individuals from 18 species. Three problem animals were lethally removed from on and near the airfield. The individuals removed came from 2 species of mammals and one species of bird. Two species, common ravens and horned larks, accounted for 78% of the individuals harassed. Both species are year round residents to the area, but their numbers peak on the airfield from November through February. Current agricultural practices in the valley have led to corn being a primary crop, as opposed to a rotational crop as it has been in the past. The abundance of corn left in the fields after harvest attracts a variety of wildlife to the area, many of which are of BASH concern. Discussions are currently underway to take corn out of the allowable crops in the agricultural properties that the Navy has under lease. This would be implemented in the terms of the new leases after the current lease terms expire. This will not provide any relief to the current situation, but would likely benefit future efforts. WB Bowers will continue efforts to protect aviation safety at this facility.

Also during the month of November, WB Bowers was contacted by a nearby property owner who had experienced sheep by coyotes. WB Bowers was on leave when notified of the situation, and by the time he arrived, 2 sheep had been killed. WB Bowers verified that coyotes were responsible for the loss of the sheep. Two neighbors mentioned that they had also lost sheep and one had lost chickens to coyotes, although it was too late for WB Bowers to confirm. WB Bowers set two foothold traps and within 3 days



caught an above average sized male coyote, bringing an end to the damage. At the same time this was all occurring, WB Bowers was conducting work on the airfield, and found coyote scat at an arresting gear which contained sheep wool. The coyote causing trouble to the neighbors was also a possible Bird/Wildlife Aircraft Strike Hazard (BASH) concern on the airfield. This is a good example that wildlife don't concern themselves with property lines, and working with cooperators on surrounding properties may be beneficial in helping to resolve BASH issues.

During November, WB Dean Pyzik checked foothold traps around sheep and calving areas in Lander County to reduce livestock losses to coyotes. During the month, WB Pyzik was successful in removing 11 coyotes with a combination of calling and foothold traps. WB Pyzik will continue to protect livestock in Lander County.

During the month of November, WS Cameron Green and WS Rick Laffins continued implementing a wildlife hazard management plan at a joint use aviation facility in Washoe County. Additionally, WS Green has been protecting human health and safety and property at a military installation in southern Nevada, while that position is vacant. Specifically, 830 animals were dispersed from these facilities and adjoining properties using vehicles, pyrotechnic devices and firearms. Firearms, snares and traps were also utilized to remove 73 animals that failed to respond properly to non-lethal approaches.

New and Developing Methods

Nothing to Report

Valuing and Investing in Employees

On November 19th, Tyler Bodily started working in the East District as an NDA Field Assistant (FA). FA Bodily grew up trapping and hunting in Utah and has a great deal of experience concerning predator damage and management. We would like to welcome FA Bodily to the Nevada Wildlife Services Program.

Information and Communication

On November 1st, State Director (SD) Mark Jensen and DS Bennett attended the N-6 Grazing Board Meeting in Austin, NV. SD Jensen provided the Board a presentation summarizing the work that has been conducted in N-6.

On November 15th and November 16th, SD Jensen, DS Jack Spencer, WB Carl Frey and WS Peter attended the annual Cattleman's and Woolgrowers convention in Winnemucca. During the 2 day event, employees manned a USDA Wildlife Services exhibit booth and fielded questions by livestock producers and the general public.

During the week of November 27th - 28th, SD Jensen, and all WS-Nevada Pilots attended a mandatory meeting in Cedar City, Utah. The goal of the meeting was to promote safety in the aviation program.

Emerging Trends/Issues

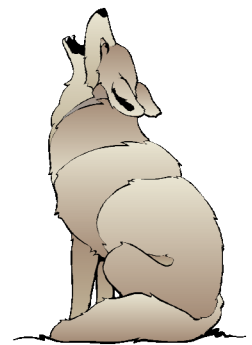
Nothing to Report

Equal Employment Opportunity/Civil Rights (EEO/CR)

Nothing to Report



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