

# 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)

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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 October, wildlife damage management work was conducted on an estimated **7.6** million acres of land under agreement. On these lands, WS personnel helped Nevada's farmers and ranchers protect over **\$186.9** million in agricultural resources such as cattle, sheep, and livestock feed; and over **\$2.2** million in natural resources. Additionally, WS assisted **1,899** persons and entities with technical assistance which involves providing information or equipment to cooperators so they can resolve problems themselves. Cooperators reported **\$1** in damage and WS Specialists verified **\$36,144** in damage to aviation, natural and agricultural resources. These losses would be much higher without an effective wildlife damage management program. During October, coyotes accounted for **\$13,807** in verified losses, mostly to livestock, and **600** 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 October, **40** samples were processed.

*The following excerpts are a selection of activities and events of this program which occurred during the month of October, 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 October 1<sup>st</sup>, the East District Office received a call from a southern White Pine County cattle rancher concerning an issue with ravens. Specifically, at least 25 ravens had attacked and killed a newborn calf, valued at \$500. That same day, Crew Member (CM) Hunter Bodenchuk traveled to the location and confirmed the damage and observed the ravens. CM Bodenchuk used hard-boiled chicken eggs treated with DRC-1339 to remove the depredating ravens. No further losses have been reported and the rancher was very pleased with the fast help he received from Wildlife Services. CM Bodenchuk also provided technical assistance in the form of non-lethal recommendations to help prevent future losses.



On October 9<sup>th</sup>, the Ely plane responded to a call from a sheep and cattle producer and 2 cattle ranchers on allotments needing help. All 3 livestock producers have had very high historical losses in the past and had reported seeing several coyotes near their livestock. The areas flown were in western White Pine County. During the morning flight, 6 coyotes were removed. Wildlife Specialist (WS) Randy Evans acted as the ground crew during the operation. Work will continue as needed.

On October 10<sup>th</sup>, the Ely plane responded to a request for assistance from a sheep and cattle rancher in northern White Pine. Previously, WS Nathan Fowler had confirmed the loss of 1 adult ewe and 2 lambs to coyote predation. During the flight, 1 coyote was removed near the location of the kills. No further losses have been reported. WS Fowler also provided technical assistance in the form of non-lethal recommendations to help prevent future losses.

On October 12<sup>th</sup>, the Ely plane responded to a call from a sheep and cattle ranch in western White Pine County. The rancher had a farm flock of about 50 adult sheep near the ranch house. Coyotes had killed at least 9 of the adult sheep, valued at \$2,250. During the morning flight, the plane was able to remove 2 coyotes near the location of the kills. Work will be ongoing as needed.

On October 15<sup>th</sup>, Elko Pilot Ben Royston reported for duty in Cedar City, Utah to begin his training as the new Elko Pilot. Ben has many years of experience and will be a welcome addition to the East District.

On October 17<sup>th</sup>, the Ely plane responded to a request for assistance from a sheep producer in southern Elko County. The producer had experienced very high losses the past few months due to coyote predation. With the assistance of WS Evans as the ground crew, the plane was able to remove 16 coyotes. Work will be ongoing as needed. WS Evans also provided technical assistance in the form of non-lethal recommendations to help prevent future losses.



On October 18<sup>th</sup>, the Ely plane responded to a request from a sheep rancher and a cattle rancher in northern Elko County. The cattle rancher had lost at least 3 fall calves, valued at \$1,500, to coyote predation. The sheep rancher had experienced very high coyote predation the past few seasons and reported hearing and seeing a large number of coyotes near his sheep. During the morning flight, the plane was able to remove 16 coyotes, 8 on each property. Both ranchers were very pleased with the help they received from the Nevada Department of Agriculture (NDA) and the USDA Wildlife Ser-

vices program. Work will be ongoing as needed.

On October 19<sup>th</sup>, the Ely plane responded to a request for help from a sheep producer in central Elko County. The rancher has experienced very high historical losses and was about to move his sheep into the same area that he lost a large number of lambs and ewes this past season. During the flight, the plane was able to remove 10 coyotes. Work will be ongoing as needed.

On October 25<sup>th</sup>, the Ely plane responded to a request from a sheep and cattle rancher in western White Pine County. The rancher had lost at least one calf and more than a dozen chickens, valued at more than \$500. During the flight, the plane was able to remove 10 coyotes near the location of the damage. No further losses have been reported and the rancher was very pleased with the help he received from the NDA and the Wildlife Services Program.



On October 26<sup>th</sup>, the Ely plane responded to a request from a sheep and cattle rancher in southern Eureka County. The rancher reported that he had lost at least 5 lambs, valued at \$1,000, to coyote predation. During the flight, the plane was able to remove 7 coyotes near the location of the kills. Work will be ongoing as needed.

On October 29<sup>th</sup>, the Ely plane responded to request for assistance from a cattle and sheep producer in eastern White Pine County. The rancher had lost a ewe sheep to coyote predation and was hearing and seeing several coyotes near his sheep and cattle. During the flight, the plane was able to remove 4 coyotes near the kill. No further losses have been reported and the rancher was very pleased with the help he received.

On October 29<sup>th</sup>, District Supervisor (DS) Joe Bennett responded to a request for assistance from a cattle rancher in central Nye County concerning a problem with ravens. The rancher reported that 3 of his best bulls needed medical treatment so he brought them into small pens for a couple days while he treated them. While confined, a large group of ravens began pecking the backs of the bull's causing more than \$500 in damage to the bulls. DS Bennett confirmed the damage. Hard boiled chicken eggs treated with DRC-1339 were used to remove 75 ravens near the pens. No further losses or damage has been reported. DS Bennett also provided technical assistance in the form of non-lethal recommendations to help prevent future losses.

On October 29<sup>th</sup>, the Elko plane responded to a request for assistance from a sheep producer and a cattle rancher in eastern Elko County. Both producers have had very high losses to coyote predation in the past and reported seeing several coyotes in their pastures. During the morning flight, the plane was able to remove 13 coyotes. Work will be ongoing as needed.

On October 30<sup>th</sup>, the Ely plane responded to a request for assistance from a sheep producer in eastern White Pine County. The producer had just unloaded his sheep on his winter allotment and reported seeing a pair of coyotes near his band. During the morning flight, the plane was able to remove a pair of coyotes near the sheep. No further losses have been reported and work will continue as needed.

On October 31<sup>st</sup>, the Ely plane responded to a sheep producer in western White Pine County. The



sheep are just arriving on the allotment. The area has a very high history of losses and the sheep producer said he was seeing several coyotes near his 3 bands of sheep. During the flight, the plane was able to locate and remove 10 coyotes. Work will be ongoing as needed. The rancher was very pleased with the morning's results.

During the month of October, WS Nathan Fowler was very busy protecting livestock in his assigned work area. WS Fowler confirmed the loss of a calf and 8 adult sheep to coyote predation. The damage occurred in northeastern White Pine County. The total value of the loss was placed at over \$2,500. WS Fowler used calling, shooting and trapping to remove 12 coyotes, bringing an end to the damage. WS Fowler also provided technical assistance in the form of non-lethal recommendations to help prevent future

WS Scott Little was busy protecting both sheep and cattle in his assigned work area during October. WS Little used traps and snares to remove 24 coyotes. WS Little also took 12 disease samples for testing for both plague and tularemia. Disease sampling is a very important part of each Wildlife Specialist's job.



NDA Field Assistant (FA) Scott MacDonald moved his field camp to his winter range and began removing coyotes in areas that have experienced high losses in the past few years. FA MacDonald also confirmed the loss of several chickens at one ranch in eastern White Pine County to coyote predation. FA MacDonald used calling, shooting and trapping to remove 14 coyotes. FA MacDonald also took 6 disease samples during the month. FA MacDonald will continue to work his assigned area throughout the winter.

WS Evans spent the month of October protecting both sheep and cattle in his assigned work area in northwestern White Pine County and southern Elko County. WS Evans was able to remove 24 coyotes using calling, shooting and traps during the month of October. WS Evans will continue to protect livestock in his district.

## West District

On October 3<sup>rd</sup>, Instructor Pilot (IP) Wes Gossard and CM VanderMay conducted a morning flight around several calving areas in Pershing County. During the morning flight, 12 coyotes were removed. The coyotes were removed in the middle of the calving areas. NDA FA Doug Koepke provided ground support during aerial operations. Protection work will continue.

On October 10<sup>th</sup>, IP Gossard and CM VanderMay conducted a morning flight around several calving areas in Humboldt County. During the flight, 8 coyotes were removed. WS John Peter provided ground support during aerial operations. Protection work will continue.

During the month of October, WS Ben Miller was busy placing trail snares out and monitoring California bighorn sheep populations for lion activity in hunt units 011/013 in Washoe County as



part of Nevada Department of Wildlife (NDOW) project 22-01. During the reporting period, no lion was observed. WS Miller will continue to protect these valuable bighorn sheep.

During the reporting period, NDA FA Mark Bentz resigned his state trapping position in Lyon and Douglas Counties. The process of backfilling behind Mark Bentz has begun and the West District will cover the vacancy as best they can. Mark was a hard worker who picked up trapping quickly and we wish him Mark well in his future endeavors.



On October 11<sup>th</sup>, IP Gossard and CM VanderMay conducted a morning flight around several calving areas in Lyon County. During the flight, 5 coyotes were removed. FA Bentz provided ground support. Livestock protection work will continue.

On October 15<sup>th</sup>, IP Gossard and CM VanderMay conducted a morning flight around several calving areas in Humboldt County. During the flight, 30 coyotes were removed. WS Peter provided ground support during aerial operations. Protection work will continue.

On October 18<sup>th</sup>, IP Gossard and CM VanderMay conducted a morning flight around several calving areas in Lander County. During the flight, 27 coyotes were removed. No further livestock complaints have been reported in these areas since the removal of the coyotes in the calving fields. WS George Hansen provided ground support.

On October 23<sup>rd</sup>, IP Gossard and CM VanderMay conducted a morning flight around several calving areas in Humboldt County. During the flight, 20 coyotes were removed. WS Peter provided ground support during aerial operations. Protection work will continue.

During the week of October 15<sup>th</sup> through October 19<sup>th</sup>, WS Peter was busy placing M-44s around several calving areas in Humboldt County. The calves are just hitting the ground and immediately coyotes moved in around the young vulnerable calves. On October 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup>, WS Peter removed 11 coyotes by use of M-44s. WS Peter will continue to protect livestock.

On October 30<sup>th</sup>, IP Gossard and CM VanderMay conducted a morning flight around several calving areas in Humboldt County. During the morning flight, 24 coyotes were removed. WS Peter provided ground support during aerial operations. Protection work will continue throughout the fall calving season.

On October 26<sup>th</sup>, WS Hansen placed out DRC-1339 treated egg baits to remove 7 problem ravens that had killed a calf, valued at \$485. WS Hansen reports no further problems with ravens and the livestock producer was





pleased with the protection efforts.

On October 31<sup>st</sup>, IP Gossard and CM VanderMay conducted a morning flight around several calving and sheep areas in Pershing County. During the morning flight, 14 coyotes were removed. FA Koepke provided ground support during aerial operations. Protection work will continue.

### **New and Developing Methods**

Nothing to Report

### **Valuing and Investing in Employees**

Nothing to Report

### **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**

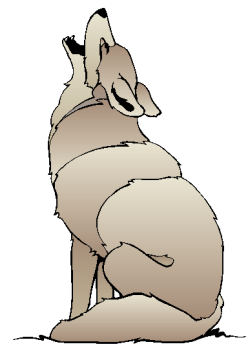
November 1<sup>st</sup>. N-6 Grazing Board Meeting in Austin, NV. State Director (SD) Mark Jensen and DS Bennett to attend.

November 15<sup>th</sup>-17<sup>th</sup>. Nevada Cattlemen's Association Joint Annual Convention in Winnemucca, NV. SD Jensen, DS Jack Spencer, Wildlife Biologist (WB) Carl Frey and WS Peter to attend and exhibit.

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# USDA APHIS Wildlife Services

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