

September 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 September, wildlife damage management work was conducted on an estimated **4.7** million acres of land under agreement. On these lands, WS personnel helped Nevada's farmers and ranchers protect over **\$137.5** million in agricultural resources such as cattle, sheep, and livestock feed; and over **\$4.5** million in natural resources. Additionally, WS assisted **862** persons and entities with technical assistance which involves providing information or equipment to cooperators so they can resolve problems themselves. Cooperators reported **\$0** in damage and WS Specialists verified **\$23,393** in damage to aviation, natural and agricultural resources. These losses would be much higher without an effective wildlife damage management program. During September, coyotes accounted for **\$22,745** in verified losses, mostly to livestock, and **429** 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 September, **50** samples were processed.

The following excerpts are a selection of activities and events of this program which occurred during the month of September, 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 September 5th and September 11th, Wildlife Specialist (WS) Mac Crome confirmed the loss of 9 lambs, valued at \$1,350 to coyote predation. The damage occurred on a band of sheep in northern Elko County near the Idaho border. WS Crome used traps, snares and calling with his well-trained decoy dogs to remove 7 coyotes near the kill sites. No further losses have been reported and WS Crome continues to monitor the area for predation issues.

On September 10th, the Ely plane responded to a call from a sheep producer in southern Elko County concerning a problem with coyotes. Coyotes had killed at least 4 lambs on a band of sheep and the herders were hearing coyotes every night near the flock. During the morning flight, 4 coyotes were removed. Work will continue as needed.

On September 11th, 2 sheep producers in western White Pine County called concerning the loss of 2 ewes, valued at \$600, to coyote predation. On September 11th, the Ely plane responded to both locations. With the assistance of District Supervisor (DS) Joe Bennett as the ground crew, the plane was able to remove 3 coyotes. No further losses have been reported. DS Bennett continues to monitor the area.

On September 10th and 11th, WS Scott Little confirmed the loss of 3 ewes, valued at \$900. The damage occurred on a band of sheep in central White Pine County.

On September 12th, the Ely plane responded to a call from a sheep and cattle producer in northern White Pine County. DS Bennett had confirmed the loss of 1 ewe, valued at \$300. During the morning flight, the plane was able to locate and remove 5 coyotes near the kill site. Work will continue as needed. DS Bennett also provided technical assistance in the form of non-lethal recommendations to help prevent future losses.

On September 12th, the Ely plane also responded to a call from 2 ranchers in central White Pine County. Both ranchers have had high losses in the past and reported that they were seeing several coyotes near their calves and 4-H lambs. During the flight, the plane was able to remove 4 coyotes. Work will continue as needed.

On September 13th, the Ely plane responded to a call from 2 cattle and sheep producers in western White Pine County. One producer had lost at least 3 ewes to coyote predation and the other rancher had just moved a band of sheep into an area that has had very high historical losses. During the flight, 6 coyotes were removed, 4 of which were right in the sheep. Work will continue as needed.

On September 14th, the Ely plane responded to a cattle rancher and sheep and cattle rancher's request for help in northwestern White Pine County. Both ranchers had experienced very high losses in the past and reported hearing and seeing a large number of coyotes near their livestock. During the morning flight, with the assistance of WS Little and DS Bennett as the ground crew, the plane



was able to remove 7 coyotes. Both ranchers were very happy with the help they received.

On September 17th, the Ely plane responded to a sheep ranch in southwest Eureka County. Earlier, WS Hunter Bodenchuk confirmed the loss of 1 ewe, valued at \$250, to coyote predation. During the morning flight, the plane was able to locate and remove 6 coyotes, bringing an end to the damage. No further losses have been reported. WS Bodenchuk provided technical assistance in the form of non-lethal recommendations.

On September 18th, DS Bennett responded to 2 requests for assistance concerning problems with ravens. Both ranchers were in Nye County. One rancher had more than 60 ravens attack a newborn calf, valued at \$500, and the other reported that 42 ravens were harassing his lambs and had killed at least one lamb, valued at \$150. DS Bennett used eggs treated with DRC-1339 to remove the depredating ravens. No further damage or problems have been reported. DS Bennett also provided both ranchers with technical assistance in the form of non-lethal recommendations to help prevent future losses.

On September 19th, the Ely plane responded to a call from a sheep producer in northern Elko County. WS Crome had recently confirmed the loss of at least 9 lambs, valued \$1,350, to coyote predation. With the help of WS Crome as the ground crew, the plane located and removed a pair of coyotes near the location of the kills. WS Crome also removed several coyotes near the kill sites, bringing an end to the damage. WS Crome also provided technical assistance in the form of non-lethal recommendations to help prevent future losses.



On September 21st, the Ely plane responded to a call from 2 sheep producers in central White Pine County. Both producer had lost yearling sheep during the past few days to coyote predation. During the morning flight, the plane was able to remove 3 coyotes. Work will be ongoing as needed.

Also on September 21st, the Nevada Department of Wildlife (NDOW) contacted Wildlife Services concerning a coyote biting a worker at a mine in central Nevada. The mine reported that in the early hours, a coyote approached a miner and bit him on the leg. The bite required the employee to seek medical attention including starting the rabies vaccine shots. WS Randy Evans and DS Bennett responded to the mine and set several traps near the location of the attack. That same evening a large female coyote was called and shot. The following morning a large male coyote was also called and shot. On September 23rd, a young male coyote was trapped. No further incidents were reported until September 28th, when another miner reported that 2 coyotes attacked him about a mile from where the first incident occurred. The miner reported that in the early morning hours, a pair of coyotes attacked him and one of the coyotes bit him on the back of the leg but did not break the skin. The miner was able to hit the coyotes with a strap and piece of pipe and was able to get to safety. WS Evans and DS Bennett responded to the newest report and set more ground equipment. On the morning of September 30th, DS Bennett shot a large male coyote. Over the next several days 3 more coyotes were removed. Work is ongoing as new reports are received.

On September 24th, the Ely Plane responded to an area in western White Pine County that experienced very high lamb losses this past summer. During the morning flight, the plane was able to remove 8 coyotes. WS Evans assisted as the ground crew. Work will be ongoing as needed.

On September 26th, the Ely plane responded to 2 different sheep allotments in western White Pine

County and eastern Eureka County. Both allotments have experienced very high losses the past few months. During the flight, the plane was able to remove 5 coyotes. Work will continue as needed.

WS Crome had a very busy month confirming the loss of at least 11 lambs, valued at \$1,650, to coyote predation. The damage occurred on 2 bands of sheep in northern Elko County. WS Crome used traps, snares, calling and shooting with the aid of his well-trained coyote decoy dogs to remove 15 coyotes. On September 26th, all of the lambs were shipped out for market in WS Crome's area while the adult sheep remain behind for a couple more months. WS Crome will continue to monitor the livestock in his assigned work area for predation issues.

WS Bodenchuk was busy during September protecting at least 5 bands of sheep in Eureka County. WS Bodenchuk confirmed the loss of 6 lambs, valued at \$1,200, to coyote predation. WS Bodenchuk used traps and calling with the aid of his well-trained coyote decoy dog to remove 6 coyotes near the kills. No further losses were reported.

Crew Member (CM) Nathan Fowler confirmed the loss of 8 lambs and 2 ewes, valued at \$2,100, during the month of September. WS Fowler used trapping and calling with his well-trained coyote decoy dogs to remove 10 coyotes. All of the lambs were shipped on September 26th, but at least 6 bands of ewes and a band of yearling sheep are remaining in CM Fowler's work area, which he will continue to monitor.



During September, WS Evans confirmed the loss of 3 lambs, valued at \$450. The damage occurred in southern Elko County on 4 bands of sheep that WS Evans has been protecting. WS Evans was able to remove 10 coyotes, bringing an end to the damage. Without WS Evans' help, losses would have been much higher. All of the lambs in WS Evans area were shipped the middle of September.

WS Little confirmed the loss of at least 3 adult ewe sheep, to coyote predation, during the first 2 weeks of September. WS Little used trapping and calling with the aid of his well-trained coyote decoy dogs to remove 11 coyotes, bringing an end to the damage. After WS Little's lambs were shipped to market, he took 2 well deserved weeks of vacation. WS Little will continue to protect the livestock in his assigned work area.

NDA Field Assistant (FA) Scott MacDonald confirmed the loss of 3 lambs, valued at \$600, to coyote predation during the first part of September. FA MacDonald used trapping and shooting to remove 18 coyotes near the location of the kills. Without the hard work FA MacDonald puts forth, the sheep producer would have lost many more of his sheep to coyote predation. FA MacDonald will continue to work his assigned work area.

West District

On September 4th, Instructor Pilot (IP) Wes Gossard and CM Brandon VanderMay conducted an early morning flight around several calving areas in Humboldt County. During the flight, 12 coyotes were removed to reduce predation losses. WS John Peter provided ground support during aerial operations. Protection work will continue.

On September 5th, IP Gossard and CM VanderMay conducted a morning flight around a sheep producer in Lander County. The sheep producer reported the loss of 2 lambs, valued at \$300, and several other lambs crippled up by coyotes. During the flight, 4 coyotes were removed where the lambs had been killed the day prior. No further livestock losses have been reported since the aerial work.

WS George Hansen provided ground support.

On September 10th, IP Gossard and CM VanderMay conducted a morning flight around several calving areas and a sheep band in Humboldt County to reduce the predation. During the flight, 11 coyotes were removed. WS Peter provided ground support during aerial operations. Protection work will continue.

During September, WS Peter pre-baited and monitored for feral swine in Humboldt County. The feral swine population is small in Humboldt County, but WS Peter continues to place trail snares in the areas where feral swine have historically occupied. WS Peter found some sign at an isolated waterhole and immediately pre-baited with corn to see if the pigs would return. On September 11th, WS Peter returned to set trail snares if the feral swine were in pre-bait status. Upon arrival, WS Peter found and removed 4 of the swine with a firearm at the pre-bait. WS Peter then placed trail snares around the pre-bait, anticipating the surviving swine may return. Later WS Peter checked his trail snares and removed 3 additional swine. WS Peter will continue work toward the goal of feral swine eradication Humboldt County. Some people do not want feral swine removed and those areas can harbor feral swine making it difficult to achieve full eradication.



On September 11th, IP Gossard and CM VanderMay conducted a morning flight around several calving areas in Humboldt County. During the flight, 23 coyotes were removed to reduce losses. WS Peter provided ground support during aerial operations. Protection work will continue.

On September 13th, IP Gossard and CM VanderMay conducted a morning flight around a calving area in Lander County to reduce losses to coyotes. During the flight, 4 coyotes were removed. No further livestock complaints have been reported since the removal of the coyotes in the calving fields. WS Hansen provided ground support.

On September 14th, IP Gossard and CM VanderMay conducted a morning flight around several calving areas in Humboldt County that have experienced historic coyote predation. During the flight, 12 coyotes were removed. WS Peter provided ground support during aerial operations. Protection work will continue.

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

During September, FA Doug Koepke checked equipment placed around calving areas and several sheep bands in Pershing and Churchill Counties that typically lose calves to coyotes. During the month, FA Koepke removed 31 coyotes using foothold traps, trail snares and calling. FA Koepke will continue to protect livestock in his work area.



On September 18th, IP Gossard and CM VanderMay conducted a morning flight around several calving areas in Pershing County. During the flight, 24 coyotes were removed in the calving areas which should greatly reduce losses. WS Peter provided ground support during aerial operations. Protection work will continue.

On September 27th, IP Gossard and CM VanderMay conducted a morning flight around several calving areas in Humboldt County. During the flight, 21 coyotes were removed to reduce losses to coyotes. Every day there have been requests from cattle producers wanting the plane to fly their calving areas. WS Peter provided ground support during aerial operations. Protection work will continue.



On September 28th, IP Gossard and CM VanderMay conducted a morning flight around a calving area in Lander County that endures historic losses to coyotes. During the flight, 19 coyotes were removed. The aircrew also witnessed a cow fighting off 5 coyotes from her newborn calf. No further livestock complaints have been reported since the removal of the coyotes in the calving fields. WS Hansen provided ground support.

During the month, WS Hansen removed 31 coyotes, using foothold traps, trail snares and calling. WS Hansen will continue to protect livestock in his large work area.

During the week of September 26th through September 28th, FA Mark Bentz set cage traps around a residence in Carson City where over 20 chickens, valued at \$150, were lost to several bobcats. FA Bentz recommended fencing the chickens, however, the resident had pygmy goats and lambs that were also susceptible to the feline predators. Three bobcats were trapped and translocated away from the livestock with NDOW's consent. No further livestock problems have occurred since the bobcats were translocated.



During September, WS Ben Miller continued monitoring California bighorn sheep populations for lion activity in hunt units 011/013 in Washoe County as part of NDOW project 22-01. Along with a lot of backpacking, WS Miller also sets and maintains trail snares to protect the wild sheep from lion predation. During the month, WS Miller didn't detect any new lion sign near the bighorn sheep. WS Miller will continue to protect these valuable bighorn sheep.

In the last 2 weeks of September, WB Dean Pyzik started setting and checking foothold traps around sheep and calving areas in Lander County to reduce livestock losses to coyotes. In these 2

weeks, WB Pyzik was able to remove 5 coyotes with a combination of calling and foothold traps. WB Pyzik will continue to protect livestock in Lander County.

New and Developing Methods

Nothing to Report

Valuing and Investing in Employees

During September 10th-14th, State Director (SD) Mark Jensen attended the NRA Instructor Training as the WS Firearms Committee Chair, along with WS Rick Laffins and 15 other potential instructors at Cedar City, Utah. The instruction included Rifle, Pistol and Shotgun Instructor training.



Information and Communication

Nothing to Report.

Emerging Trends/Issues

Nothing to Report

Equal Employment Opportunity/Civil Rights (EEO/CR)

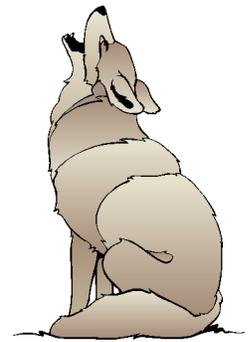
Nothing to Report

Future Meeting and Events

Nothing to Report



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