Wildlife Damage Management

Wildlife Services supports ranchers, farmers, wildlife, and others by exercising Federal leadership and expertise to resolve conflicts between people and wildlife and allow them to coexist by protecting agriculture; natural resources, including threatened and endangered species; property and infrastructure; and public health and safety.

2019 Highlights

- Responded to 440,000 requests from farmers, ranchers, and others for direct control or technical assistance to reduce the impact of predators on their animals, protecting more than 15.8 million head of cattle, sheep, and goats valued at over $2.5 billion.

- Protected 378 threatened and endangered species in 39 States and 2 territories using $11.7 million of funding from cooperating agencies and others to support the Endangered Species Act.

- Managed beaver damage on 7,030 sites in 43 States through cooperatively funded efforts, with each $1 invested in management protecting an estimated $45 in natural resources on average.

- With USDA’s Natural Resources Conservation Service, selected 20 projects in 10 States for funding to target problem feral swine populations, while continuing work to reduce feral swine damage across 37 States and 3 territories.

- Donated 138 tons of goose, deer/elk, and other meat—more than 1 million servings of protein—for people in need, making full use of this resource from wildlife damage management work.

- Collected more than 6,200 samples from 42 different wildlife species for testing 8 diseases in 42 States, including 3,500 samples from invasive feral swine.

- Initiated 86 new research studies to find innovative solutions to wildlife damage issues, with broad public impact—133 articles published in 76 different venues and 216 presentations by researchers given at scientific, stakeholder, and public forums in 2019 alone.

- Distributed approximately 9.4 million oral rabies vaccination baits over 64,000 square miles and collected samples from more than 12,000 wild animals in 18 States to reduce rabies in wildlife and prevent disease spread to people, livestock, and pets.

- Deployed WS employees for a total of 1,878 days to 8 emergency responses nationwide ranging from wildfires and flooding to agricultural or wildlife disease outbreaks.

- Managed cormorant populations at 185 facilities in 3 States to protect farmed fish stock worth millions of dollars from avian depredation.

- Reduced aviation hazards at more than 150 military airbases and joint civilian-military airports around the globe and marked 10 years of voluntary deployments by 60+ wildlife biologists to numerous U.S. or coalition airbases in southwest Asia.

www.aphis.usda.gov/wildlife-damage