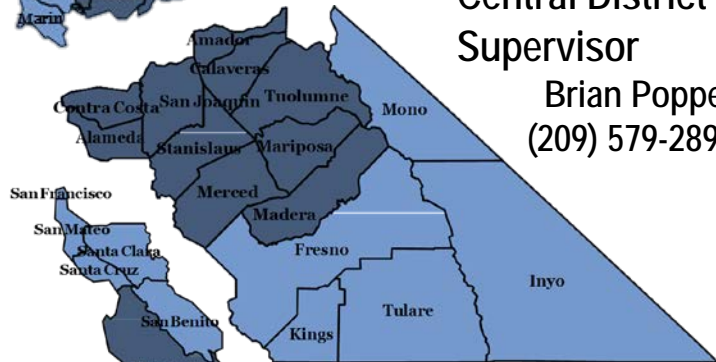




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How WS works with Livestock Producers

WS personnel are frequently contacted by producers for assistance with livestock predation problems, often after the producer has tried unsuccessfully to reduce losses to a tolerable level on their own.

Making the Initial Contact. The producer may contact the WS State or District Office, or the WS Specialist in their area. During this initial request, the producer describes the occurrence, extent, and location of the predation losses, as well as any methods already being employed to reduce losses. WS provides advice and recommendations.

Conducting the Site Visit/Meeting. WS may conduct a site visit to gather firsthand knowledge of the predation problem and discuss options for reducing losses. WS will assess husbandry practices, predation evidence, and evaluate management methods in use, and may offer technical advice to increase effectiveness of the tools already being used.

Signing an Agreement. If the producer requests that WS conduct predator management, an agreement is negotiated and signed. In this agreement the rancher authorizes access and methods/tools as well as the species to be managed. The producer. Once the agreement is signed and any necessary authorizations are obtained, WS initiates work activities.

Conducting the Predation Management Program. During the project, WS and the producer communicate about predation events, logistics, wildlife activity and management, use of specialized tools, and any unforeseen circumstances that could affect management activities or effectiveness. Once predator management activities are completed, WS informs the producer and provides results and other information about the project.



WS Wildlife Services

Protecting People
Protecting Property
Protecting Agriculture



The California WS program provided 40,000 nonlethal wildlife damage management recommendations in 2015.

Methods to Reduce or Prevent Predation - Seek assistance from WS

Husbandry-

- Communication – Discuss predation patterns and specific events with your neighbors
- Human Presence – Range riding and shepherding
- Planning time and location of birthing to the least active predator periods.

Exclusion-

- Livestock Guardian Dogs – Using the right number of well trained and experienced dogs can be effective protection from predators.
- Fence or pen livestock at night using permanent or portable enclosures

Habitat Modification- physically altering property to make it less attractive to wildlife.

- Remove diseased, dying, or dead animals from areas.
- Dispose of carcasses in properly constructed and maintained carcass pits (at least 8 feet deep and located away from livestock, homes, outbuildings, etc.)
- Maintain a rodent/pest control program.
- When feasible remove brush and debris patches that provide cover for hunting predators.
- Make water sources inaccessible or less attractive to wildlife (fencing, floating barriers, etc.)

Harassment Tools-

- Hazing: Install motion activated flashing or security lights near sensitive areas (e.g., birthing areas).
- Hazing with firearms and cracker shells (when safe and legal to do so.)
- Install fladry (a series of cloth flags hung at intervals along a rope or fence line).
- Consider Turbo-fladry- Electrified fladry fencing.

Permitted Species

Prior to WS action, take of the following species is subject to the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) issuing a Depredation Permit:



Mountain Lion
Black Bear
Wild Pig
Bobcat
Elk
Deer
Beaver
Wild Turkey
Gray Squirrel

Requests for depredation permits can be made online (<https://nrm.dfg.ca.gov/WIR/Default.aspx>) or by calling a CDFW Regional office (<https://www.wildlife.ca.gov/Regions>)

Guidelines for Investigating Suspected Wildlife Depredation Incidents:

- **Call USDA WS as soon as possible.** The wildlife specialist's goal is to determine the species of wildlife causing damage and find resolution. Time is extremely important. Loss and damage should be reported the same day it is discovered.
- **Do not touch or move the carcass.** The biologist or specialist will need it to determine the species of animal responsible. Carcasses may be covered with a tarp or sheet to prevent birds from scavenging and destroying sign.
- **Be mindful of tracks and scat seen around the carcass.** Do trample on, allow farm dogs to circle or otherwise destroy this evidence. If you locate a good track you can preserve it by covering with an inverted bucket or bowl.
- **Secure your other livestock and pets.** The predator is likely still in the area.



United States Department of Agriculture
Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service