



Division of Wildlife

Wildlife Damage Management Program - Overview

Wildlife Division Staff Mike Klosowski

Introduction



- Wildlife Damage Management (WDM) Program
 - Programs and services to landowners/producers
 - Coyotes, deer, elk, beaver, prairie dog, Canada geese, etc.
 - #1 Provide excellent customer service and transparency
 - #2 Foster LO relations
 - #3 Mitigate livestock loss and property loss through WDM services
- 10 full-time dedicated WDM staff
- Budget = approx. \$1.25 million
- Revenue sources
 - Surcharge on hunting licenses
 - License fees
 - Non-refundable application fees
 - County appropriations
 - SD Dept. of Agriculture



Programs/Services



- **Large component is predator control in Western SD**
 - Ground techniques
 - Trapping, calling, snaring, M-44
 - Aerial predator control
 - USDA, Predator districts, Contract Pilots, Permitted pilots
 - Cooperative effort with many tools!!
- **Elk Depredation**
 - Food plots and hayland contracts
 - Increased payments
 - Protective stackyards/panels/ Fencing
 - Increased cost share to \$15k
- **Deer Depredation**
 - Protective stackyards/panels and fencing
 - Hazing and intercept-feeding
 - 'All hands-on deck' approach
- **Prairie dog control**
 - Direct control on 62 landowners last year
 - Prairie dogs originating from public lands going onto private





2020-2021 Program Changes:

- Governor's external review from 2019 is now a 'best management practice' as well as other items still in the works...
 - In addition, programs are now administered through regions
 - Increase efficiency
 - Local knowledge
 - Regional Supervisors are that connection to Pierre Leadership
- Enhanced predator control efforts
 - 300 additional hours (aerial predator control)
 - Two additional FTE's
 - Additional WDS and field Supervisor
 - Focused predator control efforts (Feb-June)
 - Pre-approved overtime to accomplish workload
 - Thermal riflescopes approx. \$17k each
 - GPS dog collars, ATV, UTV and other items
 - Challenge to get needed items during Covid
 - Additional training with M-44 and now have an app for easier documentation (reduced paperwork)
- Formal WDS training program workgroup
 - Give our new staff the tools to be successful
- Workgroup is developing an annual evaluation survey
 - We need input on how we are doing



Questions on the
presentation?



What's working, what's not?

- Elk:
 - Current elk management plan is up for renewal
 - Commission to hear the plan and take input this spring sometime
 - Thoughts on managing elk on the prairie?

- Deer (mule deer and white-tail deer):
 - Input to manage for more mule deer, Thoughts?
 - What would it take from producers to manage for more mule deer?
 - Thoughts on current population levels of deer overall?

- Prairie Dogs:
 - Treated 67 producers in 2020
 - Focused effort on prairie dogs spilling over from public lands
 - Point of contacts:
 - Prairie dogs from public to private is GFP w/ an online registration for fall application
 - SDDA is the contact for private land neighbor to neighbor or licensed applicators
 - Private contractors are available at \$10-\$25 per acre

What's working, what's not?



- Predator Control:
 - Focused effort Feb. 1 – June 15th (kills take priority whenever they come in)
 - Added equipment
 - Contract pilots (150hrs in western SD alone)
 - Added 1 WDM field supervisor and WDS in our high sheep area
 - Also changing how we map landowner permission to produce higher quality maps for our wildlife damage staff



'Open Mic' Session



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Wildlife Damage Specialist Station Map: online, LO matters, email, snail mail



South Dakota GFP Wildlife Damage Management Program

