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
Supervisor Contact Info:

Mike Klosowski (605) 880-1175
Trenton Haffley (320) 224-3572
Jack Alexander (605) 391-1576
Wildlife Damage Specialist Station Map: online, LO matters, email, snail mail