



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

Ely District Office

HC33 Box 150

Ely, Nevada 89301-9408



IN REPLY REFER TO:

6830 (NV-043)

FEB 7 1992

Wild Horse Organized Assistance
Box 555
Reno, NV 89505

Dear Interested Party:

Enclosed for your review and comment is the preliminary environmental assessment (EA) which analyzes anticipated impacts of the 1992 Animal Damage Control Annual Work Plan for the Ely District BLM. Your written comments must reach the Ely BLM office by March 10, 1992 to be considered for incorporation as part of the public comment on the preliminary environmental assessment.

Due to requests from the BLM Nevada State Office, we never finalized the 1991 Animal Damage Control (ADC) Annual Work plan or EA sent out for review in May, 1991. We have incorporated the comments received for the 1991 EA and are now undergoing the review process on the 1992 ADC plan submitted by the Animal Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) in November, 1991 for the calendar 1992 year. Per a letter from the Nevada State BLM Director to APHIS on January 21, 1991: "Consistent with the Master Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) and BLM, ADC activities will not be authorized after January 1, each year without an approved annual ADC Plan". Control activities on the Ely BLM District will not be authorized for 1992 until this EA Record of Decision is signed by the District Manager and the plan then signed by all parties.

If you have any questions on the EA or comment process, please contact District Wildlife Biologist, Mark Barber, at (702) 289-4865 or FTS 469-2000.

Sincerely,

Kenneth G. Walker,
District Manager

1 Enclosure

1. 1992 Preliminary ADC EA, Ely District

PRELIMINARY
ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

NV-040-1-08

1992 ANIMAL DAMAGE CONTROL PLAN
FOR ELY BLM DISTRICT

PREPARED BY:

ELY DISTRICT
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
ELY, NEVADA

FEBRUARY, 1992

INTRODUCTION

This preliminary environmental assessment (EA) examines impacts of the Animal Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) proposed (1992) animal damage control (ADC-AWP) annual work plan (Appendix A) for public lands in the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Ely District. It references the nationwide programmatic draft environmental impact statement on the Animal Damage Control Program released July, 1990 by APHIS. Control activities are proposed to occur over portions of approximately 8 million acres of public lands within White Pine, Lincoln, and Nye counties of east-central Nevada (Map 1).

The ADC AWP specifies where, when and under what restrictions ADC activities will be carried out. It is supplementary to the National level Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) dated September 16, 1987 between BLM and APHIS, and the Nevada State MOU dated September 28, 1990 by the same parties. The Nevada MOU requires that an EA be prepared on the district plan which covers:

1. Anticipated impacts to any candidate species
2. Effects of control on target and non-target species
3. Alternatives to the proposed control plan
4. Provisions for emergency control

This EA will address the above items as well as other pertinent impacts of the proposed animal damage control program. A complete description of the need and basis for the ADC program is given in Section II. of the ADC-AWP (Appendix A).

The ADC program is conducted pursuant to the Animal Damage Control Act of March 2, 1931 (46 Stat. 1468; 7 U.S.C. 426-426b), as amended. Other significant legislative and executive actions that guide the program are listed in the Historical Outline (Appendix B).

The program is conducted in Nevada by the APHIS in cooperation with the State Predator and Rodent Committee, the Nevada Department of Wildlife, and the local state Grazing Boards. Requests for assistance received from other federal, state, and local agencies and private individuals are the basis for response. Requests are investigated by qualified ADC personnel to verify depredation causes. If circumstances warrant the removal of those predators causing damage, APHIS provides either the necessary technical information or operational control services.

The BLM manages the public lands and authorizes APHIS to conduct ADC activities within the guidelines of the law, manual requirements, MOU requirements and any special stipulations which may come as required mitigation and monitoring in the Record of

Decision when this environmental assessment is finalized. APHIS is authorized by law to conduct and oversee the actual ADC activities on public lands with the NDOW conducting non-lethal beaver damage control.

Precautions are taken to protect humans as well as domestic and non-target animals from the controls/tools used.

The ADC program serves individuals, groups, and agencies by responding to requests for assistance in controlling predator damage. Each project is initiated only after receiving an oral or written request and after actual or potential damage is substantiated by the APHIS. A signed agreement defining the methods of control and the species to be controlled is obtained between the APHIS and the landowner, lessee, or in the case of public lands, the land managing agency, before control work commences.

BACKGROUND

Purpose and Need for the Proposed Action

The purpose of the proposed action is to prevent and/or minimize losses of domestic livestock to predators while also protecting humans as well as domestic and wild non-target animals from any negative consequences of control methods. The need is demonstrated by the receipt of an average of 178 requests per year from 22 livestock operators who have lost a cumulative total of 527 sheep to predators per year on public lands within the Ely District over the last 10 year period. (Appendix C)

10 $\overline{527}$
52
50
27

Relationship To Planning

The Schell Management Framework Plan was completed in 1983. The Egan Resource Management Plan was completed in 1987. Nether plan addresses animal damage control activities directly. The ADC plan is in conformance with all pertinent sections of these land use plans.

The proposed ADC AWP is also consistent with the County Land Use Plans for White Pine, Nye and Lincoln Counties as well as the Nevada Department of Wildlife's Policy Plan for the Management of Nevada's Wildlife Through 1990.

Major Issues

1. Impact of proposed control methods to target, non-target as well as candidate and listed threatened or endangered species
2. Impact of proposed action to health and safety of humans and domesticated animals.

DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSED ACTION AND ALTERNATIVES

Proposed Action

The proposed action is that the BLM authorize the APHIS to conduct animal control activities as specified in the draft 1992 APHIS ADC AWP on selected public lands in the Ely District. ADC activities are aimed at controlling damage causing individuals in order to reduce livestock losses to predators. Section IV of the ADC-AWP (Appendix A) gives a detailed account of proposed control methods, seasons of control and special restrictions. Map 1 as explained in Section V of the above document shows the proposed planned control areas, human safety zones and designated wilderness and wilderness study areas. The plan is in compliance with the Memorandum of Understanding (M.O.U.) between the Bureau and the APHIS dated 9/16/87 which covers the Animal Damage Control Program nationally. It is also in conformance with the supplemental M.O.U. signed 9/28/90 between BLM and APHIS in Nevada and BLM ADC Manual 6830. In addition NDOW conducts beaver damage control in accordance with the same stipulations.

Standard Operating Procedures

Pertinent standard operating procedures (SOPs) from the two BLM Land Use Plans have been incorporated into all ADC activities. These include:

1. Cultural resource protection requires compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, Section 206 of the National Historic Preservation Act Amendments of 1980 and Section 101 (b) (4) of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969.
2. All refuse generated by field operations in the project area will be removed to a sanitary landfill.
3. Threatened or endangered plant or animal species clearance is required before implementation of any project. Consultation with the Fish and Wildlife Service per Section

7 of the Endangered Species Act is necessary if a threatened or endangered species or its habitat may be impacted. If there is an adverse impact, either relocation or abandonment of the project will follow.

4. Environmental assessment will be conducted before project development so that, depending on impact, modification or abandonment of the proposed project may be considered.

In addition to SOPs from our Land Use Plans, policy guidelines issued by the APHIS constitute SOPs as well as guidelines issued in BLM-APHIS MOUs and BLM Manuals. For example, APHIS policy states that the taking of mountain lions will be for corrective control purposes only, and no preventive measures are taken. All guidelines must be observed. It is also APHIS policy to utilize only offset steel jaw traps in the ADC program and to restrict the use of lethal devices in areas where endangered species might occur. An ADC directive on threatened and endangered species dated 10/6/89 states "ADC shall conduct its activities so that the continued existence of Federally proposed or listed T/E species (or State listings) or their proposed or listed Critical Habitat are not jeopardized."

Also current policy guidelines on ADC are included in BLM Manual 6830 Animal Damage Control (8\88) and serve as SOPs. These place strict guidelines for use of M-44's including 26 stipulations placed by the Environmental Protection Agency. APHIS policy also serves as SOPs and puts even further restrictions including no use within 1/2 mile radius of designated public use areas or in areas where hunting dogs are used or trained. In addition, weekly inspections are required and automatic removal is required if additional livestock losses have not been verified within 30 days after initial placement.

M-44's are not allowed to be used in Wilderness Study Areas or in designated Wilderness Areas. Safety precautions include posting of warning signs at all control devices. As a restricted use pesticide all requests for M-44 use have to be approved by the BLM Washington Office pesticide use committee prior to approval. Pilot and aircraft used in ADC control operations must meet special requirements to qualify for the low level hazardous flight work.

Alternatives

Three alternatives are evaluated in detail (eight alternatives were considered) in the APHIS Draft Environmental Impact Statement on the Animal Damage Control Program released July, 1990. These are the (1) Current Program Alternative, (2) No Action Alternative and (3) Compensation Program Alternative.

Other alternatives considered for analysis in this document but not analyzed are: 1. Conversion of livestock use from sheep to cattle in problem allotments, 2. Requiring use of non-lethal protection methods and 3. A ban on use of toxicant for control. These alternatives were judged as impractical or beyond the authority of this office. This AWP was prepared and submitted by the Ely APHIS office, this EA will only analyze the plan as presented, and present required mitigation and monitoring changes as needed to meet manual and MOU requirements. Analysis of other alternatives was considered but rejected.

DESCRIPTION OF AFFECTED ENVIRONMENT

Only portions of the environment which directly affect, or will be affected by, ADC activities will be described in this document. The affected environment is described in a general sense within numerous planning documents. Foremost among these are the Planning Area Analysis for the Schell Resource Area, the Schell Unit Resource Analysis portions of the MFP, the Egan RMP, the Management Situation Analysis done for the Egan RMP, the preliminary FEIS for the MX (October 2, 1981), and the White Pine Power Project EIS. These documents provide a description of the potentially affected environment in the Ely District.

Target Species

Primary target species are coyotes (*Canis latrans*), bobcats (*Felis rufus*), and mountain lions (*Felis concolor*) which are controlled as needed to alleviate predation on domestic animals (see Appendix A Sec. II for details of losses to these species). Secondary control may involve ravens (*Corvus corax*) and starlings (*Sturnus vulgaris*). Beaver (*Castor canadensis*) are also involved in habitat destruction activities mostly in riparian habitats. The program is directed towards alleviating losses caused by individual predators and local depredating predator populations. This proposal, however, focuses primarily on the coyote and secondarily on the mountain lion, since they are the most prevalent and widespread predators affecting livestock at this time.

Non-Target Species

Non-target animals which could be affected include 15 species of raptors which occur in the district. The Golden Eagle is the most commonly attracted bird to trap sites. Domestic dog, kit fox, badger, and gray fox occur in the district and could be accidentally taken by ADC control activities (mainly traps and M-44 use). Non-target species taken in the Ely District in 90-91 were 1 bobcat, 3 kit fox and 2 badgers. Appendix D gives a listing of non-target animals taken state-wide by ADC from 1987-89 (no similar information is available just for the Ely District).

T/E and Candidate Species

Appendix E contains a complete list of all listed and candidate plant (12 species) and animal (25) species on public lands in the Ely District. The only species which could potentially be affected by ADC activities are:

1. Bald Eagle (Endangered)
2. American peregrine falcon (Endangered)
3. Ferruginous Hawk (Candidate C-2)
4. Sierra Nevada red fox (Candidate C-2)

Wild Horse and Burros

A total of 13 herd areas for wild horses have been established on the Ely District with an estimated total of 5150 wild horses occupying the range.

Recreation

Recreation use in the Ely District is mostly dispersed, and the majority of use occurs in the back country. There are four developed recreation sites on BLM land (See Appendix A, Sec. VI 1.) Recreation activities include hunting for upland game, waterfowl and big game, fishing, spelunking, sightseeing, hiking, trapping, camping, rock hunting, wood cutting, viewing archeological and historic sites and ORV use. Use is generally not concentrated in any specific area, with the exception of the caves and fishing waters.

Wilderness

Currently 18 Wilderness Study Areas (WSA's) totaling 678,419 acres (8.3% of district) occur in the Ely District. Also there are 2 designated Wilderness Areas totaling 6,438 (acres on BLM), neither area is in the proposed Control Zone for ADC activities. The Interim Management Policy and Guidelines for Lands Under Wilderness Review, BLM Handbook H-8550-1, dated 11/10/87 outlines how these lands under wilderness study must be managed. The September 24, 1981 Wilderness Management Policy guides management of designated wilderness areas.

ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES

For purposes of this analysis it will be assumed that the 10 year average level of control and losses given in Appendix C represents an average annual control and loss level.

In recent years the public awareness and demand is changing, the public wants to see and hear predators in the wild as part of their outdoor experience.

Of primary importance is the health and safety of humans, domesticated animals, and other non-target species. Adverse impacts may result from accidental exposure to mechanical devices or, in the case of the M-44, to sodium cyanide.

All current methods of predator control have been used by ADC personnel for many years throughout the west with relatively few injuries to humans or livestock. Two exceptions are: (1) human fatalities and severe injuries to participating APHIS and State employees that have occurred in conjunction with aerial hunting, trapping, and lion hunting (the casualties have occurred during the process of low level aerial gunning from helicopter or small fixed wing aircraft as a result of lone crashes); and (2) the inadvertent capture of nontarget species such as dogs, livestock (especially sheep), and other species of wildlife in steel traps.

All ADC control methods are hazardous when improperly used. However, when used by professionals according to established guidelines, the risks to humans and domesticated animals are minimal. Of secondary concern would be the anticipated impacts on the overall populations of individual predators. There would be the unavoidable impact of stress, injury or death affecting 800 to 1,300 animals each year. This particular issue is discussed below for each species that may be impacted as a result of the program.

Target Species

Coyote

The ecological implications of the proposed control effort are related to its effect on the overall coyote population rather than on the individual, as it is the integrity of the population that is important biologically.

Coyote populations have the reproductive capacity to recover rapidly following a reduction in number (assuming adequate prey are available), regardless of whether these reductions are a result of natural causes or of man's activities.

A second consideration would be the total number of coyotes taken annually by the ADC program compared to the estimated total annual harvest of coyotes by fur trappers and sportsmen. The Ely District ADC program in 1990-91 killed 1092 coyotes. It is estimated that 13 fur trappers within White Pine County killed an additional 38 coyotes for their fur value. This does not include the casual shooter which may kill a larger number of animals but no estimates are available.

APHIS-Ely has stated they believe, from long term observation that there is a population of 9-10,000 coyotes in the Ely District. If we assume this to be a good ballpark figure, an annual total harvest rate of 10-20% (from 10 year harvest data) is not expected to effect coyote population levels. Research (Univ. of Calif. 1975) has shown coyote populations can maintain and even increase in numbers at harvest levels up to 75%. Coyote populations have been generally increasing in numbers and distribution over much of the Western U.S. despite ADC and trapping efforts. According to the 1991 NDOW Furbearers Status and Season Recommendations "Through observations by Department biologists, A.D.C. personnel and contacts with other agencies, coyote populations are estimated to be increasing at moderate to high levels".

Mountain lion

Anticipated impacts, including ecological implications, from the proposed control effort are related here to their effect on the overall mountain lion population rather than on the individual.

Mountain lion habitat is primarily limited to mountain ranges, canyons and badlands where quite often the entire area may be inhabited by relatively few lions depending on natural prey basis. However, current mountain lion population levels are at or near maximum density (90-100 percent). NDOW and ADC estimate that approximately 150 mountain lions live within the 8.0 million acres in the Ely District.

The relatively few number of mountain lions taken by the Ely District ADC annually, (15 in 1990-1991) plus the adjustable tag quota/sport harvest administered by the Nevada Department of Wildlife, has relatively no impact on the total population. Appendix F shows sport take versus ADC kill in 1990-91 in NDOW Management units in the Ely District (also includes area outside district and on other federal lands). ADC took an average of 48% of total lions killed in 1990-91. NDOW biologists state in the 1991 Mountain Lion Status and Hunting Season Recommendations:

"Documented mortality in the form of harvest and accidental loss does not appear to have exceeded the reproductive/recruitment capabilities of the mountain lion resource. Based upon population estimates and recorded mortality, the trend in Region II mountain lion population is considered to be stable" and "With lion populations near maximum densities and lion harvest goals designed

to take no more than annual recruitment (but only 52% attained average) there still remains a surplus of lions available for take in Region III"

Bobcat

Anticipated impacts are minimal with respect to this species. Control measures are seldom taken on bobcats and always aimed at a particular animal. Appendix D shows only 9 bobcats killed and 37 released as a result of ADC activities statewide from 1987-89. Ely District ADC did not kill any in 1990-1991, while private trappers took 240 bobcats for their fur value in White Pine County, Lincoln and Nye counties.

Raven/Starlings

No ravens were taken in 1990-91 by ADC personnel, 2 requests were received reporting losses to ravens. Ravens can be a problem on sheep lambing areas for limited periods. No Starlings were taken, starling control is limited to feedlot situations where the birds are eating livestock feed. These conditions do not occur on public lands.

The conclusion of the August, 1990 report by the General Accounting Office Number RCED 90-149, Effects of ADC Program on Predators, was: "According to available information, the number of predators killed under ADC programs has not threatened state-wide predator populations". They also state ADC activities can "contribute to decreases in populations of certain predator species in localized areas with heavy livestock grazing."

Nontarget species

One of the adverse effects of the ADC program is the direct impact on nontarget wildlife species accidentally killed or injured as a result of ground control activities. Nontarget wildlife caught and released or destroyed as a result of the program might include such species as kit fox, badger, rabbit, birds of prey. Also domestic dogs and cats can be taken accidentally.

The coyote, mountain lion, and bobcat also play an important role in a complex of predator-prey relationships. The ADC control program therefore, has the potential to change (in the areas where it occurs) these relationships, to a degree, causing indirect impacts on other taxonomic groups.

The direct and indirect effects on nontarget species such as other carnivores, raptors, game species, rodents, lagomorphs, and threatened and endangered species are addressed below.

Raptors can be affected by certain ADC techniques; the steel trap would probably be of most concern, unless strict precautions (chiefly the use of spacers) are taken. Birds of prey locate their food primarily by sight, not smell. Steel traps set for coyotes are normally scented with olfactory attractants and, therefore, seldom constitute a hazard to these birds. Current state regulations require a 3/16 inch spacer in traps to protect raptors.

Predator control for the protection of livestock can have a limited effect on local populations of game species. The extent depends upon where, when, and to the intensity it is conducted. Predators can be controlled specifically for the benefit of game species, usually at the request of the Nevada Department of Wildlife. Thus the selective removal of individual coyotes that are killing livestock in a particular area is unlikely to have any major influence on game populations, unless predation were the limiting factor for a particular game species in a given geographic area.

Population of rats, mice, and rabbits are not directly affected by coyote control methods used by ADC. The most significant impact upon these species probably occurs indirectly as a result of changes within complex coyote-prey relationships.

T&E Species

The endangered wintering bald eagle could be impacted by the ADC program. Some incidents of eagles being caught in steel traps occur when sight baits are suspended over traps. This practice is now illegal and not used in ADC activities. Law enforcement activities have reduced this type of losses in commercial trapping. The toxic characteristics of sodium cyanide make it highly unlikely that scavengers including eagles would be killed from eating a coyote killed by a M-44.

However, to insure that bald eagles are not taken or otherwise impacted, the APHIS issued policy guidelines and provided specific instruction to field personnel, directing them not to place potentially hazardous devices in areas of known T&E species occurrence.

The Draft nationwide E.I.S. on ADC activities lists the American peregrine falcon as possibly impacted by ADC activities. These birds feed primarily on small passerine birds which could be impacted by the use of Starlicide (DRC 1339). This would have to be a secondary poisoning. No starlicide has been used to date in the

Ely District. Three peregrine "hack" or nest sites are scheduled by NDOW within the district over the next few years.

Impacts on the Category 2 candidate T/E ferruginous hawk would be indirect and minimal. The ferruginous hawk's primary prey species in the Ely District has been determined to be the Townsend ground squirrel. This also serves as one of many prey species for coyotes. By reducing coyote levels in areas adjacent to ferruginous hawk nest sites this could have a slight beneficial effect by reducing coyote predation on the prey base (squirrels and other rodents) used by the hawks. This potential impact has never been quantitatively measured and would be expected to be minimal in nature.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service lists the Sierra Nevada Red Fox (*Vulpes necator*) as a Category 2 candidate T/E species. Records from the Ely District area include two records by Hall in 1946. There are no recent records indicating the species occurs in this area. NDOW records show 3 red fox taken in Elko County with the nearest one taken 12 miles north of the Ely District boundary. Mel Anderson, APHIS supervisor in Ely, reports that in his 34 years trapping and working around Eastern Nevada he has never seen a red fox. NDOW states it is possible that past use of poison baits and intense trapping have removed red fox from it's historic range and current sport harvest and predator control are preventing red fox from reoccupying their former range. Impacts, if the fox does occur in the Ely District, would be minimal as foxes are not target species and are rarely taken during ADC operations.

The APHIS-BLM Nevada MOU (Appendix A) requires APHIS to conduct Section 7 consultation as needed, consultation with the Reno Field station of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service regarding possible impacts to listed threatened of endangered plants or animal species has been completed. The propose action will not affect the continued existence of any listed threatened of endangered species.

Cultural, Palentological and Historical

No impacts on cultural, palentological or historical values are anticipated as a result of the ADC program, since there will be no ground disturbance.

Visual Resource Management

No impacts on landscape or visual values are anticipated as a result of the ADC program, since the program does not involve any construction or ground disturbance.

Recreation Values

Predator control activities are normally conducted away from high public use areas. However, the public cannot be completely excluded from areas where control equipment may be exposed. The recreationist has access to almost every acre of public land, either by off-road vehicles, by foot or by horseback.

Bird hunting, with or without the use of dogs, may be impacted by control activities in certain areas. However, the timing of control activities and hunting seasons within the Ely District usually do not coincide. On those occasions when they do, APHIS notifies by posting areas where control activities are being conducted and covering traps to prevent unintentional catches and vandalism of traps.

Sport harvest of coyotes by local trappers and sportsmen may be impacted by ADC activities when fur prices are high and efforts are intense. In recent years low fur prices have minimized any conflict. Since the majority of areas open for control are considerable distances from major population centers, it is anticipated that the proposed action would not impact this recreational activity. Other recreational values should not be significantly impacted as a result of this program.

The ADC APHIS proposed plan calls for human safety zones where control is prohibited around streams, developed campgrounds (Illipah Reservoir, Cleve Creek, Goshute Creek, Cold Creek, Meadow Valley and Spring Valley Reservoir) and along major highways. NDOW beaver damage control can be conducted in the human safety zone with non-lethal methods.

Social and Economic Values

Since this program directly benefits a segment of the local economy, it is viewed by the livestock ranching interests as highly needed and beneficial. The ranching community is the only segment of the population that is directly dependent on this program. However, of the 98 livestock operators permitted to graze on public lands within the Ely District, only 29 (30%) of the operators requested control on their allotments during the past year. (Appendix G).

Employees of the ADC program and hired aircraft operators also benefit directly (i.e., salaries and cost of aircraft rental) from the program. Services generated directly and indirectly by the program are almost infinitesimal compared to the total economic picture in White Pine County (the ADC program sold no pelts in 1990-91).

Livestock producers without predation problems may benefit economically from the lower marketing caused by the coyote predation suffered by other livestock operators. The impact of livestock losses to coyotes on consumers is the result of reduced supplies and correspondingly higher prices. The greater overall economic impact of livestock predation is probably on the consumer rather than the producer.

The relationship between the commercial harvest of coyotes for their fur value and coyotes taken as a result of the ADC program impacts the economic return of the trapper and sportsmen. The value of the average coyote pelt has varied over the past years from \$40.00 in 1980-81 to \$13.02 in 1990-91. As prices decrease for this commodity, the number of animals taken commercially also decreases.

However, the coyotes harvested commercially are seldom associated with livestock damage situations. To have any commercial value, coyotes must be harvested in late fall or early winter when furs are prime. Livestock damage is usually at a minimum during this time. Salvageable hides taken by the ADC program are sold, and the proceeds are returned to the cooperative program. Last year the ADC program sold no salvageable hides in the Ely District.

A growing segment of the U.S. population find killing animals for sport or to benefit the livestock industry as offensive and are opposed to all lethal ADC activities as well as sport hunting and trapping. Others are concerned with cruelty to animals and oppose all methods they view as inhumane. The battle to ban or withdraw funding from ADC activities is being fought in federal and state legislatures and courts. A potential negative impact to the halting of regulated animal damage control would be that some livestock operators may turn to using unapproved chemical control which could be very harmful to both target and non-target species, as well as to domestic animals and humans. Present laws and regulations allow ADC control to continue with proper restrictions.

Wilderness

The W.S.A. guidelines include the following restrictions:

"Animal damage control activities directed at individual offending animals, and not indiscriminate control of population, may be permitted, so long as this will not jeopardize the continued presence of any species in the area."

The Wilderness Policy states: "Approval of predator control actions must be contingent upon a clear showing the removal of the offending predators will not diminish the wilderness values of the area, because these kind of wildlife is an integral part of the

wilderness, as well as adjunct to the visitor's experience.", Control in designated wilderness areas can only be authorized by the State Director and will be considered on a case-by-case basis.

The proposed action is designed to fully incorporate these restrictions. No impacts to wilderness of wilderness study areas are expected as a result of this action.

Wild Horses and Burros

There could be some negative impacts to wild horses in the district due to aerial gunning activities used to control coyotes. Harassment of wild horses is illegal under the Wild Free-Roaming Horse and Burro Act. Disturbance of wild horses is expected to be minimal. Low level flights from March through June could have a negative effect on foaling activities. Intensive ADC efforts may benefit horses as coyotes have been observed to take newborn foals on occasion.

Provisions for Emergency Control

All emergency control (requests for control in areas listed as No Control Zones) will be handled with the same limitation and restrictions as analyzed in the Planned Control Areas. Therefore, impacts are expected to be the same as those already covered. In the last 10 years the Ely District BLM has received no requests for emergency control.

Other resources

No impacts from ADC activities are expected on Floodplain, Wetlands and Riparian Areas; Areas of Critical Environmental Concern; Prime or Unique Farmlands; Water Quality or Quantity; Wastes, Hazardous or Solid; Native American Religious concerns; or Air Quality.

Mitigating Measures

In order to better document impacts on non-target species at the district level, a list of all non-target species taken will be included with the AWP each year (for the previous year). This will specify animal species, number killed, number released, method of take and location (includes allotment) of incident. Control methods will be continually reviewed to eliminate any which continue to result in capture of non-target species. Areas where non-target species are regularly taken (2 or more per year) will be removed from the Control Zone or methods will be changed to minimize the take of non-target species.

In order to mitigate any potential impacts on endangered falcons, APHIS will not use Starlicide (DRC 1339) within 10 miles of an active peregrine falcon hawk or nest site.

No ADC aerial operations will disturb wild horses or burros during the foaling season. This includes no low level flights (below 500 feet) where wild horses or burros are present from March 1 through June 30th annually.

ADC operations will report any sittings of red fox immediately to the BLM and control measures will be limited in the identified area to measures which will not adversely impact the fox. This will mean using direct control methods only.

At the annual APHIS-ADC/BLM meeting, any problems in compiling with all manual, MOU and other restrictions will be identified. Needed changes in operating procedures will be incorporated in the next years AWP in order to assure close conformance and resolve any conflict areas.

Allotments with consistently high predator losses will be considered for conversion from sheep to cattle if permittee are willing and allotment monitoring shows no resulting negative impacts to forage or riparian areas.

Final mitigating measures and stipulations from this EA will be incorporated in the Record of Decision and will become part of the finalized ADC AWP. APHIS signature on the AWP will signify acceptance of all required mitigating and monitoring measures.

Required Monitoring

The Nevada BLM/APHIS MOU requires "In areas where ADC is conducted on a regular and intensive basis, effects of control on target and non-target species will be monitored". APHIS will be responsible to see that allotments which receive regular request for control will receive adequate monitoring of target and non-target species occurs. This may include conducting predator scent stations before and after control efforts are completed or other adequate methods. In addition on all animals taken by ground methods, the age and sex of each target animal taken will be reported in order to detect any adverse shifts in local populations. On non-target species APHIS must certify annually that efforts are not adversely effecting populations. State-wide figures (Appendix D) show badger are the most common non-target species taken, particular emphasis should be placed on reducing badger losses/captures. The ADC AWP submission each year must include the results of all monitoring efforts to verify that target and non-target species population levels are not being adversely impacted. Monitoring methods will be reviewed annually to reassure that they are adequate and that information is sufficient to conclude that impacts on target and non-target species populations are not significant.

INTENSITY OF PUBLIC INTEREST

The 1979 FWS Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) of Mammalian Predator Damage Management for Livestock Protection in *the Western United States received 1,559 letters plus 150 persons attended public meetings in Washington, D.C. and Salt Lake City, Utah.

CONSULTATION AND COORDINATION (Preliminary EA sent for comment)

___ Nevada Department of Wildlife
___ Region II Elko
___ Region III Las Vegas
___ Headquarters, Reno

___ New White Pine Sportsmen's Club

___ Animal Plant Health Inspection Service-
___ Animal Damage Control, Ely and Reno Offices

___ U.S. Forest Service-
___ Humboldt National Forest

___ Eastern Nevada Trappers and Takers Assoc.

___ Advisory Board to Manage Wildlife
___ White Pine Co.
___ Lincoln Co.

___ Nevada Cattlemen's Association

___ Nevada State Clearinghouse

___ Nevada Wool Growers Association

Internal Review

___ N-4 Grazing Board

___ Nevada Wildlife Federation

___ Sierra Club, Toiyabe Chapter

___ National Park Service-
___ Great Basin National Park

___ U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
___ Ruby Lake National Wildlife Refuge

___ Great Basin Complex Office, Reno NV.

Ron Sjogren, Lands
Harry Rhea, Forestry
Bill Lindsey, Range
Bill Coulloudon, Range
Bob Brown, Wild Horses
Mark Henderson, Cultural
Brian Amme, Cultural
Mike Bunker, VRM,
Recreation, Wilderness
Loran Robinson, Watershed
Mark Barber, Riparian,
T/E Animals
Jake Rajala, Planning and
Environmental Coord.

___ Bureau of Indian Affairs, Elko

___ Duckwater Indian Reservation

___ Goshute Indian Reservation

___ Ely Indian Reservation

___ Bureau of Land Management

Elko District

Battle Mountain District

Las Vegas District

Salt Lake District

Cedar City District

Richfield District

Carson City District

Nevada State Office

___ Resource Concepts Inc.

___ Nevada Outdoor Recreation Association

___ The Wilderness Society

___ Commission for the Preservation of Wild Horse and Burros

___ Animal Protection Institute

___ Humane Society of the US

___ Paul C. Clifford

___ Dr. Donald Molde

___ Wildlife Damage Review

___ University of Nevada, Reno

___ Alliance for Animals

___ Am. Mustang Assoc. Inc

___ Am. Mustang & Burro Assoc.

___ National Park & Cons. Assoc.

___ Public Resource Assoc.

___ Tina Nappe

Hal Bybee, Operations

Tim Reuwsaat, ADM-

Resources

Gene Drais, Area Manager

Gerald Smith, Area

Manager

Mike Perkins, Wildlife

Paul Podborny, Wildlife

Chris Mayer, Range & TE

Plants

- Marjorie Sill
- Western States Public Coalition
- Predator Project
- Wild Horse Organized Assistance

In addition to those listed above involved in the formal review a total of 72 letters were sent to potentially interested parties in 1991 asking if they were interested in reviewing the preliminary EA. Only those who replied are being included in the review process.

SIGNATURES

Prepared by Mark Barber 2/6/92
Date

Reviewed by:

Environmental Coordinator Jacob Rayle 2/6/92
Date

ADM-Resources Michael C. Bunker - ACTING 2/6/92
Date

ELY BLM DISTRICT
ANIMAL DAMAGE CONTROL PLAN
OUTLINE

- I. Introduction
- II. Basis for Program
- III. Results of Previous Year's Program
- IV. Responsibilities
- V. Planned ADC Activities
- VI. Coordination with Nevada Department of Wildlife
- VII. Map of Control Area
- VIII. NEPA Compliance
- IX. Endangered Species Act Compliance
- X. Review and Concurrence

ANIMAL DAMAGE CONTROL - ANNUAL WORK PLAN
ELY BLM DISTRICT
1992

I. Introduction

This and the associated map constitute the Animal Damage Control (ADC) program's annual work plan for the public lands in the Ely District of the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) for the period January 1, 1992, to December 31, 1992. This plan specifies where, when, and under what conditions ADC functions will be carried out as mutually agreed by the signatory parties hereto. This plan is supplemental to the national level memorandum (MOU), dated September 28, 1990, by the same parties. The purpose of this plan is to formally outline the anticipated animal damage control activities that will be conducted during the covered time period by APHIS-ADC personnel on the public lands administered by the Ely BLM District.

II. Basis for Program

Predators and rodents are integral components of natural ecosystems and as such are valued resources. The natural behavior of these species however, frequently produce financial losses to the livestock industry, threats to human safety, and damages to other natural resources. Because of these losses and conflicts, effective animal damage management efforts are necessary. ADC program activities are directed at damage causing individuals or localized populations. The overall objective of the ADC program's planned activities is to protect human interests while minimizing the direct and indirect impacts to wildlife and other resources.

During FY-91, the Ely ADC office received 148 requests for assistance (Coyote 122, Lion 22, Bobcat 0, Eagle 2, Raven 2). Losses for the year October 1, 1990, to September 30, 1991, were as follows: (Coyote) 294 lambs confirmed and 33 reported, 125 ewes confirmed and 8 reported, and 0 calves confirmed and 0 reported. (Eagle) 5 lambs confirmed. (Raven) 5 confirmed. (Bobcat) 0 lambs confirmed. (Mt. Lion) 82 lambs confirmed and 8 reported and 43 ewes confirmed and 1 reported and 0 buck sheep. Total reported losses by all predators were 604 animals.

The estimated value of losses were: ewes \$22,125, lambs \$22,935, bucks 0, and calves 0. The total estimated value for confirmed losses was \$45,060. Without the current level of control the expected losses would have been several times higher.

In responding to requests for assistance, there were 286 coyotes and 2 dens taken by aerial hunting, and 806 coyotes and 15 lions taken by ground methods. The Ely District office received 1 request for assistance in Wilderness Study Areas (WSA) (0 lion, 1 coyote). There were 0 coyotes taken in WSA's, 0 by trapping, 0 by aircraft and 0 lions taken by dogs. Six coyotes were taken with M-44's during this period. (No work was done on the eagle and raven complaints.) There were 6 reported losses of nontarget animals during this period (1 bobcat, 3 kit foxes, 2 badgers). Nontarget animals that are inadvertently captured are always released to the wild unless they are determined to have suffered mortal injuries. Incidental take of nontarget animals in recent years has been minimal and is not expected to increase.

Sustained control operations have been occurring on the planned control areas for the last 15 years. ADC records and Nevada Department of Wildlife statistics indicate that coyote populations are currently estimated to be stable or increasing in numbers. Mountain lion populations are also stable to increasing with ranges expanding throughout the State. Raven and golden eagle numbers also appear to be increasing in the control areas.

Comments from the 1989-90 NDOW Furbearers Season Recommendation Summary indicate "coyote populations are estimated to be increasing at moderate to high levels." Also comments on mountain lion populations indicate that the mountain lion population is considered to be stable."

NDOW reported harvest of 38 coyotes by trappers in Region II in the 1990-91 season. In comparison, ADC take in White Pine County (part of Region II) was 771 and 336 coyotes taken in Nye and Lincoln Counties (part of Region III). Mountain lion take was 26 in White Pine County and 2 in Lincoln County by ADC in 1990-91. Harvest estimates by NDOW for areas 10, 11, 12, 13, and 22 were 67 lions for the unit(s) which cover (most or all) of the Ely BLM District (and some areas outside).

The above discussion of losses, harvest statistics, stable to increasing predator population levels, and lack of impact on nontarget species, establishes the need and basis for the continuing animal damage management program on the Ely BLM District.

III. Results of Previous Year's Program

A. Animals taken (target and nontarget) (by species) (by method). Coyotes: shot 101, called and shot 97, denned 48, 286 aerial, dogs 4, M-44's 6, snares 7, trapped 543. Mt. lions: dogs 13, foot snare 1. Nontarget: fox (kit) 3, badgers 2, bobcat 1.

B. Animals taken by sport and fur harvest.

| County | Coyote* | Fox | Bobcat | Badger |
|------------|---------|------------------|--------|--------|
| White Pine | 38 | 14 Gray | 122 | 2 |
| Lincoln | 20 | 15 Gray 6 Kit | 67 | 0 |
| Nye | 199 | 91 Gray | 51 | 1 |

*The actual number of coyotes taken is higher than indicated because of unreported sport harvest.

C. Population trends by species. NDOW estimates population trends through sport and fur harvest. ADC estimates population trends through predation and predatory animal take. Both estimates show that coyote and mountain lion populations are stable or increasing in numbers.

D. Monitoring. Monitoring efforts include initial and continuing assessments of resource losses to determine the species responsible for depredations and the need for control efforts to begin or continue. These assessments include consideration of depredation patterns observed in previous years to identify areas where losses can be expected to reoccur. The evaluations are used to determine the need to initiate or continue both preventative and corrective control efforts.

The relative impact of ADC operations in previous seasons to both target and nontarget species has been determined to be minimal. Records are collected to document all animals taken as a result of ADC operations. This data provides the basis for the program's annual report of accomplishments and a means of evaluating the relative impact of ADC actions to sport and other harvest. ADC and NDOW meet annually to discuss management issues of mutual concern including the impacts of depredation control to both target and nontarget species. This coordination effort provides and annual reassessment to assure that depredation take in conjunction with sport and other harvest does not significantly impact the affected species.

The ADC harvest of coyotes and mountain lions declined slightly in 1991. This slightly reduced harvest was not a significant departure from the previous year's harvest. Population estimates for both species remained relatively static; therefore, the relative impacts continued to be minimal for both species.

ADC actions were negligible in relation to all other affected species.

IV. Responsibilities

The responsibilities of the BLM are the same as given in Article 7 of the Nevada MOU dated September 28, 1990. APHIS-ADC responsibilities are the same as those given in Article 6 of the above MOU. See Appendix A for a copy of the MOU.

V. Planned ADC Activities

A. Livestock Protection

1. Sheep Protection

SEASONS OF CONTROL - Control will be conducted year round on summer and lambing ranges. Control emphasis will be placed on the time period immediately preceding and during actual livestock use. ADC work on ranges exclusively for winter use will occur just prior to and during periods of livestock use.

TYPES OF CONTROL - Leghold traps, aerial hunting, shooting, denning, snares, M-44's, and trained dogs will be used as appropriate. Emphasis will be on coyote damage control, but bobcat and lion control will also be accomplished when these species are found to be responsible for losses.

The chemical DRC 1339 (Starlicide) may be needed to control raven depredations on lambs. APHIS will complete the requisite Pesticide Use Proposal (per BLM Manual Section 9011) which will then be submitted by BLM to WO-230 for approval prior to any pesticide use (M-44's are considered a pesticide). Advance notification will be given to the district manager before pesticides are used. Use of the pesticide DRC 1339 will be restricted primarily to lambing ranges and the lambing season. DRC 1339 treated eggs will only be used to control ravens found when they are found to be responsible for lamb depredations. No preventative raven control is proposed. No pesticides are proposed for use in Wilderness Study Areas or designated Wilderness Areas.

2. Cattle Protection

SEASONS OF CONTROL - Any time of year that losses occur. Losses are normally confined to the seasons when small calves are present.

TYPES OF CONTROL - Aerial hunting will be the

primary control method used, but steel traps and trained dogs may be employed as appropriate.

B. Special Considerations

1. All control programs will be conducted within new and existing APHIS Animal Damage Control policies, BLM Manual 6830 (8/90), Nevada State APHIS-BLM MOU and all applicable State and Federal laws.

If M-44 use is found to be appropriate within planned control areas, all use will comply with the 26 use restrictions associated with these devices. Signs will be posted at commonly used access points and other required locations in accordance with APHIS policy, and EPA's regulations in order to insure proper public notification.

2. Prior to deploying M-44's, notification will be provided to the appropriate BLM Area Manager. This notification will include a written statement to include the following:

- a) the general area where the M-44 units are proposed for use, b) the expected period of use, and c) the losses documented to justify their use. During M-44 use periods, monthly reports will be provided to the BLM Area Manager to summarize the number and species of animals taken, the number of M-44's being used, and the losses documented in the areas where M-44's are being used.

3. All ADC control activities within WSA's will meet the following stipulations:

- a. Prior authorization will be sought from the BLM District Manager before any control action is implemented. In the case of confirmed losses to mountain lions which occur outside normal duty hours, control efforts may proceed with notification to occur as soon as practicable but no later than the following working day. Case by case authorizations will be sought to insure that all appropriate precautions are exercised to preserve the state of wilderness which exists in these sensitive areas.

- b. District-wide WSA maps will only be used for general reference. Maps with a scale of at least one half inch to the mile will be used in the field during ADC activities to determine WSA boundaries.

- c. All control operations to be conducted in WSA's will be in compliance with "The Interim Management Guidelines for Lands Under Wilderness Review." These guidelines read in part:

"Animal Damage Control activities directed at individual offending animals....may be permitted, so long as this will not jeopardize the continued presence of any species in the area."

The primary (selective) method of removing offending animals will be with firearms either from the ground or air. Other control methods may be proposed on a case-by-case basis as appropriate. Offending animals will normally be taken within two weeks of the depredation episode. Any extension beyond two weeks will be justified by ADC and approved by the District Manager.

- d. Control actions and losses within WSA's will be documented to provide a complete record for the WSA managers.
4. It is understood that all proposed control activities within BLM administered WSA's require prior approval by the BLM State Director in accordance with BLM Manual 6840 on Animal Damage Control (8/4/88) Section .4C. Additionally, they must meet other stipulations specified in the manual. The use of M-44's is restricted in accordance with the current Nevada ADC MOU between BLM and APHIS (9/28/90).

VI. Coordination with Nevada Department of Wildlife

- A. The continuation of control activities as outlined in this plan have been determined not to pose a significant effect on target or nontarget species in the control areas as the result of combined sport harvest and ADC activities.
- B. The Nevada Department of Wildlife has no current requests pending for ADC to control predators or rodents on public lands in the district to benefit other wildlife species such as bighorn sheep or pronghorn antelope that have been reintroduced into once native ranges. This type of request if received would be handled under the same conditions as listed elsewhere in this plan.
- C. APHIS-ADC and NDOW meet annually on a statewide basis

to discuss mutual interests, coordinate responsibilities and activities, review control and management accomplishments, and to resolve potential conflicts.

VII. Map of Control Areas

Color coding is as follows:

RED - Human safety zones. Areas where control is prohibited except in case of emergency.

These are areas around streams, developed campgrounds and along major highways.

GREEN - Planned control areas. These areas include buffer zones in close proximity to livestock ranges where control measures may be necessary to effectively limit depredations on the livestock ranges. The buffer zones normally will not exceed five miles.

BLUE - Designated Wilderness Areas and Wilderness Study Areas. Operations in these areas will follow the stipulations associated with wilderness and wilderness study areas found elsewhere in this plan.

UNCOLORED - No control zones. Areas where no control is scheduled. In cases where local damage problems may arise that jeopardize health, safety or property, immediate action may be taken to eliminate or curtail the problem upon receipt of a request by BLM or APHIS-ADC. The request for such action will be coordinated between BLM and APHIS-ADC as soon as practicable, even though emergency steps may have been initiated. Follow up reports of requests received, action taken, and results realized will be provided. (The district recreation map used with this plan has a yellow background color, but for this plan the yellow represents the uncolored portion.

VIII. NEPA Compliance

The mammalian control actions contemplated in this plan are equivalent to those evaluated in the Mammalian Predator Damage for Livestock Protection in the Western United States, Final Environmental Impact Statement (USDI 1979).

IX. Endangered Species Act Compliance

Consultation with the Reno Field station of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service regarding possible impacts to listed threatened or endangered plant or animal species has been completed for this proposed action. The proposed action will not affect the continued existence of any listed threatened or endangered species.

X. Review and Concurrence

This is the Annual Work Plan covering the anticipated Animal Damage Control program activities for 1992, on the Federal lands administered by the Ely District, of the Bureau of Land Management.

This plan is based on past and anticipated requests for ADC services by grazing permittees, NDOW, BLM, and other agencies and individuals. It is mutually agreed that all ADC activities will be conducted as contemplated in this plan or as further stipulated and approved on a case by case basis.

An annual meeting will be held by the participating parties in October or November as schedules permit to review the ADC plan for the next calendar year.

Submitted by:

Ely District Supervisor, ADC

Date

Reviewed by:

Supervisor Region II, NDOW

Date

Ely District Manager, BLM

Date

APPENDIX B

HISTORICAL OUTLINE OF ADC

- 1885 - Division of Economic Ornithology and Mammology of U.S.D.A. mailed questionnaires to farmers, asking about bird damage to crops.
- 1887 - Division began recommending, in letters to farmers, ground squirrel control methods developed in 1878 by Professor H. W. Hilgard, University of California.
- 1888
to
- 1914 - Studies and demonstrations of animal control in Western States.
- 1915 - First Congressional appropriation (\$125,000) made for predator control under the Bureau of Biological Survey.
- 1925 - Division of Predatory Animal and Rodent Control formed.
- 1931 - Animal Damage Control Act.
- 1939 - Predator and rodent control moved from UDA to USDI.
- 1948 - Branch of Predator and Rodent Control formed.
- 1964 - Leopold Report.
- 1965 - Division of Wildlife Services formed.
- 1969 - National Environmental Policy Act.
- 1972 - Cain Report.
- 1972 - Executive Order 11643 banned toxicant on Federal lands. EPA cancels registration of 1080, cyanide and strychnine.
- 1974 - Animal Damage Control Program formed.
- 1975 - Executive Order 11870 allowed experimental use of sodium cyanide.
- 1976 - Division of Animal Damage Control is formed.

- 1976 - Executive Order 11917 allowed operational use of sodium cyanide.
- 1982 - BLM Ely District Animal Damage Control Program Environmental Assessment NV-040-1-41
- 1986 - Animal Control Division transferred from U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to U.S.D.A. Animal Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS)
- 1987 - Memorandum of Understanding signed between BLM and APHIS on Animal Damage Control activities nation wide.
- 1988 - BLM Manual 6830 Animal Damage Control released
- 1990 - Memorandum of Understanding signed between Nevada BLM and Nevada APHIS on Animal Damage control activities.
- 1990 - APHIS Draft Environmental Impact Statement on Animal Damage Control Program published.

Appendix C

ELY DISTRICT ADC PROGRAM 1981-1991

| YR FY | REQUESTS (#) | OPERATORS SERVICED | SHEEP LOST | CATTLE LOST | HORSES LOST | MTN LION TAKEN | COYOTE TAKEN |
|----------|-----------------|-----------------------|---------------|----------------|----------------|-------------------|-----------------|
| 81 | 76 | 11 | 222 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 785 |
| 82 | 119 | 13 | 359 | 2 | 0 | 6 | 1078 |
| 83 | 186 | 17 | 703 | 0 | 0 | 13 | 1082 |
| 84 | 129 | 25 | 518 | 4 | 0 | 6 | 906 |
| 85 | 127 | 22 | 456 | 3 | 0 | 11 | 746 |
| 86 | 268 | 31 | 492 | 1 | 0 | 5 | 866 |
| 87 | 288 | 29 | 365 | 0 | 0 | 6 | 768 |
| 88 | 133 | 31 | 478 | 0 | 0 | 16 | 838 |
| 89 | 130 | 26 | 462 | 0 | 0 | 13 | 1060 |
| 90 | 171 | 27 | 614 | 2 | 0 | 16 | 1292 |
| 91 | 148 | 29 | 604 | 0 | 0 | 15 | 1092 |
| AVG | 178 | 26 | 527 | 1 | 0 | 11 | 1051 |

2
0

Appendix D

Non-Target Species take for entire State of Nevada ADC Program
1987-89 (this data is not for Ely District only)

| Species | Destroyed | Released |
|-------------|-----------|----------|
| 1987 | | |
| Badger | | |
| Bobcat | 49 | 12 |
| Kit Fox | 5 | 14 |
| Porcupine | 2 | 3 |
| | 1 | 1 |
| 1988 | | |
| Badger | | |
| Bobcat | 62 | 16 |
| Kit Fox | 2 | 10 |
| Raven | 11 | 6 |
| | 0 | 1 |
| 1989 | | |
| Badger | | |
| Bobcat | 31 | 26 |
| Fox | 2 | 13 |
| Skunk | 21* | 0 |
| | 5 | 0 |
| Total 87-89 | | |
| Badger | | |
| Bobcat | 142 | 54 |
| Kit Fox | 9 | 37 |
| Porcupine | 13 | 9 |
| Raven | 1 | 1 |
| Fox | 0 | 1 |
| Skunk | 21* | 0 |
| Total | 5 | 0 |
| | 190 | 102 |

*None of these were taken on the Ely District

Appendix E

FEDERALLY LISTED AND CANDIDATE SPECIES - ELY BIM DISTRICT (2/91)

PLANTS

| NAME | CATEGORIZATION |
|--|----------------|
| <u>Asclepias eastwoodiana</u> | C-2 |
| <u>Astragalus eurylobus</u> | C-2 |
| <u>Astragalus oophorus</u> var. <u>lonchocalyx</u> | C-2 |
| <u>Astragalus uncialis</u> | C-2 |
| <u>Castilleja salsuginosa</u> | C-2 |
| <u>Cryptantha welshii</u> | C-2 |
| <u>Erigeron ovinus</u> | C-2 |
| <u>Frasera gysicola</u> | C-2 |
| <u>Penstemon concinnus</u> | C-2 |
| <u>Sclerocactus blainei</u> | C-2 |
| <u>Silene nachleringae</u> | C-2 |
| <u>Sphaeralcea caespitosa</u> | C-2 |
| <u>Jamesia tetrapetala</u> | C-2 |
| <u>Townsendia jonesii</u> var. <u>tumulosa</u> | C-2 |

ANIMALS

| NAME | CATEGORIZATION |
|-----------------------------------|----------------|
| White River spinedace | Endangered |
| Hiko White River springfish | Endangered |
| Pahrump killifish | Endangered |
| Big Springs spinedace | Threatened |
| Railroad Valley springfish | Threatened |
| Peregrine Falcon | Endangered |
| Bald Eagle | Endangered |
| Spotted bat | C-2 |
| Relic dace | C-2 |
| Bonneville cutthroat trout | C-2 |
| Newark Valley tui chub | C-2 |
| Railroad Valley tui chub | C-2 |
| Preston White River sucker | C-2 |
| White River speckled dace | C-2 |
| Preston White River springfish | C-2 |
| Duckwater Creek Tui Chub | C-2 |
| Pahranagat Speckled dace | C-2 |
| Moorman White River springfish | C-2 |
| Baking Powder Flat blue butterfly | C-2 |
| Moapa Warm Springs Riffle Beetle | C-2 |
| Northern Goshawk | C-2 |
| Pahranagat pebble snail | C-2 |
| White-faced ibis | C-2 |
| Ferruginous hawk | C-2 |
| Swainson's hawk | C-2 |
| Loggerhead Shrike | C-2 |
| Western snowy plover | C-2 |
| Sierra Nevada red fox | C-2 |

Appendix F

Mountain Lion Harvest 1990-91 Nevada Department of Wildlife

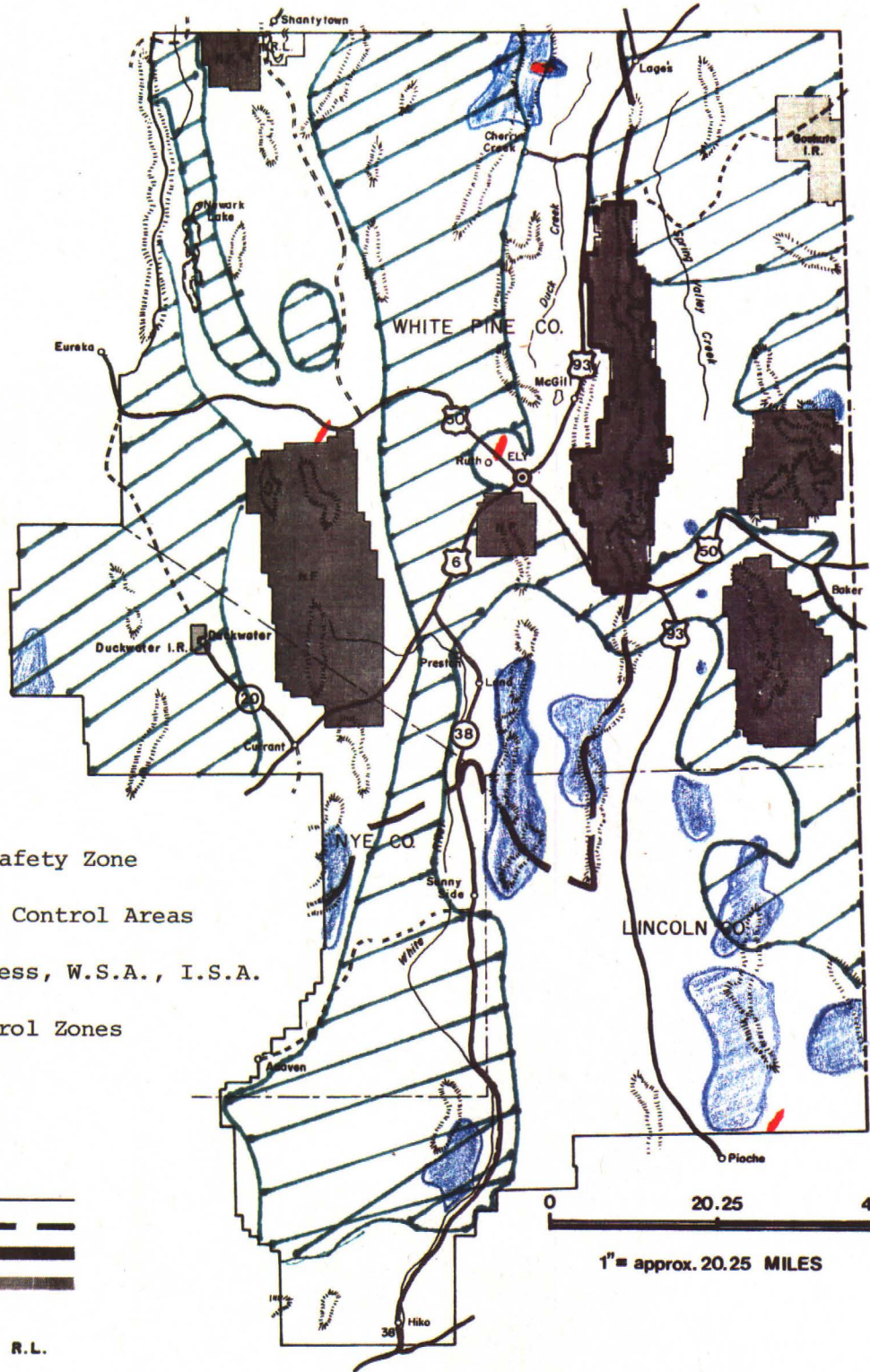
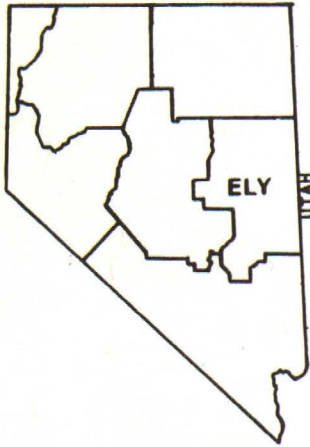
| Management Areas in Ely BLM District* | Sport Harvest Lions taken | Animal Damage Control Lions taken |
|--|------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| 10 | 11 | 7 |
| 11 | 10 | 8 |
| 12 | 5 | 8 |
| 13 | 0 | 3 |
| 14 | 7 | 5 |
| 22 | 5 | 6 |
| 23 | 5 | 2 |
| Total | 43 | 39 (48% of total) |

*Includes areas outside district also

APPENDIX G

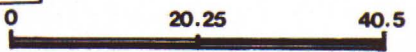
ADC Operations on Public Lands in Ely District
October 1, 1990 to September 30, 1991

| | | | |
|--|--|--|---|
| Total Number of livestock operators within Ely District | Number of livestock operators that requested control | Total Number of requests on public land | Number of livestock operators who license sheep |
| 98 | 29 | 148 | 23 |
| Number of requests for target species- mountain lion | Number of requests for target species- bobcat | Number of sheep reported killed | Number of requests for target species- Raven |
| 22 | 0 | 604 | 2 |
| Number of mountain lions taken as a result of ADC requests | Number of coyotes taken as a result of ADC requests | Number of requests for target species Golden Eagle | |
| 15 | 1092 | 0 | |



- RED - Human Safety Zone
- GREEN - Planned Control Areas
- BLUE - Wilderness, W.S.A., I.S.A.
- UNCOLORED - No Control Zones

- District Boundary
- Resource Area Boundary
- Humboldt National Forest
- Indian Reservation
- Ruby Lake National Wildlife Refuge R.L.



1" = approx. 20.25 MILES

ELY DISTRICT

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

W H O A

WILD HORSE ORGANIZED ASSISTANCE

P.O. BOX 555
RENO, NEVADA 89504
(702) 851-4817

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

DAVID R. BELDING
JACK C. McELWEE
GORDON W. HARRIS

In Memoriam

LOUISE C. HARRISON
VELMA B. JOHNSTON, "Wild Horse Annie"
GERTRUDE BRONN

February 18, 1992

Mr. Kenneth G. Walker, District Manager
Bureau of Land Management, Ely District
HC33 Box 150
Ely, Nevada 89301-9408

Dear Mr. Walker:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the preliminary environmental assessment for the 1992 Animal Damage Control Annual Work Plan for the Ely District of BLM. (6830 NV-043)

Several events recently have called to my attention the fact that ADC is flying in areas that have wild horse populations. The first instance, was a call I received stating that a local permittee was flying and shooting coyotes in the allotment prior to any sheep being present. I inquired and found that the sheep were in Ione and that the liscense was not for at least six weeks. I would like to know the policy of the BLM regarding the spring foaling season, wherein the BLM allows no helicopter to capture wild horses in this period, but evidently allows ADC to fly and shoot coyotes during this same period. I also would like clarification of whether I am in error that only those offending animals can be shot on public lands.

I just returned from a capture in another herd area in an adjacent District, where I saw an ADC aircraft flying low shooting at coyotes from a fixed wing aircraft, on public lands, despite the fact that it was not allowed. I would like to know whether the permittee must file some intention with BLM prior to requesting this "service" when it is done on public lands and whether you have any prohibition of this activity at certain times of the year.

W H O A understands the necessity for the humane destruction of specific offending animals, but vehemently protests the indiscriminant destruction of large scale animals; and most certainly are gravely concerned regarding this activity during a season of the year when winter has caused extreme stress on wild horses, in addition to the fact that many are carrying foals. A time, when BLM specifically disallows its' own people from the use of aircraft during this period.

Most sincerely,

Dawn Y. Lappin (Mrs.)
Director

Bring to attention of
Inchape flying over herd
areas shooting coyotes in
New + Jan but his sheep were
still in June. Have permit?

pg 3 - what precautions are
used in herd areas during
foaling season.

pg 3 - can individuals
get permits to control
coyotes themselves?

pg 4 major issue
flights impacts to WH
Hunting from plane?

pg 7 - pap of WH controls

pg 8. to our know ADC
has not been completely
ruled out in the shootings of
WH

pg 9 where were the 1092
coyotes killed + how,
when trappers took
another 38

pg where does ADC
get their est of coy pap?

pg 9 what est of NODW
harvests of lions

"does not appear?!"

pg 13 is that because
they do it themselves?

pg 14 Spring lambing
pg 19C what ground meth.
pg 19C did the 3 kit foxes
suffer mortal injuries

pg 19C denning

pg 19E year-round

who want map of
control areas

get animal damage
control act (1931)

OK with Thid Larse
Annie law re: WH

1964 Leopold Report

BLM Manual 6830 (1988)

1990 MOU on ADC + BLM



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

Ely District Office

HC33 Box 150

Ely, Nevada 89301-9408



IN REPLY REFER TO:

6830 (NV-043)

FEB 28 1992

Dawn Y. Lappin, Director
Wild Horse Organized Assistance
P.O. Box 555
Reno, NV 89504

Dear Mrs. Lappin:

In reply to your letter of February 18, 1992 regarding the preliminary environmental assessment (EA) for the 1992 Animal Damage Control Plan, we have forwarded a copy of your letter to our state office for a reply. The questions you ask and issues addressed mostly involve other districts and questions of state-wide policy.

Our preliminary EA under Mitigating Measures, Page 16 states: "No ADC Operations will disturb wild horses or burros during the foaling season. This includes no low level flights (below 500 feet) where wild horses or burros are present from March 1 through June 30th annually".

If you have further questions we can address, please feel free to contact Mark Barber, District Wildlife Specialist or Bob Brown, District Wild Horse Specialist at (702) 289-4865.

Sincerely,

Kenneth G. Walker
District Manager

cc: Nevada State Office

3-6-92

W H O A

WILD HORSE ORGANIZED ASSISTANCE
P.O. BOX 555
RENO, NEVADA 89504
(702) 851-4817

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

DAVID R. BELDING
JACK C. McELWEE
GORDON W. HARRIS

In Memoriam

LOUISE C. HARRISON
VELMA B. JOHNSTON, "Wild Horse Annie"
GERTRUDE BRONN

March 6, 1992

COPY

Mr. Kenneth Walker, District Manager
Ely District Office
Bureau of Land Management
HC33 Box 150
Ely, NV 89301-9408

Dear Mr. Walker:

Thank you very much for your prompt response to WHOA's concerns pertaining to our comments regarding the environmental assessment (EA) for the 1992 Animal Damage Control Plan.

We commend you and your staff for prompting the mitigating measures in the behalf of wild horses. Though we don't need an official response, we are curious if the ADC must file an annual flight plan regarding its' activities? It does not take much activity to move horses into areas they are not supposed to be. When one of your resource people has the opportunity perhaps they could give me a call.

Most sincerely,

Dawn Y. Lappin (Mrs.)
Director

cc:files