



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Marketing and
Regulatory
Programs

Animal and
Plant Health
Inspection
Service

Wildlife
Services

Roseburg District
Office

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March 17, 2016

Mark Orndoff, Human Health Director
Jackson County
1005 E. Main St.
Medford, Oregon 97504

Dear Mr. Orndoff,

This is a report of the Wildlife Services program and its activities within Jackson County in 2015 (Jan.1-Dec. 31).

In 2015, the one Wildlife Services (WS) position in Jackson County was cooperatively funded by Jackson County, Oregon Department of Fisheries and Wildlife, Oregon Department of Agriculture, Oregon Department of Transportation, as well as the United States Department of Agriculture.

Jackson County is home to a diverse abundance of wildlife species with healthy populations. Wild animals are commonly found in their natural habitats surrounding human developments, but many species have also adapted and live right within our communities. WS works with Jackson County communities when there is conflict between humans and wild animals.

WS frequently provides information, advice, equipment, and materials that enable people to resolve wildlife conflicts on their own. This technical assistance is provided in person, by telephone, or through the internet. WS also provides solutions on-site, through direct management assistance, when the wildlife-related problem is complex and cannot be safely or effectively resolved by others. These on-site operations usually involve capturing and removing the offending animal causing the damage. (See Table 1)

Every day, WS in Jackson County helps citizens, organizations, industries, and government agencies resolve conflicts with wildlife to 1) safeguard human health and safety; 2) protect property and agriculture; 3) and natural resources. Here are some of the highlights for the year:

Human Safety and Health

WS responds to over a hundred calls each year in Jackson County regarding mountain lions. With a state cougar population exceeding 5,700, local densities exceed any documented in North America. Young and displaced cougars looking to establish territories encroach on residential areas, threatening public safety. WS works cooperatively with the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) and the Oregon State Police (OSP) to resolve cougar conflicts.

Avian Influenza, or "Bird Flu" is still a concern today. In late 2014, a small flock backyard flock was confirmed positive for highly pathogenic (H5n8) in Douglas County. This is a serious

concern for large poultry producers as well as small backyard poultry flocks as it is deadly to both poultry and raptors (hawks) that are exposed to the virus. The highly pathogenic avian influenza strain is believed to have been introduced into the United States through migrating waterfowl. Other detections of this highly pathogenic virus and/or variations of the virus have spread throughout the country. In 2015, as part of a national surveillance response effort, Oregon WS collected over 1432 waterfowl samples statewide for surveillance, 823 samples were collected from southwestern Oregon. The sampling resulted in the finding of 49 and 22 positive samples statewide and in southwest Oregon respectively.

Wildlife strikes cause more than 760,000 hours of aircraft down time and cost the nation's civil aviation industry approximately \$700 million annually. American military aircraft sustain losses exceeding \$10 million annually.

WS collaborates closely with the Rogue Valley International Medford Airport by providing technical assistance, conducting wildlife hazard assessments, writing wildlife hazard management plans, and dispersing or removing wildlife. In April, WS provided training to airport staff on ways to minimize wildlife threats. The Oregon Department of Aviation (ODOA) relies on WS to review land development projects to evaluate the potential to attract wildlife and create wildlife hazards to aircraft operations.

Property, Pets, and Livestock

WS receives numerous calls daily from frustrated citizens with wildlife damaging their property. These calls can range from bats in an attic, foxes in the chickens, to bears in garages. WS responds and provides technical assistance or direct-management assistance depending on each situation. In 2015, ODFW reports over 140 black bear and 82 mountain lion complaints. Eighty bears and 48 lion complaints were forwarded to WS to investigate.

WS continues to work with the Jackson County Animal Control Department to provide technical assistance and provide expertise with wildlife behavior, damage, patterns that can assist the Animal Control and Sheriff's Department when dealing with cases involving wildlife.

Despite producers' best efforts to protect their livestock, thousands of domesticated farm animals are killed by predators each year. The most recent reports by the National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) livestock producers in Oregon reported that producers lose about 7,700 sheep and 3,800 cattle to predators annually. In Jackson County, coyotes, cougars, and bears regularly kill livestock. Producers often turn to WS for assistance in reducing and preventing further predation.

Natural Resources

WS implements nonlethal exclusion and bird harassment at bridge sites slated for repair or replacement, allowing ODOT to complete critical highway infrastructure projects while minimizing impacts on federally protected migratory birds. Oregon WS works at hundreds of sites, many inside Jackson County, to prevent birds and bats from using them for nesting or roosting, saving the state hundreds of millions of dollars. WS assistance to the Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) received a Federal 2011 Exemplary Ecosystem Initiative Award.

We look forward to working with Jackson County this next year. If you have any questions please feel free to call me.

Sincerely,

Paul Wolf
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(541) 679-1231

Table 1.

2015 Take by Species

Species	Removed
Black Bear	6
Beaver	0
Coyotes	48
Grey Fox	1
Mountain Lions	6
Raccoon	3
Muskrat	1