



WILDLIFE SERVICES

The American Sheep Industry Association (ASI) urges Congress to provide sufficient funding to the USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) Wildlife Services (WS) program. ASI opposes any effort to restrict or eliminate WS funding and strongly urges continued vigilance to stave off any potential WS program attacks during House/Senate consideration of the FY 2019 Agriculture Appropriations Bill.



WS is an essential program in agricultural production in the United States. Wildlife causes more than \$12.8 billion in damage each year to natural resources, public infrastructures, private property and agriculture. WS works to prevent, minimize and manage this damage and to protect human health and safety from conflicts with wildlife.

Coyotes, mountain lions, wolves and bears kill thousands of lambs and calves each year. Livestock losses attributed to these predators cost ranchers and producers more than \$178 million annually, according to the most recent surveys by the USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS). Sheep are the most frequent victims: A 2010 NASS survey recorded 247,000 sheep and lamb losses are due to predators. These losses occurred despite the use of multiple management tools and techniques to safeguard livestock. Without these protection measures, livestock losses would be as much as two to three times higher.

In FY2017, WS spent \$9.8 million for cooperative work with federal and state agencies to protect and assist 187 threatened or endangered species in 40 states, Guam, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands. In more than 95 percent of the projects, local threatened and endangered species either increased or remained stable.

WS has the knowledge and skill, as well as the equipment, to track, capture and remove predators when they cause serious damage. Livestock producers are not the only group to benefit – so does the general public.

For years ASI has led the aggressive defense of the federal partner of livestock protection, by bringing together a diverse coalition of supporters in the areas of aquaculture, aviation, forestry, livestock production, range/forage management and state departments of agriculture to ensure the programs survival. In March, 206 organizations signed on to the following [www.sheepusa.org/IssuesPrograms GovernmentPrograms WildlifeServices](http://www.sheepusa.org/IssuesPrograms_GovernmentPrograms_WildlifeServices) in support of WS.

ASI supports ***\$106, 776, 000, an increase to allow for \$3.4 million in NEPA compliance costs***, for Wildlife Damage Management and \$19.07 million for Wildlife Services Methods Development.

For more information, please visit the ASI website at www.sheepusa.org.
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Appropriations Bill
Agriculture

Agency
Animal and Plant Health
Inspection Service

Account
Wildlife Services

Program
Wildlife Damage Management

Requested Amount
\$106,776,000

Description
The Wildlife Damage Management (WDM) program resolves human/wildlife conflicts and protects agriculture, human health and safety, personal property, and natural resources from wildlife damage and wildlife-borne diseases in the United States. This program protects agriculture by protecting livestock from predators, managing invasive species such as feral swine and beaver damage, conducting a national rabies management program, and managing wildlife species and diseases.

Livestock losses attributed to predators cost producers more than \$178 million annually, according to the most recent surveys by National Agriculture Statistics Service. Cost-benefit analyses have shown that for each dollar spent on livestock protection, APHIS saves producers between \$2 and \$7 in losses. APHIS prevents and reduces livestock predation through education, technical assistance to producers, and management programs. In FY 2014, APHIS' WDM program helped more than 11,000 producers in the western United States with livestock valued at more than \$2.3 billion.

Authorization
7 U.S.C 426-426d (Control of predatory and other wild animals)

President's FY 2019 Budget Request
\$46,331,000

FY 2018 House Report 115-232
\$103,375,000

Appropriations Bill
Agriculture

Agency
Animal and Plant Health
Inspection Service

Account
Wildlife Services

Program
Wildlife Services Methods
Development

Requested Amount
\$19,070,000

Description
The Wildlife Services Methods Development (WSMD) program works with cooperators to conduct research and develop socially responsible methods to prevent and mitigate damage caused by wildlife and invasive species on agricultural productions, and to detect and prevent wildlife diseases that may impact animal health and agricultural biosecurity. This program provides scientific information to support the development and implementation of methods for managing wildlife damage. These methods enable APHIS, cooperators, and individuals to protect crops, livestock, natural resources, property, and public health and safety. The WSMD program serves as an international leader in non-lethal research to reduce wildlife damage.

Authorization
7 U.S.C 426-426d (Control of predatory and other wild animals)

President's FY 2019 Budget Request
\$18,820,000

FY 2018 House Report 115-232
\$18,855,000