



WILDLIFE SERVICES

The American Sheep Industry Association (ASI) strongly supports the Wildlife Services (WS) and urges that sufficient funding be allotted to this critical 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 2016 Agriculture Appropriations Bill.



WS is an essential program in agriculture 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 \$137 million annually, according to the most recent surveys by the USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS). Sheep are the most frequent victims: A 1999 NASS survey recorded 273,000 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 could be as much as two to three times higher.

In FY 2012, WS spent \$6.6 million for cooperative work with federal and state agencies to protect and assist 169 endangered species in 35 states, Puerto Rico, Guam and the U.S. Virgin Islands. In more than 95% 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, 194 organizations signed on to the following [www.sheepusa.org/IssuesPrograms GovernmentPrograms WildlifeServices](http://www.sheepusa.org/IssuesPrograms_GovernmentPrograms_WildlifeServices) in support of WS.

The Administration proposed a \$9.44 million cut to Wildlife Damage Management. ASI supports ***NOT LESS THAN the FY 2015 appropriation*** for Wildlife Damage Management and level funding for Wildlife Services Methods Development.

Oppose ANY Harmful Efforts to Restrict/Eliminate WS Funding!

For more information, please visit the ASI website at www.sheepusa.org.
Please contact Jim Richards at jrichards@cgagroup.com or (202) 448-9509 for more information.

**Appropriations Bill**

Agriculture

Agency

Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service

Account

Wildlife Services

Program

Wildlife Damage Management

Requested Amount

\$89,988

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 \$138 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 2016 Budget Request

\$80,511

Appropriations Bill

Agriculture

Agency

Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service

Account

Wildlife Services

Program

Wildlife Services Methods Development

Requested Amount

\$18,970

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 socially acceptable 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 tests between 14 and 16 new methods each year.

The WSMD program serves as an international leader in non-lethal research to reduce wildlife damage. In FY 2014, the program conducted 329 studies and published 83 scientific studies in 47 different professional scientific journals and book chapters.

Authorization

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

President's FY 2016 Budget Request

\$18,906