



## 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 2023 Agriculture Appropriations Bill.

Wildlife Services (WS) provides Federal leadership and expertise to resolve conflicts between people and wildlife and allow them to coexist by protecting agriculture; natural resources, including threatened and endangered species; property and infrastructure; and public health and safety. Wildlife damages U.S. livestock, aquaculture, small grains, fruits, vegetables, and other agricultural products each year.

Wildlife predators cause more than **\$232 million** in death loss to livestock. WS prevents and reduces livestock predation through technical assistance (education and outreach) to producers and operational management programs.

In FY 2021, WS provided more than **20,500** technical assistance activities that enabled **44,115** livestock producers to implement improved husbandry and methods such as use of guard animals, exclusion, fencing, and predator dispersal. These activities included **31** predator management workshops attended by more than **1,200** individuals from **10** states.

In FY20, Wildlife Services supported APHIS's emergency response efforts to animal diseases, natural disasters, hazardous spills, and wildfires. WS deployed 44 personnel on 55 deployments assisting with the COVID-19 National Vaccination Campaign. WS collaborated and coordinated with the USGS, CDC, VS and State agencies and deployed employees to respond to COVID-19 outbreaks in domestic mink, sampling 265 animals from 14 different species. WS responded to ASF detection in Puerto Rico and the Dominican Republic and assisted the USFS in a New Mexico wildfire response.

Wildlife Services 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.

**ASI supports \$ 125,000,000, an increase to allow for \$2.02 million in NEPA compliance costs, for Wildlife Damage Management and \$25,000,000 million for Wildlife Services Methods Development.**

For more information, please visit the ASI website at [www.sheepusa.org](http://www.sheepusa.org).  
Please contact Jim Richards at [jrichards@cgagroup.com](mailto: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**

\$125,000,000

**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 2023 Budget Request**

TBD

**FY 2022**

\$116,312,000

**Appropriations Bill**

Agriculture

**Agency**Animal and Plant Health Inspection  
Service**Account**

Wildlife Services

**Program**

Wildlife Services Methods Development

**Requested Amount**

\$25,000,000

**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 2023 Budget Request**

TBD

**FY 2022**

\$23,363,000

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