



Update: Common Raven Take Permits

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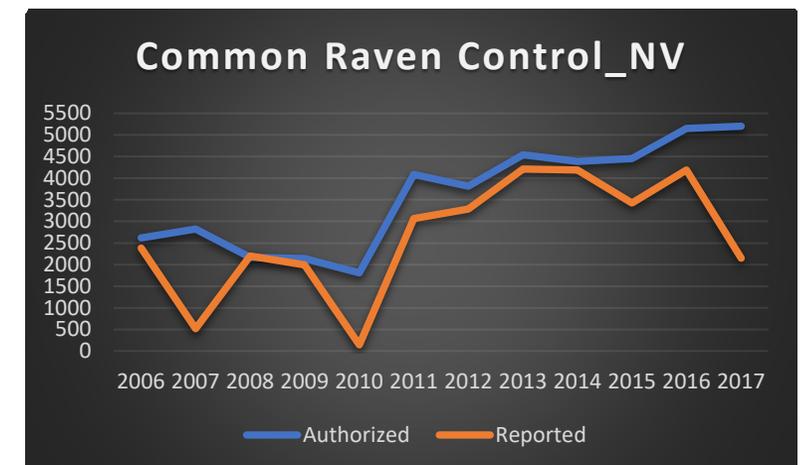
Background

- US Fish and Wildlife Service (US FWS) may authorize the take of ravens consistent with the Migratory Bird Treaty Act, international conventions and the National Environmental Protection Act (NEPA).
- Across Nevada, US FWS has issued take permits for ravens to USDA-APHIS/Wildlife Services (Wildlife Services), Nevada Department of Wildlife (NDOW), utilities, and some private landowners.
- Each of these permits includes a specific number of ravens that can be killed pursuant to the conditions of those permits and in numbers supported by scientific review.
- Some agencies have special allowances. For example, APHIS is approved to use the DRC-1339 corvicide.

History of Use

- From 2006 to 2017, the take authorized by the FWS for raven control in Nevada increased from 2,260 to just under 5,200 per year.
- Most recent allocations are as follows:
 - Protection of protect livestock operations (2,500) and
 - Protection of sage grouse (2,500).
- Two separate permits:
 - One permit to NDOW for protecting sage grouse and
 - One to WS-NV for the predator damage management program, which covers livestock, sage grouse, and other resources.
- The authorized take allocation for protecting sage grouse was fully utilized each year; overall utilization was about 72% from 2006-2017.

Year	Authorized	Reported
2006	2620	2384
2007	2820	523
2008	2170	2201
2009	2140	1997
2010	1810	150
2011	4086	3062
2012	3810	3287
2013	4540	4209
2014	4383	4184
2015	4450	3423
2016	5150	4189
2017	5197	2148



Current Process

- Wildlife Services has developed a state-wide Environmental Assessment (EA) for predatory management, issued in 2020, in compliance with NEPA.
 - US FWS Migratory Bird Program was a Cooperating Agency.
 - EA analyzed up to 19,000 ravens taken per year.
 - Did not include some alternatives the US FWS must evaluate pursuant to its permitting process.
- US FWS is in the process of completing an EA for a new take permit.
 - Using the analysis and scientific review provided in the Wildlife Services state-wide EA.
 - Requires internal review and coordination with Tribes.
 - Looking at ~10,000 ravens taken per year.
- Anticipate publication of US FWS finding in spring/summer 2021.

Moving Forward...

- Wildlife Services applied for and received an extension of their previous permit.
 - This means that Wildlife Services and NDOW may continue to use prior permits through exhaustion of permit limits, which provides some time yet this year for some activities.
- US FWS committed to continuing to work with NDOW and Wildlife Services through this process and to accommodate the appropriate management of ravens in Nevada.
- US FWS has established a Core Team of FWS staff and others to “develop a large-scale strategy for the Service to address and reduce conflicts with ravens that can guide local scale decisions.”
 - Identified a need to have an all-in/conservation community approach that includes local, state, and federal agencies as well as private landowners and organizations.
 - Pursue reductions of conflicts through non-lethal means, as well.

Thank you!



For additional questions:



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