Authors

• Zach Basmajian- USDA APHIS-WS Feral Swine Specialist- Arizona
• Valerie Burton- USDA APHIS-WS Arizona Supervisory Wildlife Biologist
• Brandon Melton- USFWS Wildlife Biologist- Havasu NWR
• Brenda Zaun- USFWS Lower Colorado River Zone Biologist
• Daryl Magnuson- USFWS Deputy Refuge Manager/Acting Refuge Manager- Havasu NWR
• Glenn Klingler- USFWS Complex Project Leader (Havasu & BWR NWR)
• David Bergman- USDA APHIS-WS Arizona State Director

• APHIS-WS National Feral Swine Damage Management Program
What are Feral Swine?

- Not native to North America
- Wild boar/hogs, Eurasian/Russian boar, razorbacks
- Descendants of escaped or released domestic pigs (*Sus scrofa*)
- Pose a threat to agriculture, human health and safety, native species, natural resources and more
Identification and Characteristics

- Long, coarse hair and straight tails
- Long canines (tusks)
- Vary in color (black, brown, red, white, spotted)
- Adults can reach 250+ pounds
- Round cloven hooves
- Lack sweat glands
- Opportunistic omnivores
- Travel in sounder groups as large as 30 individuals
- Sexual maturity at 6-8 months
- Sows (females) can have 4-12 piglets multiple times each year
Habits and Indicators of Feral Swine

- Rooting
- Wallows
- Tree rubbing
- Trails and trampled vegetation
- Tracks
- Scat
History in North America

• Brought to North America by early settlers in the 1500’s as a food source
• Adaptability of released/escaped swine allowed for rapid population and range expansion (habitat generalists)
• Due to commercial and recreational hunting, populations exploded over the last 35 years
• Currently present in at least 35 states (41 states in 2014)
• Management in the U.S. varies based on population densities and localized factors
Distribution of Feral Swine Over Time

- 1982
- 2004
- 2014

*Arizona

Legend:
- **Green**: Feral Swine Identified
- **White**: No Feral Swine
Problems Associated With Feral Swine
Agricultural and Property

- Rooting, trampling and consumption all contribute to the loss of crops, property damage and damage to cultural/historic sites
- Feral swine cost the U.S. an estimated $1.5 billion per year in damage and control costs
Natural Resources

- Destruction of habitat
- Loss of biodiversity due to competition with native species over food, water and habitat
- Predators to reptiles, small mammals, amphibians, birds and nests
- Soil and water quality issues
- Enable the spread of invasive plants through disturbance
- Disruption of forest regeneration
Health and Safety

- Potentially aggressive nature toward humans and pets
- Disease threat to humans
- Disease threat to livestock and pets
- Auto-collision incidents
Who is Involved in the Solution?
National Feral Swine Damage Management Program

• Created in 2014 by USDA’s Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) after receiving $20 million from Congress

• Aims to protect agriculture, natural resources, property, and human/animal health and safety through proper management

• Coordination between additional federal agencies, states, local governments, tribes, universities, organizations, the public and individual cooperators

• Collaboration with Canada and Mexico along borders

• Final Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and Record of Decision resulted in an alternative that involves strategic coordination, allocation of resources and localized projects to manage and/or eradicate swine based on specific localized scenarios
National Feral Swine Damage Management Program

• Key program components include:
  • Field Operations
  • Disease and Population Monitoring
  • Research
  • Planning and Evaluation
  • Communication and Outreach
  • Regulatory Actions

• Additional APHIS agencies involved:
  • Wildlife Services
  • Veterinary Services
  • International Services
  • Legislative and Public Affairs
  • Policy and Program Development
National Feral Swine Damage Management Program

- The strategy of the NFSDMP is to provide resources and expertise at a national level, while allowing flexibility to manage operational activities from a local or state perspective.

- The overall goal of the program is to minimize damage inflicted by feral swine through management or eradication depending on population densities and other local factors.
Nationwide Funding Overview

**FY 2015 and 2016 Allocations**

- Level 5: $325,000
- Level 4: $295,000
- Level 3: $235,000
- Level 2: $165,000
- Level 1: $68,000
- Detection Level: $42,000
- Level 0: $0

*WS state programs responsible for the territories of Guam and Puerto Rico each received $100,000 in special “Territory Funding” in FY2016*
Operational Component Funding Structure

- Level of baseline funding allocated to each WS state program depends on feral swine populations, distribution, damage to resources, presence of potentially damaged resources and state, territorial, tribal, or local regulations impacting management efforts
Estimated State Populations

- **Level 5** - Greater than 750,000 feral swine
- **Level 4** - Between 100,000 and 750,000 feral swine
- **Level 3** - Between 10,000 and 100,000 feral swine
- **Level 2** - Between 1,000 and 10,000 feral swine
- **Level 1** - Less than 1,000 feral swine
- **Detection Level** - All known feral swine populations have been eliminated from a Level 1 state and surveillance/monitoring efforts will continue for a minimum of two additional years to ensure success
- **Level 0** - No feral swine (feral swine were either never confirmed in the state or the state has been free of feral swine with no confirmed reports for more than two years)
Feral Swine in Arizona
Damage Control Techniques

- Fencing
- Harassment
- Vaccination of Livestock
- Contraception
- Monitoring Cameras
- Trapping
- Snaring
- Dogs
- Ground Shooting
- Aerial Gunning/Surveillance
- Toxicants
- Telemetry
- *Laws passed on the transportation, possession, release and reporting of feral swine*
# Feral Swine Removed From Arizona

<table>
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<tr>
<td># Removed</td>
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<td>23</td>
<td>37</td>
<td>49</td>
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* On-going removal
## Disease Sampling 1/01/2006-1/23/2017

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Disease</th>
<th>Sample Type</th>
<th>Samples</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total Swine Sampled</td>
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<td>351</td>
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<tr>
<td>Classical Swine Fever</td>
<td>Blood/Serum/Swab/Tissue</td>
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<tr>
<td>E. coli</td>
<td>Tissue</td>
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<tr>
<td>Genetic</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hepatitis E</td>
<td>Blood/Serum</td>
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<td>Leptospirosis</td>
<td>Blood/Serum/Tissue</td>
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<td>Plague</td>
<td>Nobuto</td>
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<tr>
<td>Pseudorabies</td>
<td>Blood/Serum</td>
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<tr>
<td>Swine Brucellosis</td>
<td>Blood/Serum</td>
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<tr>
<td>Swine Influenza</td>
<td>Blood/Serum/Swab</td>
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<tr>
<td>Toxoplasmosis</td>
<td>Blood/Serum/Tissue</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tularemia</td>
<td>Nobuto</td>
<td>130</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total Samples</strong></td>
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<td><strong>1541</strong></td>
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## Disease Sampling

*Chart shows samples taken as of 10/1/2016*

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<tr>
<th>Disease</th>
<th>Sample Type</th>
<th>Samples</th>
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<td><strong>Total Swine Sampled</strong></td>
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<td>20</td>
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<tr>
<td>Classical Swine Fever</td>
<td>Blood/Serum</td>
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<tr>
<td>Genetic</td>
<td>Tissue (Ear Notch)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Plague</td>
<td>Nobuto</td>
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<tr>
<td>Pseudorabies</td>
<td>Blood/Serum</td>
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<tr>
<td>Swine Brucellosis</td>
<td>Blood/Serum</td>
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<tr>
<td>Toxoplasmosis</td>
<td>Tissue (Heart/Tongue)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tularemia</td>
<td>Nobuto</td>
<td>20</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total Samples</strong></td>
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<td>120</td>
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Disease Sampling
Havasu National Wildlife Refuge
Feral Swine History

• Translocation to Arizona
• First documented sightings in early 1970’s
A Threat to Biodiversity

• Habitat destruction
• Disturbance allows spread of invasive vegetation
• Competition for resources
• Water quality/Erosion/Wetlands
• Impacts on threatened and endangered species
  • Yuma Ridgway’s Rail
  • Southwestern Willow Flycatcher
  • Yellow-billed Cuckoo
  • Northern Mexican Gartersnake
Damage Management Efforts

- Cooperation with U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service to work toward eradication
- Special Use Permit (SUP) allows the implementation of direct control methods such as trapping, shooting and monitoring
- Disease sampling to monitor potential health/agricultural threats
- Aerial gunning scheduled for February 2017
Looking Forward
Future Plans

• Continued monitoring following aerial operations in order to measure success
• Remaining population density will dictate future efforts and actions at Havasu NWR
• Continued surveillance throughout Arizona with resources and actions focused on areas with recent sightings
The End!