Mitigating Wild Pig Impacts to Water Quality through Education and Outreach

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TSS WCB

UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

Soil

Water
Wild Pig Overview

- Introduction
- Distribution
- Reproduction
- Diet
- Connection to Water
- Damage Estimates
- Natural Predators
- Management Techniques
- Use of 319 Funds in Texas
Animal Intelligence Quiz

Source: List25.com

Photo Credit: List25.com
Introduction of Swine in the U.S.

Early U.S. Introductions:

• Introduced with the settlement of Hawaii early as 750 – 1000 A.D.
• Introduced to the U.S. mainland in 1539 by Hernando de Soto
U.S. Distribution

Feral/Wild Swine Populations 2004

This feral swine distribution map was prepared from data developed cooperatively by state fish and wildlife management agencies, agriculture agencies, and universities of the United States, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands, in cooperation with the Northeastern Cooperative Wildlife Research Unit (Syracuse University) under Cooperative Agreement 20-017-06-03-CA, USFWS and USDA Forest Service, USGS and USDA Forest Service, and NPS, in cooperation with the Northeastern Fish and Wildlife Research Station, U.S. Department of Agriculture.
U.S. Distribution

National Feral Swine Mapping System, USDA APHIS

2014

- Southwestern Cooperative Wildlife Disease Study (SCWDS)
In less than two years: 42 wild pigs can be traced back to 1 sow

Assumptions:
Perfect World Scenario
Sow A will be bred 2 months after farrowing
Gilts will breed at 6 months of age
4 months gestation
100% Survival

20th mth. 2nd Litter Sows Farrow

14th mth. 1st Litter Sows Farrow

Sow A: 2nd Litter 10 mth.
Sow A: 1st Litter 4 mth.
Sow A: 3rd Litter 16 mth.
Diet

- Omnivorous
- Opportunistic feeders based on food availability
- “Will eat anything that contains a calorie” – Dr. Billy Higginbotham
Weigh In

365

335

Photo Credit: LeRoy Moczygemba
Why is Water So Important?

- Wild pigs lack sweat glands.
- Thermoregulation is accomplished by:
  - Wallowing
  - Occupying shaded areas
  - Nocturnal feeding

Campbell & Long
Damage and Estimates

• Types of Damage
  – Food and Water Contamination
  – Infrastructure Damage
  – Property Damage
  – Human and Livestock Pathogen Transmission Risks
  – Reduction in Crop Yields
  – Competition with Native Wildlife

• United States:
  – $800 Million Annual Damage

• Texas:
  – $52 Million Agricultural Damage
Natural Predators

- Sows aggressively defend piglets
- Sounders practice group vigilance and defensiveness
- Mountain lions can take adults
- Coyotes and Bobcats can take juveniles
Legal Management Techniques in Texas

- Trapping
- Snaring
- Shooting
- Trained Dogs
Project Watersheds
Project Outreach

• Watershed-based Wild Pig Educational Trainings
• One-on-one technical assistance site visits
• Online Educational Resources
In-Person Watershed-Based Wild Pig Educational Trainings

- Topics Include:
  - Biology
  - Implications to the Watershed
  - Population Dynamics
  - Transportation Regulations
  - Safety and Disease Concerns
  - Population Reduction Techniques
One-On-One Site Visits

- Property visit with Land Manager and County Extension Agent

- Develop property-specific wild pig management recommendations
Online Wild Pig Educational Resources

• Websites
• YouTube Videos
• Social Media Outlets
• Wild Wonderings Blog
• iPhone App
Online Wild Pig Educational Resources

- Coping with Feral Hogs
  http://feralhogs.tamu.edu
- Feral Hog Community of Practice
  http://extension.org/feral_hogs
Online Wild Pig Educational Resources

- TAMU Wildlife and Fisheries Extension
  http://youtube.com/WFSCAgrilife
Online Wild Pig Educational Resources

• Facebook- http://facebook.com/feralhogcop

• Twitter- http://twitter.com/feralhogscop
Online Wild Pig Educational Resources

- Wild Wonderings Blog
- http://wild-wonderings.blogspot.com
Online Wild Pig Educational Resources

- Scribd
- http://scribd.com/jccathey_scribd
Online Wild Pig Educational Resources

• Feral Hog Management App
  – Available in the iTunes Store
  – iPhone, iPad and iPod Touch
  – Android version in the works
In-Print Wild Pig Educational Resources

• 11 Publications and 5 Factsheets
• www.agrilifebookstore.org
Project Funding

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Questions?

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