



California Fish and Game Commission
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STATE OF CALIFORNIA
GAVIN NEWSOM, GOVERNOR
NATURAL RESOURCES AGENCY



California Department of Fish and Wildlife
P.O. Box 944209
Sacramento, CA 94244-2090

Wild Pig in California Forum
September 22, 2022, 9:00 a.m.

Agenda

1. Welcome and Introduction

2. Wild Pig Issues

Animal Health Presentation: Hector Webster, DVM, California Department of Food and Agriculture

Wildlife Health Presentation: Brandon Munk, DVM, California Department of Fish and Wildlife

Ecosystem Health Presentation: Matt Chaney, Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District

Economic Impacts Presentation: Katie Little, California Farm Bureau

Panel Discussion

Facilitator: Brett Furnas, PhD, California Department of Fish and Wildlife
Matt Chaney, Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District
Katie Little, California Farm Bureau
Brandon Munk, California Department of Fish and Wildlife
Dennis Orthmeyer, USDA, APHIS Wildlife Services
Hector Webster, California Department of Food and Agriculture

Break

3. Potential Solutions

Wild Pig Management Presentation: Dennis Orthmeyer, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Wildlife Services

Panel Discussion

Facilitator: Taylor Williams, California Department of Fish and Wildlife
Roger Baldwin, PhD, University of California, Davis
Chris Lopez, Rural County Representatives of California
Dennis Orthmeyer, USDA, APHIS Wildlife Services
Dana Page, Santa Clara County Parks
Dan Skalos, California Department of Fish and Wildlife
Chris Stoots, California Department of Fish and Wildlife

4. Participant Comments

5. Conclusion

Facilitator and Panelist Short Biographies

Roger Baldwin, PhD, University of California, Davis

Roger Baldwin is a Professor of Cooperative Extension at the University of California, Davis, specializing in human-wildlife conflict. Roger conducts his research and extension program primarily in agricultural and natural resource environments, with a special emphasis on mammalian species. Roger received his B.S., M.S., and Ph.D. degrees in various wildlife-related programs from Kansas State University, The University of Memphis, and New Mexico State University, respectively.

Matt Sharp Chaney, Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District

Matt Sharp Chaney is a Wildlife Biologist and the Lead Mammologist for the Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District (Midpen) where he has worked for the past 8 years. Matt received a bachelor's degree in environmental science from California State University, Monterey Bay in 2015, and a master's certificate in wildlife management from Oregon State University in 2018. Midpen manages over 65,000 acres of public preserves located within the Santa Cruz Mountains along the San Francisco Peninsula. Matt's work focuses on the conservation of native mammal species, as well as human/wildlife conflict management. Midpen is currently working to reduce the regional population of wild pigs by partnering with USDA and other local land managers to reduce source populations and prevent further spread/establishment of wild pigs into other parts of the peninsula.

Brett Furnas, PhD, California Department of Fish and Wildlife

Dr. Brett Furnas is Acting Supervisor of the Big Game Unit at the California Department of Fish and Wildlife, responsible for conservation and management of deer, elk, bear, bighorn sheep, pronghorn, and wild pig. He is also a quantitative ecologist who advises on survey design and data analysis for projects that monitor wildlife populations.

Katie Little, California Farm Bureau

Katie Little, born and raised in Anaheim, California, always knew she wanted to work with animals. She attended UC Davis where she majored in Animal Science and became passionate about agriculture. After graduating from UC Davis, Katie was hired at the California Cattlemen's Association (CCA) where she discovered government policies were an important aspect of agriculture in the state. During her time at CCA, she learned to appreciate the advocacy portion of politics, and wanted to pursue that path further. Katie continued working in advocacy at the Association of California Water Agencies, and the California Building Officials where she developed her lobbying and professional skills. She earned her master's degree in Public Policy from the University of Southern California. Katie brings a combination of her education and work experiences into her current role with California Farm Bureau. She is thrilled to be working in agriculture again and is excited to be advocating on behalf of ranchers and farmers throughout the state.

Chris Lopez, Rural County Representatives of California

Supervisor Lopez graduated from Claremont McKenna College, receiving his Bachelor of Arts with focus in the areas of International Relations and Economics in 2008. He met

his wife when they founded Mariachi Serrano de Claremont as students. Supervisor Lopez spent time interning in Hong Kong, Hong Kong for the Pacific Basin Economic Council and in Guanajuato, Mexico for the CASAs Office of the Governor of the State of Guanajuato.

Returning to the Salinas Valley after graduation, Supervisor Lopez approached Supervisor Simon Salinas with an offer he couldn't refuse; he requested an unpaid internship. After proving his skills invaluable, he was offered a full-time position as Board Aide working with Supervisor Salinas. Soon Supervisor Salinas promoted Lopez to Chief of Staff where he would remain for the next seven and a half years. He was elected to serve on the Board of Supervisors in June of 2018 and took his Oath of Office in January of 2019.

Supervisor Lopez has served on several boards and currently serves on numerous commissions. He is also President of the Salinas Valley Solid Waste Authority, board member to the Hartnell Foundation, Chair of the First 5 Monterey County, and Second Vice Chair of Rural County Representatives of California.

Brandon Munk, MS, DVM, California Department of Fish and Wildlife

Brandon is Senior Wildlife Veterinarian for game species at the California Department of Fish and Wildlife. He has been working in the wildlife health and disease fields since 2010. Prior to that I was trained as an ecologist and evolutionary behaviorist. His work focuses on wildlife disease surveillance, diagnostics, and research as well as wild animal health and welfare.

Dennis Orthmeyer, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Wildlife Services

Dennis completed his B.S. Degree in 1976 at North Dakota State University and completed his graduate work at the University of Montana in 1987; both in Wildlife Biology. He has moved 37 times in his career, all across the US, all time being involved with wildlife. He became a Research Biologist for U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and U.S. Geological Survey researching patterns, movement, distribution, and survival of migratory waterfowl on the Pacific Rim. He joined the U.S. Department of Agriculture APHIS Wildlife Services in 2006 becoming the Assistant State Director, and then becoming the State Director in 2011. Currently, as State Director he has the pleasure of supervising 100 employees, working on diverse jobs such as livestock protection, property damage, public safety at airports, and endangered species protection, He provides program direction and supervision in resolving wildlife conflicts that occur in agriculture, property, people, and natural resources.

Dana Page, Santa Clara County Parks

Dana is Natural Resources Program Coordinator for Santa Clara County Parks. Dana has over a decade of experience working in California as a wildlife biologist, specializing in sea birds and island restoration. Dana currently works in rangeland management, tree safety, forest health, habitat enhancement and restoration, wildlife management, forest health and prescribed fire. She received a bachelor's degree in Environmental Studies from University of California, Santa Cruz and a master's degree in Environmental Management from University of San Francisco.

Dan Skalos, California Department of Fish and Wildlife

Dan Skalos is the Supervisor of the Upland Game Unit in the Wildlife Branch at the California Department of Fish Wildlife. Dan received his bachelor's degree in wildlife biology in 2003 from the State University of New York College of Environmental Science and Forestry. Dan then moved across the country in 2004 where he has worked for the USDA Forest Service conducting research on spotted owls in New Mexico, the USGS Western Ecological Research Center conducting research on waterfowl and giant garter snakes in California's Central Valley, and various nonprofit organizations, including California Waterfowl Association and Point Blue Conservation Science. Dan earned his master's degree in avian sciences in 2012 from UC Davis studying pacific greater white-fronted geese. He then started working for CDFW in 2013 as an Environmental Scientist in the Waterfowl Unit where he remained until 2020 before moving into his current position. As an avid hunter and birder, Dan is dedicated to the conservation and management of California's wildlife, as well as providing hunting and outdoor recreation opportunities to all Californians.

Chris Stoots, California Department of Fish and Wildlife

Chris Stoots, is the Assistant Chief in the Law Enforcement Division, overseeing Administration and Training. Chris has been with the California Department of Fish Wildlife for 14 years. Chris has a diverse array of experience with the Department, including patrol officer for San Benito and Colusa County, both of which have a robust Wild Pig population lending to Chris' experience with the species. Chris has been involved in legislation and regulations for the past eight-years, and has served as the wild pig subject matter expert for the Law Enforcement Division.

Hector Webster, California Department of Food and Agriculture

Dr. Hector Webster is a Research Specialist with the California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) Animal Health Branch (AHB). He oversees the species programs for Swine Health, Small Ruminant Health, and is the species liaison for domestic-wildlife interface disease threats. In addition, he manages the cooperative program agreements for Scrapie, Classical and African Swine Fever and the swine garbage feeding control program. As an AHB staff member for twenty-five years, Dr. Webster has participated in disease outbreak eradication responses, including the accelerated swine pseudorabies eradication program (Iowa 1999), the Exotic Newcastle Disease outbreak (CA 2002-03), the Virulent Newcastle Disease outbreak (CA 2018-2020) and several bovine tuberculosis incidents. Dr. Webster has a MS degree in Animal Science from the University of Hawaii at Manoa and a Doctor degree in Veterinary Medicine from the University of Cuenca in Ecuador. During his free time, Dr. Webster enjoys playing the guitar and home brewing beer.

Taylor Williams, California Department of Fish and Wildlife

Taylor Williams is the Hunter and Angler Recruit, Retain, Reactivate Manager for the California Department of Fish and Wildlife, working to further enhance and encourage participation of hunting, angling, foraging and shooting sports throughout California.