

Subject: Hog Management Report for BCA - January 2019

Greetings,

This is the monthly report for the BCA hog management program for January 2019. Jesse Paul took 82 hogs in January. This month 48 hogs were taken with dogs vs. 34 in traps, as noted below.

Property breakdown is as follows:

1st Place: 14 with in a trap.
2nd Place: 12 in a trap.
3rd Place: 9 with dogs.
4th Place: 7 with dogs and 1 in a trap.
5th Place: 7 with dogs.
6th Place: 6 with dogs.
7th and 8th (TIE): 5 with dogs; 5 in a trap.
9th and 10th (TIE): 4 each with dogs.
11th and 12th (TIE): 3 each with dogs.
13th Place: 2 in a trap.

The remainder of the properties: had no hogs this month.

Damp and cold weather has the hogs moving widely in search of food. In addition, most sows are either heavily gravid, or have already dropped a litter of piglets, so their caloric intake requirement is just that much higher. This is the time to be really vigilant with regard to new signs of hog activity. If you see a bunch of tiny hog tracks along with some normal sized tracks, let Jesse Paul know right away. Not to be too graphic, but JP's dogs can make short work of a litter of small piglets; coyotes, bobcats, and mountain lions also will focus in on this food source. Contrary to many people's opinion of predators as "bad", they are our allies in the war against hogs. Scientific studies have shown that where these predators' home ranges overlap with substantial hog populations, a large proportion of the predators' diet is pork. In addition, studies have shown that these 'apex' predators effectively suppress populations of medium-sized predators; think: raccoons, foxes, opossums, that are avid raiders of ground- and shrub-nesting birds. So, although a coyote will empty a turkey nest if given the opportunity, it is more likely to catch the raccoons and possums (and pigs) that make a career out of eating eggs and nestlings.

Stay warm, and keep in mind that spring is just around the corner. The elbowbush is blooming, so it won't be long now!

John Cornelius
Orion Research and Management Services, Inc
(254) 231-6068

Jesse Paul McBeth
(830) 591-3159