Examining the Monetary Risks and Rewards for the Anthropogenic Spread of Wild Hogs

Presenter - Joe N. Caudell
Co-authors - Emily Dowell & Katelyn Welch
Murray State University – Department of Biological Sciences

Removing and Returning Hogs

• Efforts underway to remove wild hogs
• Preventing reintroduction
• Why introduced

Summary of Results

• Risk too low
• Rewards too great
• No deterrent for the introduction or reintroduction of wild hogs

Risk vs. Reward

• Risk
  • Fines
  • Imprisonment

• Reward
  • Thrill of breaking minor law
  • New species to hunt
  • Cost savings for hunting
Assessing Risk

- Examined
  - Fines
  - Laws
  - Other penalties

This presentation focuses on
- Monetary risks
- Monetary rewards
- Multipliers for risks and rewards

Results of Risk Assessment

- Found penalties for 26 states
- Mean maximum fine $2579
- Mean minimum fine $497
- Mean jail time .66 days
- Highest fine - $10,000
- Weakest penalty - $50 and a non-criminal citation

Other factors associated with risk

- Risk of detection

Note: this is not a wild hog
Other factors associated with risk

• Risk of detection
• Can transport these all over the country
• Opportunity crime

Other factors associated with risk

• Risk of detection
• Risk of successful prosecution

Either magnify or minimize fines and incarceration
Wildlife biologists can help influence this

Assessing Rewards

• Cost of 1 day wild hog hunting trip

Cost of a single day wild hog hunt

Cost of Indiana to Florida:
- Flight: $500
- Driving 2000 miles round-trip: $350
- Hotel: min. 3 nights: $240
- Hog hunt: 1 night: $288
- Total: $878-1028

Other costs:
- Time off work or vacation time (opportunity costs)
- Family currency
- Cost of hunting license
Increasing Risk

- Optimize penalties
  - Fines
  - Loss of hunting privileges
- Increase likelihood of detection
- Better biological tools to assist prosecution
  - Consistent use of name
  - Distinguishing between wild and domestic swine
- Advertise penalties and successful prosecution

Detection, Penalties, and Reward

Detection of wild hogs and corresponding penalties:

- 1% Chance of Detection, $1000 Fine
- 10% Chance of Detection, $1000 Fine
- 1% Chance of Detection, $5000 Fine
- 10% Chance of Detection, $5000 Fine
- 1% Chance of Detection, $10,000 Fine
- 10% Chance of Detection, $10,000 Fine
- 1% Chance of Detection, $100,000 Fine
- 10% Chance of Detection, $100,000 Fine

Conclusions

- Current penalties
  - In many cases not enough to deter illegal action
  - Reward outweighs risks
- Need research on optimal penalties
- Have to increase probability of detection
- Better methods for identifying wild hogs
- Better public awareness
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