

2004 Feral Hog Distribution Survey and Trapping Report
North Rosillos Area, Big Bend National Park
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Survey Results

Water sources in the North Rosillos area of Big Bend National Park were surveyed to determine the distribution of feral hogs. The results of the surveys are recorded on the attached spreadsheet (including Instructions for Feral Hog data entry) and a 2004 distribution map (NAD 83). 2002 and 2003 distribution maps are attached for comparison. An updated list of water sources and surveyed areas is also attached.

Surveys of water sources were conducted between 7/23/2004 and 9/30/2004. Visited water sources and areas are noted with green points and identified feral hog tracks are noted as red points on the attached maps of Feral Hog Surveys 2004 and Feral Hog Surveys 2003. Blue points indicate water sources that were not visited during the summer of 2004.

Hog tracks were confirmed at or near the following tanks and areas: Tanks 6, 14, 18, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 32, 37, 39, 44, 45, 46, 47, 54, 55, 59, 62, 63, 64, 66, 67, 68, 70, 72, 80, 88, 94, 99, 113, 115, 117, 119, 210 and 216. Tanks 32, 37, 40, 44, 45, 46, 47, 62, 63, 64, 68, 88, 99 and 316 had tracks leading to the water, while the tracks at tanks 6, 14, 18, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 39, 54, 55, 59, 66, 67, 70, 72, 80, 88, 94, 113, 115, 117, 119, 210 and 216 were near the tanks, but not going to the water source. In addition, tracks that were possible, but not confirmed hog tracks were located at tanks 15, 40, 71 and 316a.

The largest concentration of hog tracks was located at tanks 26 and 27. The most abundant hog damage through rooting was near tanks 60 and 210. Due to the abundance of rain (see Precipitation of Big Bend National Park from July 1 through September 30) a preferred water source was not specifically identified.

Trapping Results

The trap that was functioning during the summer of 2004 was located approximately 0.35 miles south of Tank 204. This trap site is located on the edge of the Johnson's Grass (*Sorghum halepense*) area that follows Corazones Draw. The abundance of hog sign around Tanks 25, 26, 27 and throughout the Areas 117 and 119 showed prevalent hog use of the Johnson's Grass (*Sorghum halepense*) areas.

Prebaiting of the trap started on 7/5/04, and continued until 7/23/04. Hogs frequently visited the trap during that prebaiting time. Due to heavy rainfall and impassible road conditions the trap was not set until 8/4/04. Problems with the trap design were discovered when the first hog was caught on 8/9/04, and the problems resulted in the escape of the radio collared boar that was caught. The trap was repaired and reset on 8/9/04.

Twelve hogs were caught between 8/4/04 and 9/30/04. On 9/3/04 two adult, lactating females, two juvenile females, one male shoat and two female shoats were caught. On 9/17/04 seven hogs were caught in the trap. Two juvenile hogs were seen or heard escaping, leaving one adult male, one male juvenile and three female juveniles that were caught. On 9/24/04 hog activity was noticed at the trap. One or two hogs were frequenting the trap area and feeding on the bait on the outside of and not entering the trap. All of the hogs were caught in the trap at 3271662N, 664780E (NAD 83).

Neighboring Feral Hog Distribution

No contacts were made during the 2004 season.

Navigation

The following routes were accessible to high clearance four wheel drive vehicles during the 2004 season:

Road to Tank 208, drivable to Tank 44
Power line track to Tank 94, drivable to Tank 94
Road to Tank 220, drivable to Tank 220
Road to Tank 43
Power line track from North Rosillos road to Airport road
Road from Airport road at Tank 28, to Tank 40 and onto North Rosillos road
North/South road from Chalk Draw Ranch to Airport road
Road from Chalk Draw Ranch road at Tank 3, to Tank 5
Road from Chalk Draw Ranch road to Tank 66, drivable to Park boundary
Power line track from Chalk Draw Road to Tank 18
Road from North Rosillos road to Tank 43

Future Work

Water Source Surveys

Due to the feral hog's nomadic lifestyle and possibly growing population (compare 2002 and 2003 distribution maps to 2004 distribution map), water sources need continued survey in order to show recent distribution and best trapping locations. Surveys of unvisited springs and tanks outside of the North Rosillos areas would better the understanding of distribution and help determine if the population of feral hogs is immigrating out of the North Rosillos area.

Traps

There are two traps that remain on site in the North Rosillos. One trap is the successful corral trap near tank 204 (La Loma Windmill). This trap will continue to be baited, set and checked by Park Contractors. One non-set trap is currently on site at tank 28 (Monster Buck). This is a box trap that has not been baited during the 2004 summer season. Other locations that trapping might be successful are near tanks 27, 29, 30, 31, 60, 62 and 63.

Information

Electronic files containing feral hog information are located on the u-drive under ScRM, Raymond Skiles. The database is a Microsoft Access file in U:\ScRM\RAYMOND SKILES\Feral Hog\hogsurveys to 2004.mdb. The Arc View map is in U:\RAYMOND SKILES\Feral Hog\maps\2004. The Excel database for caught and dispatched hogs is in U:\ScRM\RAYMOND SKILES\Feral Hog\Hog Disposal.xls. In addition, all electronic files for the feral hog project are on the cd 2004 Seasonal Data.

Attachments:

2004 Feral Hog Distribution Survey Database Spreadsheet

Instructions for Feral Hog data entry

Distribution Map – Feral Hog Survey 2004

Distribution Map – Feral Hog Survey 2003

Distribution Map – Feral Hog Survey 2002

Precipitation for Big Bend National Park from July 1, 2004 to September 29, 2004

Tank Data – updated 9/30/2004