PRESENTATION TO THE SAVANNAH RIVER SITE CITIZENS ADVISORY BOARD

Savannah River Ecology Laboratory (SREL)
Wild Pigs on the SRS

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Feral Pigs on the SRS

- Feral pigs on the SRS represent a safety concern for both automobile collision and remote worker safety.
- Feral pigs on the SRS damage native vegetation, waste caps, landscaping, and other sensitive areas of the site.
- Feral Pigs on the SRS damage forest service plantings and other managed vegetation.
- Feral Pigs on the SRS create damage at the Three Rivers Landfill and other facilities on site.
- Feral Pigs on the SRS also represent a potential source of disease transmission to wildlife and domestic animals and of contaminants to humans.
Feral Pigs on the SRS

- Feral pigs, formally considered an invasive species, exist in very large numbers on the SRS.
- The Department of Energy provides funding to the USFS to conduct feral swine control programs on the SRS.
  - The USFS contracts with trappers to conduct pig removal across the site.
  - The USFS conducts limited trapping with its own personnel in sensitive or restricted areas.
  - The USFS contracts with a limited number of “Hog Hunters” for pig removal.
- Feral pigs are also harvested during the annual SRS deer hunts on site.
- Feral Pig numbers on the SRS are thought to be increasing despite control efforts.
Feral Pig Numbers on the SRS

- Currently the population size of the feral pig population on the SRS is unknown
- Trends for recent years stemming from removal efforts have been increasing:
  - 2011 - 641
  - 2012 - 1051
  - 2013 - 1389
  - 2014 - 1598
  - 2015 - 1463

- It is unclear whether a tipping point for reduction of the SRS feral pig population can be reached with current methods
Feral Pig Research on the SRS

- SREL leads a number of USDA-funded research projects on the SRS, and collaborates with the USFS on others, to:
  - Better understand the population ecology and behavior of feral pigs
  - To improve methods of density estimation
  - To enhance control strategies
  - To reduce disease transmission
  - To improve capture success

- SREL is working with the USDA National Feral Swine Damage Management Program to make the SRS a national center for feral swine research and to develop alternative feral swine control strategies
Efficacy of Rhodamine B

S.C. Webster, F.L. Cunningham, O.E. Rhodes Jr., J.C. Kilgo, M.A. Vukovich, and J.C. Beasley
MOVEMENT ECOLOGY OF TRANSLOCATED WILD PIGS

J.C. Beasley, D.A. Keiter, J.B. Smith, R.S. Miller, and S.J. Sweeney
PIGLET SURVIVAL

D.A. Keiter, J.C. Kilgo, M.A. Vukovich, F.L. Cunningham, and J.C. Beasley
SCAT DETECTION METHODS

D.A. Keiter, F.L. Cunningham, O.E. Rhodes Jr., B.J. Irwin, and J.C. Beasley
COMPARISON OF ABUNDANCE/DENSITY ESTIMATORS

SPATIAL RESPONSE TO CONTROL

CONTAMINANTS IN WILD PIGS ON THE SRS

R. Oldencamp, D.A. Keiter, L.A. Bryan, and J.C. Beasley
THANK YOU