



Gopher Trapping Demonstration

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SITUATION

Gopher damage is both unsightly and destructive to landscaped and cultivated properties. Estimates vary greatly but some older material suggests hundreds of dollars per mound in direct and indirect damage. Gophers are notorious for damaging the ground. The above ground dam-equipment as well as bodily harm mounds. Gopher populations in close potential disease transmission. With Schools in Dora, New Mexico contact-assistance with their gopher problem. creating havoc with their playgrounds.



Gophers were taking over their football and baseball fields as well as

and destroying water and electric lines buried in age can also lead to damaged landscaping from coming into contact with open holes and proximity to humans also increases the risk of all of those factors in play, Dora Consolidated ed the Roosevelt County Extension Office for

NMSU EXTENSION RESPONSE

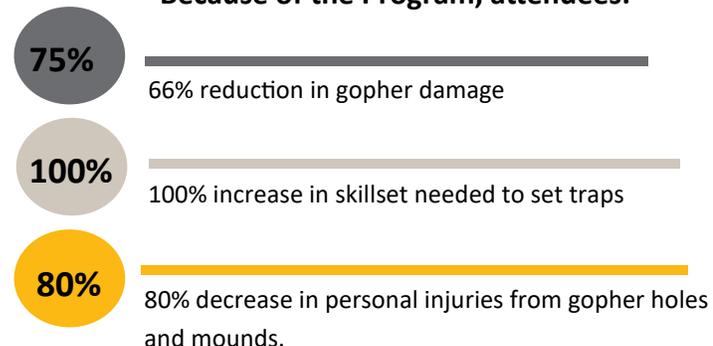
Roosevelt County Extension coordinated with the New Mexico State Wildlife Specialist to develop a hands on training day with Dora Consolidated School staff. The training provided background information about the habitat requirements and physiology of the pocket gopher. The second portion of the training provided hands on learning in order to identify primary tunnels and correct trap placement. Participants were then supervised as they practiced setting traps and gained experience necessary to perform the task individually.

IMPACT

The impact to the school was almost immediate, during the demonstration one gopher was trapped on the football field. In follow up surveys with school administration, 100% of participants in the workshop gained skills that equipped them to better handle their gopher problems on the school campus. During the months that followed the workshop, staff members were able to decrease gopher activity by 75% on the athletic fields and playgrounds at Dora Schools. Personal injuries were also decreased by 80% due to the decrease in gopher holes and mounds.



Because of the Program, attendees:



Quotes

- “Man they are really big, no wonder they do so much damage” —Lead Groundskeeper
“Thank you for providing us with the skillset to take care of this problem ourselves” —Superintendent