

## **Integrated Wild Pig Control™: The Flint River Project**

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**ABSTRACT:** Integrated Wild Pig Control™ (IWPC™) utilizes a systematic approach to enhance the lethal removal of feral pigs based upon seasonal food sources and conditional avoidance behavior that occurs when animals are exposed to trapping events. This sequence involves extensive camera and visual surveillance to determine numbers and locations of pigs. This information was utilized to deploy remote trapping of animals. Initial emphasis is placed on the removal of entire sounders at one time. Removal of remaining pigs is accomplished by use of firearms typically at night using thermal imagery technology. In January 2017, JAGER PRO™ was hired to remove the feral pig population from a 1,942 ha private property adjacent to the Flint River in Reynolds, Georgia. Based upon surveillance data the initial population was estimated at 450 pigs. During the 18-month project, 43 trapping events resulted in the removal of 62% of the estimated population. Shooting resulted in the removal of 38% of the estimated population over 116 events. Results of this study suggest emphasis should be focused on whole-sounder trapping efforts during the 1<sup>st</sup>-quarter of a given year, followed by shooting at night using thermal technology to accomplish optimum hog control efficiency and effectiveness.

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