NAME OF SPECIES: Sus scrofa		
Synonyms: None		
Common Name: Feral pig, wild pig, wild hog, wild boar, European wild boar, Russian wild boars, razorback		
A. CURRENT STATUS AND DISTRIBUTION		
I. In Wisconsin?	1. YES X	NO ☐
	2. Abundance: Small populations of feral pigs are found in several Wisconsin counties (1). Current estimate of Crawford County population is 50 -100 animals and is probably the largest population in WI.	
	3. Geographic Range: Feral pigs are found mainly in southwestern Wisconsin but are also found scattered throughout the state (1)	
	4. Habitat Invaded: This species is found in a variety of habitats, but generally they need thick vegetation for cover and water. Disturbed Areas X Undisturbed Areas X	
	5. Historical Status and Rate of Spread in Wisconsin: This species was illegally released into the state, most likely for sport hunting purposes. Feral pig numbers are increasing in the state. Currently established WI populations do not seem to be spreading rapidly.	
	6. Proportion of potential range occupied: Species has the potential to occupy most of WI. They do not migrate (1, 2).	
	7. Survival and Reproduction: This species numbers are increasing in WI. No information on specific survival rates or reproductive productivity of feral pigs in Wisconsin is available. Feral pigs are known to be reproducing in WI.	
II. Invasive in Similar Climate Zones	1. YES X	NO ☐
	Where (include trends): Feral pigs are found in many regions of the U.S. They are found in 23 states, mainly in the south (1). Feral pigs are a problem species wherever they occur outside their native range.	
III. Invasive in Similar Habitat Types	1. Upland X Wetland X Dune ☐ Prairie ☐ Aquatic ☐ Forest X Grassland ☐ Bog ☐ Fen ☐ Swamp X Marsh ☐ Lake ☐ Stream X Other: They are found in most habitats, from uplands to riparian zones.	
IV. Habitat Affected	1. Where does this invasive reside: Edge species ☐ Interior species ☐ This species will resides anywhere it can find adequate food and cover.	
	2. Conservation significance of threatened habitats: This species is known to impact wetlands because of wallowing behavior (1, 2, 3,4,6,7, 8). They will also destroy uplands and forests through rooting behavior (1, 2, 3,4,6,7, 8).	
V. Native Habitat	1. List countries and native habitat types: Feral pigs were originally found in Europe, Asia, North Africa, and British Isles (2). Native habitat consists of moist forests and shrub lands, especially oak forests and areas with reeds (2).	
VI. Legal Classification	1. Listed by government entities? This species is classified by the WI DNR as an unprotected species. Listed as one of the world's 100 worst invasive species (6).	

	2. Illegal to sell? YES X NO ☐ Notes: It is illegal to own and operate captive feral pig hunting operations in the WI (4). Soon to be listed by DNR as harmful and injurious animal, which will prohibit possession.
B. ESTABLISHMENT POTENTIAL AND LIFE HISTORY TRAITS	
I. Life History	1. Type of Animal: Mammal X Bird ☐ Reptile ☐ Amphibian ☐ Fish ☐
	2. Age of Maturity or time to self-sufficiency: Feral pigs become self-sufficient around 7 months (2). Maturity is reached at 8-10 months but most females do not breed until 18 months (2). One early estimate for age of maturity was at 6 months (1).
	3. Gestation Period: The average gestation period is 115 days, but ranges from 100 - 140 days (2).
	4. Mating System: Polygamous ☐ Polyandrous ☐ Monogamous ☐ Polygynous X Notes: Serial polygynous.
	5. Breeding/ Breeding period. Feral pigs can breed any time of the year (1). In northern temperate regions feral pigs tend to have 2 litters averaging 4-8 piglets (1). The size of the litter for piglets can range from 1-12 (1, 2 , 4). Feral pigs can have up to 4 litters a year (4).
	6. Hybridization potential: This species can form hybrids with almost any domestic pigs (4).
II. Climate	1. Climate restrictions: This species is limited by maximum snow depth (2). In warmer climate feral pigs need water, they will not be found further than 2 kilometers away from water (3). Do not seem to be limited by climate in WI.
	2. Effects of potential climate change: Since this species is limited by maximum snow depth, as climate warms and less snow falls, pig range may increase.
III. Dispersal Potential	1. Pathways - Please check all that apply: Unintentional: Bird ☐ Animal ☐ Vehicles/Human ☐ Wind ☐ Water ☐ Other: Intentional: Ornamental ☐ Forage/Erosion control ☐ Medicine/Food: Recreational X Other: Stocked/released by hunters (1).
	2. Distinguishing characteristics that aid in its survival and/or inhibit its control: Prolific, intelligent, and a big animal with few natural enemies.
IV. Ability to go Undetected	1. HIGH ☐ MEDIUM ☐ LOW X
C. DAMAGE POTENTIAL	
I. Competitive Ability	1. Presence of Natural Enemies: Few natural enemies - mountain lions, bobcats, bears, wolves, and humans (1, 2). These enemies, however, do not have much of an impact on the feral pig populations (1).
	2. Competition with native species: This species can out-compete the peccary (2). This species is known to compete with white-tailed

	deer and black bears, because feral pigs eat many of the same food items as these native species (1, 4, 8). Declines in quail, turkey and other ground nesting bird populations associated with feral pigs in other states (1, 4). One study concluded that feral pigs could have detrimental effects on the nesting success of bobwhite quail (5). This species is a better competitor than turkey and whitetail deer because feral pigs have a great sense of smell, and hunt by smell (8). Feral pigs can more effectively deplete an area of food than deer and turkeys (8). This species is also is an effective predator and is known to consume reptiles, amphibians, bird eggs, and fawns (4).
	2. Rate of Spread: -changes in relative dominance over time: -change in acreage over time: HIGH(1-3 yrs) X MEDIUM (4-6 yrs) ☐ LOW (7-10 yrs) ☐ Notes: Because feral pigs have a high reproductive rate and very few predators, they can spread rapidly.
II. Environmental Effects	1. <u>Alteration of ecosystem/community composition?</u> YES X NO ☐ Notes: This speceis causes damages to senstive habitats because of their rooting and wallowing behavoir (1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 7, 8). Their rooting behavior may change plant compostion and allow for weedy or invasive plants to spread (4, 8). Feral pigs also can reduce regeneration of tree seedlings (4). This species can effect community succession (6). This species can devastate ecologically sensitive native habitats, particularly native plants and rare, threatened, or endangered species (4). Rooting can upset climax (mature) communities (8).
	2. <u>Alteration of ecosystem/community structure?</u> YES X NO ☐ Notes: This species causes damage to sensitive habitats because of their rooting and wallowing behavior (1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 7, 8). The rooting behavior can change plant composition and allow for weedy or invasive plants to spread (4, 8). Feral pigs also can reduce regeneration of tree seedlings (4). This species can effect community succession (6). This species can destroy and eliminate valuable habitats, threatening the needs of endangered species(7). Rooting can upsets climax (mature) communities (8).
	3. <u>Alteration of ecosystem/community functions and processes?</u> YES X NO ☐ Notes: Feral pigs can alter soil structure, and by wallowing, affect ponds and wetlands by muddying the water, creating algae blooms, destroying aquatic vegetation, and lowering overall water quality (4). This species can disrupt ecological processes such as succession and alter climax communities (6, 8).
	4. <u>Exhibit Parasitism?</u> YES ☐ NO X Notes:
D. SOCIO-ECONOMIC EFFECTS	
I. Positive aspects of the species to the economy/society:	Notes: This species can be used as a food source, for sport hunting, and even as pets (2).

II. Potential Socio-Economic Effects of Requiring Controls: Positive: Negative:	Notes: Some money maybe lost to hunting revenue. Few negative aspects of controllig pigs other than the cost to do so. Feral pigs are known to carry a variety of diseasess that effect human and livestock (1,2, 3). They are also known as agricultural pests because they can eat anything and their rooting habits rip up land. They have also been known to attack people (9). All of the above could be reduced or eliminated if the pig population is controlled.
III. Direct and Indirect Socio-Economic Effects of the Animal :	Notes: This animal can damage agricultural crops and pastures, golf courses, cemetaries, military installations, vinyards, ornamental plantings, tree plantations, fences, and facilities resulting in financial losses(1, 7). Their behaviors can also impact water quality (4).
IV. Increased Costs to Sectors Caused by the Animal:	Notes: Agricultural, forestry, health
V. Effects on Human Health:	Notes: Feral pigs can transmit numerous diseases to humans (1,2 , 3) and have been known to attack people (9).
VI. Potential Socio-Economic Effects of Restricting Use:	Positive: Reduction of a disease carrying agents, reduction of an agricultural pest, and reduction of a forestry pest by restricting use. Negative: none
E. CONTROL AND PREVENTION	
I. Costs of Prevention (please be as specific as possible):	Notes: Long-term population control is very expensive (10). Exclusion fencing is expensive and requires continual maintenance. Public hunting of pigs is appealing because of low cost. Aerial gunning in Texas costs $300 or more/hour (14).
II. Responsiveness to Prevention Efforts:	Notes: Once feral pigs become established in an area it is difficult to remove all of them (14). High density populations serve as a source for repopulation. Feral pigs tend to avoid areas of human activity.
III. Effective Control Tactics:	Mechanical X Biological X Chemical X Times and uses: Modifying habitat, exclusion fencing, and changing animal husbandry practices may be effective in small areas (14). Some literature suggests poisoning is the most responsive and effective control method (11). There are no toxicants, repellents, fertility agents, or biological control agents currently registered in the US for feral pigs. Hunting may be effective if combined with other preventive aspects (12, 13). Aerial gunning has been used effectively in Texas (14). Trapping and snares are most effective in areas with high densities in the spring and summer while hunting and snares are more effective in the fall and winter (13). This species is crepuscular and nocturnal, so the best times to apply control techniques is around dusk, dawn, and night (2).
IV. Minimum Effort:	Notes: Poisoning requires little effort but many other problems may result. Hunting and trapping seasons may help, but recreational hunting alone is seldom effective (11). Snares are relatively inexpensive and require little installation equipment or maintenance (14).
V. Costs of Control:	Notes: It is very expensive to control feral pigs. It usually takes many hours to trap/snare/shoot pigs and is typically an ongoing

	operation. Poisons are more cost-effective but can have unintended results.
VI. Cost of Prevention or Control vs. Cost of allowing invasion to occur:	Notes: Because feral pigs compete with many native animals, are very destructive, and can alter ecosystems, they need to be controlled. Once feral pigs become established in an area it is difficult to remove all of them (14). It is important to promptly initiate control methods before pig populations and damage levels reach unmanageable levels.
VII. Non-Target Effects of Control:	Notes: If poisoning occurs other animals can ingest the poison directly, or animals that scavenge on dead pigs could ingest the poison secondhand.
VIII. Efficacy of monitoring:	Notes: Monitor signs of tracks, scat, rooting and wallows, damage complaints, and public sightings.
IX. Legal and landowner issues:	Notes: Some landowners want this species around to generate enjoyment and revenue from pig hunting. Pigs not allowed to be hunted within enclosures in WI. Species to be classified by DNR as harmful and injurious, prohibiting possession.

F. REFERENCES :

Number	Reference
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