

**MANAGING WILDLIFE DAMAGE IN DEPOPULATED AND AGING COMMUNITY - CASE STUDY IN HAYAKAWA-TOWN, JAPAN -**

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This research focuses on the human dimensions of wildlife-damage management in depopulated and aged Hayakawa-town, Yamanashi Prefecture. The town occupies an area of 370 square kilometers with the population of 1, 366. The ratio of residents over 65 years old is 49.6%. The wildlife damage here is caused mainly by four thousand Japanese monkeys (*Macaca fuscata*). While the farmlands are enclosed by electric fences, the wildlife damage is still occurring. Therefore, 861 of monkeys were culled in the fiscal year 2008 to reduce the damage. This study aims to find sustainable methods to control such damages by shedding light to the fence management in depopulated and aged communities. The author surveyed conditions of electric fences as well as their management by interviews and questionnaire surveys to local residents. There are 11 electric fences aimed to prevent trespassing on crop fields from monkeys, deer and wild boars. These were built in 2000. But 10 of them lost its function within 5 years because of short circuit and breakage. The only functioning fence had a skilled caretaker. The residents cannot maintain such fences especially in aged and depopulated communities. Therefore, the municipal support not only to the fence itself, but also to its management and caretakers is indispensable to maintain the fences and to reduce wildlife damages.

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