

Aircraft Incident Report for March 7, 2019

Crewmember Mike Halstead

This is a report detailing our project that started on March 4th which was a travel day. On 3-5 and 3-6 we conducted aerial operations for surveillance on a bovine TB outbreak, on 3-7 we planned on hunting for the specialist from that area, Joel Lyons, and then we were going to finish the last block for the TB project.

On the morning of 3-7 the pilot and myself left the motel at Oakes ND at 630 AM and departed for hunting operations near the town of Wyndmere, ND in rural Richland County, for a local sheep and cattle producer. It was around 0 degrees when we left and we had little if any wind. We ferried for approximately 40 minutes and began aerial hunting when the conditions were mostly sunny and calm winds. We had hunted for around 1 hour removing 15 coyotes before the incident occurred. We had left some coyotes in a patch of trees that we were not able to work earlier and we came back approximately 20 minutes later to see if they had left the cover they were in. On approach we saw 1 coyote to the east of the cover that we made a pass on and removed it, after the pass we saw the second coyote running to the south of our location toward another patch of trees. To the best of my knowledge we turned to the left and came around from the west of the coyote to make a pass before he got to the east tree line. There was a second tree line west of the coyote that we came by on the approach while we were in the turn and I felt the plane slip or slide at that point, again to the best of my memory at that point the right wing fell and then we went back to the left wing down and then back to the right, (it is possible we had 1 more left right bobble before we hit). The gun was out the window as we were near to making the pass on the coyote. At approximately 8:30 am we hit with the right ski, wing and motor close to the same time and slid close to 30+ yards before spinning around 180 degrees. After the impact when we were able to exit the aircraft out of the shooting window. We made some phone calls to inform ground personnel and to get help, we also used the OnX map feature to give our GPS location to additional WS personnel.



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