

Dear Members of the Board

I am writing this letter in favor of renewing your contract with wildlife services.

I have been born and raised in Fort Bragg I have seen many things over the years. One thing that I have noticed significantly different over the past couple of years is the amount of bears and lions and the destruction they are doing.

We raise cattle and have a hobby farm with a variety of farm animals. These animals provide food for our family throughout the year.

Our property is securely fenced. We also have individual fences and pens for our animals. We have tried hotwire and a few other tricks as well. All of which do not stop a hungry bear.

We also have a livestock guardian dogs to help protect our property. Our poor dogs have been working all night long the past few weeks definitely an influx in bears.

We have used our county trapper on at least three different occasions.

A mountain lion came in one afternoon while we were feeding and took a small goat. At the time my small children and I were near feeding. This was a few years ago. The trapper came the very next morning and the mountain lion was still sitting in the tree 300 feet from our barn. The lion was removed. That evening we had more visit looking for their friend.

There was a stent when the Bears were so destructive they ripped our walls and doors off our chicken coops. They ate and mauled our children's 4-H show chickens and ducks they ate the pigeons.

We lost over 70 chickens in that short duration. Our poor honeybees did not stand a chance we lost multiple hives over many different layers of fencing. The evening the bear went through the barn trying to get our sheep was when I called the trapper for the second time.

That bear didn't care about dogs. Didn't care that we were screaming and making noise. It went into a big secure barn with horses and cows. It was hungry and it was going to eat the sheep.

The trapper came caught a bear. It was so mean in the trap it had to be euthanized. It was decided that the bear was either sick or had been injured the trapper figured that was what was making it so mean.

One of my full sized horses had received a huge gash on his face from retractable claws received close to a hundred stitches. The vet at the time felt it was from a lion.

Our cattle operation deals with coyotes very frequently. Most of the time the adult cattle are able to keep away any predators. But on occasion there is the sneaky coyote that comes in and kills the baby calves.

We are in no favor of killing just for fun. We do not want to push away our wildlife. we do live with them a majority of the time however when they cross lines and are not showing boundaries there's generally a problem. And that is when we seek help from our county trapper or fish and wildlife services.

Please consider keeping them as a resource for the residence of Mendocino county.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely
Stacey Anderson.