

Dear Members of the Mendocino County Board of Supervisors,

Today the Ukiah Daily Journal featured the Wildlife Services contract issue in this front page story: [Mendocino County rancher and others calling for non-lethal wildlife management](#). The article makes a persuasive case that nonlethal strategies for managing human/wildlife conflicts are more effective and less expensive than lethal techniques. Below are two scientific articles that back up the points made in the UDJ article.

This 2016 study out of the University of Wisconsin, [Predator Control Should not be a Shot in the Dark](#) found that: *“Non-lethal methods were more effective than lethal methods in preventing carnivore predation on livestock generally. At least two lethal methods (government culling or regulated public hunting) were followed by increases in predation on livestock.”*

This 2015 study from Cambridge University Press, [Dead or alive? Comparing costs and benefits of lethal and non-lethal human–wildlife conflict mitigation on livestock farms](#) found that: *“non-lethal methods of human–wildlife conflict mitigation can reduce depredation and be economically advantageous compared to lethal methods of predator control.”*

- In addition to the clarity on this issue that science provides, ethics also dictate that the needless killing and depletion of ecologically vital wildlife is wrong and rarely justified.

Finally, the public is overwhelmingly supportive of using nonlethal options. Almost 1400 people have signed our [Stop the Killing Now](#) petition and many of them have left heartfelt comments which I encourage you to read. You have the opportunity to demonstrate on Tuesday that you are aware of the science and ethics around this issue and that you are deeply concerned about spending the public’s tax dollars wisely. The future is nonlethal; that’s clear. Please demonstrate that you are forward thinking and adhere to science when making your decisions about spending public funds by voting to permanently terminate the contract with Wildlife Services, and use the \$170,000 in tax dollars saved to support education about and implementation of nonlethal techniques in Mendocino County.

Thank you,

Carol

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