

July 10, 2020

Honorable Members
Board of Supervisors
Mendocino County
501 Low Gap Road, Room no. 1070
Ukiah, CA 95482

RE: Agenda Item 5H - Mendocino County Integrated Wildlife Damage Management Program

Dear Honorable Board:

The purpose of this letter is to respectfully request that you approve the Wildlife Services Agreement. The services provided by this agreement are immeasurable to the ranching community as well as for vineyard owners, schools and local businesses. My hounds and I have worked with Wildlife Services and the California Department of Fish and Wildlife on a few occasions to tree problem bears so that Fish and Wildlife could use safe and non-lethal methods to effectuate the removal of problem bears from the various campgrounds around Lake Pillsbury. I also used my hounds for depredation permits for local livestock owners who had suffered mountain lion predation of the livestock. The benefit of using specially trained dogs (as many Wildlife Services staff members do) is that the dogs will tree the mountain lion or bear without harm, so that a trained Fish and Wildlife employee can administer a tranquilizing dart to sedate the animal and relocate it to a safe environment.

Wildlife Services also assists local businesses and schools. My wife works at a local charter academy where skunks and raccoons had decided to take up residence under the classroom buildings. Obviously the smell of skunk is not conducive to a learning environment. Wildlife Services was called and they resolved the issue with non-lethal methods.

We live in a rural county. There are, at times, when there is a need to engage the services of trained professionals to address problems with wildlife. . Thankfully most of the time these problems can be ameliorated using common sense and preparedness. However, there are those occasions where the expertise of a trained professionals such as Wildlife Services is required and non-lethal and lethal methods must be used. The Wildlife Services agreement should be approved so that the program can continue to use both non-lethal and lethal means in order to assist property owners, businesses, private citizens and other agencies in resolving wildlife damage issues.

Sincerely,



Scott Ward

C: File