

Dear Board of Supervisors,

I am writing in support of the boards decision to renew it's agreement with Wildlife Services to be able to use both lethal and non-lethal means, to assist county residents with their wildlife predator problems. Our family has been in the ranching business for 95 years in Mendocino County, and in the first 50 years our livestock and predators lived in a balanced harmony. Since the mid 1970's, that balance has been thrown completely out of balance, and we were put completely out of the sheep business, due to predators. Lethal control does not need to be the first reaction, but it has to be available as a tool when needed.

As ranchers, we are basic lovers of wildlife and enjoy the beauty of free roaming wildlife. We have witnessed the continued erosion of our wildlife and expansion of pests and predators that are effecting our quality of life. Our natural resources are being totally threatened by some predators, and lethal control needs to be an option available to tax paying landowners and city dwellers alike. In Mendocino County, the small and large landowners and timber companies are huge tax payers and are simply asking for some effective assistance in protecting their property. Watching bears destroy the young Redwood trees you have planted over the decades, watching the wild pigs destroy your best cattle grazing pasture overnight, and watching the native deer herd all but disappear are tough pills to swallow.

In closing, thank you for your time and support regarding this issue, and ask that you stay the course, and continue to support our agreement with Wildlife Services.

Thankfully yours,  
Larry Mailliard