

Dear Chairman Haschak and Board Members,

My family has been ranching in this county for 150 years. Despite the many adversities we continue to raise cattle on Orr Springs Rd.

I support the Integrated Wildlife Damage Management Program including both lethal and non-lethal options for the following reasons.

1. The trapper's presence in our community is important to landowners large and small because that is who they serve. There is a misconception that the trappers only assist large landowners or those with livestock. This is only a part of their job. They deal with rabid animals. They deal with pesky skunks, raccoons, and coyotes that live in town.

2. In my many years experience with Gary Johnson, he has demonstrated an amazing work ethic. In addition, I have found him to be cautious in his methods and carefully employing only legal and safe methods to deal with predators. If county trappers no longer exist, landowners, large and small, will be forced to take things into their own hands. Perhaps this could result in using questionable methods for the removal of unwanted pests or predators.

3. Grazing is an important part of our Ecosystem. Before we were all here the elk grazed our grasslands. Grazing actually promotes the health and viability of other species of both animals and native grasses. These symbiotic and beneficial relationships were established in a well recognized study conducted at Pt. Reyes CA. If there is no assistance with legal control of predators in this county, then I fear that the large livestock ranches will cease to function.

4. Large expanses of ranch land promote many of Mendocino County's public trust and environmental objectives. The public trust benefits of large ranches include but are not limited to:

- Large expanses of wildlife habitat and wildlife corridors--protecting endangered/threatened species and permitting wildlife to travel distances unencumbered by roads and people.
- Healthy landscapes provide clean water and air
- Our streams provide habitat for listed steelhead and coho salmon
- Healthy landscapes protect soil and watersheds
- We provide open space and aesthetics
- We provide essential natural resources (wood and food) to society

For all these reasons I support the Board of Supervisor's approval of the Cooperative Agreement with the wildlife services, including both lethal and non-lethal methods.

Sincerely,

Lisa Weger