

1. Please terminate Mendocino County's contract with the USDA Wildlife Services and its lethal Integrated Wildlife Damage Management (IWDM) Program, and
2. Establish a Non-lethal Wildlife Damage Management (NWDM) Program to be administered locally.
3. As native Californians, we believe all wildlife is held in the public trust and that we all have a say in how our wildlife is treated. It should always be using the most humane methods. It has been well-documented that lethal measures can also be lethal for non-target species including imperiled wildlife and domestic dogs and cats. There is evidence to show this wrongful killing exists and that it often goes unreported. Also, the best available scientific research shows that killing wildlife to reduce predation on livestock or damage to crops is rarely necessary and counterproductive. And, finally, ethics tells us that this needless killing of ecologically important wildlife is wrong, especially when there are many cost-effective and proven non-lethal methods of addressing human-wildlife conflicts.

Again, we hope you will do what is right and vote to terminate this lethal program and establish a more humane and accountable one for the future. We and all the animals thank you for your consideration.

Gary and Karen Holm