

Via Email: [bos@mendocinocounty.org](mailto:bos@mendocinocounty.org)

Mendocino County Board of Supervisors

501 Low Gap Road, Room 1010

Ukiah, CA 95482

RE: Agenda item 6A, Regarding the Wildlife Service Contract

Dear Chair Gjerde and Supervisors,

*The need for the Wildlife Service Contract is vital and should NOT BE TERMINATED*

Some people would have you believe this is just about killing problem animals. This is totally false. This service is provided by the county for all businesses and residents to use in case of issues with wild animals damaging property/killing of domestic pets as well as livestock. This is about having all tools available to use not just a few when dealing with destructive/dangerous wildlife. Only providing non-lethal options is not really safe guarding animals or humans, it will just increase the interactions/risk to both.

We live in a rural and sparsely populated area of the state. There are bound to be times when there will be a bad encounter with the wildlife that live in the area. That is when we need the help of the Wildlife Service people. These trained individuals can provide welcome insight on reducing/eliminating these unfortunate encounters.

These encounters with wildlife can be fatal to not only domestic animals and ranch livestock but to humans as well. Let's not forget about destruction of private property too. There may be many reasons that some encounters with wildlife are deadly such as Rabies, hunger, injuries, age, sickness, lack of prey and don't forget overpopulation. These animals are reproducing every year and this causes stress on their food supply and hunting territories. Some try to shame us to believe that we have some moral/inhumane mental lapse for wanting to protect our property and animals. This is just not so. We value wildlife, just not to the point that they can destroy our pets and property. Wild animals that have lost the fear of humans can be a danger. Just look at some of the attacks on humans by wild animals to the south of us including the recent coyote attacks on humans in the South Bay. The animal was caught and put down.

Would it not be more humane to have professionals help you assess what the problem is and provide counsel/support or action to resolve the issue, including lethal removal if necessary? This seems far more humane than having people taking matter into their own hands and just destroy animals they feel could harm their property or animals. Worse yet they could wound the animal so it dies a slow painful death.

This service is essential for business and property owners. Some have made references that it cost the county money and is a waste or worse, fees should be charged for this service. Well let's see, we have local law enforcement for all in the county to use if needed for crimes against property and person. Thank goodness they don't charge fees for their very important services to us all. Shouldn't we also have a service available to us when wildlife is threatening /attacking humans, damaging property or killing our domesticated animals? This ultimately is affecting people's health and safety.

The Mendocino County Board of Supervisors saw a real need for this service in our county and I applaud those supervisors that with stood the push by people who believe all wildlife should be protected regardless of the damage that it may cause. We will all be safer with the help of these professionals when it comes time to deal with aggressive/dangerous wildlife. Let's hope we don't need to use the service, but it's good to have them available.

Terminating the WSC is a feel good idea and does nothing to protect county residences from dangerous animals. It's like putting a band aid on a wound, when you need stiches.

Thank you,

Dale Briggs,  
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