

Hello,

The Department of Agriculture's "Wildlife Services." is misnamed. In fact, Wildlife Services doesn't serve wildlife at all — it serves ranching and agricultural interests. In 2020, California Wildlife Services killed 24,264 wild native animals statewide, including 56 black bears, 39 mountain lions and 3,252 coyotes! This is tragic, sad and so, so unnecessary.

Every year for nearly nine decades, Wildlife Services has killed thousands of wild animals with traps, guns, and other cruel methods, largely at the behest of private ranchers and other agricultural interests. Non-target species—including imperiled wildlife and domestic dogs and cats—fall victim to Wildlife Services' lethal approach. One Mendocino federal trapper admitted to killing more than 400 dogs. Many non-target kills are not reported.

Mountain lions, bears, coyotes, bobcats, and other species targeted by Wildlife Services are ecologically vital species. They do not deserve inhumane, unnecessary death. Humans have a responsibility to protect them, and many cost-effective non-lethal methods of addressing human-wildlife conflicts exist. Please investigate these methods and terminate your contract with Wildlife Services, I urge you. This organization does not protect wildlife. It kills them. And the people of Mendocino agree.

Thank you.

Nancy Garret

Emerald Hills