

Greetings,

As a resident of Humboldt County and thus a neighbor to your north, I respectfully ask the Mendocino County Board of Supervisors to terminate its relationship with Wildlife Services once and for all.

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 a small group of private ranchers and other agricultural interests. This flies in the face of the Public Trust Doctrine, which maintains that wildlife is held in the public trust and that we all have a say in how our wildlife is treated. I can say that in Humboldt County majority sentiment was strongly against continuing the relationship with Wildlife Services, and I am guessing the same is true of Mendocino County, most of whose residents do not want their taxpayer dollars spent on an expensive and ineffective program that cruelly and needlessly kills wild animals.

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. A previous Draft Environmental Impact Report clearly demonstrates the serious impacts of Wildlife Services' program. Mountain lion populations are particularly vulnerable.

Mountain lions, bears, coyotes, bobcats, and other species targeted by Wildlife Services are ecologically vital species. The site-specific and cumulative impacts of their removal on ecosystem health can be profound. Furthermore, the best available scientific research shows that killing wildlife to reduce predation on livestock or damage to crops is rarely necessary and sometimes counterproductive.

Ethics tell us that this needless killing of ecologically important wildlife is wrong, especially since so many cost-effective non-lethal methods of addressing human-wildlife conflicts exist. The entire approach of Wildlife Services is based on a late nineteenth/early twentieth century model of thinking that has brought the planet to the precipice of ecological catastrophe. It is time for Mendocino County to join the majority of northern Californian counties in rejecting Wildlife Services and its outdated approach once and for all.

Thank you for your consideration.

Edward Macan  
Eureka, California