

As a citizen of the Bay Area I am writing in hopes that Mendocino County will terminate its contract with the USDA Wildlife Services and its lethal Integrated Wildlife Damage Management (IWDM) Program, and establish a Non-lethal Wildlife Damage Management (NWDM) Program to be administered locally.

The best available scientific research shows that killing wildlife to reduce predation on livestock or damage to crops [is rarely necessary and sometimes counterproductive](#). Mendocino County should adapt into modern wildlife conservation by terminating its long-standing relationship with the rogue U.S. Department of Agriculture program misnamed “Wildlife Services.” In fact, Wildlife Services doesn’t serve wildlife—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. Many cost-effective non-lethal methods of addressing human-wildlife conflicts exist.

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. A previous [Draft Environmental Impact Report](#) clearly demonstrates the serious impacts of Wildlife Services’ program. Mountain lion populations are particularly vulnerable. In addition 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.

I look forward to when I can visit beautiful Mendocino County again and hope that it’s vibrant wildlife will be there to enjoy.

Thank you,
Carol Schaffer