

March 21, 2021

Dan Gjerde, Chair  
Mendocino County Board of Supervisors  
501 Low Gap Rd.  
Ukiah, CA 95482

Re: Integrated Wildlife Damage Management Program

Dear Chairman Gjerde and Board Members:

Attached is the letter I wrote your Board on July 13, 2020, a mere eight months ago. During the several years before I wrote that letter, the Board of Supervisors had spent tens, and perhaps hundreds, of thousands of dollars and countless hours developing two EIRs as part of the process to fully vet the Wildlife Damage Management Program (WDMP). Loyal county employees were also fired during this period. After my letter was written the Board approved the WDMP.

It is my understanding that the Board now intends to use the back door to eliminate this program by “consolidating” the WDMP with the newly conceived Animal Care Services Program. In the scant informational material available to the public, the Board has not provided sufficient background, anticipated costs, or other information upon which a decision to consolidate could be based.

Bottom line: It appears that some members of the present Board of Supervisors do not agree with the past decision to approve the WDMP. They are using highly questionable means to achieve an end-run to overturn its approval.

I suppose this means that any decision, commitment, or promise made by the Board can be simply overturned with a future resolution.

Obviously, on so many levels, consolidation without proper study and analysis is not only unsupportable in a court of law, it undermines the original process and further erodes confidence in our representative government. It would justifiably erode public confidence in the Mendocino County Board of Supervisors. In this instance, does the end justify the means?

Best Regards,

Lisa Weger

Lisa Weger  
Weger Interests, Ltd.  
18471 Orr Springs Rd.  
Ukiah, CA 95482

Mendocino County Board of Supervisors  
501 Low Gap Rd.  
Ukiah, CA 95482

July 13, 2020

RE: Integrated Wildlife Damage Management Program

Dear Chairman Haschak and Board Members,

My family has been ranching in this county for 150 years. Despite the many adversities we continue to raise cattle on Orr Springs Rd.

I support the Integrated Wildlife Damage Management Program including both lethal and non-lethal options for the following reasons.

1. The trapper's presence in our community is important to landowners large and small because that is who they serve. There is a misconception that the trappers only assist large landowners or those with livestock. This is only a part of their job. They deal with rabid animals. They deal with pesky skunks, raccoons, and coyotes that live in town.
2. In my many years experience with Gary Johnson, he has demonstrated an amazing work ethic. In addition, I have found him to be cautious in his methods and carefully employing only legal and safe methods to deal with predators. If county trappers no longer exist, landowners, large and small, will be forced to take things into their own hands. Perhaps this could result in using questionable methods for the removal of unwanted pests or predators.
3. Grazing is an important part of our Ecosystem. Before we were all here the elk grazed our grasslands. Grazing actually promotes the health and viability of other species of both animals and native grasses. These symbiotic and beneficial relationships were established in a well recognized study conducted at Pt. Reyes CA. If there is no assistance with legal control of predators in this county, then I fear that the large livestock ranches will cease to function.

4. Large expanses of ranch land promote many of Mendocino County's public trust and environmental objectives. The public trust benefits of large ranches include but are not limited to:

- Large expanses of wildlife habitat and wildlife corridors--protecting endangered/threatened species and permitting wildlife to travel distances unencumbered by roads and people.
- Healthy landscapes provide clean water and air
- Our streams provide habitat for listed steelhead and coho salmon
- Healthy landscapes protect soil and watersheds
- We provide open space and aesthetics
- We provide essential natural resources (wood and food) to society

For all these reasons I support the Board of Supervisor's approval of the Cooperative Agreement with the wildlife services, including both lethal and non-lethal methods.

Sincerely,

Lisa Weger

Weger Interests, Ltd.