

To the Board of Supervisors,

This is the 3rd letter I have written in the past month regarding decisions that the Board of Supervisors are addressing and again I am in opposition. It seems that the County of Mendocino and the BOS are hell bent on attacking agriculture in this county making it harder and harder to make a living and raise our children in a safe and healthy environment.

I am opposed to the proposal to cancel the cooperative service agreement with the USDA Wildlife Services program and limit the replacement program through the county Animal Care Services to only wildlife exclusionary work. Didn't this contract just get renewed because the plan in place was not working without the help of Wildlife Services? This is a classic example of listening to people outside our county who have made it a mission to change everyone else's counties into what they deem as correct or right. Our County does not have the resources to take on this job and furthermore the agenda item does not provide any information on what types of wildlife species or wildlife interaction issues this newly consolidated Animal Care staffing unit will address, nor does the presentation provide any analysis on the overall costs for the increased staff, facility improvements, vehicles, equipment and training that will be required as part of this proposal. We can't even monitor our cannabis ordinance decisions and now we will take on this?

Through the cooperative service agreement with Wildlife Services the county integrated wildlife damage management program (IWDM) can continue to use both non-lethal and lethal means in order to assist property owners, businesses, private citizens and other agencies in resolving wildlife damage issues. Non-lethal technical assistance is needed and often helps to improve wildlife damage situations, but there are times when lethal alternatives are required. Limiting a IWDM program to only non-lethal options is a disservice to the residents of the county who could face situations with wildlife damage that are unresolvable without a lethal option administered by a trained professional such as Wildlife Services staff.

I urge you to NOT consider terminating the contract with Wildlife Services.

Sincerely,

Joleen Logan
Potter Valley