

Hello,

As a Rhodes Scholar studying Zoology at the University of Oxford, and as a wildlife-loving conservation scientist, I am writing to affirm that there are times when lethal control is a necessary tool and to remove it as an option can cause great harm for biodiversity.

Dear Mendocino County Board of Supervisors,

I am writing to ask you, please, do NOT terminate cooperative services agreement with USDA Wildlife Services.

My son and family own a ranch in Comptche, on Flynn Creek Road, and rely on Wildlife Services when necessary. They have built double fences, gotten dogs purposed for protecting livestock, and done everything within their power, again and again, to protect the livestock. Every year it is a brutal massacre of the lambs and calves. They lost over 30 new lambs and ewes last year alone. Every year it has been a terrible struggle, between the coyotes, bears, and mountain lions. It is impossible to keep a bear out once it has a taste for blood. Their livelihood and ability to keep this family ranch, which has been in my daughter-in-law's family for many decades, depends on being able to successfully raise livestock as her father, Mick Smith, who was a longtime rancher, did his entire life.

I live four miles east of the town of Mendocino. We frequently have bears get in the garbage and my neighbor just saw a mountain lion on our road two days ago. Our deer population and wildlife population (and many household pets) have been decimated. I have lived in this home over 45 years and there used to be many deer, rabbits, and other critters...Now, it has become rare to have a deer siting. (But I do have the bear climb over my fence and damage my apple trees EVERY year...)

The proposal to cancel the cooperative service agreement seems short sighted.

PLEASE reconsider revoking this essential service.

Thank you,

Beth Reed and Julie Reed

Mendocino, CA