

Dear Chairman Gjerde and Board Members:

I am a lifelong resident of Mendocino County, a business owner, vineyard owner, daughter of a ranching family and, most importantly, a TAXPAYER and a VOTER. It has come to my attention that the BOS is considering ending their contract with Wildlife Services and moving the job in-house with Animal Control. I am also aware that the BOS is considering limiting abatement to non-lethal methods. I find both of these short-sighted and a disservice to the Board's constituency.

I have personally had experience with Wildlife Services at my place of business in Boonville. Both under my office and another building on site became skunk and raccoon homes. My office smells terrible and I'm sure it would be much worse if I had not been able to have someone come out and trap the skunks and raccoons and dispose of them quickly and safely. My alternative could have been to trap and kill the animal myself, but I doubt anyone would enjoy my employing a gun in town for this. Or perhaps I could have used my father's method - trap the animal then set the dogs on it? I'm sure you will agree that those are not the best methods for dispatch. Or perhaps you would prefer to come over and deal with the skunk spraying your vehicle? No, you'd rather pay someone to deal with that smell while they do whatever non-lethal thing you would have them do.

What about the case of rabid animals?

What about the cost? Has anyone analyzed the cost to do this in the County vs. contracting this out?

I have read through some of the letters you have received and I am dismayed that so many of them are from people who don't live here, don't pay taxes here, don't run businesses here and are not your constituency. I cannot imagine that the BOS elected by residents of this County would pay any attention to what those outside this County want - it's not their business. And it is also not as if my uncle was still the trapper for the State - back then, he was tasked with eliminating all predators, period. No, I have bears, mountain lions, coyotes, foxes, deer, rabbits, etc. and so forth happily cohabiting my property. But I do not want them living under my office or home and I want the option to safely kill those animals that are a problem.

I urge you to continue the existing contract and allow both lethal and non-lethal methods to be utilized as necessary.

Thank you for your time.

Anne L. Fashauer