

Dear Board members,

I am a fifth generation rancher in Potter Valley, we currently run a cow/calf operation and 50 head of sheep along with harvesting hay and timber. We experience loss of livestock every year due to mountain lions and coyotes. It is a loss that is extremely hard to bare both financially and mentally. It is difficult to watch ewe's baling for their lambs who have been taken by coyotes, or ewes drug out of the barn by mountain lions, cows searching for calves in the mountains.

The Wildlife Services provides a rancher with the opportunity to get assistance from trained experts who work in resolving issues with predators. We always try non-lethal options first, with the expertise of the professionals and if all fails then having to take a lethal option is best done by those who have the experience.

So much of Wildlife Services time is spent on skunks and fox's living under peoples homes or eating their chickens. They give advice to landowners on ways to deter the varmints, I find the resources that they provide extremely valuable and not found else where.

I am very concerned about the county being able to handle the issues of staffing, equipment and training. Also you put landowners in a position to have to deal with issues on their own.

As I looked at the letters provided to the BOS, I found one thing in common with the majority. It was that they were from residents that do not reside in our County. Please do not let resident from other Counties dictate how we set policy in our County. It should be made by the voters and tax payers in Mendocino County.

I ask that you continue to support USDA Wildlife Services,

Katie Delbar

Potter Valley