

Board of Supervisors,

I strongly urge you to end Mendocino County's involvement with USDA Wildlife Services.

The program is outdated and damaging to the fabric of a balanced ecosystem, which we all must act to prioritize and protect.

The health of our planet starts with local decisions which ultimately impact us all. You play a critical role.

Beyond judging this WS contract on its inhumane collateral damage to various native species, we must judge it through the eyes of Mendocino County community members who overwhelmingly condemn the USDA program.

I know this from sponsoring a community inquiry program, with post cards that I left throughout local neighborhoods, so people could send their thoughts on WS to their respective Supervisors, this done in 2015.

The respondents strongly condemned WS in 90% of the returned postcards. However, we Wildlife Advocates failed in our efforts to sway the BOS that year, and THIS is our new opportunity to urge you to vote against any further contract with WS. Please consider:

Nothing will bring the now-missing species like kangaroo rats, ground squirrels, red-winged black birds, tree frogs and coastal newts back to my neighborhood. These species were abundant twenty years ago. Now even the jack rabbits and red-bellied newts are in obvious decline.

Our use of Wildlife Services has contributed to this local imbalance where I live, and elsewhere. It's time to stop this rouge, damaging, dare I say "outrageous" program for good.

Please end our association with WS, now.

Thank you,

Anne West

Yorkville