

County Supervisors-

I am a north county rancher in the Covelo area. I understand you are considering cancelling the service agreement with Wildlife Services. I urge you not to do that. We desperately need them to mitigate not only the wildlife problems we have but feral dog problems as well. I have had numerous cattle maimed and killed by dogs and wildlife alike.

I understand the general population's desire to see non lethal alternatives to standard lethal predator control. The ONLY WAY you can have a non lethal predator control program is with the inclusion of the wildlife services program. They have tools and training to capture and relocate some of these animals where ordinary folks like myself are limited to lethal means of predator control.

Predator control is essential to a healthy wildlife population. We have a decimated deer herd in our area. The difference I have seen in 30+ years of being around in the hills of this area is staggering. In order to maintain a healthy balance, lethal control methods are essential. One study claimed to have a 90% fawn mortality rate in deer herds because of mountain lions, bears and coyotes. It's a miracle we have any deer left at all.

Please continue to fund the Wildlife Services Program in Mendocino County. We desperately need it.

Thank you for your consideration.

Peter Bauer