Mendocino Board of Supervisors,

Dear Friends and Representatives of our County,

I am a resident and landowner in Round Valley with bottom land in Ag Preserve. We have been inundated with herds of wild pigs this year and they have destroyed the fields where we usually plant hay for our horse and for cattle that graze some of our pasture land a few months a year. But because of the onslaught of wild pigs this year, the rancher who usually plants our fields has said it is no longer possible or worthwhile. We have paid a fee in the past to get assistance with the wild pig problem but this year we failed to contact the county in a timely way. Please do no remove all the support that these trappers provide for community members who want to live on the valley floor here in Southeastern Round Valley. I beseech you be aware of the terrible damage that wild pigs are doing to our lands and yards and gardens. We have had to install electric pig fencing around our home as they have rooted up our perennial border, our front yard, etc. I think it would be a terribly short sided mistake to remove these services from our county when there is such need for them. Our friends are sheep ranchers and they too seek assistance to protect their livestock from predation.

Through the cooperative service agreement with Wildlife Services the county integrated wildlife damage management program (IWDM) can continue to use both non-lethal and lethal means in order to assist property owners, businesses, private citizens and other agencies in resolving wildlife damage issues. Non-lethal technical assistance is needed and often helps to improve wildlife damage situations, but there are times when lethal alternatives are required. Limiting a IWDM program to only non-lethal options is a disservice to the residents of the county who could face situations with wildlife damage that are unresolvable without a lethal option administered by a trained professional such as Wildlife Services staff.

Thank you for considering my request,

Paula Fugman