

Bradford Ranch LLC
Boonville, Mendocino County, CA

August 15, 2021

VIA Email:

bos@mendocinocounty.org

Mendocino County Board of Supervisors
501 Low Gap Road, Room 1010
Ukiah, CA 95482

RE: 5e) Discussion and Possible Action Including Approval of Retroactive Cooperative Service Agreement (CSA) with the United States Department of Agriculture, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Services (APHIS), and Wildlife Services (WS), in the Amount of \$189,556 to Provide a Work and Financial Plan for the Mendocino County Integrated Wildlife Damage Management Program, for the Period of July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2022 (Sponsor: Agriculture)

Dear Chair Gjerde and Supervisors:

I am asking you to support the recommended action for agenda item 5e;

“Approve Retroactive Cooperative Service Agreement (CSA) with the United States Department of Agriculture, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Services, and Wildlife Services, in the amount of \$189,556 to provide a work and financial plan for the Mendocino County Integrated Wildlife Damage Management Program for the period of July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2022; and authorize Chair to sign same.”

My family business has been active in Mendocino County for over 81 years. In all this time landowners like myself have created revenue for ourselves and the county by the products we raise or grow. Eighty-one years ago, the number of county residents who raised livestock was much higher than it is today, and the county actively supported those families by giving support when it was needed. Like eighty-one years ago, today, most family businesses like mine hardly ever ask for help from the county but there are times when help is needed, and that assistance is essential. Assistance in the control of

predatory wildlife is the one request livestock owners ask of the county. I can not emphasize enough how critical this assistance is over time. There have been some years that I have lost thousands of dollars in income from predatory wildlife.

Just since the nineteenth of July of this year I have lost 4 calves, killed by coyotes, and I have at least two months remaining when the young calves being born now will be in danger from predators. How many more calves will be killed I do not know but if we had had a contract with Wildlife Services I probably would not have lost as many.

Please understand, I know the important relationship wildlife predators have in our environment, they are necessary to keep the balance in other species. Not all predators attack livestock, just a select few and those select few are the ones that need to be removed.

It's not just me asking for you to approve the retroactive agreement, it's also the 4-H and FFA members raising animals and the rural residents asking Wildlife Services for help removing skunks or managing nuisance mammals. Many of the animals Wildlife Services deals with are major reservoirs of rabies and other potentially fatal diseases.

Please Approve the Retroactive Cooperative Service Agreement (CSA) with the United States Department of Agriculture, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Services, and Wildlife Services.

Sincerely,

Peter Bradford
Bradford Ranch LLC