

My name is Richard Ettelson and I'm a resident here in Mendocino county.

I strongly object to your renewing the \$189k USDA contract to subsidize irresponsible ranching techniques that require killing wildlife because their unwilling to use alternative non-lethal methods to protect their stock. These methods are the price of doing business, it is not a public responsibility to maximize their profits. If the only way they can continue to do business is by using public funding perhaps they should find alternative propositions where they can invest their money.

Public funding should be used to develop methods for coexisting with our wildlife instead of hiring killers at the public expense to do the job for them. Predators are a legitimate issue for ranchers and they already have the right to legally shoot wild animals caught in the act of molesting or injuring their livestock. They can also get depredation permits from CDFW.

The money saved by cancelling this contract can then be partially used for public education efforts applying non-lethal methods to address wildlife conflicts.

I hope you'll consider my objections to this unnecessary expenditure of public funds and cancel the USDA contract.