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FISH AND GAME
COMMISSION

Bob's Creek Ranch

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12 March 2014

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California Fish and Game Commission
c/o The Resources Building
1416 Ninth Street
Sacramento, California 95814

Dear Commissioners:

I am writing to thank you for placing the issue of wildlife killing contests on your April agenda and to encourage you to take positive action to put an end to these activities.

Although these events typically masquerade under the guise of providing some wildlife management benefit, there is no scientific basis for this claim. Indeed, compelling data show that killing large numbers of some species, e.g., coyotes, one of the frequent targets of these contests, only results in increases in reproductive output. The fact is that these activities simply revolve around killing animals for "fun". It is not sport and it is not hunting. It is based on long discredited notions of "good animals" and "bad animals", pests, and varmints. We should be educating the public about the roles and importance of all species, including predators, scavengers, even prairie dogs and ground squirrels, to properly functioning ecosystems, not to mention a simple respect for other living things.

Killing contests, whatever their target, are an egregious affront to responsible wildlife management and to sportsmanship. Beyond that, they present a terrible message to children and young adults who are often encouraged in this activity by their parents. This sort of thing should not be going on in a state like California in the 21st Century and I urge you to put a stop to it.

Sincerely yours,



Kenneth P. Able

Cc: Mr. Chuck Bonham, Director, Department of Fish and Wildlife