

3 January, 2014



Dear Fish and Game Commission,

This letter is directed to the Wildlife Resources Committee of the Fish and Game Commission. Please forward this letter to the Committee leaders so that these comments can be considered at their 15 January, 2014 meeting.

We have received the agenda for the 15 January meeting as well as the spreadsheet containing the recommendations from the Predatory Policy Review subcommittee. As far as we can tell, the hunting community has been given little or no opportunity to review and comment on this document. Perhaps the 15 January meeting is intended to correct this situation; nevertheless, the spreadsheet seems to have been generated without the benefit of this public input.

I realize there was a prior meeting of the Wildlife Resources Committee on 12 June, 2013. However, we believe there was insufficient notice of this meeting to allow various members of the hunting community to reschedule their calendars to allow them to participate. In the case of our Federation, the representative we intended to send could not be there because of a cancelled flight. In addition, the summary of that meeting only indicates that a subcommittee was formed to address predator management policies. The names of the subcommittee members were not mentioned in the summary, and no means of contacting that subcommittee was provided. I could also find no reference to this subcommittee on the Commission web site. Thus there has been little or no opportunity for the public to make inputs to the subcommittee.

It is our hope that the 15 January meeting will focus not only on the recommendations of the Predatory Policy Review subcommittee, but more importantly on how to fix the process so that all points of view can be considered. This should all begin with a more transparent process on how the public can participate and on how recommendations will be developed for submission to the Fish and Game Commission.

Respectfully,

Robert R. Smith
President, San Diego County Wildlife Federation