



COUNTY OF SISKIYOU Department of Agriculture

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AGRICULTURAL COMMISSIONER
SEALER OF WEIGHTS AND MEASURES

PATRICK J. GRIFFIN

AIR POLLUTION CONTROL OFFICER
ANIMAL CONTROL OFFICER

Sonke Mastrup, Executive Director
California Fish and Game Commission
S1416 9th Street, Room 1320
Sacramento, CA 95814

March 24, 2015

Dear Mr. Mastrup,

I was in attendance at the Predator Management Stakeholder meeting on March 12th, 2015. However, I did not voice my concerns during the meeting. I am the Agricultural Commissioner for Siskiyou County, but I am also representing the California Agricultural Commissioners Association regarding this issue. You stated at the beginning of the 465.5 breakout session that the Commission made it clear that they did not want to limit depredation. That was the focus of my concern and I was relieved to hear that was not the intent of the Commission.

We need to be careful not to limit tools available for predator management. Wildlife Services provides essential assistance to agricultural producers throughout the state. If we keep taking their tools away, they will become less and less efficient at their work and the agricultural industry will feel the impact. Predators in California seem to be doing very well with high populations of bears, mountain lions, coyotes, foxes, bobcats and many others. There is no scientific evidence indicating that we need more constraints placed on the take of coyotes. I am concerned that too much protection for any one species can be detrimental to other wildlife species. High lion populations, for example can impact deer and sheep populations on a local basis.

I do not dispute the questionable moral and ethical implications of previous predator contests, but the coyote population has not been impacted on a local, regional or statewide basis. I see no reason to restrict take of coyotes in California.

The leg hold snare seems to be a reasonable and safe tool to use in the San Joaquin Kit Fox area and should be considered as an important component of integrated pest management in that region.

Thank you for allowing me to be part of the stakeholder group. Please keep the importance of California Agriculture in mind when considering changes in predator management. The Agricultural industry provides food and fiber for our nation, economic benefits to California, open space for the pleasure of our citizens and habitat for wildlife.

Sincerely,

Patrick J. Griffin

Siskiyou County Agricultural Commissioner

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