



July 10, 2020

ODFW Commission

Re: **EXHIBIT B: 2021-2023 BUDGET APPROVAL**

Chair Wahl, Director Melcher, members of the Commission,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comment on ODFW's proposed agency reduction list. By way of background, the Oregon Farm Bureau is the state's largest agricultural trade association, representing nearly 7,000 farm and ranch families across the state. Predator Control is of immense importance to OFB members, and as such, we urge the commission to not reduce funding to the predator control program.

Currently, the predatory animal, rabbit and rodent control fund is used to assist with controlling damage caused by predatory animals to agricultural crops and livestock. This includes predation from bear, cougar, furbearers, and wolves. Having this program fully funded is essential for Oregon's farmers and ranchers who face immense financial loss from predation. As evidenced by recent reports from farmers and ranchers across the state, now is not the time to reduce vital funding to predator control.¹ Predators are increasing on the landscape, and damage to livestock can result in thousands of dollars in economic loss. Farmers and ranchers operate on extremely thin margins – the loss of even a few animals could be the difference in a rancher being profitable for the season.

Farmers and ranchers are already under immense economic pressure from COVID-19 – key markets have collapsed, long standing contracts have been canceled, and challenges in the meat processing industry have hit livestock producers especially hard. Reducing predator control funding puts agricultural producers at greater risk of depredation and eliminates vital agency resources needed to respond and mitigate damage caused by wolves, coyotes, and other furbearers.

Therefore, we urge the Commission to not reduce funding to predator control, and seek reductions in other areas that will not add greater harm to Oregon's agricultural producers. Thank you for the opportunity to provide comment. Please do not hesitate to reach out with any questions or concerns.

Samantha Bayer
Policy Counsel
Oregon Farm Bureau
samantha@oregonfb.org

¹ https://www.capitalpress.com/ag_sectors/livestock/ne-oregon-ranchers-hit-hard-by-wolves-during-spring-grazing/article_282c19e6-baf0-11ea-b494-47571428b162.html;
https://www.capitalpress.com/ag_sectors/livestock/oregon-wolf-population-increases-15-in-2019/article_13de8e0c-7f6c-11ea-8097-9380542c543c.html

Roxann B Borisch

From: David Briggs <dbriggs18@icloud.com>
Sent: Friday, July 10, 2020 7:31 AM
To: odfw.commission@state.or.us
Subject: Opposed to cutting funding for predator control to

Predator control should be considered an essential part of wildlife management the same as habitat improvement and wildlife restoration and management. The dollars spent on wildlife services should be at the level of marine mammal predator control.

Thank You

David Briggs
4340 Gazley Rd
Myrtle Creek Or 97457

Sent from my iPhone

Roxann B Borisch

From: Chad Anderson <dustydogg954@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, July 9, 2020 8:54 PM
To: odfw.commission@state.or.us
Subject: Predator Control Funding

Sent from Mail for Windows 10

To whom it may concern,

The Predator Control program is very important to Douglas County. Keeping predator populations down helps protect livestock, strengthens deer and elk numbers, and helps keep predators away from populated areas. I strongly support the current program and do not want to see its funding cut.

Thank You,

Chad Anderson