

**Animals Killed by APHIS-Wildlife Services
In Humboldt County (Reported)*
April 2010 - June 2013**

Time Period	Coyotes	Mountain Lions	Black Bears	Striped Skunks	Racoons	Opposums	TOTAL
Apr - June 2010	8	3	6	22	26	14	79
July - Sep 2010	4	0	10	32	20	2	68
Oct - Dec 2010	4	1	4	16	12	6	43
Jan - Mar 2011	6	1	0	27	11	1	46
Apr - Jun 2011	1	1	0	11	17	3	33
July 2011 - June 2012	12	1	8	74	67	14	176
July 2012 - June 2013	23	2	9	48	45	10	137
July - Sep 2013	9	0	1	5	20	7	42
Oct - Dec 2013	NO DATA PROVIDED						
Jan - Mar 2013	2	0	0	21	1	2	26
Apr - June 2013	7	1	4	7	6	6	31
TOTAL	76	10	42	263	225	65	681

* Data obtained from the Humboldt County Agricultural Commissioner & compiled by the Center for Biological Diversity

County of Humboldt
Board of Supervisors
July 22, 2014

My name is Jeannie Kauffman. I have been a resident of Bayside for the past 22 years and am a Humboldt County native. I have had many occasions to enlist the assistance of Wildlife Services over the years, and have received advice from them on managing conflicts with wildlife on our property, which is part of their mission. According to their website California Wildlife Services delivered technical advice and recommendations to approximately 1.6 million people in 2012. Their mission is to provide federal leadership and expertise Humboldt to resolve wildlife interactions that threaten public health and safety, agriculture, property and natural resources to allow people and wildlife to coexist. They work in every state, conducting a program of wildlife damage management in response to local requests. They are authorized by two acts of Congress to provide these services.

As you can imagine, the goals and objectives of Wildlife Services have changed significantly since being established in 1895. Initially focusing on rodent and predator control, over time the range of activities have increased due to increased human population and changing social needs. Wildlife is moving into more urban areas due to our creation of ideal habitat. We may unintentionally provide food, water and shelter with very little in the way of negative issues; no predation, etc.

The program is committed to the principle that wildlife is a publicly owned resource held in trust and carefully managed by state and federal agencies. Responding to ever changing requests for assistance, activities have expanded to include programs to conserve threatened and endangered species, public health and safety, wildlife disease monitoring and non-lethal methods research. Other programs include airport wildlife hazards, national environmental program, rabies management, wildlife disease, and the national wildlife research center which is devoted to resolving problems caused by the interaction of wild animals and humans.

During my many conversations with our local Wildlife Services agents, both past and present, we have discussed non-lethal vs. lethal solutions. The most popular non-lethal solution often discussed is relocation. Some reasons for

not relocating problem wildlife are that animals will repeatedly attempt to return to their familiar territory, subjecting themselves to dangers of dog attacks, unfamiliar landscapes, being hit by traffic, etc. Many animals that find their way into suburban or developed areas are ill and may transmit disease to an otherwise healthy population if relocated.

Some animals become so familiar with humans that they lose their natural fear of them. They quickly learn that humans equal food, in the form of garbage left unattended, gardens, pet food, livestock, etc. This becomes their main source of food and they will forage less and less.

A quote from the Wildlife Society says "Prevention or control of wildlife damage, which includes removal of the animals responsible for the damage, is an essential and responsible part of wildlife management".

Without local Wildlife Services who will you call when you experience a conflict with wildlife in your home or on your property? Will you close your doors, run inside, keeping children and pets inside hoping it will simply go away? Or will you leave your home to that critter that has taken up residence in your basement or attic and is raising a family there instead of you? Or will you go "vigilante" due to inadequate local legal agency assistance? Which would result in a total lack of responsibility and accountability. In my research I could find no reporting of any complaints filed against our local Wildlife Services agency.

In an article in the Times Standard, July 13, 2014, both Monte Merrik (of Bird Ally X and Humboldt Wildlife Care Center), and attorney Amy Atwood (of Conservation of Biological Resources), were critical of the agency. Wildlife Services was accused of illegal acts, having a lack of accountability and transparency. I would respectfully ask Mr. Merrik and Ms. Atwood to outline their solutions to these conflicts. I would also like to know if their reporting has been broken down by county, state or is nationwide information. We need to communicate and work together for resolution, not simply criticize, point fingers and pass judgment. We have the benefit of years of research and the resulting knowledge that Wildlife Services has to offer. Lets use that knowledge continue to educate people so that, as much as possible, humans and wildlife can coexist. I would encourage and support the renewal of the contract with Wildlife Services in Humboldt County.

Respectfully,

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