

## **AOC REQUESTS ROBUST FUNDING FOR WILDLIFE SERVICES**

Funding for U.S. Department of Agriculture Wildlife Services is critically important to the State of Oregon and its counties.

State funding for the U.S. Department of Agriculture Wildlife Services is appropriated through the budgets of the Oregon Departments of Agriculture and Fish & Wildlife. After severe cuts beginning in 2009, counties were forced to fill the shortfall of deep state funding cuts to the extent possible. The Governor's Task Force on Federal Forest Payments & County Services (January 2009) at Recommendation #6 urged the state to fulfill its role as major contributor of resources to predator control.

For the 2009-11 biennium, counties contributed over \$2.4 million to Wildlife Services, compared to the State's total of \$340,000, or **more than seven times the state appropriation**. For the 2013-15 biennium, the state has rebounded its contribution to \$931,778. By enhancing this level of funding in 2015-17, the state will approach its fair share and help to relieve the pressure on overly burdened county budgets. The benefit to all will be an effective predator control program to protect safety, health, and the economy in Oregon.

The Governor's Recommended Budget includes a modest enhancement to funding to \$949,884. AOC urges the Legislature to provide at least that much of additional resources.