



OREGON FOREST & INDUSTRIES COUNCIL  
SUSTAINABILITY. SCIENCE. INNOVATION. GROWTH.

**February 22, 2017**

**Joint Ways & Means Committee, Natural Resources Subcommittee  
Co-Chairs, Senator Lew Frederick, Representative Brad Witt**

**Re: SB 5502, Restore Predator Control Funding (USDA-APHIS-Wildlife Services)**

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of restoring funds to the USDA-APHIS-Wildlife Services (WS) program. WS provides valuable services to Oregon communities, the Oregon Department of Agriculture (ODA) and the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW). Wildlife cause significant damage each year to natural resources, public infrastructures, private property and agriculture. WS predator control plays a crucial role in managing these human-wildlife conflicts.

Oregon’s farmers, ranchers, foresters and rural and urban communities see significant damage due to wildlife each year. These communities often rely on WS wildlife damage control experts to provide technical assistance and help curb damage by beavers, cougars, coyotes, elk, Canada geese, and other wildlife. Thanks to a budget note, WS was able to track over 30,000 wildlife conflict resolution cases between July 1, 2013 and September 30, 2014, proving the value of WS across the state to reduce depredation and provide on-the-ground technical assistance. A robust predator control program is key to maintaining the wide range of tools available to protect crops, livestock and pets from loss.

Unfortunately, the Governor’s recommended budget for the 2017-2019 biennium eliminates general funds to WS in the ODA and ODFW budgets. The zeroing of funding puts the entire WS program in jeopardy—a program that is responsible for responding to tens of thousands of wildlife conflicts annually. The proposed budget also threatens recent county efforts to provide county match dollars for the WS program. WS is a tremendous investment for the state, leveraging approximately 5:1 federal and county dollars to state dollars, respectively. This investment can only continue with state support.

WS addresses a great diversity of human-wildlife conflicts in the state, and the partnership with ODA, ODFW and WS benefits Oregon wildlife and agriculture. We respectfully ask that the committee restore \$464,200 to WS predator control in the ODA budget. This program is leveraged several times over in Oregon communities and provides essential expertise to deal with wildlife damage.

We appreciate the opportunity to comment.

Respectfully,

Jenny Dresler  
Oregon Farm Bureau Federation

Tom Nichols  
Oregon Sheep Growers Association

Katie Fast  
Oregonians for Food and Shelter

Jerome Rosa  
Oregon Cattlemen’s Association

Gil Riddell  
Association of Oregon Counties

Roger Beyer  
Oregon Seed Council

Al Elkins  
Oregon Hunters Association

Amy Patrick  
Oregon Forest & Industries Council

## 2013-2016 SUMMARY FEDERAL & COUNTY DOLLARS TO STATE DOLLARS

<b>FEDERAL FUNDS</b>	<b>2013</b>	<b>2014</b>	<b>2015</b>	<b>2016</b>
TOTAL FEDERAL	983,735.45	973,530.00	972,464.00	955,687.00
<b>STATE FUNDS</b>				
TOTAL STATE	464,678.41	460,146.66	469,058.02	539,943.98
<b>COUNTY FUNDS</b>				
TOTAL COUNTY	1,246,530.51	1,308,737.71	1,292,561.78	1,313,393.47
TOTAL FED & COUNTY \$	2,230,265.96	2,282,267.71	2,265,025.78	2,269,080.47
<b>RATIO FEDERAL/COUNTY TO STATE DOLLARS</b>	<b>\$4.8 : \$0.21</b>	<b>\$4.96 : \$0.2</b>	<b>\$4.83 : \$0.21</b>	<b>\$4.2 : \$0.24</b>

