

I am writing as both a wildlife biologist, former hunting guide, and citizen. I strongly support SB 580-- the elimination of cyanide devices for the control of wildlife. I'm certain the scientific reasons have been voiced by others. Using indiscriminate means of killing wildlife—which cyanide devices are—disrupts the social ecology of animals, and often results in more human conflicts.

There is the indiscriminate kill aspect—due to their indiscriminate nature, cyanide devices kill pets, and many other non-target animals.

Such devices are also a human safety issue. People, can and do, occasionally set off these devices and suffer the poisoning that results.

Finally, there is the ethical question. Should we be indiscriminately killing any animals? The rationale for using these devices is to protect livestock. However, in most cases, the livestock owners have other non-lethal means of protecting their animals. It's just cheaper to just kill all predators than to practice good animal husbandry. That doesn't mean it's in the public's interest to promote or allow this lack of good husbandry to be an excuse for killing the public's wildlife.

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