

Additional Information on HB 3075 and HB 3167

April 6, 2021

Chair Witt and Members of the Committee,

Since the hearing on HB 3075 and HB 3167 went so quickly, I wanted to follow up on a few of the concerns raised at the hearing. There appears to be some confusion about what these bills do. HB 3167 and HB 3075 simply allow landowners to petition their counties to form a predator district that would help pay for *the county's share* of the existing federal USDA Wildlife Services program. The bills do not create a new predator control program or authorize anything new in regards to predator management. In forming a predator control district, landowners are taxing themselves to fund an existing, very long-standing and well-known predator control program.

We also heard concerns that there is no data on what USDA Wildlife Services is doing on the ground. In fact, USDA Wildlife Services already tracks all of their actions on the ground, and there is significant data on the [USDA website](#) on what kinds of work USDA Wildlife Services does – simply select Oregon from the drop down menu. USDA Wildlife Services categorizes each action they take, whether it's hazing, education, lethal control, or other action.

Inherent in that program is significant investment in non-lethal methods of wildlife control – USDA Wildlife Services always encourages non-lethal measures and helps farmers, ranchers, and timber landowners implement non-lethal measures that will reduce conflict as a significant part of their job.

Given that HB 3075 and HB 3166 simply remove the sunset on a funding program to allow landowners to tax themselves to fund the county share of USDA Wildlife Services, these bills are not the appropriate place for a conversation about how USDA Wildlife Services conducts their predator control, though non-lethal measures and education are very much at the forefront of what they do.

Our landowners absolutely need the sunset on the successful predator control district pilot program lifted for the current programs in Coos and Douglas Counties to continue to help fund all work related to predator management – from education to nonlethal deterrence to removal of problem predators.

Please let me know if you have any questions and thank you again for your consideration.

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