



Support HB 4080 – Landowners Funding Predator Control!

Our coalition asks for your support of HB 4080, which **authorizes a program to help fund county predator management**. HB 4080 allows counties to continue to provide a voluntary funding solution to retain predator management services and protect local ag-dependent economies.

HB 4080 does not create a new predator control program or authorize anything new in regards to predator management. In forming a predator control district, landowners are simply assessing themselves to fund an existing, very long-standing, and well-known predator control program.

Many rural residents rely on effective predator management to prevent costly depredation on their livestock or timber. However, as payments in lieu of timber harvest on federal lands continue to decrease, the future of current predator management programs in rural counties is tenuous. In 2015, the legislature created a program to provide a voluntary mechanism for agricultural and timber producers to help pay for the county's share of the existing federal USDA Wildlife Services program without imposing a tax on the general public. After its authorization, two counties – Douglas and Coos - approved local programs with great success, this allowed landowners to assess themselves to fund critical predator management services.

The program authorized in 2015 gave livestock producers and timberland owners the ability to contribute to the funding of the county's trapping program and free up money to go to other county services—such as law enforcement or road improvements. The predator control district program:

- Allows at least 10 eligible landowners/producers who together own at least 10,000 acres to petition the county to form a separate funding district to pay for predator management in the district.
- Creates an advisory board of producers to set the rate of incurred charge and certify the rolls of membership to the county annually.
- Includes a voluntary opt-out if a landowner/producer does not want to participate.
- Provides alternative funding mechanism to fund county predator control services.

HB 4080 reauthorizes a previously successful program with some minor updates,

Inherent in that program is significant investment in non-lethal methods of wildlife control – USDA Wildlife Services frequently utilizes and encourages non-lethal measures and helps farmers, ranchers, and timber landowners implement those non-lethal measures that will reduce conflict as a significant part of their job. Without effective predator control, our producers would experience significant losses of livestock (and their offspring) that they cannot absorb. The predator control districts program is important to the successful continuation of production agriculture in many rural counties, and **we ask you to vote YES on HB 4080.**

Contact: Lauren Smith: Oregon Farm Bureau & Kyle Williams: Oregon Forest & Industries Council.