

January 22, 2025

Royce Schwenkfelder
SS Cattle Company
3315 Schwenkfelder Rd.
Cambridge, ID. 83610-5215

Dear Royce Schwenkfelder,

This letter is in response to your comment left in the Federal Register for Docket No. APHIS-2024-0053, "A Survey of Livestock Producer Perceptions of Predators and Predator Damage Management Methods." We thank you kindly for your thoughtful comment. Please see our responses below:

Wolves do not just depredate on public lands. Private land grazing scenarios are impacted as well. The data collection needs to include all methods and operation/managing styles of the livestock industry and be sent out to all livestock producers.

- The scope of our study is specific to evaluating the USDA/APHIS/Wildlife Services (WS) Nonlethal Initiative programs, which narrows our sample to only those livestock producers who received nonlethal predator damage management assistance from WS with congressionally appropriated funding. These livestock producers maintain various livestock types on both public and private lands.

Also, there needs to be questions about the effectiveness of lethal and nonlethal methods of predators. Detailed feedback needs to be attained to accurately assess the effectiveness and the challenges of issues related to predator management.

- We agree it is important to assess lethal control. The survey is written so that respondents can evaluate lethal and nonlethal predator damage management methods. This information will help the WS meet respondents' needs related to predator damage management and improve predator damage management method implementations. To further obtain detailed feedback from our respondents, several questions within our questionnaire allow for open-ended responses, including an opportunity at the end of the survey for respondents to provide any remaining comments. Additionally, for multiple-choice questions, we provided as many opportunities as possible for respondents to be able to select "other" and subsequently write in their desired response.

Thank you again for the thoughtful feedback.

Sincerely,



Megan M. Cross, PhD
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