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Comment from Hagenbarth, Jim (APHIS-2024-0053-0031)

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As a livestock producer in southwestern Montana and southeastern Idaho that is impacted by restrictions on managing predators (coyotes, wolves, lions, and bears) due to presence of grizzly bears, it is important that Agencies understand we are in a predator rich environment in this area of the country. As we cut costs and change our operations to put our animals back to work by range lambing and calving our herds on the western ranges, predation takes an unacceptable toll. If we lose our ability to use our livestock as a tool to enhance the rangelands, society will lose the only resource manager that can holistically manage all the multiple ownerships on the resource. It is important to understand the livestock producers needs of a predator control and methods that are effective and a well designed survey would be helpful.