



January 22, 2025

Cameron Mulrony
Idaho Cattle Association
2120 Airport Way
PO Box 15397
Boise, ID. 83715

Dear Cameron Mulrony,

This letter is in response to the Idaho Cattle Association's comment left on 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 below for our response:

To properly conduct the survey and receive a true blend of comments from producers who have "received predator damage management services", we would support APHIS making this opportunity specifically available, and limited, to any livestock producer that has utilized such services during the past decade.

- Congress has appropriated funding to USDA/APHIS/Wildlife Services (WS) since 2020 specifically for the implementation and further development of nonlethal methods for reducing livestock-predator conflict (referred to as the Nonlethal Initiative). The scope of this study is specific to evaluating the Nonlethal Initiative, which narrows our sample to only those livestock producers who received assistance from WS under the Nonlethal Initiative.

It is our recommendation that the type of survey modality be considered as well – while radio button, multiple choice, or check box surveys have the efficiency of speed, it is crucial that producers be given an opportunity for open form text that will allow them to elaborate on explicit examples.

- 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.

ICA is in support of communication relating to only general trends & findings be communicated to departments and teams, with no specifics relating to individual producers or operations being shared. It is important to us, as well as our members, that risk for bias or retaliatory action be minimized in the effort to encourage livestock producers to openly share feedback within this survey opportunity.

- We will release study results based on summary estimates and results from statistical analyses to protect the privacy of individual respondents. In addition, we will not link survey information with respondents' names or their contact information. All completed questionnaires received will be stored securely in a locked office at the National Wildlife Research Center, a facility with 24-hour security, or on password-protected computers and a secure server accessible only to the Human Dimensions Unit investigators.

Thank you again for the thoughtful feedback.

Sincerely,

Megan M. Cross, PhD
Social Scientist
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