



Support HB 3167A – Landowners Funding Predator Control!

Our coalition asks for your support of HB 3167A, which ***simply removes the sunset on a 2015 program to help fund county predator management.*** HB 3167 allows counties to continue to provide a voluntary funding solution to retain predator management services and protect local ag-dependent economies.

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 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. Since its authorization, two counties – Douglas County and Coos County - have approved local programs with great success, allowing landowners to assess themselves to fund critical predator control 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 existing predator control district program:

- Allows over 50% of landowners/ producers 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 establish the boundaries of the district and set the rate of incurred charge 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

The 2015 program sunsets this year. ***HB 3167A simply removes the sunset clause to allow this successful program to continue.***

HB 3167A 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. 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.

Without effective predator control, our producers would experience significant losses of livestock (and their offspring) that they cannot absorb. Continuation of 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 HB 3167A.***

Contact: Mary Anne Cooper, Oregon Farm Bureau

HB 3167 – Predator Districts by the Numbers:

There are two predator districts that were formed under the program created in 2015, which sunsets this year. These districts have stepped in to fund a share of their county’s contract with USDA Wildlife Services. ***These two districts need HB 3167 to pass in order to continue their very successful voluntary predator control funding programs!***

Coos County Predator Damage Control District

For fiscal Year 2020-21

Landowners in the District: **132**

Acres in the District: **201,347**

Tax lots: **1026**

Assessment (User fee): **\$0.42 per acre**

Approximate Income: **\$84,565**

Estimated Predator Damages in Coos County for the 2019-2020:
\$555,708

Douglas County Predator Control District

For fiscal Year 2020-21

Landowners in the District: **296**

Acres in the District: **113,000 (79,000 ag and 34,000 forestry)**

Assessment (User fee): **\$0.43 per acre (will be going to \$1/acre)**

Approximate Income: **\$35,000**