

I oppose HB 4080, which would authorize the creation of “predator damage control districts” to pay Wildlife Services to kill Oregon’s wildlife (i.e., wolves, bears, bobcats, foxes, cougars, beavers, coyotes, etc.) deemed a threat to private property, cart blanch, without having to use or consider non-lethal methods.

Wildlife Services is a highly controversial program within the U.S. Department of Agriculture that carries out lethal predator control on public and private lands throughout the U.S. including here in Oregon, using cruel killing methods that include poisoning, trapping, snaring, aerial gunning, and paid hunters. In fact, in the fiscal year ending in June 2020, Wildlife Services killed 201,606 wild animals in Oregon, including 210 bears, 2,147 coyotes and 92 mountain lions.

These killing methods are indiscriminate and often kill unintended wildlife and family pets. Poisoning, trapping and snaring also pose a risk to our community that may be exposed to these methods accidentally. It is unsafe for our wildlife and humans!

In addition, the USDA, has also falsified depredations in the past. They are not a reliable source of justification for killing our wildlife.

“The USDA failed to use verified cattle and sheep loss data—that is, they largely relied on growers to tell them how their domestic animals died without confirmation by USDA representatives. Therefore, some cattle or sheep losses here attributed to wolves, coyotes, and bears are likely either inflated or misidentified. For example, in its cattle loss report, the USDA reported that growers lost cattle to grizzly bears in six states where grizzly 7 bears are absent or never occurred historically. **The USDA reported cattle losses to grizzly bears** in Arkansas, Colorado, Georgia, Nevada, **Oregon**, and Wisconsin.<sup>8</sup> This indicates the extent to which the USDA’s data are unverified and therefore, flawed—perhaps even inflated.” Fig. 6a. U.S. Sheep Inventory Losses by Cause and by State

[HSUS-Wolf-Livestock-6.Mar.19Final \(humanesociety.org\)](https://www.humanesociety.org/resources/HSUS-Wolf-Livestock-6.Mar.19Final)

This bill DOES NOT support the opinions or the desires of the majority of Oregonians. But instead, again caters to a small group of individuals that refuse to work with communities and agencies to employ non-lethal methods to protect their industry and to preserve and protect wildlife that is an integral part of a healthy eco-system.