



August 23, 2022

Keisha Tatem, Arizona
Carlos Suarez, California
Randy Randall, Colorado – Acting
Curtis Elke, Idaho
Tom Watson, Montana
Rigoberto Lopez, New Mexico – Acting
Suzy Daubert, Nevada
Ron Alvarado, Oregon
Emily Fife, Utah
Roylene Comes At Night, Washington
Andi Neugebauer, Wyoming – Acting

RE: Non-lethal predator risk management Technical and Financial Assistance through NRCS Conservation Delivery Programs

To NRCS Western Region State Conservationists:

We, the undersigned livestock producers operating on western working lands that serve as habitat for large predators, are writing to express our interest in and need for technical and financial assistance to support producer-implemented natural resource and livestock management practices and systems aimed at managing the risks associated with livestock-predator interaction. Conflict that occurs between agriculture production and certain species of wildlife, such as wolves and grizzlies, can be addressed through the Four C's — a systems-based framework for conflict reduction that supports both livestock production and wildlife conservation, summarized below. We believe that NRCS conservation delivery programs offer a pathway for producer adoption of conflict prevention (non-lethal) practices, as part of this framework.

Through extensive dialogue amongst stakeholders that are rooted in the realities of stewarding rural lands and communities, the Conflict Reduction Consortium developed the Four C's

framework. The framework addresses the ecological, economic and social needs of diverse communities dealing with livestock-predator conflict by means of compensation, conflict prevention (non-lethal), control (lethal) and collaboration.

We request increased availability of voluntary conservation mechanisms to support non-lethal predator management through NRCS-administered Farm Bill programs, such as EQIP and CSP. We support the adoption of an Interim Practice Standard that would provide for further implementation and evaluation of range riding and carcass management, along with temporary, semi-permanent and permanent fencing approaches. All these techniques have demonstrated utility for conflict management across broad geographic conditions. The interim availability of financial and technical assistance would allow for further review and modification by NRCS based on the technical merit of these strategies. We believe these practices have utility in addressing wildlife habitat, livestock production, and range management resource issues that influence predation risk management.

Landowner-implemented conflict prevention supported through NRCS conservation programs is complementary to and distinct from the role of other state and federal agencies, which provide agency-implemented conflict prevention through technical and operational assistance. To date, the Wolf Livestock Demonstration Grant Program (Tester Fund), with ever increasing demands, is the only federal funding source that, in some states, supports landowner-implemented conflict prevention.

Western working lands provide a broad suite of ecosystem services. The sustained provisioning of these landscapes in the context of today's world, which supports an increasing number of predator species, is dependent upon economically viable and socially-accepted management approaches that improve ecological function. As landowners and managers collectively operating across 14 states, we look forward to the opportunity to work with our local NRCS field offices to continue to steward land, livestock and wildlife on the West's working wild landscapes.

Sincerely, the undersigned,

[See following pages for signatories]

CC:

Robert Bonnie, Under Secretary, FPAC
Astor Boozer, Regional Conservationist
Danielle Flynn, National Biologist
Chris Hamilton, Biologist, West Tech Center
Thad Heater, Conservation Outcomes Team
Arthur Middleton, Senior Advisor for Wildlife Conservation
Clint Evans, Colorado
Xavier Montoya, New Mexico
James Bauchert, Wyoming



Signatories

Arizona

Trace Beeler, Double Mills Ranch
Frank DeSpain, W Lazy S Ranch
Larry Gibson, Black Canyon Ranch
Sarah King, King's Anvil Ranch
Tanner Lund, Garcia Ranch
Carolyn McCord, Flying Leap Ranch
Kevin McFee, McFee Cattle Co.
Kregg Simhauser, V Stripe Ranch
RT Sinor, Little Colorado Ranch
Steven Udall, Spurlock Ranch
Jennifer Yohn

California

California Cattlemen's Association
California Rangeland Conservation Coalition
California Cattlemen's Foundation
Lassen County Cattlemen's Association

Andrew Bertotti, Hole-in-One Ranch
Marty Bidwell, Bidwell Livestock
Lucy Blake, Lemon Canyon Ranch
Case Blanken, Ono Ranches
Kevin Collins, Collins Ranches
Taylor Hagata, Hagata Ranch
Jack Hanson, Willow Creek Ranch
Kristi Jamason, Feather River Land Trust
Grant Leininger, Leininger Ranch
Gordon Long, Long Sniper Ranch
Jessica Oddo, Truax Ranch
Breanna Owens, Cobblestone Ranch
Travis Owens, Owens Ranch
Matthew Rose-Stark, Keystone Land and Livestock
Darrel Wood, Leavitt Lake Ranches
Dennis Wood, Wood Cattle Ranch, Inc.
Trevor Wood, Wood Wood Cattle Co.
James Harston
Sharon Harston
Kathleen Webster
Anica Wu

Colorado

Colorado Wool Growers Association

Upper Arkansas Conservation District

North Park Stockgrowers Association

Phillip Anderson, Anderson Ranch

Brett Axton, Rocky Mountain Roosters

Abby Bramwell, Spear U Ranches

Kyle Bramwell, Spear U Ranches

Darla Bramwell, Spear U Ranches

Ronald Campbell, Rolling Hills

Barry Castagnasso, 105 Ranch/Sweetwater Clydesdales

Renee Deal, Sperry Livestock

Merrilee Ellis, Coberly Creek Ranch, LLLP

Ben Garcia, Hideaway Kennels

Craig Greager, Layed Back Ranch

David and Marcy Gruber, Moriah Ranch

Jim Johnson, Elk Glade Outfitters

Lenny Klingsmith, Klingsmith Ranch

Terri Lamers, Snyder Ranches, LLC

Lauren Lees, Western States Ranches

Bill Lieb, RMR

Melissa Makous, The High Lonesome Ranch

Andrew Maneotis, Maneotis Livestock, Inc.

Cindy Mangus, SH Bar Ranch

Madison Everett Martinez, V Bar X Ranch

Dallas May, May Ranch

Keri Off, Off Family Ranch

Sam and Cheri Robinson, Robinson Sheep Ranch

Philip Rossi, Hart Mountain Ranch

Delbert and Lynne Sherrod, Rocking U 7 Ranch

Alex Sokolik, Golden Pyr Ranch

Sarajane Snowden, Snowden Ranches

Jo Stanko, Stanko Ranch

Melody Anderson

Scot Dutcher

Sara Mahan

Michael McKiernan

CJ Mucklow

Chris Pague

Patrick Quigley

Andy Rusk

Raymond Toney

Idaho

Idaho Cattlemen's Association

Dawn Holmes, Holmes Ranch LLC

Sarah Michael, Wood River Wolf Project

Tom Page, Big Creek Ranch

Rebecca Patton, Little Wood Ranch

Cory Peavy, Flat Top Sheep Co.

Jesika Harper

Elizabeth Lili Simpson

Rachel Lohof Larsen

James Steele

Montana

Montana Stockgrowers

Southwest Montana Stockgrowers

Montana Farm Bureau Federation

Bitterroot Bear Resource Committee

Centennial Valley Association

Madison Valley Ranchlands Group

Rocky Mountain Front Ranchlands Group

Ruby Valley Strategic Alliance

Watershed Restoration Coalition of the Upper Clark Fork

Andrew Anderson, J Bar L Ranches, LLC

Trina Jo Bradley, Bradley Ranch

Peggy Dulaney, J Bar L Ranches, LLC

Bex Frucht, West Creek Ranch

Bruce Butch Gillespie, Gillespie Show Cattle

Ariel Greenwood, Grass Nomads, LLC

Colleen Gustafson, Triangle Land and Livestock Co.

Mark Hitchcock, Double M Livestock and Feeds

Denny Iverson, B Bar 7 Ranch

Yvonne and Lee Martinell, Lee Martinell Company

Bill McKinley, McKinley Ranch

Justin and Tammi Michels, Michels Mountain Sheep

Abby Nelson, Blake Ranch

Rick Sandru, Sandru Ranch

Steve and Billie Skelton, Blackleaf Livestock Co, LLC

Jim Stone, Rolling Stone Ranch

Pamela Swanson, Apex Angus

Dale Veseth, Veseth Cattle Co

Doreen Gillespie, State Senator, District 9

Gary Burnett, Heart of the Rockies Initiative

Faith Conroy

Sean Gerrity

Allen Martinell

Morgan Marks

Hannah Rice

Ada Smith

New Mexico

Joel H. Bernstein, 262 Ranch

Sydney Franz, K&C Boer X Goats, Turner Ranch

Steve Gooding, Chromo Mountain Ranch

Ben Finch, H Bar V Ranch

Carson Lee, H Bar V Ranch

Dale Lee, Y Canyon Ranch

Armando Orona, Red Cone Ranch

John Richardson, Double Spring Ranch

Chance Rogers, T Bar Ranch

Laura Schneberger, Rafter Spear Ranch

Nelson Shirley, Spur Lake Cattle Co.

Blake Steward, Broken Butt Ranch/Sunset Ranch

Sally Trigg, Trigg Cattle Company

Danielle Shattuck

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Mark Roberts

Oklahoma

Brittany Williams

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Joy Wilson

Oregon

Oregon Cattlemen's Association

Tom and Kelly Birkmaier, Birkmaier Ranch
Randy Carmony, Cedar Creek Ranch
Cathy Carroll, Pine Meadow Ranch
Mark and Ellie Gage, Mark Gage Equine Services
Cameron Krebs, Krebs Livestock
Shelby Krebs, Eleven-Seventeen Livestock, LLC
Bobby Levy, L&L Farms
Becky Lukens, Pine Meadow Ranch
Reese Mercer, Beaver Works
Todd Nash, T N Ranch
Ana Varas, Pine Meadow Ranch
Pamela Wavrin, Pine Meadow Ranch

Texas

Bill Costanzo

Utah

Scott Stubbs, Scott Stubbs Livestock
Dirk Lamoreaux

Wisconsin

Michael Hundt, David Hundt Farm

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Washington State Sheep Producers
Northeast Washington Wolf Cattle Collaborative

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Liz Stenning, Skookum Creek Ranch
Jill Swannack DVM, Feustel Farms, Inc.
Mark Martinez
Craig Vance

Wyoming

Wyoming Stock Growers Association
Wyoming Wool Growers Association
East Yellowstone Collaborative

Pete Arambel, Midland Ranch
Curt Bales, TE Ranch
Dudley Case, Hillcrest Village
Haley Clark and Jeannie Lockwood, Murdock Land
and Livestock
Scott Cotton, B Heart Land and Livestock
Bob Curtis, J Bar 9, LLC
Mary Anne Dingus, TE Ranch
Carol and Richard Hamilton, Hamilton Ranches
Greg Hertel, Hertel Mesa Ranch
Drew Hutchison, Hutchison Fork Ranch
Josh Longwell, H D Ranch
Tiffany Manion, J Bar 9, LLC
Barbara Marks, Marks WY Bar Ranch/LWJ Ranch
Deborah Meeks, Meeks Quarter Horses
Kathleen Merril, JE Ranch
Alicia Rux, Rux Creek Livestock
Albert Sommers, Sommers Ranch
Mary Thoman, W & M Thoman Ranches
Cat Urbigkit, Paradise Sheep Company
Jimmy Wiser, Wiser Ranch
Laura Bell, East Yellowstone Collaborative
Dana Bonham
Carolina Noya