RESOLUTION - ACTION REQUESTED 2014-245

MEETING: May 27, 2014

TO: The Board of Supervisors

FROM: Cathi Boze, Agricultural Commissioner/Sealer

RE: FY 2014/2015 USDA/APHIS/Wildlife Services Cooperative Agreement

RECOMMENDATION AND JUSTIFICATION:
Approve Cooperative Service Agreement No. 14-73-06-0260-RA - the Annual Work and Financial Plan for Fiscal Year 2014/2015 with the United States Department of Agriculture/Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service/Wildlife Services (USDA/APHIS/WS) and Authorize the Chairman of the Board of Supervisors to Sign the Agreement.

This is the Annual Work and Financial Plan for FY 2014/2015 for work performed in Mariposa County by the USDA/APHIS Wildlife Services Specialists. This year’s budget includes an increase of one percent or $673.24 from FY 2013/2014 due to a change to a rate structure based on direct cost recovery. The FY 2014/2015 request is $67,997.43.

BACKGROUND AND HISTORY OF BOARD ACTIONS:
The original Cooperative Service Agreement with USDA/APHIS/Wildlife Services was entered into on January 1, 1989, for an Integrated Wildlife Damage Management program to protect residents, property, livestock, crops, and natural resources in Mariposa County from damage caused by predators and other nuisance wildlife.

Last year’s Cooperative Service Agreement was approved by Resolution No. 13-113 in the amount of $67,324.19.

ALTERNATIVES AND CONSEQUENCES OF NEGATIVE ACTION:
In the event that the Cooperative Service Agreement is not signed prior to July 1, 2014, USDA/APHIS/Wildlife Services requires a "Letter of Intent" in order to ensure continued service beyond June 30, 2014.

Non-renewal of the Cooperative Service Agreement with USDA/APHIS/Wildlife Services for Mariposa County will result in the end of service to the County.

FINANCIAL IMPACT:
The FY 2014/2015 agreement amount includes an increase of one percent or $673.24 from the FY 2013/2014 agreement and will be included in the FY 2014/2015 budget for the Agricultural Commissioner.
ATTACHMENTS:
WS Agreement cover letter 2014-2015 (PDF)
USDA WS Agreement 14-73-06-0260-RA (PDF)
2012-2013 WS annual report (PDF)

CAO RECOMMENDATION
Requested Action Recommended

\[Signature\]
Rick Benson, County Administrator/Office

RESULT:  ADOPTED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:  Merlin Jones, District II Supervisor
SECONDER: Janet Bibby, District III Supervisor
AYES: Stetson, Jones, Bibby, Cann, Carrier
COUNTY of MARIPOSA
P.O. Box 784, Mariposa, CA 95338 (209) 966-3222

KEVIN CANN, CHAIR
MERLIN JONES, VICE-CHAIR
LEE STETSON
JANET BIBBY
JOHN CARRIER

MARIPOSA COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

MINUTE ORDER

TO: CATHI BOZE, Agricultural Commissioner/Sealer
FROM: RENE’ LaRochE, Clerk of the Board

SUBJECT: Approve Cooperative Service Agreement No. 14-73-06-0260-RA - the Annual Work and Financial Plan for Fiscal Year 2014/2015 with the United States Department of Agriculture/Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service/Wildlife Services (USDA/APHIS/WS), and Authorize the Board of Supervisors Chair to Sign the Agreement

RES. 14-245

THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF MARIPOSA COUNTY, CALIFORNIA

ADOPTED THIS Order on May 27, 2014

ACTION AND VOTE:

2. Agricultural Commissioner RES-2014-245

Approve Cooperative Service Agreement No. 14-73-06-0260-RA - the Annual Work and Financial Plan for Fiscal Year 2014/2015 with the United States Department of Agriculture/Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service/Wildlife Services (USDA/APHIS/WS), and Authorize the Board of Supervisors Chair to Sign the Agreement

Cathi Boze/Agricultural Commissioner prefaced the item noting that their contract went up only 1% which represents Federal overhead; noted that wildlife populations have increased; and introduced Wade Carlson/Central District Services and Jeff Davis. Mr. Carlson provided the Board with an updated annual report, and discussed what they do; noted that they did not receive their Federal allocation for this year until the end of April, which was about $150,000 less than they usually receive because it was set to the lesser sequestration amount; and he noted that they did receive some additional funding for feral swine control. Mr. Davis noted that every district of the county has skunk, coyote, bear, raccoon, and mountain lion issues; noted that they didn’t lose any calves to coyotes in District I last winter; discussed skunks impacting people, and recounted one situation with a Bed and Breakfast needing to turn guests away for three weeks due to skunk issues.

Supervisor Stetson noted that on page 2 of the report it discusses the number of animals that were “freed due to conflicts,” and required clarification of what is meant by that term. Wade Carlisle responded, noting that in some places they get
involved with tranquilizing animals that get in the wrong place at the wrong time, and discussed a situation at the airport in Columbia where a deer was on the runway and needed to be tranquilized and removed. Supervisor Stetson inquired about bobcats, where in the county they might be removed, and why. Mr. Carlson noted that in the past, bobcats have been removed mostly because of poultry predation; and noted that they have recently been added to the depredation permit system. Jeff Davis noted that most bobcat issues that he has dealt with were because of predation of poultry and pets; but, noted that they will kill lambs also.

Supervisor Cann noted some differences between the report submitted with the agenda item, and the one submitted to the Board today. Mr. Carlson noted that the report submitted today is the correct one.

Supervisor Stetson required clarification of a mention of raccoons at a motel near Yosemite National Park. Mr. Carlson responded, noting that it was a problem with a motel where the raccoons caused significant damage, scratched someone, and stole things from rooms.

Supervisor Carrier discussed Fish and Wildlife changing their rules regarding hunting bears, and inquired if a problem is anticipated. Mr. Carlson noted that only half of the normal quota was removed last year; and noted that he anticipates an increase in bear damage. Supervisor Carrier inquired what the public can do to bear-proof properties better. Mr. Carlson responded that they can eliminate bear food sources by keeping grains, dog food, and other foods in containers that can be locked up; and that trash needs to be in lockable containers and put away.

Supervisor Cann noted that the Board is regularly lobbied by bear-dog associations regarding the law prohibiting hunting with dogs, and that any input from Mr. Davis and Mr. Carlson on the issue would be valued. Mr. Carlson noted that a large part of their program is to document damage from wildlife and that it can be provided to the Board, by specific species if desired, to watch for trends. Supervisor Cann expressed his appreciation for the offer.

Supervisor Bibby required clarification of how close the feral hogs are to Yosemite National Park. Mr. Carlson responded that he is not aware of any that have crossed over Highway 49; but that their range is spreading. Mr. Davis noted that he has not had any calls, or seen any sign, of swine on the north side of Highway 49. Supervisor Bibby and Mr. Davis discussed mountain lion activity increasing. Mr. Davis noted that there was one out by the Fairgrounds, but since it was removed there has been no lion predation.

Public comment opened.

Greg Kittelson discussed the funding for feral hogs; noted that some areas are investigating using night vision; and inquired if they will be getting that kind of equipment.

Mr. Carlson noted that they have purchased some specialized equipment that utilizes night vision and infrared.

Public comment closed.

Supervisor Cann noted that the letter to the USDA will need to be filled in, if approved. Supervisor Jones moved to fill in the letter as needed, and approve the agreement as presented. Supervisor Bibby seconded, and discussed the importance of this service to Mariposa County. Chair Cann noted, for the record, that the full amount for Mariposa County is $67,997.43. The vote was called, and the motion passed unanimously.

Cathi Boze clarified that the letter is the letter of intent and only needed to be signed if the agreement was not approved, but since it was the letter it is not needed.
RESULT: ADOPTED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER: Merlin Jones, District II Supervisor
SECONDER: Janet Bibby, District III Supervisor
AYES: Stetson, Jones, Bibby, Cann, Carrier

Cc: File
WORK AND FINANCIAL PLAN
between
MARIPOSA COUNTY
and
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
ANIMAL AND PLANT HEALTH INSPECTION SERVICE
WILDLIFE SERVICES (APHIS-WS)
for
July 1, 2014 through June 30, 2015

Pursuant to Cooperative Service Agreement No. 13-73-06-0260-RA between the County of Mariposa and APHIS-WS, this Work Plan defines the objectives, plan of action, resources and budget for the maintenance of an Integrated Wildlife Damage Management (IWDM) program to protect residents, property, livestock, crops, and natural resources from damage caused by predators and other nuisance wildlife to be conducted from July 1, 2014 through June 30, 2015.

APHIS-WS is a federal agency with a broad mission that includes carrying out wildlife damage management activities. In recent years, USDA-APHIS has maintained an effective IWDM program to resolve conflicts with wildlife throughout the County. APHIS-WS is available and qualified to conduct the wildlife damage management services necessary to accomplish the County’s goals.

I. OBJECTIVES/GOALS

Wildlife Services’ overall goal is to maintain a biologically-sound IWDM program to assist property owners, businesses, private citizens, and governmental agencies in resolving wildlife damage problems and conduct control activities in accordance with applicable Federal, State and local laws and regulations. Assistance may be in the form of providing technical assistance or direct control activities. Recommendations and control activities will emphasize long term solutions and incorporate the Integrated Wildlife Damage Management approach.

The scope of this program is limited only by the financial resources allocated by the cooperator and APHIS-WS. Although successful elimination of any specific threat is not guaranteed, all reasonable efforts will be made to resolve or mitigate human-wildlife conflicts within financial and regulatory constraints.

II. PLAN OF ACTION

To accomplish this goal, the following general field services will be provided: (1) technical assistance through demonstration and instruction of wildlife damage prevention and/or control techniques; (2) predator identification and removal when livestock, crop or natural resource damage is verified; (3) nuisance wildlife removal when property damage is identified; (4) removal of
wildlife displaying aggressive behavior or causing actual injury to county residents. To provide these basic services, APHIS-WS will:

1. Assign Wildlife Specialist(s) for a maximum of 2,088 work hours at an approximate rate of $32.57 per hour distributed among direct control activities, technical assistance, APHIS-required administrative tasks and annual leave.

2. Procure and maintain a vehicle, tools, supplies, and other specialized equipment as deemed necessary by the State Director to accomplish the objectives identified in this plan.

3. Safely & professionally utilize approved wildlife damage management tools/equipment including firearms (including high-pressure air rifles), advanced optics, assorted snaring devices, trailing hounds, all-terrain vehicles, leg-hold traps for the protection of endangered species and public safety, cage-type & other specialized traps, deterrent methods/devices (including pyrotechnics), Environmental Protection Agency approved toxicants (including euthanasia drugs), night vision equipment and electronic calling devices.
   
   a. Field Specialists will ensure that the most effective, efficient, and humane tools will be utilized and will conduct direct control operations in a safe manner.

   b. Equipment will be maintained in good working order to help prevent accidents and/or hazardous situations.

4. Conduct all control activities with trained USDA-WS employees and volunteers.
   
   a. Technical Assistance may be in the form of recommendations for implementing various non-lethal techniques. Official USDA pamphlets may be used to convey this information to the public.

   b. Direct Control activities may include, but are not limited to the monitoring, trapping, dispersal, and shooting of known and potential predators or nuisance wildlife.

The District Supervisor in the WS District Office will supervise this project. This project will be monitored by the State Director and administrative staff in Sacramento. The Cooperator will be kept advised on the status of this project on a regular basis.

APHIS-WS will cooperate with the California Department of Fish and Game, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, County and local city governments, and other entities to ensure compliance with applicable Federal, State, and local laws and regulations.

III. **PROCUREMENT**

Purchase of supplies, equipment and miscellaneous needs including salaries will be made by APHIS-WS. All expenditures will be processed through APHIS’s FMMI system and charged to the Cooperator as described in the Financial Plan.
IV. **STIPULATIONS AND RESTRICTIONS**

APHIS-WS activities under this cooperative effort will be limited to the State of California, County of Mariposa. Techniques will be environmentally sound, safe, and selective. If applicable, both Federal and State permits will be secured to perform wildlife damage management activities, and those activities will be conducted within the policy guidelines of APHIS-WS. All program activities will be conducted in compliance with Local, State, and Federal regulations.

In the absence of a finalized county budget, a letter of intent must be provided pending final budget approval. The cooperative Wildlife Services Program can't continue unless a mutual agreement is negotiated by July 1, 2014.

V. **COST ESTIMATE FOR SERVICES**

The cooperator will be billed quarterly by APHIS for actual costs incurred but will not exceed $67,997.43 annually. An estimated itemization of expenses is listed below; however, funds may be distributed between itemized categories at the discretion of APHIS-WS if required:

<table>
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<tr>
<th>CATEGORY</th>
<th>FULL COST</th>
<th>PROGRAM DELIVERY COST-SHARE</th>
<th>COST-SHARE</th>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>COOPERATOR</td>
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<tr>
<td>Salary &amp; Benefits</td>
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<td>Rentals/ Leases</td>
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<td>Pooled Job Costs</td>
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<td><strong>Agreement Total</strong></td>
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*Project Total: $67,997.43*
In accordance with the Debt Collection Improvement Act (DCIA) of 1996, bills issued by WS are due and payable within 30 days of receipt. The DCIA requires that all debts older than 120 days be forwarded to debt collection centers or commercial collection agencies for more aggressive action. Debtors have the option to verify, challenge and compromise claims, and have access to administrative appeals procedures which are both reasonable and protect the interests of the United States.

The financial point of contact for this Work Plan/Financial Plan is Krista Dupre, Acting Budget & Agreement Technician, (916) 979-2675. This plan has been approved by the USDA APHIS WS Western Regional Office for use in the State of California for cost-share agreements.

COUNTY OF MARIPOSA
5009 Fairgrounds Road
P.O. Box 905
Mariposa, CA 95338-0905
Tax Identification Number: 94-6000880

County Representative
Title: Board Chair

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

STEVEN W. DAHLEM
COUNTY COUNSEL

5/21/14
Date

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
ANIMAL AND PLANT HEALTH INSPECTION SERVICE
WILDLIFE SERVICES
Sacramento, California
Tax Identification Number: 41-0696271

State Director, California

6/20/14
Date

acting

Director, Western Region

12/1
Date