



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Animal and
Plant Health
Inspection
Service

Wildlife
Services

P.O. Box 255348
Sacramento, CA 95865-5348

April 9, 2003

Dear County Cooperator,

At the beginning of each calendar year we initiate the process of evaluating the cost of our cooperative Wildlife Services program and projecting those costs for the upcoming fiscal year. We have completed that exercise, for this year, and shared our results with CACASA's Wildlife Services subcommittee on March 14th. Costs have increased, and as everyone knows, we lost what remained of our cooperative state funding in FY 02/03. At this time it doesn't look good for getting any of that money back soon. Thanks to support from many of you, and the outbreak of Exotic Newcastle Disease, we were able to get through FY 02/03 without having to implement many furloughs.

At the March 14th CACASA's Wildlife Services subcommittee meeting, it was agreed that the average cost for a WS Specialist would increase from the FY 02/03 figure of \$65,350 to \$67,250. The \$1,900 increase can be attributed to a 4.1% COLA and step increases for most of our employees. WS has agreed to pay for 50% of the increase (\$950), but will need to ask cooperating counties to pick up approximately 70% or \$47,218. (In FY 02/03, cooperating counties were asked to pick up 65% of the total cost only because WS had some soft funding which was used to pay for impacts of the state cut in the first quarter).

Attached are four copies of your cooperative Wildlife Services Annual Work/Budget Plan for fiscal year 2003-2004. This plan is based on last year's staffing levels as shown in the original annual plans that were mailed in March 2002. If modifications or amendments are needed feel free to contact either Judy Black or Susan Barber here in the State Office (916-979-2675). When approved and signed, please return all copies. We will sign and then forward the agreements to our Regional Office for their signature. Once all signatures are secured, we will return an original copy for your files. If you need more than one original copy, please make sufficient copies before signing. We will need to retain two original copies for our files. Also attached is the Annual Activity Summary for fiscal year 2002-2003.

As always, if you have any questions or concerns feel free to give me a call.

Sincerely,

Craig Coolahan
State Director

Enclosures

