

Livestock & Wolf Conflict Prevention Survey

Dear Livestock Producer,

This survey, sent to livestock managers and producers throughout Northern California, will help determine which, if any, livestock management techniques may help prevent wolf predation in the region.

Your voluntary completion of this survey will be kept anonymous and confidential – responses will not be associated with names or contact information, and no individual information will be released. If you do not want to answer a certain question, please omit it and continue with the rest of the survey. Your responses do not indicate any level of commitment to implement (or not) any of the practices discussed below.

Please use the enclosed envelope to return your completed survey. No additional postage is necessary. A timely reply is very much appreciated.

Thank you for your participation



Photo: Diana Hunter

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SANTA BARBARA

RESEARCH CONSENT FORM

We would like to ask you to participate in a University of California research study. We are gathering opinions from livestock producers throughout Northern California to determine their perspectives on techniques to reduce conflicts between livestock and predators (particularly wolves). The survey is strictly voluntary. Your input is valuable to understand this important issue.

This survey has been sent to more than 400 livestock producers throughout Siskiyou, Modoc, Shasta, Lassen, Trinity, Humboldt, and Del Norte counties. An analysis of these responses may help inform efforts in each county to provide producers with tools and information to reduce losses of livestock to wolves.

There are no risks associated with this survey. Collected information is entirely confidential and will not be associated with your name or contact information in any way. Your responses do not indicate any level of commitment, on your part, to change or implement any of the strategies discussed below.

There is no monetary or other direct benefit to completing this survey. Your responses will contribute to the general understanding of how best to reduce wolf-livestock conflict in your region.

If you have any questions about this research project, please contact feel free to contact us:

Kristen Boysen
Master's Candidate
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Dr. Ben Halpern
Faculty Advisor
bhalpern@bren.ucsb.edu

If you have any questions regarding your rights and participation as a research subject, please contact the Human Subjects Committee at (805) 893-3807 or hsc@research.ucsb.edu. Or write to the University of California, Human Subjects Committee, Office of Research, Santa Barbara, CA 93106-2050

PARTICIPATION IN RESEARCH IS VOLUNTARY. YOUR SIGNATURE BELOW WILL INDICATE THAT YOU HAVE DECIDED TO PARTICIPATE AS A RESEARCH SUBJECT IN THE STUDY DESCRIBED ABOVE.

Signature of Participant: _____

Date: _____

Livestock & Wolf Conflict Prevention Survey

Part 1: Carnivore Conflicts

Please respond to the following questions regarding large carnivores.

1. Large carnivores (e.g. bears, mountain lions, coyotes) have had a negative impact on my livestock operation.
 Strongly Agree
 Agree
 Neither Agree nor Disagree
 Disagree
 Strongly Disagree

2. My livestock currently have enough protection from large carnivores.
 Strongly Agree
 Agree
 Neither Agree nor Disagree
 Disagree
 Strongly Disagree

3. Wolves will not have a negative impact on my livestock operation.
 Strongly Agree
 Agree
 Neither Agree nor Disagree
 Disagree
 Strongly Disagree

4. In your opinion, wolves in California should be:
 Eliminated
 Kept at a very small number
 Managed and allowed to grow naturally, with safeguards to prevent conflicts
 Not managed, allowed to grow naturally

5. Shooting or killing a wolf in California should be:
 Illegal
 Legal only if a wolf appears to be threatening private property
 Legal only if the wolf population is healthy
 Legal under all circumstances

6. Have you ever had interactions with a wolf on your property or a property you lease/manage?
 Yes
 No

7. How do you currently protect your livestock from large carnivores?

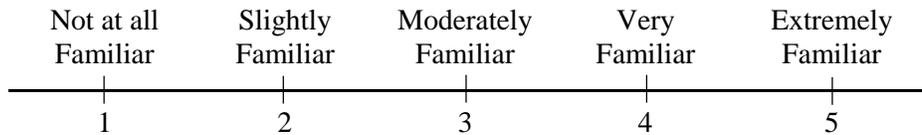
Part 2: Conflict Reduction Strategies

In this section, we describe conflict reduction strategies that have been used throughout the US. We recognize that you may already use some of these strategies, and some may be impossible. You will be asked about your familiarity with each strategy and its feasibility of implementation in your operations.

1. Fladry or Turbo-fladry

“Fladry” is a string of evenly spaced, brightly-colored flags designed to interfere with wolf hunting patterns and scare them away from an attractant. These portable fences require regular maintenance to keep flags blowing freely and to replace aged, faded, or torn flags. They are most effective when used as a short-term deterrent on relatively small pasture/grazing areas. Turbo-fladry includes an electrified rope, which is more expensive but greatly increases the effectiveness.

a) What was your degree of familiarity with fladry before you received this survey? (circle the number option):

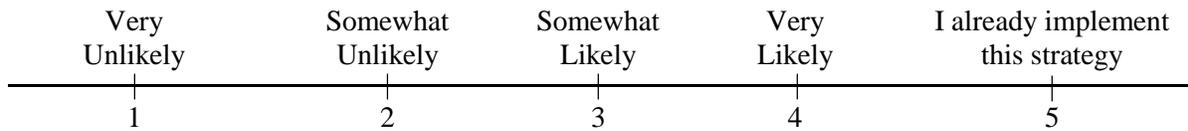


b) Is it possible to implement fladry systems on your owned and/or leased land?

Yes No

If No, why not? _____

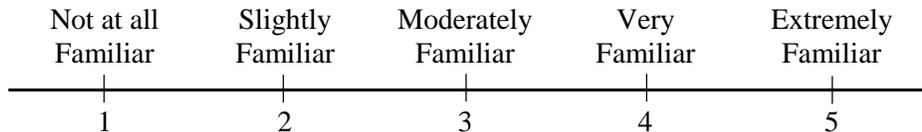
c) How likely would you be to implement this strategy to minimize wolf-livestock conflicts?



2. Attractant Removal

Wolves are attracted to dead animals - the presence of a single carcass can attract and keep wolves in livestock areas. Physically removing dead livestock can solve this problem. Removal can include burying, hauling carcasses to an appropriate location like a landfill, or, when removal is not possible, applying treatment such as lime, cover, or temporary fencing. This could include the removal or burial of bone piles.

a) What was your degree of familiarity with attractant removal before you received this survey? (circle the number option):



b) Is it possible to implement this strategy on your owned and/or leased land?

Yes No

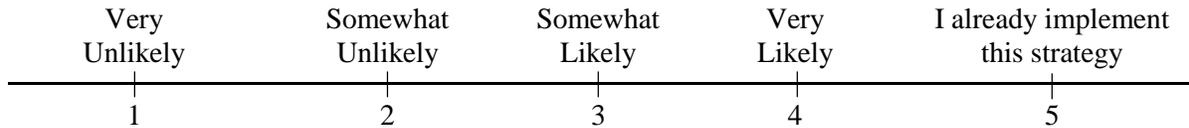
If No, why not? _____

b) Is it possible to implement this strategy on your owned and/or leased land?

Yes No

If No, why not? _____

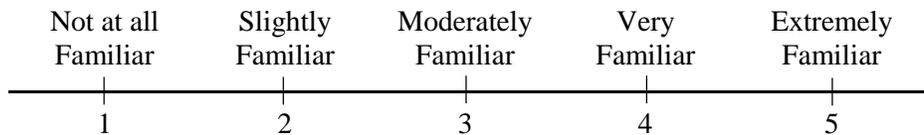
c) How likely would you be to implement this strategy to minimize wolf-livestock conflicts?



7. Husbandry Changes: Calving

Condensing the length of the calving period minimizes the amount of time young calves are vulnerable to predation by wolves or other carnivores. Producers have also changed the scheduling of insemination to start earlier in the year in order to have more established calves when wolves and other carnivores begin to hunt.

a) What was your degree of familiarity with changing calving methods to reduce predation before you received this survey? (circle the number option):

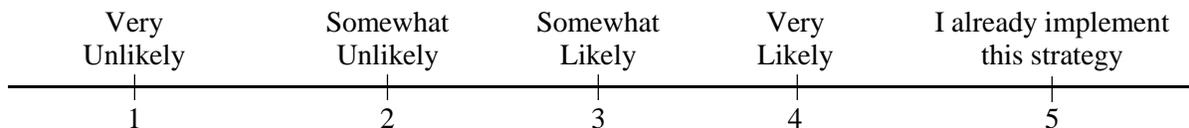


b) Is it possible to implement this strategy on your owned and/or leased land?

Yes No

If No, why not? _____

c) How likely would you be to implement this strategy to minimize wolf-livestock conflicts?



8. Please rank the seven strategies listed above from 1 (most likely) to 7 (least likely), according to what you would be willing to implement on your property.

- Fladry/Turbo-fladry
- Attractant Removal
- Guard Dogs
- Range Riders
- Alarm or Scare Tactics
- Movement of herd away from wolf activity
- Changes of calving practices

Part 3: Demographic Information

1. Gender:

Female

Male

2. Age

<30 years

45-60 years

30-45 years

>60 years

3. Level of education

Some High School

Some College

High School Diploma/GED

Four-year College Degree

Technical School/ Vocational

Graduate/Professional Degree

4. How many years have you *personally* managed rangeland in CA? _____

5. How many years has your family managed rangeland in CA? _____

6. In what county/counties do you operate your ranch? _____

7. How many acres do you *own*?

___ No acres

___ <200

___ 200 - 500

___ 500 - 1,000

___ 1,000 - 5,000

___ 5,000 - 10,000

___ >10,000

8. How many acres do you *lease*?

___ No acres

___ <200

___ 200 - 500

___ 500 - 1,000

___ 1,000 - 5,000

___ 5,000 - 10,000

___ >10,000

9. If you lease land, from whom do you lease? (check all that apply)

___ Bureau of Land Management (BLM)

___ U.S. Forest Service (USFS)

___ State of California

___ Private landowners

10. What is the *primary* use of your land? (check all that apply)

___ Cattle Grazing

___ Sheep Grazing

___ Horse Grazing

___ Timber

___ Other (please specify) _____

11. If you manage livestock, what is the approximate size of your herd? _____

Thank you very much for completing this survey. Your answers will remain confidential, and your input will help us understand possible ways to reduce wolf-livestock conflict. Please return this survey using the enclosed envelope or mailing it to:

Kristen Boysen
c/o Bren School of Environmental Science & Management
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University of California,
Santa Barbara CA, 95338

Many thanks!