



# California Wildlife Damage Management Public Scoping Meetings

The California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) and Wildlife Services (WS-California), a state office within the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s (USDA) Animal Plant and Health Inspection Service (APHIS), are preparing a joint Environmental Impact Report and Environmental Impact Statement (EIR/EIS) to provide comprehensive environmental analysis of current and proposed future wildlife damage management activities undertaken across California. The EIR/EIS will evaluate impacts associated with wildlife damage management activities performed by CDFA and California Counties under CDFA’s proposed Wildlife Damage Management Program (WDMP) as required by the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), and by WS-California as required by the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA).



## Public Scoping Process

The CDFA and WS-California are implementing a 60-day public scoping period to solicit input from public agencies and members of the public regarding the development and scope of the EIR/EIS. The scoping period will **begin on September 10, 2020 and conclude on November 10, 2020**. The purpose of the scoping process is to identify the actions, alternatives, mitigation measures, and significant effects to be evaluated in detail in the EIR/EIS.

The CDFA and WS-California encourage public agencies and members of the public to submit comments concerning the scope and nature of the issues to be evaluated in the EIR/EIS, including alternatives, mitigation measures, and environmental effects.

### The EIR/EIS issues may include, but are not limited to:

- ✓ Impacts on wildlife populations
- ✓ Effects on non-target animal populations, included protected species
- ✓ Impacts on ecosystem processes (e.g., trophic cascades)
- ✓ Impacts on Native American culture and resources
- ✓ Risks and benefits to human and pet safety
- ✓ Impacts on Special Management Areas (e.g., Wilderness/Study Areas) and other protected places
- ✓ Humaneness of methods
- ✓ Efficacy of management activity

## Public Scoping Meeting Schedule

The CDFA and WS-California will host two (2) public webinars during the scoping period. These virtual scoping meetings are an opportunity to learn about and submit feedback on the scope of the EIR/EIS and the wildlife damage management activities to be evaluated in the EIR/EIS.

Due to public health and safety requirements concerning COVID-19, these public scoping meetings will be conducted virtually.

