



CALIFORNIA FARM BUREAU FEDERATION

# FRIDAY REVIEW

LEGISLATIVE AND GOVERNMENTAL UPDATE

January 16, 2015

The State Water Resources Control Board held two listening sessions to gather input on its proposed Grazing Regulatory Action Project (GRAP). The Board held its first listening session last Friday in San Luis Obispo. More than 200 people attended the morning and afternoon sessions to provide input on the proposal. On Thursday another listening session was held in Redding, again with approximately 200 in attendance to voice their concerns over the proposed regulatory program. Ranchers from the north state as well as the Shasta County Agricultural Commissioner, the CAO on behalf of all five County Supervisors and the Shasta and Modoc County Sheriffs spoke in opposition. Farm Bureau expressed concern at both events and explained the significant investment that has been made by ranchers to protect water quality, including work in cooperation with NRCS and UCCE, and that there is no need for a new regulatory program. The Board will hold a final listening session in Bishop on January 28<sup>th</sup>. Farm Bureau will continue to outreach to the State Board to explain our concern with creating a burdensome regulation that will do little if anything to improve water quality. Farm Bureau has also partnered with the California Cattlemen's Association and California Wool Growers Association to create a membership advisory committee to advise our organizations with regard to GRAP.

The Wildlife Resources Committee (WRC) of the Fish and Game Commission met this week and the bulk of the meeting was focused on discussion of regulations relating to predator management. The committee is made up of two members of the Commission, Jack Baylis and Jim Kellogg. The WRC has been discussing predator management issues since the formation of the committee in 2013. At the Commission's request, the Department of Fish and Wildlife is reviewing current data to gain a better understanding of the coyote population in California and presented the data they have gathered so far.

The Commission discussed making three regulatory changes to predator management. They are proposing to clarify that certain furbearing animals can be taken in some circumstances, but not for fur; that certain traps and snares may be used to allow for damage control work to be done in areas where Sierra Nevada red foxes and kit foxes are found; and potentially placing limits on take of certain non-game mammals for sport. The Commission committed to working with the Department to ensure there aren't unintended consequences created by making the changes. Farm Bureau testified on the proposed changes and reminded the commission of the impacts that predators have on livestock production in the state and the importance of having numerous tools available to prevent livestock loss and crop damage. Any proposed changes would go through consideration and a vote of the full Commission.