Why lethal predator control doesn't work

1. Killing or sterilizing the alphas leaves a pack full of teenagers who may not know how to hunt properly. Such a pack is far more likely to go after slow and dull-witted livestock.

2. Killing or sterilizing the alphas, the only breeding pair of a wolf pack, sometimes results in the younger pack members dispersing and trying to start their own pack. This scenario can result in several breeding pairs, rather than just one, leading to a population rebound to higher levels than before the "predator control."

3. By wiping out some predators, the few that survive have ample resources, so they'll have more pups...again, possibly resulting in a population rebound.

4. Predator control actually helps breed better predators. For example, wolves that fail to study strange foods get poisoned. Over time, most wolves avoid poison baits. The rest are dead. Predator-control programs produce animals better able to avoide poisons, bullets, and traps than their ancestors. The surviving predators - used to being harried by humans - also hunt more aggressively, feed for shorter periods and breed more prolifically than similar animals in populations not subjected to predator control. Predator-control programs, rather than solving predation problems, often breed and train more elusive, more prolific, tougher and hungrier predators.

By controlling predators non-lethally, their populations will remain composed of healthy, functioning packs that can find a natural balance within the environment presented to them.

Be proactive, not reactive...prevent predation rather than shooting predators!!!