



Predator Defense | Fall 2018

## Should our great outdoors really be laced with land mines?

Dear Friend of Predator Defense,

Thousands of pets and wild animals  
have already been killed.

People have been poisoned.

An adult has died, 15 years  
after an M-44 destroyed his health.

And a child narrowly missed death  
last year, due to wind direction.

We encourage you to take a break from the stressful and overwhelming headlines of our time and zero in on a single achievable issue we are featuring in this mailing. It's one we truly feel we are making progress toward—our goal of banning the government's ongoing use of deadly M-44 sodium cyanide devices to protect livestock by killing native predators. The collateral damage is utterly unacceptable.

The question we've long had is whether it will take the death of a child to succeed in banning M-44s, aka "cyanide bombs." We are still hopeful it won't, as media coverage and public outrage in demand of a ban has grown exponentially in recent years. But as last year's high-profile M-44 poisoning in Pocatello, Idaho amply demonstrated, it is only a matter of time before one of these deadly devices does kill a child. Thousands of pets and wild animals have already been killed by M-44s. People have been poisoned and suffered long-term health effects. One adult (pictured below) has died in Utah, following cyanide exposure from an

**"This is a vital  
public safety issue.  
M-44s must be banned  
before a child is killed"**

- Brooks Fahy  
Executive Director

### IN MEMORIAM

Dennis Slauch, 1942-2018  
Vernal, UT

Injured by an M-44 in 2003 and  
permanently disabled

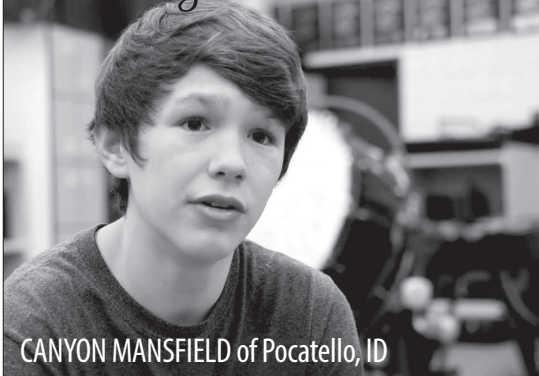


OF COURSE NOT. In honor of all victims, LET'S GET M-44 "CYANIDE BOMBS" BANNED!

Coming soon...  
**"LETHAL CONTROL"**

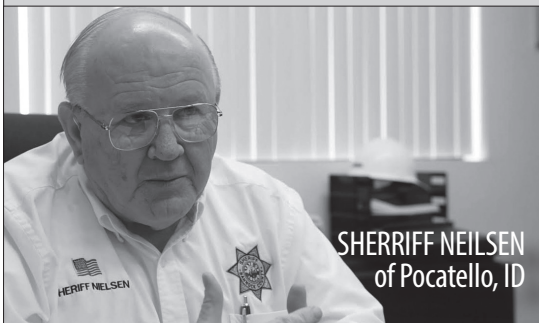
We're excited to announce a remarkable new film on the way by a talented independent filmmaker. It features M-44 "cyanide bomb" survivors we've helped over the years speaking eloquently on why M-44s have no place in our great outdoors and must be banned.

Featuring...



CANYON MANSFIELD of Pocatello, ID

An extensive, heartfelt interview with the teen who took a walk on a hill behind his house in March 2017 and accidentally set off an M-44 device that killed his dog in front of him. He narrowly missed death himself, due to wind direction. He is now an activist.



SHERRIFF NEILSEN of Pocatello, ID

An illuminating interview with the sherriff, who shares his shock and horror about the Mansfield incident. He had no idea such a device existed and was being used in his community—let alone how to handle it if it discharged.

...and more

Please donate today to help us support this heart-grabbing film, screen it in all states where M-44s are used, and send survivors to D.C. for a Congressional screening at the Capitol. We're on an all-out push to eliminate this public safety menace.

[www.predatordefense.org](http://www.predatordefense.org)

LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR, *cont. from page 1*

M-44, and the teenager in Idaho (pictured at left) who was poisoned appears to have only escaped death because of wind direction.

We are continuing to work toward a nationwide ban, but we are also pushing ahead on a state level to spur local jurisdictions to lead the way. We are encouraged by the 2017 temporary statewide ban in Idaho and on public lands in Colorado. And we have hopes for a ban in Oregon that could result from an Administrative Procedures Act (APA) petition we filed via the letter detailed below.

**A Model for Other States? Nearly 100 Victims/Survivors, Physicians, Veterinarians, Scientists, and More Ask Oregon to Ban M-44s**

In September we sent a rather unique 16-page, exhaustively referenced letter to USDA Wildlife Services directors responsible for Oregon, petitioning them via the APA to address the critical public safety issue M-44s present by ending their use statewide and removing all devices currently deployed.

The list of the nearly 100 who signed on to our letter is well worth a read. They are from Oregon and other states where tragedy has struck. All know from personal experience and/or observation that there is no safe place or way to use M-44s, as kids, pets and wild animals do not understand warning signs. Our letter was even signed by the long-time manufacturer of the spring used in M-44s, who did not know what was being done with his product. When he found out, he ceased production and took a strong stand against M-44 devices.

We also included an appendix that details over 60 incidents of human and pet poisonings since 1990 reported in the media, by advocacy groups, and elsewhere. Another appendix shows the federal government's official body count of close to 2,000 dogs deaths between 1997-2016, noting that the real number of dogs killed by M-44s is much larger

and will never be officially known. We know this because whistle-blowers from USDA Wildlife Services have revealed that many pet deaths go unreported. Unless there are witnesses, agencies often don't record the poisonings and families are then left to wonder what happened to their dog. The fact that Wildlife Services continues to state that incidents of M-44s killing domestic dogs and exposing people to poison are "rare" is an outrage. These incidents are horrifyingly common-place.

We encourage you to read our letter to Oregon officials, as well as U.S. Representative Peter DeFazio's (D-Oreg.) letter to Oregon Governor Kate Brown supporting our efforts, on our website at [www.predatordefense.org](http://www.predatordefense.org). We believe these documents clearly inform decision-makers that the hazards M-44 devices pose to people, pets and native wildlife, the strong public sentiment against them, and the questionable economic benefits of programs that deploy them make their use unjustifiable and counter to the public interest.

In closing, I extend a heartfelt thanks for the generous support and encouragement so many of you have provided over time in our work to make the world a better place. We will only succeed with your ongoing help.





For all that is wild and free,

Brooks Fahy, Executive Director



In 2008 Dennis Slaugh (2nd from R) brought Congressional staff to tears as he shared his devastating story of M-44 poisoning during our trip to D.C. to call for a ban (see "In Memoriam" on pg. 1.) Also pictured (L to R): Brooks Fahy, Rep. Peter DeFazio, Dennis' wife Dorothy Slaugh.

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