



moving forward
for wildlife

with science &
the majority

Hopeful Happenings

Here are a few samples of shifts in public awareness and attitudes that bode well for bigger change down the line:

- In May 2018 Vermont became the second state to ban coyote-killing contests; California was the first.
- Idaho banned M-44 “cyanide bombs” in 2017, a temporary ban we are pushing to make permanent, and Colorado banned them on public lands.
- Lewis Spring, the company that manufactured the springs used to build the government’s M-44 “cyanide bombs” quit making them, saying if they’d known what they were used for they would have stopped years ago. The also made a generous donation to our campaign to ban M-44s.

Animal Film Festival Channel Will Stream Two of Our Films

We’re excited to announce that the Animal Film Festival (AFF) requested two of our films that won awards in their festival for their new streaming platform line-up, called ECOSTREAMZ.

The films are “EXPOSED: USDA’s Secret War on Wildlife,” which won Best Short Film for 2015, and “The Profanity Peak Pack: Set Up & Sold Out,” which won an Audience Choice Honorable Mention in 2018.



Set in the Sierra Nevada foothills and now in its sixth year, AFF is the only global fest of its kind, seeking out animal-themed films in every category that bring awareness about the realities animals face in today’s world. As strong believers in the power of film to effect change, AFF aims to bring as large an audience as possible to films like ours. Watch them at www.ecostreamz.com.

June 2018

Dear Friend of Predator Defense,

Needless to say, it’s an incredibly challenging time to be doing do this type of work. But regardless of the willfully blind, inhumane, anti-science assault on America’s wildlife that kicked into overdrive with the new administration, we are continuing to



Our team of truthtellers debunked misconceptions about wolves at screenings of our film, “The Profanity Peak Pack: Set Up & Sold Out.” L to R: Brooks Fahy, Robert Wielgus, Ph.D., Tim Coleman. See pg. 4.

push forward for incremental change and increased awareness.

We are focusing on specific issues that should naturally engender groundswell support, support that can be used to effect change once enough of the current troublemakers are given the boot. We say this because we know that humane, scientifically sound wildlife policies are what the majority of Americans want.

So, we remain in the trenches, slugging it out and spreading the word. Here’s are highlights of what we have been up to in recent months, thanks to your support:

Continuing to Press for Nationwide Ban on M-44 “Cyanide Bombs”

Due to extensive media coverage and public outcry in 2017—the year that M-44s become a household word and bans beginning in certain states—we’re continuing to build step-by-step momentum for a nationwide ban. We are especially excited about a petition we are about to submit to ban M-44 use in Oregon that has generated widespread support. A growing number of M-44 victims, veterinarians, physicians, scientists, and other interested parties are signing on. *See M-44 feature on pgs. 2-3.*

Suing to Stop the Idaho Wolf Slaughter...Again!

We’re appealing the 2016 U.S. district judge’s ruling against our suit to stop the government’s senseless killing of wolves in Idaho. He said we failed to show standing to bring suit. We believe he was in error and didn’t follow case law, so his ruling needs overturning. Not only has USDA Wildlife Services violated the law by killing wolves without public disclosure and by ignoring science and the significant environmental impacts, but their wolf killing is cruel and counter-productive.



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Helping people and wildlife coexist since 1990

— cont. on page 4

SPOTLIGHT: “The Oregonian” features our work to ban M-44 “cyanide bombs”



We were pleased to see the cover story of the print version of "The Oregonian" feature our work on March 17, 2018. They published an insightful human interest piece about the unacceptable devices our government insists on using to kill coyotes, M-44 "cyanide bombs." The article also highlights our director, Brooks Fahy's, tireless, decades-long devotion to banning M-44s and helping people whose lives have been convulsed by them. The reporter said Fahy's life experiences have made him "like a grief counselor to families that have lost pets to M-44s." The article also featured the Mansfield family, who joined us on March 15 in Pocatello, Idaho for a special memorial screening of our award-winning, whistleblowing film, "EXPOSED: USDA's Secret War on Wildlife." See M-44 community event on pg. 3.

Read "The Oregonian" feature, posted March 15, 2018, at predatordefense.org/m44s.htm#news



OPINION

USDA's Reckless Use of Poisons Must End

Excerpts from an opinion piece by one of our advisory board members, Joanna Grossman, Ph.D., published May 26, 2018 in the "Washington Examiner."

"President Richard Nixon signed an executive order in 1972 that prohibited the use of poisons like Compound 1080 and sodium cyanide [used in M-44s] on public lands, and with good reason. That executive action was unfortunately reversed, but the Nixon administration had the right idea; these deadly poisons have no place in and around the wild open spaces and trails we use for hiking and recreation. No one should ever have to fear losing their

beloved dog because they stumbled upon a horrific killing device that was secretly placed there by government agents. It's horrible that Canyon had to watch his dog die. We need to make sure this never happens again—and that children and pets are safe.

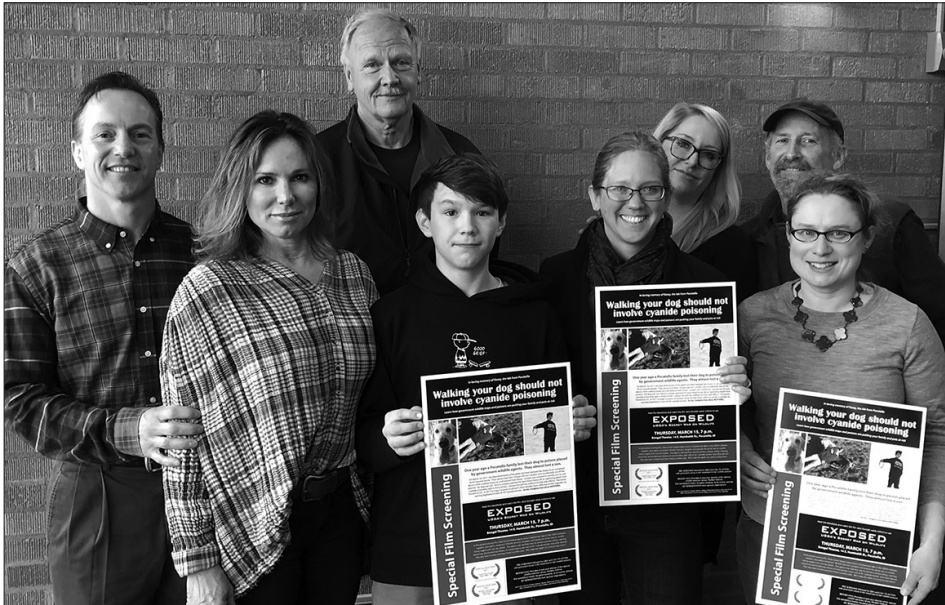
That's why Predator Defense is working with Rep. Peter DeFazio, D-Ore., on bipartisan legislation to restrict the use of these specific chemicals by Wildlife Services. The Chemical Poisons Reduction Act is a common sense life-saving measure that provides accountability to make sure our taxpayer dollars aren't going towards shockingly reckless wildlife "control" methods that can kill a human as easily as a coyote. Legislators are shedding light on the

long history of secrecy and lack of accountability within this government agency.

Indeed, an Inspector General report specifically raised concerns about Wildlife Services' ability to keep track of these chemical stockpiles. The unfortunate reality is that if an odorless and colorless poison such as Compound 1080 fell into the wrong hands, it could easily be used to poison a public water supply. Several states have already severely restricted the use of these poisons for wildlife management purposes. It's time for the federal government to follow suit and put taxpayer dollars to better, safer, and far more effective use."

IN MEMORY OF ALL M-44 VICTIMS

Community Gathers to Support Local Family and Watch “EXPOSED” One Year after Idaho M-44 Tragedy



Key participants at M-44 anniversary event in Pocatello. L to R: Dr. Mark Mansfield and wife Theresa Mansfield, former Wildlife Services’ supervisor Carter Niemeyer, M-44 survivor Canyon Mansfield, and event sponsors—Talasi Brooks of Advocates for the West, Carson Barylak of International Fund for Animal Welfare, Brooks Fahy of Predator Defense, and Kristen Ruether of Western Watersheds Project.

People in the Pocatello, Idaho area gathered on March 15, 2018 to honor all who have lost pets to or been injured by M-44 “cyanide bombs,” including local residents, the Mansfield family.

The Mansfields were commemorating one year since they lost their yellow Labrador retriever, Kasey, to an M-44 the government placed on a hill behind their yard. Their son Canyon accidentally set it off, thinking it was a sprinkler head. He then watched helplessly as his best friend Kasey died a horrifying death in front of him. Canyon suffered severe side effects from cyanide poisoning. The Mansfields went from apolitical to activists in short order. They even traveled with us to Washington, D.C., to advocate for the bill to ban M-44s nationwide, H.R. 1817, “The Chemical Poisons Reduction Act of 2017” (aptly nicknamed “Canyon’s Law”).

When the Mansfield’s tragedy occurred, we kept national media attention on their story for several months. We also jointly filed a legal petition with Wildlife Services in Idaho, asking

them to review their procedures. Idaho responded to public outcry by temporarily banning M-44 use, but they want to resume using “cyanide bombs” to kill wildlife. So we continue to apply pressure, working state by state toward a permanent, nationwide ban.

“We firmly believe that walking your dog should not involve the risk of cyanide poisoning...nor should any activity in the great outdoors.”

- Brooks Fahy, Executive Director

The memorial event was held at Idaho State University and featured a screening of our award-winning film, “EXPOSED: USDA’s Secret War on Wildlife.” In it whistleblowers reveal why the government’s war on wildlife is counter-productive and dangerous.

The community showed strong support, staying long after the film for a Q&A with the Mansfield family and a panel of M-44 experts. They explained why the Pocatello case is just one of many examples of why M-44s can never be used safely, as any child, pet or wild animal is a potential victim. Our work continues.

Read first-hand accounts from the Mansfield family and other victims, learn more about M-44s, and watch our film at www.predatordefense.org/m44s.htm.

Will It Take a Child’s Death to Ban M-44s?

We seriously hope not. M-44s are a public safety menace and must be banned. They are:

lethal

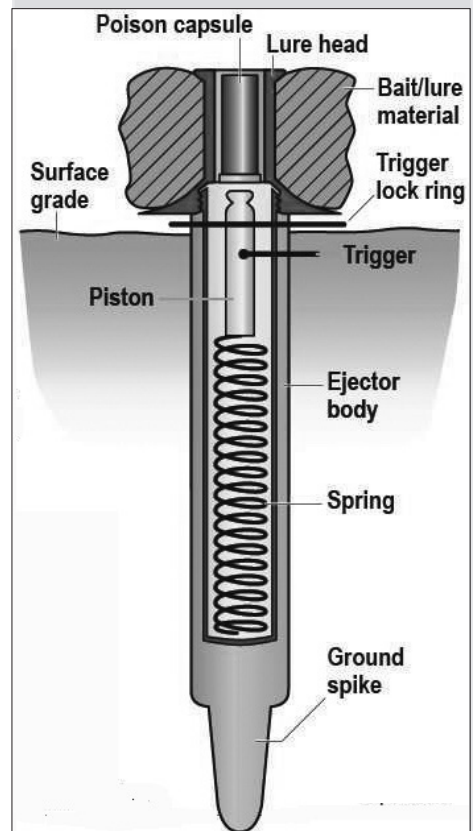
Cyanide ejection devices set in the great outdoors for predator control.

indiscriminate

M-44s don’t just kill targets. They kill endangered species, wildlife and pets. Their poison causes a horrifying death by asphyxiation.

unnecessary

No ethical or scientific justification exists for the use of M-44s.



We’ve already lost too many dogs, endangered species, and other wildlife to M-44 “cyanide bombs.” They cannot be deployed safely. They are just land mines waiting to go off. Please help us ban them by donating at www.predatordefense.org.

Wolf Researcher Silenced for Speaking the Truth

For several years one of the country's top carnivore scientists has lived in the center of a storm that should never have gathered. Robert Wielgus, Ph.D., is the WSU professor who spoke out against Washington State's slaughter of the Profanity Peak wolf pack in 2016.

Between his on-site surveillance observations and extensive body of research, published in prestigious, peer-reviewed journals, he said that wolves killing cows in the pristine forest was predictable and avoidable, and that the rancher involved set the cows up for attack. His research also found that killing wolves was likely to lead to more cattle predation, not less, because it destabilized the pack structure.



"You go where the science takes you."
Robert Wielgus, Ph.D.

WSU did not like Wielgus' findings or his comments, so they suppressed his research and stripped his funding. Wielgus filed a lawsuit with the assistance of Public Employees for Environmental Responsibility, alleging WSU had silenced

and punished him for his findings to placate politicians beholden to ranchers. A public-disclosure request by *The Seattle Times* revealed WSU was worried funding for a new medical school was in jeopardy, due to ranchers and politicians opposition to Wielgus' research findings.

In May 2018 Wielgus agreed to leave WSU in return for a settlement—the net effect was a career destroyed and large carnivore and wolf/livestock interaction research halted by a university that values politics over science.

We are, however, pleased to announce that Dr. Wielgus is now a member of our advisory board. Learn more at www.predatordefense.org/profanity.

History shows we blame predators for problems humans have caused.

Help us right this wrong.
Support our work at
www.predatordefense.org.

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

We are represented in this lawsuit by Advocates for the West, and joined by Western Watersheds Project, Friends of the Clearwater, WildEarth Guardians and Center for Biological Diversity.

Screening Profanity Peak Wolf Pack Film to Large Turnouts

We've been pleased to have large crowds at this year's screenings of "The Profanity Peak Pack: Set Up & Sold Out." The film reveals how wolves in a remote Washington State forest were set up and sold out in 2016 by conservation groups and wildlife managers who caved to an irresponsible rancher and special interests.

We've focused on showing the film near Idaho, the heart of America's wolf-killing country, as a large turnout there truly means something. Attendees have stuck around after the film to participate in a Q&A with our featured speakers, who have done a great job of interjecting science, facts and credibility into the conversation.

The Q&A's have also given former WSU Professor, Robert Wielgus, Ph.D., a chance to share how the suppression of his ground-breaking wolf research relates to the set up and destruction of the Profanity Peak Pack (*see sidebar*).

The crowds have expressed outrage over the animal welfare and conservation groups that said and did nothing to stop the slaughter. They were also outraged over cattle getting priority over wolves on wild public lands. We are continuing our work exposing the nationwide set up that gives wolves no place to live in peace. We expect to announce additional screening dates and locations soon.

Suing Oregon WS for Sweeping Wolf Killing Truths under the Rug

Because of the way Wildlife Services (WS) swept negative and controversial aspects of its Oregon wolf-killing program under the rug, thereby preventing public review of the agency, we have sued them repeatedly. In 2012 WS completed a lackluster assessment of the environmental impacts of their secretive program, so we and our allies sued them under the National Environmental Policy Act.

After losing on a technicality in the district court, we have now asked the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals to review the program and determine whether or not WS broke federal law in authorizing its Oregon wolf-killing program. Our attorney from the Western Environmental Law Center will be presenting oral argument to a panel of three Ninth Circuit judges on July 11 in Portland, Oregon.

Remaining So Grateful for Your Support


Nothing we do would be possible without you. Your words of encouragement and financial contributions are what keep us moving forward in these crazy times. As you can see, we are not giving up. And you likely notice we don't hammer you with frequent fundraising mailings and emails, as we don't want to spend your money that way. We hope you will continue supporting our work to make wildlife "management" via killing a relic of the past. We are truly grateful for you.

For all that is wild and free,

Brooks Fahy
Executive Director




WSU didn't like what science is showing. And Dr. Wielgus' research is part of the growing body of evidence that killing wolves ultimately increases attacks on livestock.

PREDATOR DEFENSE



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