

WHAT DOES A WORLD- RENOWNED ECOLOGIST SAY ABOUT KILLING PREDATORS?

“The time has come to seriously examine our relationship with top predators. The question is not whether killing wolves is ‘sustainable,’ as wildlife managers are always trying to assert. The question is whether it is ecologically, ethically, or even economically defensible to kill large numbers of predators anywhere. The answer on all counts is no.”

- DR. PAUL C. PAQUET
World-renowned large predator ecologist

WOLVES CAN'T AFFORD
TO WAIT UNTIL MID-2022
FOR PROTECTION.



STAND WITH US TO HALT
THE SLAUGHTER NOW!
predatordefense.org/wolves



Predators are essential.

December 2021

Western Wolves May Be Protected by Mid-2022, Due to Public Outcry & Substantive Petitions, But Action Is Needed Now

Dear Friends Old and New,

Our campaigns to protect all native predators have continued in 2021, but as you may have noticed, our primary focus has, of necessity, been wolves. This is because, if the wolf-haters in western states have their way, the small number of remaining wolves will be so socially and ecologically fractured, they may as well be extinct. There is hope on the horizon, in the form of potential relisting under the Endangered Species Act (ESA) by mid-2022, but this would be too late for far too many.

The situation is especially dire in Montana and Idaho, which hope to eliminate 85-90 percent of their wolves, respectively, using newly sanctioned methods of hunting, baiting, bounties, trapping, and snaring. But Wyoming is far ahead of its neighbors. It treats wolves like vermin in over 80 percent of the state and allows killing 24 hours a day using any method. Meanwhile, Washington and Wisconsin have expressed their desire to kill more wolves, and wolf pups have been stomped to death in Idaho and gunned down in Oregon. This cannot stand. Western U.S. wolves need protection NOW.

And as we go to press, we hear rumors that convince us we need to push even harder for an immediate halt to the slaughter, while we wait to learn if ESA relisting will materialize.

The Good & The Bad: Key 2021 Wolf Developments

We are very pleased that our collaborative efforts may have created a positive eventual outcome for wolves. We've been relentless in encouraging our supporters and the public to speak out, and they have come through. We hear that the deluge of calls and letters to Interior Secretary Deb Haaland and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) Acting Director Martha Williams, demanding emergency ESA relisting of wolves in the Western U.S., has been overwhelming. Thank you! We're also grateful to longtime ally, U.S. Rep. Peter DeFazio (D-OR), who sent a letter to both officials, urging ESA protections be reinstated. He continues to pressure them, with another letter coming shortly.

We are equally thrilled that the official petition to Sec. Haaland and USFWS we participated in—which urges emergency relisting of wolves in the Western U.S.—was one of two deemed “credible and substantial.” In response, USFWS announced on Sept. 15, 2021 that western wolves may indeed warrant relisting and that they will conduct in-depth review and analysis using the best-available science to arrive at a 12-month finding. Their review time-clock started when they received the petitions, so it won't run out until mid-2022. The problem is the slaughter will remain in high gear between now and then.

Just how urgent an immediate stop to the killing is can be found in the fact that, on September 27, 2021, the National Park Service announced that three Yellowstone wolves had already been killed near the park border by hunters in Montana. This means all Yellowstone wolves are at risk, as wolves know nothing of invisible boundary lines, nor the heinous policies of the states the park occupies—Montana, Idaho and Wyoming—and hunters and trappers are literally waiting for them to step out

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8,000+
wolves killed
since 2011

A SCIENCE, SANITY & HEART REALITY-CHECK

- Top scientists called 2011 wolf delisting flawed, as wolves were not recovered. They remain unrecovered to this day.
- Killing wolves negates the vital role they play in healthy ecosystems. They keep elk and deer on the move, which prevents overgrazing and allows the land to recover. Unlike hunters, wolves take out sick, old and inferior elk and deer.
- Elk and deer populations are not declining due to wolves. In fact, in Idaho and Montana they've been thriving.
- Wolves cause a statistically insignificant number of livestock deaths, far less than 1%. Most deaths are caused by weather, disease, and poor husbandry.
- Wolves have exceptionally strong family bonds and depend on intact family units. Disruption of wolf packs can lead to increased predation on livestock.
- Wolves and other predators do not need to be "managed," as their populations are self-regulating.
- Wolves bring in millions in vital tourism dollars. Protecting wolves could be far more valuable to states in the long run.
- The vast majority of American are not OK with bringing wolves back from near extinction just to kill them all over again.

TAKE A STRONG STAND FOR WOLVES TODAY

Learn more, share, and donate to support our efforts at predatordefense.org/wolves

PREDATOR DEFENSE



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

of the park. To make matters worse, over a third of the boundary Yellowstone shares with Montana is within a mile of private property where baiting is now allowed. (Wolves sense of smell can extend for miles.) Yellowstone's entire wolf population could be destroyed before USFWS finishes its review. Just as appalling, at least 346 wolves have already been killed this year in Idaho and 70 in Montana. Both states' body counts will pile up dramatically soon, as new hunting and trapping seasons are beginning. Emergency measures are imperative.

So on Oct. 27, 2021 we joined with our friends at Footloose Montana, who got dozens of organizations and individuals to urge the U.S. Forest Service to establish a 5-mile wolf hunting and trapping setback around Yellowstone and Grand Teton National Parks. And on Oct. 28, 2021 one of the pressure campaigns we've been working on with other groups resulted in more than 20 U.S. Senators, led by Sen. Cory Booker (D-NJ), sending a letter to Sec. Haaland urging immediate emergency protections for wolves in U.S. West, to shield them for the remaining months while ESA relisting protections are considered.

While we hope both these efforts succeed, we have heard that resistance from officials at USFWS and Senator John Tester (D-MT) may be blocking an immediate halt to the killing. (Tester is the very senator who sold wolves out in 2011 by adding a delisting rider to a budget bill.) This means we need to focus even more emphatically on USFWS Acting Dir. Williams in tandem with Sec. Haaland. Please speak out for an immediate halt to the killing using the resources at predatordefense.org/wolves.

A Renewed Stand, A Heartfelt Thanks

As you think about our work together, keep in mind that we have spoken out for wolves from the very start—prior to Northern Rocky Mountain wolves losing federal protections under the ESA in 2011 and the total gutting of protections in the Lower 48 in 2020. We agreed wholeheartedly with the top scientists who said the original delisting was flawed, as wolves were far from recovered. Now we may be on the verge of a much-deserved relisting. We need to take a moment to appreciate that together we can create real change.

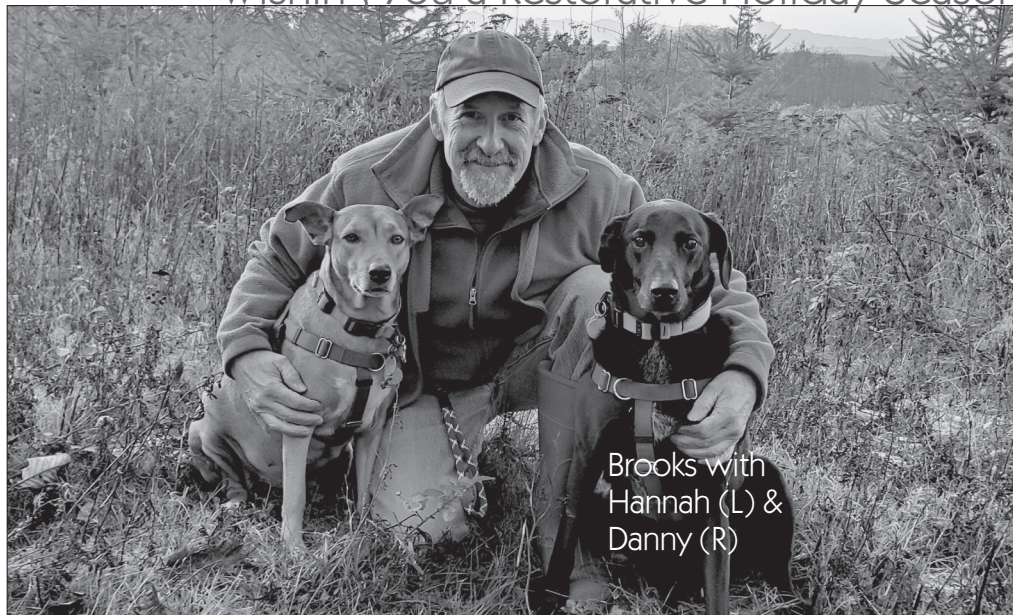
We mean it when we say that friends like you, providing support in these harrowing times, mean the world. We hope you will stay by our side, take action to help wolves, and sustain our efforts with a tax-deductible year-end contribution.

Thank you again for your help as we continue our fight for the rights and wellbeing of wolves and all native predators. We hope you are taking very good care and finding ways to restore body, mind and spirit in these years of incredible challenge. We must persist.

For all that is wild and free,

Brooks Fahy
Executive Director

Wishing You a Restorative Holiday Season



Brooks with
Hannah (L) &
Danny (R)