

WOLVES ARE ESSENTIAL

Wolves embody “family values” and provide vital ecosystem services we shouldn’t live without. Scientifically speaking, they were never “recovered” and should never have lost federal protections.



We Must Act Now to Stop States from Undoing Decades of Wolf Recovery

June 2021

Idaho, Montana and Wyoming Have Kicked into High Wolf-Killing Gear; Emergency ESA Relisting Is Imperative

Dear Friends Old and New,

We’re skipping any prologue in this newsletter, as time is of the essence and we need your help to stop the wolf-killing frenzy in Idaho, Montana and Wyoming. The temper tantrums raging among certain people there are appalling. They want to kill as many wolves as possible, persist in ignoring real science and the will of the majority, and continue to lie about wolves’ impact on the livestock industry. These three states have kicked into high gear, approving horrifying plans to slaughter as many wolves as possible.

Idaho’s new law is the worst of the worst—it enables up to 90 percent of their wolves to be killed and allows multiple unfair and inhumane methods, starting July 1, 2021. Montana has passed legislation that will allow the slaughter of up to 85 percent, starting in the coming months. Wyoming is far ahead of its neighbors; wolves are already treated like vermin in over 80 percent of the state and can be killed 24 hours a day using any method.

Time is of the essence. Immediate action is imperative. We strongly believe the most effective way to stop these slaughters quickly is reinstatement of federal wolf protections under the Endangered Species Act (ESA) via fully warranted emergency relisting. **This means we need a few minutes of your time to take a stand for wolves (see pg. 4).**

As you likely know, 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. They remain unrecovered to this day, and the species is at great risk. We continue to work intensively behind the scenes to facilitate relisting.

Learn more, see the emergency petition to relist wolves, and read powerful letters from scientists, citizens, businesses and environmental groups at predatordefense.org/wolves.

Food for Thought: Genuine Positivity Requires Activism

It’s easy to be overwhelmed in these times. So much of the news is tragic, anger-inducing, mind-boggling, and/or utterly insane. It’s hard to believe we have gotten to this place as a country and a planet. And it’s understandable to want to escape, to pay attention only to positive news. But only the privileged are able to escape. Escape is primarily a first-world luxury, available to those in the middle and upper classes. The rest can’t escape.

Recognizing these realities, we’ve decided we can’t let up on working to improve the world we

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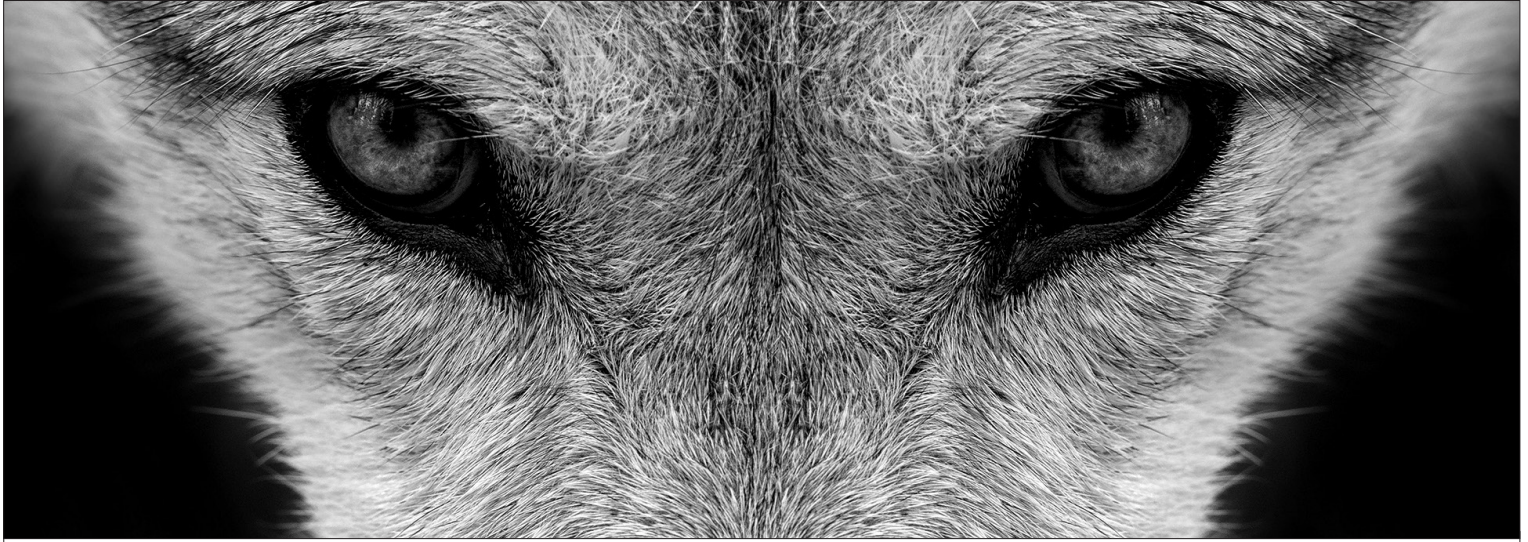
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IDAHO: A CASE STUDY FOR THE TRIUMPH* OF LIES ABOUT WOLVES



The Big Wolf Lies

TOP THREE LIES

LIE #1: Wolves kill lots of livestock and are destroying businesses and livelihoods.

LIE #2: Elk and deer populations have been devastated by wolves.

LIE #3: Wolves have no business living on our landscape and should never have been reintroduced in the Lower 48.

THE TRUTH

Less than a fraction of one percent of cattle and sheep deaths are caused by wolves. In Idaho—which has 2,800,000 cows and sheep and around 1,500 wolves—only 102 deaths were caused by wolves in 2020. And those deaths are only alleged (self-reported). There is no documented substantive destruction of businesses by wolves.

Elk and deer populations are thriving, the best in years, ABOVE target. This is according to Idaho's own Fish & Game Department, which announced that "Hunter harvest was up for elk, mule deer and white-tailed deer in 2020 seasons."

Wolves are essential to the health of ecosystems and to state economies. Wolves improve elk and deer populations—they take out sick, old and genetically inferior animals; on the other hand, hunters only try to take out healthy specimens.

Wolves keep elk and deer on the move, which keeps prey species and plant life in balance. For example: The presence of wolves makes elk move to higher, safer areas, which allows vegetation to recover along rivers and streams and results in more willows and aspens for beavers, whose ponds benefit aquatic plants and animals. Shade from the trees cools the water, making the habitat better for trout. In addition, the "leftovers" wolves leave behind help feed bears, bald eagles, and many other scavengers.

Wolves boost ecotourism. The reintroduction of wolves to Yellowstone has attracted 150,000 new visitors each year, adding \$35,000,000 to the local economy annually.

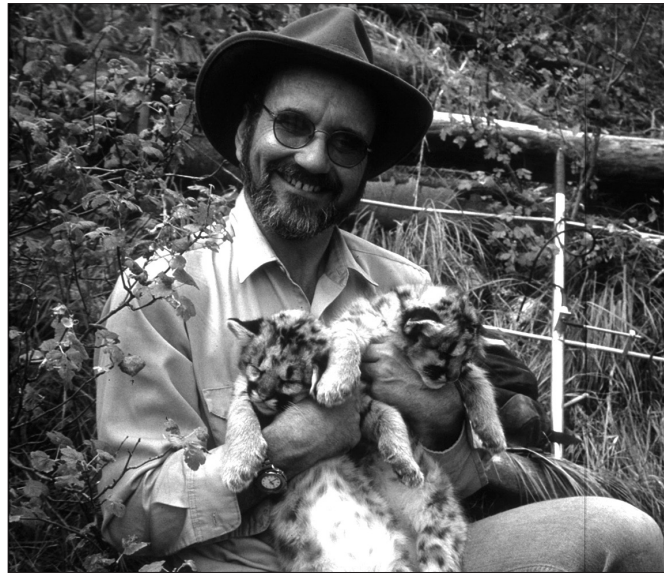
*LET'S END THE TRIUMPH OF WOLF LIES.

See pg. 4.

In Memoriam

CELEBRATING THE LIFE AND WORK OF NOTED PREDATOR ECOLOGIST, JOHN LAUNDRÉ, PH.D., 1949-2021

Brilliant, fearless and inspiring, Laundré made enormous contributions to our understanding of native predators and was an expert on how wrongfully America mismanages them.



Laundré originated the landmark concept called "The Landscape of Fear." It shows how vital a prey's fear of predators is to maintaining ecosystem integrity.

Our Thoughts on Our Friend's Passing

Our dear friend, John Laundré, Ph.D.—pictured above in the early 1990s with two baby cougars—was a brave and gifted scientist. Laundré passed away March 5, 2021 in Ann Arbor, Michigan, with his beloved daughter Cecile at his side. We extend our deepest sympathy to his family, friends, students, and colleagues as we collectively process this huge loss.

Laundré made groundbreaking contributions to predator ecology, including the landmark concept of "The Landscape of Fear," which addressed the ecological implications of being afraid and proposed that the prey's fear of predators is important in maintaining ecosystem integrity.

A Wisconsin native, Laundré worked as a large mammal predator-prey conservation biologist for over 30 years in the western U.S. and northern Mexico. He published over 70 scientific articles, authored the book "Phantoms of the Prairie: The Return of Cougars to the Midwest," and wrote frequently on America's mismanagement of carnivores. Laundré served as Vice-President of the Cougar Rewilding Foundation and Assistant Director of the James San Jacinto Mountains Natural Reserve at the University of California Riverside.

We were very grateful to benefit from Laundré's expertise as a member of our Scientific Advisory Board. Sadly, at the time of his passing, he was working on one of our most-prized long-term projects—a comprehensive indictment of state wildlife agencies, aka "The Killing Agencies." We will take the baton he passed and run with it, but feel so sad running this race without him. Laundré was brilliant, inspirational and laser-focused. He is utterly irreplaceable.

Scientists and Activists Honor Laundré's Legacy

"Soft-spoken and incredibly intellectual, yet fierce, Dr. John Laundré was that rare breed of researcher who put animals and their conservation before his own career. Unlike most scientists, John never wavered from being an advocate for the wildlife, especially large carnivores, as well as their dedicated researcher and chronicler. The world of Ecology is poorer today with the passing of this giant."

- Jay Tischendorf, DVM
Founder & Director, American Ecological Research Institute (AERIE)

"I loved John. He was a good friend, an inspiration, and an endearing person. He made the case for all life, always advocating for the protection and recovery of nature, relentlessly working toward the fair distribution of environments, not only of people, but also nonhuman nature in all its abundance and diversity. Especially close to his heart and an undeniable part of John's concern for the natural world were his much-loved cougars. We will all miss John, but I think none more so than the cougars he did so much for."

- Paul C. Paquet, Ph.D.
Large Carnivore Conservation Biologist, Raincoast Conservation Foundation

"John was a colleague and kindred-spirit ecologist who was unique in many ways. First he was a pioneer Ph.D. academic who...believed in the independence of his quality science.... He helped pioneer the understanding of the important role that low density, fragile, large carnivore populations make in keeping the ecosystems that we rely upon healthy."

- Robert L. Crabtree, Ph.D.
Chief Scientist & Executive Director, Yellowstone Ecological Research Center

Read all memorial tributes & learn about Laundré's groundbreaking research at predatordefense.org/memorials.

SAMPLE LETTER TO SECRETARY HAALAND*

* This letter is intended as an inspiration and resource and is available to copy/paste/adapt at predatordefense.org/wolves. We encourage personalized letters, as they make the largest impact.

Dear Secretary Haaland,

I am writing to request that you quickly reinstate Endangered Species Act (ESA) protections for gray wolves in the Northern Rockies via your emergency listing powers as authorized in the ESA. Emergency action is warranted, due to the significant risk to the well-being of the species posed by states bent on drastically reducing their wolf populations.

Idaho's recently passed bill will allow them to kill up to 90% of their wolves, effective July 1, 2021, and Montana's legislation has paved the way to kill around 85%. Their planned actions will undo decades of work toward wolf recovery in the Northern Rockies and beyond.

Key pieces of science and fact are missing from these states' legislation allowing wolf slaughters. They ignore all the details that really matter, including:

- Top scientists said the 2011 wolf delisting was flawed, as wolves were not recovered. They remain unrecovered to this day.
- Killing wolves negates the vital role they play in healthy ecosystems, Wolves keep deer and elk on the move, which prevents overgrazing and allows the land to recover. They also take out sick, old and inferior deer and elk, while hunters do not. And that is only the beginning of the services they provide.
- 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; most deaths are caused by weather, disease, and poor husbandry. In Montana, Idaho, and Wyoming, where the majority of wolves live, predation is far less than one percent.
- 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 for a myriad of evolutionary reasons.
- Wolves bring in millions in vital tourism dollars. Protecting wolves could be much more valuable to states in the long run.
- The vast majority of Americans are not OK with bringing wolves back from near extinction only to kill them all over again.

These states' actions are inhumane and unscientific. Please direct the USFWS to establish science-based criteria founded in their own "3R" criteria for delisting: Resiliency, Redundancy and Representation. These are the essential attributes for a self-sustaining species that can be considered recovered and delisted. Thank you very much for your attention to this vital issue.

Sincerely,
[Your Name]

LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR, cont. from page 1

live in, for all who live on it and for future generations. Since our focus is protecting native predators, we will continue to tell the truth about the realities they face—the actions they need us to take together to help them survive and, ideally, thrive. We believe activism is the most genuine form of positivity because it affirms those in need of help and means being fully engaged to make things better.

So many of you have been with us for decades in our work for the good of native predators. We remain incredibly grateful for your ongoing support. And we are greatly encouraged by our new supporters who inject our days with renewed energy and hope. We encourage all of you to take the actions detailed in this newsletter to help wolves by urging emergency ESA relisting, to follow us on social media for more timely updates, and to sustain our efforts with a tax-deductible contribution whenever you can.

We also encourage you to take extra good care of yourself and those you love. Cultivate fun and joy amidst the madness, spread good cheer, and keep yourself fortified for the good fight forward. Thank you for being with us.

For all that is wild and free,


Brooks Fahy, Executive Director

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Predator Defense is a 501(c)(3) organization.
Donations are tax-deductible per IRS guidelines.

ACT NOW! 5 Ways You Can Take a Stand for Wolves



Please take any (or all!) of the actions below to urge emergency reinstatement of federal wolf protections under the Endangered Species Act:

- Contact Deb Haaland, Secretary of the Interior: (202) 208-3100, feedback@ios.doi.gov, www.doi.gov/contact-us.
- Contact Martha Williams, Principal Deputy Director of USFWS: (800) 344-9453, www.fws.gov/dusplit/contactus.htm.
- Contact your U.S. Senators and Representatives.
- Contact the tourism bureaus in Idaho & Montana. You can tell them you were planning to visit and to spend money, but because of their horrifying laws to kill wolves you will be staying away and urging your friends to do the same. Or you could say you are a concerned citizen who is appalled by the barbaric slaughter of our vital apex predators under false pretenses and are urging all your connections to boycott tourism in their states.
- Share your actions and our posts on social media using the hashtags #Wolves, #RelistWolves, and #StopTheWolfSlaughter.

Expand our work for wolves.
Donate today at
predatordefense.org/wolves.