

“Predator Defense reforms outdated myths and unfounded beliefs about wild carnivores, and fights animal cruelty from the ground up, using proven, peer-reviewed science.”

- Donna Harris, DVM

“What I’ve watched over the years in amazement is this small organization actually starting a national movement—not just against the use of UDSA Wildlife Services poisons, but against the agency overall. They are remarkable.”

- Amanda Wood Kingsley  
M-44 survivor

## HAPPY RETIREMENT!



FAREWELL TO OUR GOOD FRIEND, U.S. REPRESENTATIVE PETER DEFAZIO (pg. 2)



## Predators are essential

**December 2022**

### Thanks for Standing Strong for Democracy & Native Predators!

Dear Friends Old and New,

As you may have noticed in our summer newsletter, we were gravely concerned that the midterm elections would feature an anti-science, anti-environmental-regulation minority finishing off our longstanding hopes for ending America’s war on wildlife. So we abandoned our normal news sharing and encouraged you to pull out all the stops to protect democracy and get out the vote.

We were counting on our perception that the majority of Americans believe in democracy, and that a substantive number value the science that proves wolves, cougars and other native predators should exist without persecution. Thankfully, enough people voted in the midterms to negate the worst effects of voter suppression and election subversion. So democracy and hope appear to hold, for now.

We sincerely thank you. We also extend a special shout-out to Gen Z’s amazing youth turnout. Having fewer far-right extremists in power gives us a much greater chance of success in our work. And on that topic, here are a few highlights of what we’ve been up to this year.

### Maintaining Pressure to Relist Wolves in Northern Rocky Mountains

Throughout 2022 we have continued urging the public to pressure Interior Secretary Deb Haaland to protect wolves in the Northern Rocky Mountains by relisting them under the Endangered Species Act, while also establishing a no-hunting buffer around Yellowstone National Park. The Department of the Interior has yet to release its decision. It was first slated for September, then delayed until after the midterms, and is now expected in December. If they wrongfully decide not to protect wolf populations in the Northern Rockies, we plan to join in litigation to force a science-based course correction.

### Helping With New Film on Wolves, Wildlife Killing & Public Lands Grazing

For the last few years we’ve been working with a highly regarded documentary filmmaker, providing insights on the plight of wolves in the American West. This independent film is still a year or more from completion, but has the potential of reaching a huge audience. It examines the American West and wild spaces through the portal of wolves and addresses the underlying setup—public lands grazing, a policy of extraction, and utilitarian culture that cause the unjust slaughter of wildlife. Our work together has helped deepen their understanding of wolf issues, the need to end our government’s “management” via slaughter, and the need for public lands reform. In October I traveled to Wyoming to be interviewed on camera and may be interviewed again in the coming months. We hope to share more details soon.

### Marking Progress on Banning M-44s: House Hearing, Potential BLM Lands Ban

This year marked the furthest point a federal bill to ban M-44 “cyanide bombs” has gotten. A hearing on “Canyon’s Law” (H.R. 4951) was held on July 21, 2022 by the U.S. House Natural Resources Subcommittee on Water, Oceans and Wildlife. We helped prepare Dr. Mark Mansfield, the father of the

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# With Deepest Gratitude

A RETIREMENT TRIBUTE TO U.S. REPRESENTATIVE PETER DEFazio

The longest-serving U.S. House member in Oregon's history, Rep. Peter DeFazio was first elected in 1986.

DeFazio's presence in Congress has been powerful, palpable and genuine. An incredible ally for wolves and predator protections, he has always been supportive of our work to reform wildlife policies and ban wildlife poisons.

He's always listened and he's always tried to help. Always!



Rep. Peter DeFazio (l) with Brooks Fahy in Eugene, OR office in 2013.

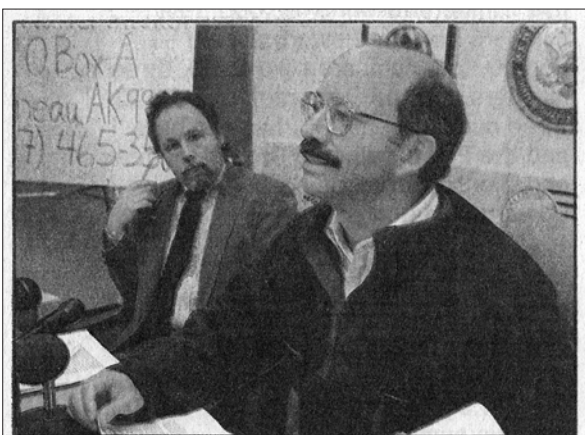
In 1992 I got a call from U.S. Representative Peter DeFazio's staff, asking if I would join him at a press conference to speak out against the aerial gunning of wolves in Alaska. Little did I know how dramatically attending that event would change the course of my life. Meeting him there—along with Barry Lopez, author of "Of Wolves and Men," who later became a supporter and inspiration—was pivotal in Predator Defense becoming a force for advocacy. We helped form a tourism boycott with several other organizations and got Alaska to, temporarily at least, stop the aerial gunning. DeFazio's wolf advocacy has continued to this day. He has repeatedly spoken truth to power about America's inhumane and counter-productive "management" of wildlife via slaughter and the vital role wolves and other native predators play in our ecosystems.

Another issue DeFazio helped boost tremendously was the need to ban wildlife poisons, including M-44 "cyanide bombs." In 1994 I came to him with the story of a woman who had a large family homestead in Harrisburg, OR whose dog was killed on her own property by an M-44 illegally set for predator control by the USDA Wildlife Services program. From that point on we worked together to ban M-44s and Compound 1080, another poison used by Wildlife Services. Over the decades I brought numerous individuals to Washington, D.C.—including M-44 victims and a Wildlife Services whistleblower—to tell their stories to him and other members of Congress. DeFazio was always supportive of both the victims and our work to ban M-44s. He facilitated briefings and press conferences at the Capitol in D.C. and made his staff available to help. They were always fantastic to work with. Most recently he sent a letter to Interior Secretary Deb Haaland, urging a ban on M-44s on all public lands under her jurisdiction.

DeFazio's presence was powerful, palpable and genuine. This was evident in his feature role in our 2013 award-winning film, "EXPOSED: USDA's Secret War on Wildlife." It was also demonstrated in the 2022 award-winning documentary, "Downfall: The Case Against Boeing." The film shows DeFazio's tenacity in taking on a corporate giant, as well as the depths of his decency. I've experienced the same tenacity and decency over the last three decades in our joint efforts to protect wolves and take on Wildlife Services' barbaric lethal predator control program.

If there ever was a true maverick in the U.S. Congress, it's Peter DeFazio. I will always feel incredibly fortunate that our paths crossed and am honored to call him a friend.

- Brooks Fahy, Executive Director



GEORGE MILLENER / The Register-Guard  
Writer Barry Lopez and Rep. Peter DeFazio (right).

Above: Rep. DeFazio speaks at 1992 press conference opposing the aerial gunning of wolves in Alaska. Photo printed in "The Register-Guard" on Dec. 4, 1992.

## REP. PETER DEFAZIO: A CHAMPION FOR NATIVE PREDATORS, PEOPLE & PETS

DeFazio's career is laden with accomplishments, but here are a few that are especially dear to our hearts, as they had a positive effect on habitat for native predators and/or made lives better for both Oregonians and all Americans:

- Permanently protecting over 390,000 acres of wilderness in the state of Oregon—an area half the size of Rhode Island—including the creation of the Devil's Staircase Wilderness, Copper Salmon Wilderness, Newberry National Volcanic Monument, Steens Mountain Wilderness, Oregon Caves National Monument, and River Styx, the only underground Wild and Scenic River in America;
- The largest expansion of Wild and Scenic rivers in the Lower 48;
- Banning the export of logs from federal lands to protect old growth forests;
- Establishing a USDA organics standard to empower consumers and support organic farmers;
- Increasing federal investment in America's infrastructure by more than \$550 billion, creating two million jobs a year over the next 10 years (this includes billions to repair and reconnect wildlife habitats!!!);
- Improving the federal highway funding formula to bring home an additional \$1.3 billion in funding to Oregon for roads, bridges and surface transportation projects;
- Investigating the fatal Boeing 737 MAX accidents, holding the FAA and Boeing accountable, reforming the airplane manufacturing certification process, and most importantly improving the safety of the traveling public;
- Removing the federal antitrust exemption from the health insurance industry to lower health care costs for all Americans.



ADOPTION DAY! DeFazio and his wife Myrnie in 2021 with Libby, their newly adopted black Lab rescue.

## DRIVING FORCE FOR FEDERAL BAN ON WILDLIFE POISONS, INCLUDING M-44 'CYANIDE BOMBS'



A key trip to Washington, D.C. to call for a ban on M-44 "cyanide bombs" occurred in 2008, when we brought M-44 poisoning victim Dennis Slaugh (2nd from right) to share his devastating story. He brought Congressional staff to tears. Rep. DeFazio (2nd from left) facilitated this and subsequent visits by M-44 victims. Dennis suffered permanent disability from his poisoning and died in 2018. Cyanide poisoning from an M-44 device is listed as a significant causative condition on his death certificate. Also pictured: Brooks Fahy (far left) and Dennis' wife Dorothy Slaugh (far right).

In our decades-long work toward a nationwide ban on two deadly wildlife poisons—Compound 1080 and the M-44 sodium cyanide devices that indiscriminately kill wildlife, pets, and potentially people—DeFazio has been key to helping us wake members of Congress up. In 2005 he introduced the first bill to ban Compound 1080. In 2007, 2010 and 2017 he introduced legislation to eliminate both Compound 1080 and M-44s.

In 2019 he honored Canyon Mansfield—the Pocatello, ID teen who was poisoned and lost his dog in 2017—by introducing new legislation nicknamed "Canyon's Law" that was streamlined to ban M-44s. The subsequent 2021 bill, which was reintroduced in 2022, gained bipartisan support and a companion bill in the U.S. Senate. This final version of Canyon's Law was tailored specifically toward a public lands ban and advanced further than prior bills.

A hearing was held July 21, 2022 before the House Natural Resources Subcommittee on Water, Oceans and Wildlife. Official testimony included a surprise statement from the Department of the Interior, indicating they were open to a ban, regardless of bill status. DeFazio and the Committee Chair followed up with a letter signed by 11 members of Congress, requesting an M-44 ban on all BLM lands they control. And so, we wait. For additional details, visit [www.predatordefense.org/m44s.htm](http://www.predatordefense.org/m44s.htm).

## Why We're Different

- We've been in the trenches since 1990, dealing with the most brutal and shocking wildlife atrocities.
- We're proactive. No other organization has done what we've done to expose America's secret war on wildlife.
- We're not part of the corporate pack.
- We don't sell our membership list.
- We don't spend money on marketing gimmicks.
- We've produced a number of hard-hitting, award-winning documentaries.
- We're changing hearts and minds to make a better world for all wildlife.

## What We Believe

- The notion predators must be killed to control their populations is a myth.
- Predators should not be hunted or trapped.
- Individual animals matter. No animal should suffer.
- Family values matter. It is not OK to rip family units apart.
- Predators cause insignificant livestock losses for ranchers. Most losses are caused by poor animal husbandry.
- Private ranching should not be allowed on public lands.
- Government agencies manage wildlife cruelly, to maximize sport-killing opportunities, and to support "Big Ag." They do not manage wildlife for the sake of biodiversity.
- Wildlife agencies desperately need reform.

### PREDATOR DEFENSE



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

Wildlife and wild lands are essential for human health.

Intact families of native predators are necessary for intact ecosystems.

Help us help wildlife.  
Support our work at

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

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

Pocatello M-44 victim, Canyon Mansfield, for his testimony at this hearing. We also submitted a formal 12-page letter for the public record, making the case for banning M-44s and detailing key incidents and victims from 1990-present. In a surprising turn, the Department of the Interior (DOI) also submitted written testimony to the subcommittee, indicating they had no objection to Canyon's Law and were concerned M-44s pose a safety risk to unintended targets. Rep. DeFazio sent a letter to Interior Sec. Haaland, to which we contributed. Signed by 11 members of Congress, it urged DOI to use its authority to ban M-44s on all public lands under its jurisdiction. And so, we wait.

## Killing of Native Species in Idaho Restricted; M-44 Ban Extended

In July we celebrated an Idaho settlement agreement between USDA Wildlife Services and conservation groups that restricts their killing of native predators on many protected public lands and extends their M-44 "cyanide bomb" ban through 2024, possibly longer. They are being forced to follow the best available science and complete a new Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). This bodes well for future improvements.

## Taking New Inspiration from Orcas, the Apex Predators of Puget Sound

On the day after Thanksgiving, I was traveling by ferry in Puget Sound near Tacoma, WA, when all the sudden the captain announced on the loudspeaker that orcas were breaching off the starboard bow. Within a minute most of the people riding the ferry had rushed to the forward deck and side windows. Together we watched a remarkable spectacle, spellbound, surrounded by a large pod of orcas wrapped all the way around the ferry.



In the past I'd only seen orcas from a distance. But here were all these magnificent creatures within 25 feet of the boat. Virtually all the adult passengers seemed just as excited as the children. Complete strangers became friends, instantaneously and courteously making room for one another to see this noteworthy event. The children were beside themselves with joy and amazement. What was also incredible was the realization that the ferry had shut down. For the next half hour we didn't move, and I didn't hear a single person complain about needing to be somewhere else. The whole experience brought tears to my eyes.

I couldn't help but think—if only we could be so tolerant when it comes to other wild animals like wolves, cougars and bears. At that moment I saw that it was possible. It gave me inspiration to continue to fight for the animals that are so misunderstood and vilified. I hope you will continue to work with me toward transformative change, and I wish you an extra measure of joy this holiday season.

For all that is wild and free,

Brooks Fahy, Executive Director