

Celebrating 30 years championing native predators with science, sanity and heart!

Dear Friend of Predator Defense,

We hold out hope this mailing finds you and your loved ones in good health and spirits, but know the likelihood is that you or someone you care about is experiencing grief, anxiety and economic uncertainty due to the COVID-19 pandemic. We have faced our own losses and setbacks in recent months, but want you to know that Predator Defense, as an organization, remains alive and kicking. And you—our allies in the fight to restore the rightful role of wolves, cougars, coyotes and other native predators and end the war on wildlife—remain in our thoughts.

While the challenges facing our world may seem overwhelming, they are not unsolvable...if we persist. We believe it is more vital than ever that we band together on the state and local level to press for positive change. And in recent months we've clearly seen the power of the states to effect progress, regardless of our federal government's stonewalling and sabotage. In 2020 our key focuses for championing America's vital native predators are:

Transforming State Wildlife Agencies from Killers to Conservers

Only four percent of Americans are hunters, yet the agencies responsible for our wildlife are primarily staffed by hunters. As a result they essentially serve as glorified hunting clubs, killing thousands of predators so deer and elk populations are maintained at artificially high levels. We, the other 96 percent, are the vast majority, so it should follow that our wildlife agencies would proportionally represent us.

To this end, we're currently developing a blueprint for a state ballot initiative in Oregon that will leverage overwhelming public sentiment and scientific fact to force state wildlife agencies to actually protect wildlife. It would turn the Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife from a killing agency into a conservation agency. This blueprint can then be modified for other state wildlife agencies nationwide.

Leveraging Our Big Win: If Idaho Can Change, Any State Can

Idaho has long been Ground Zero for wildlife killing, but the way this is changing is a testament to not giving up. We're pleased to announce In March 2020 we

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Celebrating 30 years!



1996 Stopped aerial gunning of coyotes at Hart Mountain National Antelope Refuge and lethal control at Portland International Airport.

2002-Present Provided support for families who lost pets to wildlife traps and poisons.



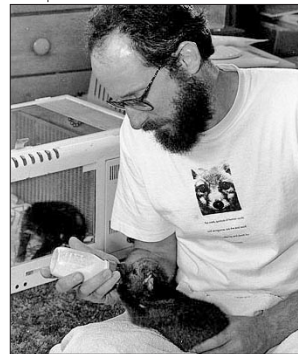
2006-Present Educated Congress about documented M-44 and Compound 1080 poisonings by USDA Wildlife Services. Developed federal legislation to ban both with Rep. Peter DeFazio (D-Oreg, 2nd from L). Bills introduced in 2008, 2010, 2017 & 2019 with bipartisan support. Joined on 2007 trip by M-44 victim Dennis Slaugh (2nd from R) whose 2003 poisoning resulted in 2018 death.

2017-Present Assisted the Mansfield family of Pocatello, ID, after their 14-year-old son, Canyon, out walking his dog on a hill behind their house, accidentally triggered an illegally set M-44. He watched his dog die an agonizing death, but was spared death himself due to wind direction, and has suffered long-term health issues. After their initial trauma, the Mansfields became activists, traveling to Washington, D.C., with us twice in support of the bill to ban M-44s nationwide and participating in the documentary, "Lethal Control," which features multiple victims we've helped.



HIGHLIGHTS

1990 1995 2000 2005 2010 2015 2020



1990-1995 Initially called Cascade Wildlife Rescue, Brooks Fahy began the organization in 1990 as a hospital and care center for injured and orphaned native predators, including bears, bobcats, cougars, coyotes, and foxes. In 1992, Cheri Briggs joined him. Together, they filled a critical need, helping rehabilitate hundreds of predators, and were an active voice for species protection.

But finding suitable release sites for rehabilitated animals became increasingly difficult. Wildlife management policies were failing to protect predators and their habitat. Rampant use of predator control methods like leg-hold traps, poisons, snares, aerial gunning, bounties, and hunting were profoundly impacting existing populations and undermining second chances for rehabilitated animals. A change of course was imperative.



1995 Embarked on new path, focused on protecting predator species more broadly.



1994 Helped woman whose dog was killed by M-44 sodium cyanide device set on family farm near Harrisburg, Oregon. This woman also suffered secondary poisoning while trying to help her dog.

1994-present Successfully advocated in Oregon to prevent cougars and bears from being hunted with dogs and black bears from being baited.



1998 Stopped livestock protection collars made with deadly wildlife poison Compound 1080 from being introduced in Oregon. Stopped proposed coyote sport hunting at Hart Mountain National Antelope Refuge.

2001 Made emergency request to Office of Homeland Security to ban Compound 1080, citing potential use as chemical weapon. Received extensive press coverage.

2003 Convened town meetings and media blitz in Oxford, AL, home of Tull Chemical, the only company in the world that produces Compound 1080.



2004 Placed 2,000 "Tip Line" posters at remote trail-heads in Idaho, letting people know poison baits had been put out, ostensibly to kill wolves, but dogs and other non-target animals suffered. Shortly thereafter, the poisoning stopped.



2005 Driving force behind bill to outlaw Compound 1080, introduced by Congressman Peter Defazio.



2011-Present Wildlife traps and poisons, like the M-44 "cyanide bomb" pictured above, featured on CNN, CBS, FOX News, and other major media.

2012 Primary source for in-depth expose by Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist Tom Knudson published in Sacramento Bee. Led to call for Congressional investigation of USDA Wildlife Services' out-of-control "predator control" program.



2014-15 Released whistle-blowing, award-winning documentary, "EXPOSED: USDA's Secret War on Wildlife." Jane Goodall wants millions to see it.



2017 Released "The Profanity Peak Pack: Set Up & Sold Out," a documentary exposing Washington State's unjust and counter-productive wolf slaughter. The film was applauded by prominent scientists and audiences alike.

2019 Got M-44 "cyanide bombs" banned in Oregon, creating a West Coast free of M-44s. Success due to exponentiating media coverage, public outcry, petitioning wildlife managers & elected officials, public hearings with victims & expert witnesses, followed by S.B. 580, the bill that banned them.

2020 Prevailed in Idaho lawsuit against Wildlife Services, stopping wolf-killing in wilderness areas and other special places, halting use of snares to target wolves, and banning M-44 use statewide until a full EIS is completed.

DID YOU KNOW?

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.





5,000+
wolves killed
since 2011

...and millions of wild animals
killed each year

Who Should Be in Charge?

We suspect you are with us when we say those who are given responsibility for our wildlife should work to conserve, not kill, and should respect the best available science and majority opinion—the 96% of us who are not hunters.

THE FACTS: Typical wildlife officials are working hard to avoid acknowledging:

- Science says predators do not need to be hunted, as they are self-regulating.
- Predators have positive and essential effects on biodiversity.
- Intact families are imperative for social structure, particularly for wolves and coyotes.
- Predators grieve the loss of a family member.
- Agency funding primarily comes from hunters.
- Decisions are being made for hunters who want competition for deer and elk removed, and for ranchers, who don't want to take responsibility/pay for protecting their livestock.

THE SOLUTION: If enough of us demand our states appoint wildlife commissioners who are true conservationists, grounded in science, agencies will change. We will be sharing more soon regarding our blueprint for change, starting in Oregon (see pg. 1). We encourage you to take a public stand with us at every opportunity.

PREDATOR DEFENSE



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

prevailed in our Idaho lawsuit against USDA Wildlife Services, stopping their wolf-killing in wilderness areas and other special places, halting the use of snares targeting wolves, and banning M-44 'cyanide bomb' use statewide for several more years, until a full Environmental Impact Statement is completed. This suit was filed in 2016; a district judge dismissed it in 2018 and we appealed. In 2019, the circuit court overturned the federal court's dismissal, setting the stage for negotiations, which resulted in the settlement agreement.

This is a tremendous step forward for protecting wolves in Idaho. And the extended ban on the use of M-44s is a big step forward in our national effort to compel Wildlife Services to stop manufacturing and using these indiscriminate devices.

Next we're planning to expand this win for wildlife, pets and people to an even greater victory in Idaho. We are co-plaintiffs in a lawsuit accusing Wildlife Services of ignoring the best available science and unnecessarily killing thousands of coyotes and other wildlife each year without examining the implications and damage. In this lawsuit we are expertly represented by attorneys from Western Watersheds Project and Advocates for the West.



Help Us Celebrate Our 30th Year!

As you likely know, we've long been the tip of the spear in the war for sane wildlife policies, working to release our native predators from persecution and free them up to carry out their critical roles in nature. It is grueling and heartbreaking work, and I often can't believe we're still at it 30 years later.

I recently heard someone say, "I'd rather be an optimist proved wrong, than a pessimist proved right." It made me think about how I choose to move forward in my daily life. While I'm frequently angry and often feel helpless about our world and the plight of predators, that choice regarding how I think and feel in my daily work is up to me. I've decided choosing to believe more progress is possible is an energizing and potentially contagious thought. And so, at Predator Defense we choose to believe we can continue to make the world better for top predators. We hope you join us in this choice, and that we can continue to count on your support as we move forward in this our 30th year.

For all that is wild and free,

Brooks Fahy
Executive Director

"This news is very uplifting because it shows progress in our fight for justice for Kasey and everyone else who has suffered from these cyanide bombs...We are fighting a battle with a victory in sight."

- Canyon Mansfield, Pocatello, ID
Teenage M-44 victim turned activist,
pictured with best friend, Kasey

We must persist.

Wildlife is not like ears of corn ripening for the harvest.

Intact families of native predators are necessary for intact ecosystems.

Wildlife and wild lands are also essential for the health of human beings.

Help us help wildlife. Support our work at predatordefense.org.