



ARE YOU CURRENT?

Your *Predator Press* subscription is one of the benefits of your PDI membership. If you haven't given for a year, please consider renewing your membership. Or give a gift membership to a friend or loved one. You'll find an application on page six. Or use your credit card at www.predatordefense.org.

EMERGENCY ISSUE

PDI is publishing this special eight page newsletter to get out the word on 1080. It's shorter than usual, but we just couldn't wait! Things are moving fast on the 1080 issue, and we need your help now to pressure the federal government to permanently ban this dangerous poison. In late January, PDI investigated the one U.S. plant that manufactures one of the deadliest substances on Earth. With continued national press coverage and our ground breaking investigation, we hope to create enough public pressure for a permanent ban of 1080.

inside

- 2 Making Tracks
- 3 Predator News
- 4 1080: Deadly Poison
- 7 Killing Copper: Irony of the Newest Olympic Mascot

BAN 1080

With the new specter of terrorism, why does the government continue to support production and export of one of the world's deadliest poisons?



Predator Press is published by Predator Defense Institute, a nonprofit, 501(c)3 organization. For more than a decade, PDI has been working to stop the cruel and unnecessary methods of trapping, poisoning, snaring, trophy hunting and aerial gunning of wolves, coyotes, bears, cougars and other predators. PDI closely monitors and challenges the wildlife management agencies that use tax dollars to kill these species, often on public lands.

Predator Defense Institute
PO Box 5446
Eugene, Oregon 97405
Phone: 541.937.4261
Fax: 541.937.4358
info@predatordefense.org
www.predatordefense.org

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Cheri Briggs John Ebeling, treasurer
Brooks Fahy Jon Gramstad
Bea Johnson

ADVISORY BOARD

Rick Hopkins, Ph.D. CA
Paul Joslin, Ph.D. AK
Mollie Matteson, MS, OR
Sander Orent, MD, Toxicologist, CO
George Wuerthner, MA, OR
In Memorium: Joy Belsky

LEGAL ADVISORY BOARD

David Atkin Gretchen Biggs
Pete Frost Gary Kahn
Dan Stodder

EDITORS

Cheri Briggs
Brooks Fahy

WEBMASTER

Ben Scott

Printed on Recycled Paper
© 2002 Predator Defense Institute

Back Cover: Coyote photograph
©2000Carol Polich.

Making Tracks



Executive Director Brooks Fahy

What does a coyote in the Utah Wilderness have to do with a rural family in Oxford, Alabama? Both live under the shadow of 1080.

This January, I conducted a field investigation of the only factory in the U.S. that produces 1080: One of the deadliest poisons on Earth. I figured the best way to solve a problem is to trace it back to its source.

I was surprised to discover that the plant isn't part of a sprawling industrial complex. It's actually a rather unassuming building in a small, rural neighborhood.

Just 48 miles from Birmingham, the city of Oxford, Alabama is a sleepy southern town of about 11,000 people. And none of them seemed to know about the Tull Chemical factory. It's not mentioned in the list of businesses on Oxford's website. When I asked around town, most folks had never heard of it. Those who knew about it seemed to think the place had shut down. But it was still operating in a rural neighbor-

hood. As you might expect, many of the local residents don't like having the plant in their back yard. They're concerned about the fumes, the dangerous chemicals and the security of the plant itself. When I came to their neighborhood, they were surprised. They couldn't believe that someone from so far away would care about their efforts to get the city, the state or the federal government to address their concerns.

All-too-often, we in the so-called environmental movement try to find new ways to divide "us" from "them." But, as this case illustrates, seemingly-disparate issues are closely connected. There's no them. It's all us. And we will be doing all we can to help the neighbors of Oxford, Alabama. ■ *For more on this issue, please read our story on page 4.*



The Tull Chemical factory of Oxford, Alabama produces 1080, one of the deadliest poisons on Earth.

Predator News



Maine Standoff Over Coyote Snaring Continues
For years, Maine has had one of the nation's most liberal policies on coyote hunting: the animals may be hunted year round, including the use of snares for part of the year. While opponents are calling for a ban on the cruel and unnecessary practice, state wildlife officials are trying to expand the program. Snaring often fails to kill the coyote immediately, causing undue suffering, and fails to affect overall coyote populations. Hunting groups claim the program helps maintain deer populations, but a memo from a state biologist notes that the program takes away crucial resources for habitat protection and management.



Coyote killed by neck snare.

Wanted: Wolf Killers
U.S. Fish and Wildlife is seeking information about the death of an adult gray wolf found near Glens Ferry, Idaho. The wolf, apparently killed by a gunshot, was found January 10th, just 45 miles from the site where two wolves were found killed in the fall of 2000. The killing of an animal under the Endangered Species Act is punishable by a fine of up to \$100,000 and one year in jail. In December two Mexican gray wolves were found dead near the New Mexico-Arizona border. USFW is offering up to \$10,000 for information on any illegal killing of wolves.

Gray Wolves Expected to Cross into Oregon
With successful reintroduction into western Idaho, U.S. Fish and Wildlife expects at least some gray wolves to enter eastern Oregon as early as this spring. The wolves are descendants of Canadian Wolves that were released in Idaho in 1995 under a plan to prevent total extinction in the United States. Today, the wolf population in Idaho, Wyoming and Montana is more than 500. As wolf populations grow, they will naturally spread to the forests and wilderness areas of eastern Oregon, many of which have abundant game. When wolves reach two-three years of age, they often leave the pack to find a mate. Currently, poaching or using poison bait to kill a wolf could lead to five years in prison and a fine up to \$100,000.

Biologists Fake Evidence
In December, seven state (WA) and federal biologists admitted adding fur from a captive Canadian Lynx to "samples" allegedly taken from national forests in Washington. Report of the false samples not only undermined the credibility of these agencies, it enraged logging and snowmobile advocates, who don't want their destructive activities limited by endangered species.

Ranchers Charged With Illegal Snaring
Charlotte and Jack Gleave, a Utah couple using public lands for sheep ranching, have been charged with two third-degree felony counts of wildlife destruction for illegally killing wildlife with snares in the Dixie National Forest. According to a December 4 report in the *Salt Lake Tribune*, game wardens have found 65 traps in the forest since 1998. The devices have been responsible for killing at least seven cougars, 15 bobcats, two foxes and one hunting

hound.
The Gleave's face up to five years in prison and a \$5,000 fine for each felony count.

PDI Loses a Close Friend
Joy Belsky, a range ecologist and outspoken opponent of public lands grazing, died December 14th of breast cancer. She was 56. Belsky was an adviser, member and friend of PDI, working with us to help stop unnecessary coyote killing on the Hart Mountain National Antelope Refuge. A powerful woman working in a realm dominated by men, Belsky could hold her own against any rancher, scientist or activist.

"Certainly she was out front on a lot of issues that were important to her and society," Bill Marlett, executive director of the Oregon Natural Desert Association told the *Oregonian*. "She had this unbridled spirit and integrity that she was not willing to compromise what she thought was right."

Belsky was born in Texas and earned degrees from Smith College, the Yale School of Forestry and Environmental Studies and the University of Washington.

Belsky published more than 45 peer-reviewed papers and book chapters on African and North American grasslands.



Range ecologist and wildlife advocate Joy Belsky passed away this December.

STOPPING 1080

With the nation focused on the threat of domestic terrorism, PDI is working to ban 1080. For the entire nation. For good. *by Brooks Fahy*

For more than 10 years, Predator Defense Institute has been working for a national comprehensive ban on sodium monofluoroacetate, known commonly as compound 1080.

The current national focus on the threat of domestic terrorism has provided us with a unique opportunity to draw attention to this issue and achieve our goal of forever ending the production and export of this needless and deadly poison.

PDI and Friends of Animals started off the campaign with a letter to Tom Ridge and the newly formed Office of Homeland Security, calling for the end of the production, use and export of 1080 in the U.S.

Thanks to our media outreach efforts this story was covered in the *Oregonian* and nationally through the

MSNBC website. Most recently, I conducted a field investigation of the Oxford, Alabama plant that manufactures and exports 1080, followed by a trip to New York to talk up the story to mainstream television news networks.

We started fighting 1080 to stop the needless killing of wildlife, but the story has become much more than that. It's a story about a serious threat to pets and people. It's a story about a potential terrorist weapon that works silently, induces symptoms similar to heart attack or seizure, has no odor, color or taste and leaves no trace. And, as we just learned, it's a story about neighbors struggling to get the government to do something – anything – about the company that makes this stuff in their back yard. ■



Who Uses It, Anyway?

Use of 1080 started in the early 1980's, when a new device called the livestock protection collar (LPC) was patented by Texas lion hunter Roy McBride. The LPC is a collar with two rubber bladders attached.

Filled with 1080, the bladder (in theory) bursts when a predator bites it, releasing a lethal dose of 1080. In practice, the collars can fall off or be punctured by fences or bushes. The livestock wearing the collar also dies, and young lambs are often collared and put in a separate pasture as coyote bait. We fear many ranchers may have also stockpiled the collars, using the 1080 for open bait.

Wildlife Services, a division of the USDA, supports and encourages the use of 1080-filled LPC's by ranchers, at taxpayers' expense. The effectiveness of the collars for ranchers is minimal, with 20 coyotes killed in the year 2000. And, because of coyote breeding patterns, the deaths have little effect on overall coyote populations. Currently, nine states use the LPC: MT, OR, VA, NM, SD, TX, UT, WV and WY. ■



Lamb fitted with 1080 collar.



World's Deadliest Poison

- 1080's chemical name: sodium monofluoroacetate
- It is odorless, colorless and tasteless.
- There is no antidote.
- A single teaspoon can kill up to 100 adult humans.
- A death caused by 1080 is difficult to determine, as symptoms resemble those of a heart attack or seizure.
- Symptoms begin within 30 minutes of exposure, and death can occur within two to seven hours.
- 1080 is highly water soluble.
- The poison can be readily absorbed through the skin.
- Investigations have uncovered illegal stockpiles of 1080.
- 1080 stockpiled prior to 1972 is unregulated.
- The chemical is a "chain killer," affecting not only the originally-poisoned animal, but also those further down the food chain.

Where they “cook” 1080

by Brooks Fahy

Located in a residential neighborhood (and next to a creek that floods regularly), the Tull Chemical Factory of Oxford, Alabama has no signs indicating the name of the company or what it manufactures. The only security I could see from outside was a chain-link fence with some warning signs.

Tull Chemical has manufactured 1080 since 1956. The poison is produced by mixing and distilling six different chemicals.

Nearby residents have been trying to shut the plant down since [an EPA audit completed in 1991 found the plant had inadequate safety devices, such as fire or burglar alarms, and that the owner had failed to brief the fire department on what to do in case of a fire or accident.

In 1984, the state of Alabama cited the plant for releasing PCB’s into an adjacent creek. In 1989, a state investigator found evidence that the plant had been burning chemical-soaked rags.

Despite some improvements that were made to the factory, many of those in the neighborhood are still concerned.

Their greatest worries are flooding and emissions from the plant. Flooding is common in the neighborhood and standing water around homes is often directly connected to standing water around the plant.

“I’m going to continue to work with groups like PDI to keep pressure on the EPA until we shut this place down,” says neighbor Lea Cheatwood. ■



Tull Chemical, the only U.S. company that manufactures and exports one of the deadliest poisons on Earth was surprisingly unassuming. And surprisingly close to residents: homes and a school bus can be seen in the background.

Sandra Kutch, Lea Cheatwood and Bob Ponder live near the Tull Chemical Plant. Nearby residents are concerned about the safety of the plant, flooding and emissions that come from the plant.



Inside the chain link fence at the Tull Chemical Plant



“I urge you to act promptly to ban this substance so that there is no possibility of it falling into the wrong hands. I say this from both a toxicological and a biological perspective.”

-Dr. Sander Orent, a toxicologist with Arbor Occupational Medicine in Colorado

1940’s
1080 created in Nazi Germany to control rodents

1956
Tull Chemical starts producing 1080

1972
President Nixon issues executive order to ban 1080

1980’s
Lion hunter Roy McBride invents 1080 filled collar

1985
Wildlife Services encourages widespread use of collars

2000
Government reports just 20 coyotes killed by 1080

1998
Campaign led by PDI bans the use of 1080 in Oregon.

2001
PDI appeals to the federal government for national ban on 1080

Working to Ban 1080. Forever.

What PDI Is Doing

Most importantly, we're spreading the word. Too few citizens know about 1080, even though their tax dollars support its use. Predator Defense Institute has made several milestones on the 1080 story over the past few months, including a feature in the *Oregonian* and a home page article on MSNBC website.

We are appealing to the government to regulate the manufacture, export, use and stockpiling of this deadly chemical.

And PDI is appealing to the EPA, the Office of Homeland Security and our friends in Congress to pass legislation permanently banning the production and use of 1080 in the United States.

Finally, PDI is out in the field: investigating, interviewing and gathering evidence to support litigation and legislation as we continue fighting to ban 1080. And we'll be working to help the neighbors living where 1080 is made.

What You Can Do

We are asking all concerned citizens to contact the federal government and demand a complete ban on the manufacture, use and export of 1080. Even more motivated? Write or call your newspaper and help spread the word. Remember, most people don't even know what 1080 is, so even basic information will make your case. ■

Key Points

- Odorless, colorless and tasteless.
- Lethal and very potent
- There is no antidote.
- A domestic terrorist threat.
- Supported by Wildlife Services, a taxpayer-funded agency.
- Compound 1080 was banned by the EPA in 1972.
- Currently, stockpiles of the poison are unregulated.
- Our government can't control what happens to 1080 exported to other countries.



Congress

Find your senator or representative:
<http://csd.cq.com>
Switchboard: 202.224.3124

Office of Homeland Security

www.whitehouse.gov/homeland
Gov. Tom Ridge, Director
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Ave.
Washington, DC 20500
Switchboard: 202.456.1414
Fax: 202.456.2461

Environmental Protection Agency

www.epa.gov

USDA Wildlife Services

www.aphis.usda.gov/ws

“Anyone who has accustomed himself to regard the life of any living creature as worthless is in danger of arriving also at the idea of worthless human lives.”

-Albert Schweitzer (1875-1965)



- This is a gift membership. Please send welcome package as a gift from: _____ (your name)
Confidentiality: PDI does not sell or share member information.

Yes! All life should be respected. I'm sending my gift to PDI to help protect wildlife and stop cruel and unnecessary animal killing programs funded by my tax dollars. I'm sending...

\$35 \$45 \$70 \$95 \$110 \$ _____

Name _____ Email _____

Street Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____

Please bill my:   Expires: _____

Account # _____

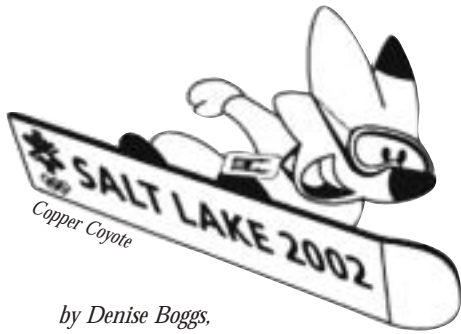
Signature: _____

Mail to

Predator Defense Institute ■ PO Box 5446 ■ Eugene, OR 97405
Phone: 541.937.4261 Fax: 541.937.4358 ■ info@predatordefense.org

Give online

VISA/Mastercard
predatordefense.org



by Denise Boggs,
Executive Director, Utah
Environmental Congress

According to the Salt Lake Organizing Committee (SLOC) website, Olympic mascot Copper Coyote's "flamboyant, bold style always pleases the crowd" and "this coyote's charisma makes him the media darling of the mascot trio." The web page gives some natural history about coyotes: what they look like, where they live, and what they eat. It portrays a very positive

In 2001, the state of Utah spent \$100,000 to shoot, trap and poison coyotes, even as they embraced Copper as an Olympic mascot.

image of coyotes and links the animal to many Native American cultures. You can even request a personal two-hour appearance of Copper for \$2,000.

What the website doesn't tell you is that, in 2001, the Utah State Legislature authorized \$100,000 of public funds to kill coyotes through shooting, trapping and poisoning. It doesn't tell you that coyotes are classified as "vermin" and are not protected under Utah's wildlife laws.

Why should you care about the plight of Utah's coyotes? Because they are a native species that are in large part responsible for keeping rodent populations in check. They are beautiful, clever, funny animals with distinct and complex family structures and are an important part of a natural ecosystem. They have a right to be here. The Salt Lake Organizing Committee and the

They Kill the Real Copper

If Olympic mascot were real coyote, he'd be shot on sight

Governor of Utah, Mike Leavitt, are capitalizing on a species they allow to be the continued victim of vicious persecution.

In Utah, coyotes are considered pests and anyone can kill them at anytime for any reason. The reason the state of Utah authorized this state sanctioned butchering of a native wildlife species is because ranchers and hunters claim that coyotes are preying on their livestock and deer and elk populations.

Let's look at the facts. According to Wildlife Services, lightning strikes and disease kills more livestock than coyote predation. In addition, very few ranchers in Utah take responsi-

these contests, admitting they do nothing to reduce coyote populations. Often, indiscriminate killing of coyotes actually increases coyote populations, because they respond by changing reproductive patterns.

These arguments aside, current government policies on wildlife "management" are penny wise and pound foolish. Most wildlife biologists agree: The greatest threat to elk and deer populations is not predators such as coyotes. It's loss of wildlife habitat. Coyotes have lived in balance with deer and elk for centuries before sportsmen entered the picture.

SLOC is making millions of dollars marketing Copper as a cute, cuddly mascot. Let's hope our children never see the tortured carcasses of the real coyotes that have been shot and had their ears cut off to be turned in for prizes. Or the coyote puppies left abandoned in their den to starve to death when their mother is poisoned.

The Utah Environmental Congress is demanding that the Salt Lake Organizing Committee and the Governor put pressure on the Wildlife Damage Prevention Board to immediately and permanently end coyote bounties and contests.

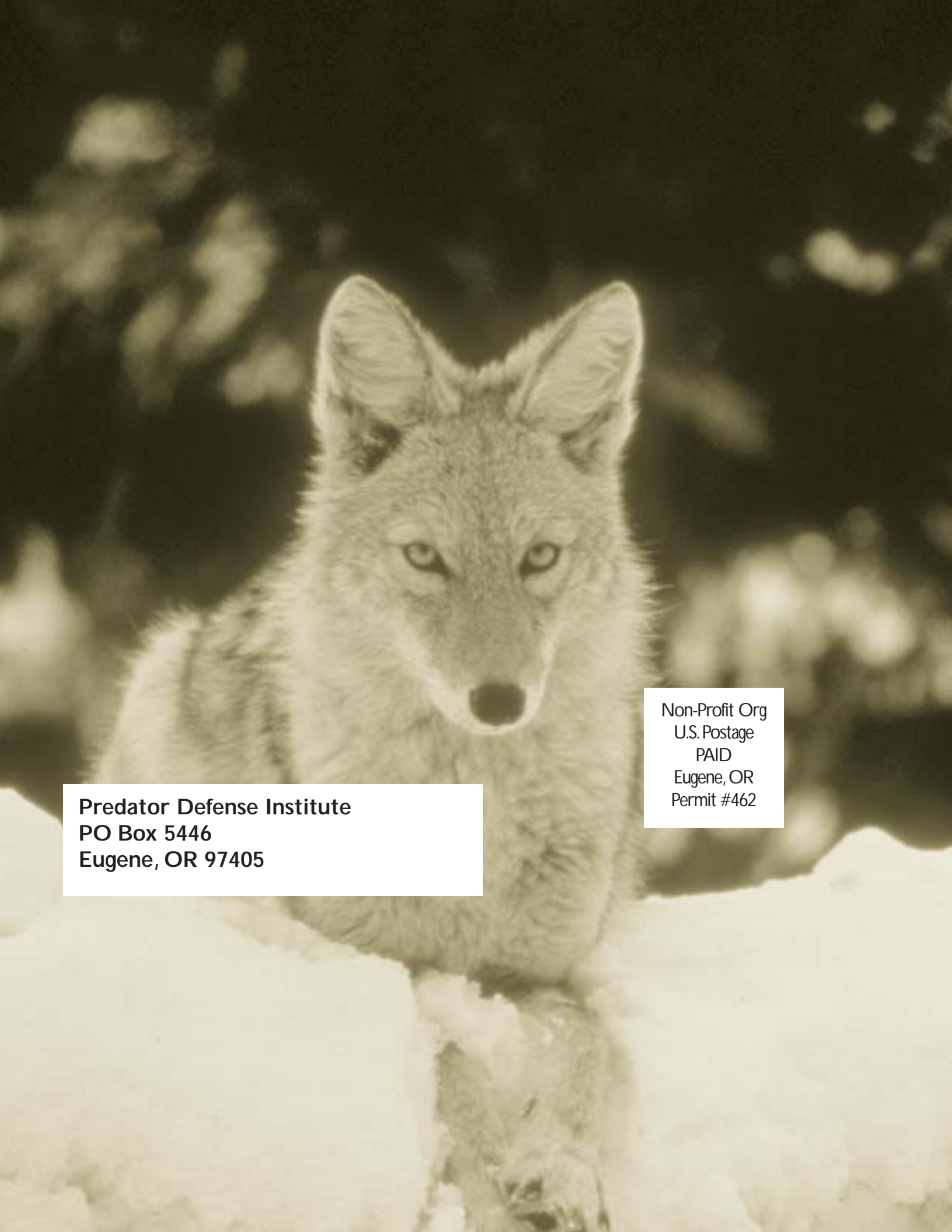
What You Can Do

For further information, contact the Utah Environmental Congress at 801-466-4055 or email at dbuec@ecoisp.com. **To act**, please contact Utah's Governor, Mike Leavitt AND Mitt Romney the Chair of SLOC (Salt Lake Organizing Committee). Ask them to stop endorsing the slaughter of real coyotes, while they use a cartoon coyote as a marketing ploy. If the Governor and SLOC are swamped with phone calls, the hunt will stop. Please make that phone call today! Many thanks to you on behalf of Utah's coyotes. ■

bility for their livestock grazing on public lands through the use of guard animals or herders. Livestock are mostly left alone on public lands to fend for themselves, and many could be saved from predators using non-lethal methods.

According to SLOC's web page on coyotes: "The coyote eats fruits, grasses, vegetables, insects, rodents, deer and small mammals." It doesn't say one word about preying on livestock, because coyotes do not choose livestock as a main prey source – a fact many of Utah's pro-ranching state legislators would just as soon you didn't know.

These same ranchers have sponsored coyote-killing contests that award cash and prizes to whoever kills the most coyotes. Even the Utah Department of Wildlife Services, not an agency known to be proactive in wildlife management, is opposed to



Predator Defense Institute
PO Box 5446
Eugene, OR 97405

Non-Profit Org
U.S. Postage
PAID
Eugene, OR
Permit #462