

December 2010



Predator Defense



Helping people and wildlife coexist since 1990

Predator Defense is proud to be a leading resource of information on predators. For over 20 years, we have fielded calls from journalists, scientists, politicians, educators, and filmmakers. In addition to being a national and international information center, we facilitate a regional wildlife assistance program, working in the field, available for help to the public around the clock, seven days a week.

TAKING STOCK: Government in Gridlock

Stalled Compound 1080 and Sodium Cyanide Elimination Act

I wish I could tell you all that H.R. 5643 was on its way to becoming law, but this isn't the case. The bill would have banned two deadly wildlife poisons, Compound 1080 and Sodium Cyanide used in M-44s.

Back in June we felt optimistic about passage of this bill when John Campbell, a Republican representative from California, joined Representative Peter DeFazio (D-Oregon) as a lead co-sponsor, making the bill bi-partisan. We obtained 39 co-sponsors, but without more Republican support we were unable to secure a hearing for the bill. The prevailing political atmosphere made it impossible to move this legislation forward. We're obviously disappointed—a lot of work went into getting the bill introduced in Congress and picking up more than three dozen co-sponsors.

These two poisons are registered through the EPA for use in lethal predator control. As part of their 15-year review process the EPA is now considering whether to continue to register these poisons. Once again, Predator Defense is officially opposing the reregistration of these two deadly killers.



See our action plan for the coming year on page 3.

Funding for Lethal Predator Control Continues

During the summer we spearheaded an attempt to de-fund the USDA Wildlife Services lethal predator control program through the appropriations process. Unfortunately, these efforts were also unsuccessful. Again, congressional gridlock prevented our proposed amendment from moving forward.

Wolves in Oregon Need Stronger Legal Protection

This year, with the growing wolf population in Eastern Oregon (and rumors of wolves in the Washington and Oregon Cascades), we advocated that the Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife revise its wolf management plan. The Plan requires that USDA Wildlife Services lethal predator control program take the lead in livestock depredation investigations. It also allows

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We need you more than ever. Donate today at predatordefense.org!

What Sets Us Apart

We Advocate for All Native Predators Through Education & Outreach

Whether it is the Associated Press writing about our efforts to ban wildlife poisons, USA Today reporting on our concerns about the slaughter of cougars in Oregon, Oregon Public Broadcasting informing television audiences about the critical role that wolves play on the landscape, or the National Geographic Society researching Wildlife Services activities in Guam, the media come to Predator Defense. We are a leading resource for information about the relationships between predators and the ecosystems that support them and the relationships between predators and people.

Over the years, Predator Defense has held firm in advocating for all of our native wildlife predators and not to become a single-species organization. We see a larger picture, recognizing how each predator species is key to healthy natural areas and ecosystems. In addition, we believe that each of these animals has intrinsic value.

Our driving force is educating the public, politicians, and the media that all predators, the animals they hunt, and the land they live on are interconnected. We do not believe predators should be hunted for sport and support our position with hard facts and science. We also strive to bring ethics and humane values to decisions that affect wildlife. Over the past year, we began a new campaign through our summer lecture series that informed people about the importance of predators on the landscape, the importance of biodiversity, and the importance of healthy ecosystems to human survival. Read more about "The Importance of Predators" on our website at www.predatordefense.org/predators.htm.

Our Field Work Helps People Coexist with Wildlife

Our field work sets Predator Defense apart from any other organization of its kind. We help save wildlife and prevent conflicts with people or property by meeting with people and informing them of common sense ways to protect their livestock and property so they can coexist peacefully with wildlife. We remove dogs and cats from illegally set traps on private and public lands. We continue to assist families who have lost pets to illegally placed poisons and traps. All of these challenges are becoming more frequent as development continues to encroach into wildlife habitat and as the balance of nature is thrown off by excessive amounts of predator control.



Releasing a dog from an illegally set trap—one of the many dogs Predator Defense has rescued. Photo by Brooks Fahy.

Some of our bear calls are entertaining. A few from 2010: Mother bear and cub surprise a woman enjoying an evening cigarette in a gazebo in a coastal Oregon retirement community. Bear samples honey in a beekeeper's hives. Bear munches on sunflower seeds that birdwatcher stores in an unsecured container on back porch. Bear rummages through a refrigerator in a carport at a remote mountain location.

Another field call this year concerned a cougar that killed a deer when it was attracted by food that people put out for deer. We continuously educate the public that when they feed deer they will also be attracting the animals that prey on those deer. Several times this year injured coyotes that were hit on roadways needed to be humanely euthanized and we took care to do just that. Our

most frequent calls come from people who see large animal tracks and think they are cougar prints. Most often these prints turn out to be those of the neighbors' large dog that runs loose at night. Our visits educate and reduce people's fear of predators by giving them information and sound advice, as well as a human presence and maybe even a little bit of humor.

Moving Forward **2011**



Our work to help people and wildlife coexist will continue in the coming year

Shutting Down USDA Wildlife Services' Lethal Predator Control Program

With 2011 weeks away and a new political landscape, we are refining our strategies. We will continue our efforts to abolish USDA Wildlife Services lethal predator control program. We think one of the most effective things we can do is to attack Wildlife Services through their budget. Our national deficit works to our advantage because everyone in Congress and the President are set on cutting wasteful spending. This program is a subsidy to the ranching industry, plain and simple. And it is a gift to state wildlife management agencies. They can tell hunters who complain (inaccurately) that predators take the hunters' deer and elk that the agency is taking care of the hunters' competition.

We will keep this issue alive by educating legislators, the public, and the media about the horrors of USDA Wildlife Services' lethal control program.

Stopping Idaho Wildlife Services from Sterilizing Wolves and Gassing Pups

In September, we commented on Idaho's Wildlife Services' proposal to kill wolf pups by gassing them in their dens as a part of their lethal control program. We think this proposal represents a step toward the potential emergence of management regimes around the country that not only include unnecessary killing of predators but also use inhumane practices once unimaginable. Idaho Wildlife Services wants to surgically sterilize alpha wolf pairs too—the only pairs that reproduce. The flawed rationale behind this plan is that it would result in more elk for hunters to kill.



Photo of wolf pair courtesy U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

We're extremely concerned about the over-manipulation of wild animals to protect domestic animals and deer and elk. We believe that public lands are literally becoming large farms for hunting and livestock production. We also believe that engaging in practices like gassing pups and sterilizing wildlife reflects a human condition where people are detached from nature and other living things. This is a manifestation of a misguided dominion-driven philosophy that is not guided by science or any sense of ethics. As we plan our 2011 work, we are brainstorming ways to include these kinds of considerations.

Reforming State Wildlife Agencies

Predator Defense will continue to work on reforming state wildlife management agencies to eliminate the unnecessary killing of predators. We'll work to abolish contest hunts and bounties, to address state wildlife management commissions being controlled by hunters, and to bring science into management decisions.



We Need You

As you know, these challenging economic times have hit nonprofit groups particularly hard, and we are no exception. Please be as generous as possible in your end-of-year contribution, and, if you can, consider raising your contribution amount. Regardless of the amount you can give, please know that all contributions are greatly appreciated. It's because of you that we can do this work that we all know is vital.

Thank you very much in advance for making a contribution of \$50, \$100, \$250, \$500, or more today.

To be even more effective in the upcoming year we will be working to not only maintain our membership, but to expand it. Please help by telling your friends about Predator Defense and what we do.

We wish you happy holidays and a peaceful 2011.

For the Animals,

Brooks Fahy
Executive Director

P.S. Looking for a great present for friends, family or colleagues? Consider giving a \$35 gift membership to the people on your holiday gift list.

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

TAKING STOCK: GOVERNMENT IN GRIDLOCK, *cont. from page 1*

ranchers to obtain electronic information to locate wolves. Several wolves have been killed in response to wolves preying on livestock. In comment letters and communications with agency personnel Predator Defense argued for guidelines requiring ranchers to use various non-lethal and preventative solutions instead of lethal control.

For the time being, wolves in all of Oregon are federally protected. Several months ago one of Oregon's wolves wearing a GPS collar was illegally shot and killed. The criminal investigation into the death of this animal has yielded nothing—now, several months later, no one has been charged. We are not encouraged that this killing will ever be solved. This incident and the lack of a serious response, as well as similar incidents in the Northern Rockies and the Mexican wolf recovery program in the Southwest tell us that federal and state officials are not serious about protecting this endangered species.

Cougar Deaths in Oregon Continue to Rise

Predator Defense continues to advocate for cougars by opposing the current and long-term management strategy of relentlessly increasing the number of cougars killed each year in Oregon. This winter marks the final year of the state's five-year Cougar Management Plan. More cougars have been killed annually under this plan than during any other time in the state's history including the bounty era of the 1950s and '60s. Between the time the plan went into effect (April 2006) and June of this year, 2,100 cougars perished and the number continues to climb.

In September we provided comments to the House Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee regarding the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife's (ODFW) report on their limited review of the ODFW Cougar Management Plan. When the legislative session begins in January we will monitor legislation and be on record opposing attempts to further increase pressure on the cougar population. The plan will be up for review this spring and Predator Defense will again be vocal about its shortcomings and advocate for a plan that focuses on educating the general public about how to coexist with cougars instead of killing them. Please see our website to learn more about the plan and why it has drawn strong criticism from scientists at www.predatordefense.org/cougars.htm.

Voicing Support for Shutting Down Idaho Sheep Station

We also commented in a federal process reviewing impacts of the U.S. Sheep Experiment Station (a USDA Agricultural Research Service project) in Dubois, Idaho near the Montana border. The purpose of the Sheep Station is to genetically engineer sheep that are easier and cheaper to raise. Unfortunately, the location of the Station blocks a key wildlife corridor between central Idaho and the Greater Yellowstone area. In fact, some of the Sheep Station's grazing lots are adjacent to the Primary Conservation Area for endangered Yellowstone grizzly bears. Two wolf packs were killed last year for being near the Sheep Station. Predator Defense advocated for the Station's closure.



PREDATOR DEFENSE

P.O. Box 5446
Eugene, OR 97405
(541) 937-4261

info@predatordefense.org
www.predatordefense.org