

December 2009



# Predator Defense



*Celebrating  
our 20th  
Anniversary*



*Helping people and wildlife coexist since 1990*

## *Milestones*

- Stopped aerial gunning of coyotes at Hart Mountain National Antelope Refuge in southcentral Oregon
- Stopped compound 1080 poison from being introduced into Oregon
- Stopped the killing of coyotes at the Julia Butler Hansen National Wildlife Refuge in SW Washington
- Stopped lethal predator control of animals at two national airports.

These are just a few of our successes over the years. For more, visit our website at [www.predatordefense.org](http://www.predatordefense.org).

## *Legislative Update*

In our last letter to you we were poised to have the Compound 1080 & M-44 Elimination Act reintroduced in September. Due to several factors, including the Congressional debate on health care, we asked Congressman Peter DeFazio to hold off on introducing the bill until early 2010.

We are extremely excited about our chances of finally passing this bill. One big difference this time around is the invaluable help of a coalition we've built with environmental organizations. They are backing our efforts with their expertise and seasoned political strategists. We'll keep you apprised of our efforts.

## MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

Dear Friends of Predator Defense,

In 2010 Predator Defense celebrates its 20th anniversary. Over the last two decades our battles and victories have been large and small. Every year special interest groups ask for more government funding for lethal predator control that use indiscriminate killing methods. Their war on wildlife knows no bounds. It continues discreetly and routinely bolstered by state wildlife management agencies and the livestock industry, and, unwittingly, by citizens whose tax dollars are misused to kill native wildlife.

From our inception our mission has never changed—protecting our nation's maligned predator species from persecution. Our primary effort has been our fight to dismantle government-sponsored lethal predator control programs. During the first five years of our existence we ran the only wildlife hospital in the state of Oregon dedicated exclusively to the care and the rehabilitation of predator mammals that had been orphaned, poisoned, trapped, or hit by vehicles. Then, as now, we were a strong focused voice for wildlife issues; it is not an exaggeration to say that Predator Defense has been the most tenacious organization in the country pushing federal legislation to dismantle USDA Wildlife Services' lethal predator control program.

Our efforts to date have prevented thousands of animals from being brutally slaughtered by government run programs. Our regional wildlife assistance program helps the public and law enforcement agencies around the clock, seven days a week.

We field calls from the press, scientists, politicians, and the public. Predator Defense continues to be a leading resource helping people coexist peacefully with wildlife.

While learning to work with injured and orphaned wildlife as a teenager, I realized that caring for individual animals was only part of our challenge. Bringing about fundamen-

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**THE EARLY YEARS:** *These bobcats came to us near death as three-week-old kittens in 1994. Their mother had been shot by hunters, who later discovered them. A year later, after extensive care, we released them in a wilderness area.*

**Meet some of our supporters inside...**

# 2009 Testimonials

*Meet some of the people who  
have expressed appreciation  
for our work*

## **Louisa Willcox, Sr. Wildlife Advocate, NRDC, Washington, D.C.**

The Natural Resources Defense Council began working with Predator Defense in a coalition to reform the practices of USDA-Wildlife Services in 2008. Predator Defense is a key player in this work, as Brooks Fahy has worked to stop the agency's indiscriminate lethal predator control for years. He has shared his knowledge and experience in a collaborative effort to eliminate the use of poisons in predator control and to reduce Wildlife Services' lethal predator control funding. In particular, Predator Defense has been a leader in bringing attention to the harmful use of highly toxic poisons in wildlife management by working with members of Congress to ban the use of Compound 1080 and sodium cyanide in predator control. Predator Defense has been a staunch advocate for those injured by the use of poisons and a strong partner in our joint campaign.

## **Dr. Rick Hopkins, Sr. Conservation Biologist, Live Oak Assoc., Inc., San Jose, CA**

I have worked with Brooks Fahy and Predator Defense for nearly 20 years and have long been impressed with their ability to provide practical, science-based solutions for living with predators. Brooks works tirelessly to engage all stakeholders and has a solid reputation for working with local property owners to better understand how they can live and operate with minimal conflicts with a region's predator fauna.

**EDITOR'S NOTE:** Rick is a Predator Defense advisor and preeminent wildlife scholar with over 30 years experience conducting research and developing long-term conservation strategies to protect cougars and preserve ecosystem functions.

## **Lisa Upson, J.D., Wildlife Advocacy Consultant, Bozeman, MT**

Creating even incremental change in conservation work these days takes years of sustained pressure. The community is fortunate to have Predator Defense working tirelessly on behalf of predator species and ecological integrity. Among other things, Predator Defense has been a leader in efforts to expose and reform the ineffective and atrocious work of USDA-Wildlife Services, a secretive agency that spends more than \$100M each year to kill millions of animals. Few groups stay committed to this tough issue year-in, year-out, but Predator Defense has worked for 20 years to ban the use of poisons in wildlife killing, particularly the highly toxic poisons Compound 1080 and sodium cyanide. The wealth of knowledge and experience Brooks has brought to this work benefits all of us working to protect predator species and bring ecosystems back into balance.

## **Jim D. Yoakum, Certified Wildlife Biologist, Independent Wildlife Consultant, and Predator Defense member and advisor, Verdi, NV**

During the last 20 years, Predator Defense has been a paramount force dedicated to disseminating information to enhance the people's understanding of the values and needs of predators. Unfortunately, this effort has resulted in numerous costly endeavors, and while many battles have been won, the war continues. An example of these conservation efforts was the challenging of a proposed plan for aerial gunning of coyotes on the Hart Mountain National Antelope Refuge in southcentral Oregon. The Refuge manager

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*In 2008 Brooks Fahy (l) and Dennis and Dorothy Slaugh (r) met with Rep. Peter DeFazio on Capital Hill in support of a bill to ban the deadly poison Compound 1080 and M-44 devices.*

## **Dorothy Slaugh, Vernal, UT**

*— Dorothy's husband, Dennis Slaugh, was severely harmed by a U.S. government M-44 while recreating on public land in Utah*

My husband Dennis suffered permanent damage to his health from being poisoned by an M-44 sodium cyanide ejector that had been set to kill predators. Dennis cannot expect to work again.

While searching the Internet for information on M-44s we learned about Predator Defense. We got in touch with the Executive Director, Brooks Fahy, and he has worked tirelessly on our behalf ever since. In June 2008 Predator Defense covered all of our expenses so we could join Brooks in Washington, D.C. to meet Congressmen and their staff, tell our story, and urge them to support Congressman Peter DeFazio's (OR-D) bill—the Compound 1080 & M-44 Elimination Act.

These meetings validated, finally, how this poisoning has changed our lives. Dennis and I will continue to support Predator Defense's work to pass this legislation. We will always be grateful for the generosity and compassion that Brooks has shown us.

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**EDITOR'S NOTE:** Legislation to ban M-44s and Compound 1080 will be reintroduced in Congress in early 2010. See Legislative Update on page 1.

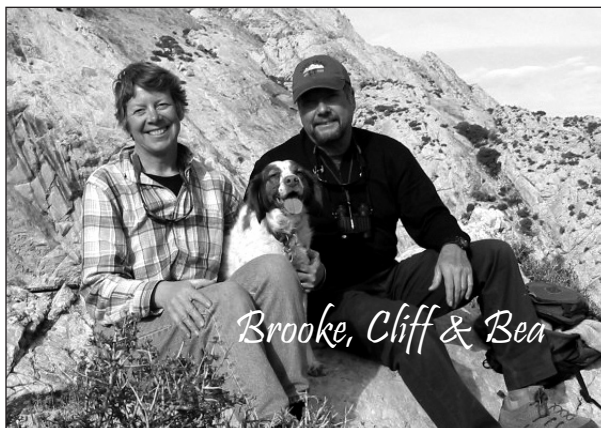


# In Honor of "Man's Best Friend"

## **Brooke & Cliff Everest, Bozeman, MT**

**– Lost their dog Bea in 2008 to illegally placed poison from bait intentionally set to kill predators**

Last year we were enjoying a float trip on the White River in Utah on when our young dog became terrified and frantic, fell into convulsions, and died in less than an hour from the onset of symptoms. We were heartbroken and knew that she had been poisoned. Our float passed through BLM land where sheep grazed and we assumed the poison she found was intended to kill coyotes. Through research on the Internet, I discovered that the timeline of her symptoms exactly matched how dogs are affected by Compound 1080, a poison used for years to kill coyotes. I put my story out on the Internet and was put in touch with Brooks Fahy. We are so thankful for the information, assistance, and heartfelt support that Brooks gave us in dealing with our dog's death and the investigation that we requested from BLM. Our case was unresolved but hopefully brought attention to the insidious use of Compound 1080 on public lands. We can't thank Brooks enough for his help and encourage everyone to support his efforts to eradicate all use of Compound 1080.



we suspect that the local Wildlife Services trapper had kicked our dog while he was investigating dead lamb carcasses that the trapper was using to bait coyotes, foxes and bobcats. Not only did Predator Defense exhume our beloved Ricky, which was no easy task, they also paid for the autopsy. We will always be grateful for the kindness shown to us and the respect shown to our dog Ricky by the people of Predator Defense.

## **Sharyn Aguiar, Fillmore, UT**

**– Lost her beloved dog Max to an M-44 while working as a stone quarrier in a remote area of Utah**

On May 22, 2006, I found Predator Defense, an organization that helps families whose pets have fallen victim to M-44 cyanide traps. Thanks to Brooks Fahy, Max's death was not publicly ignored. He arranged for me to meet with a reporter at *The Salt Lake Tribune*, resulting in an article about Max's death. Shortly afterward they also published an editorial condemning the use of M-44s. Predator Defense continues to be supportive in my quest to warn other pet owners about the presence of M-44 cyanide traps on our public lands. Without the help of Brooks Fahy, Max's story would have never been made public. No one would have ever heard how an ineffective, indiscriminate death trap program administered by the USDA's Wildlife Services caused the cruel death of my best friend Max. No one would have been alerted to the presence of M-44 cyanide traps on our public lands and the hazards they pose. I will always be grateful.



## **Amanda Wood Kingsley, Port Townsend, WA**

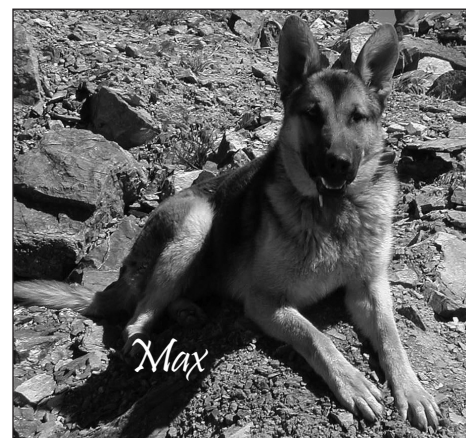
**– Lost her dog Ruby and was injured by M-44 poison on her family's farm near Harrisburg, OR in 1994**

Predator Defense was the only corner of support we found and seemed to be the only outfit with the guts to fight a powerful, corrupt, and dangerous operation (USDA's "Wildlife Services"). From my own experience I know what an enormous and daunting battle this will continue to be. Predator Defense has my undying support and gratitude for their guts and determination in taking on a very nasty Goliath. I greatly hope they will get the support they need to continue this fight for the sake of all of us.

## **Alice Jensen, Halsey, OR**

**– Lost her dog Ricky in 2000 when he was brutally attacked near her home**

Shortly after walking our old black lab Ricky, he disappeared from the yard for a short time then reappeared vomiting and died right before us. Ricky who lived around farm animals all his life had a history of being gentle and obedient. He did not chase or harass livestock. We buried Ricky's body but felt there was something strange about his sudden death. We were advised to call Predator Defense. Their response was very prompt. They exhumed Ricky's body and took it to the Oregon State University College of Veterinary Medicine. An autopsy concluded that Ricky had been kicked violently in the stomach and his diaphragm had ruptured. We subsequently found out that Wildlife Services was setting traps in the area and



## TESTIMONIALS, *cont. from page 2*

had planned this control program to begin in the winter of 1996 and continue for three consecutive years for the purpose of increasing antelope herds. Subsequent court litigation curtailed the proposed project because of a lack of adequate science data to justify the program. One of the predominant leaders in this case was Predator Defense. Ten years later research findings indicated that the total antelope population continued to increase and reached the highest number ever recorded for the Refuge—thus proving in this case that predator control was not needed to increase herds. Thanks to Predator Defense, the public's wildlife and lands are being better managed.

**EDITOR'S NOTE:** *Hired as the U.S. Bureau of Land Management's first professional wildlife biologist, Jim has also served as a wildlife consultant to foreign countries and a professor of wildlife management at three universities during his 55-year career. His research concentrates on ecological factors influencing antelope survival, including mortality by predators. He has authored over 120 technical and popular articles and recently coauthored a textbook on the ecology and management of pronghorn antelope in Canada, Mexico, and the United States.*

### **Sander Orent, M.D., Medical Director, Arbor Occupational Medicine, Boulder, CO**

The name "Predator Defense" is appropriate. This organization has tirelessly defended those who have no voice, no economic importance, and no way to defend their own place in the world. Predator Defense has raised the alarm and made itself heard about issues of grave concern to me as a physician and toxicologist, such as the continued use of the highly toxic, ecologically mobile and difficult to detect poison known as 1080 by the government. I applaud and support their work, and thank them for their persistence.

#### **PREDATOR DEFENSE**

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

tal change and reform within government agencies that manage wildlife was critical. Our work to stop the persecution of native predator species has taken us from the high deserts of the American West to state capitols, courtrooms, and the U.S. Congress.

We have literally reached millions of people through our work on documentary films, which have been shown on Turner Broadcast Stations (TBS), Animal Planet, British Broadcast Company (BBC), and Outdoor Life Network (OLN), as well as programs on public television, radio, and screenings at public meetings and other venues. It is safe to say that millions of people who never would have been aware of the U.S. government's war on wildlife learned about these horrific tax-funded programs through these films. Our work has also been reported in major newspapers across the country and Predator Defense has been featured in national magazines' investigative articles.

I have considered it a privilege to speak out to defend the right of these noble animals to live without persecution. Knowing that we are making a difference by challenging atrocities committed against our fellow travelers in this journey is empowering. Working with you, the members of Predator Defense, has been a distinct honor. There have been times when I've felt defeated, yet I always come back to feeling extremely fortunate to have spent the last 20 years at the helm of this organization. I am proud of the body of work we have achieved together over these last two decades. Without our dedicated members, many of whom I now know by name, we would have not been able to stay in this fight.

Every donation, no matter the size has really mattered to our successes. I do regret that I have not always adequately shown each of you how much your generosity has meant to our work. There are just not enough hours in some days to fit in all that I want to do for the organization. Also, the kind notes you have sent me over the years with expressions of gratitude and encouragement have often served as catalysts to recharge me against challenges that sometimes seem insurmountable. I appreciate your words very much.

I thank all of the members, past and present, of our legal and scientific advisory boards, and our board of directors. They have each had a significant role in our achievements. They have given their time freely and have been financially generous as well.

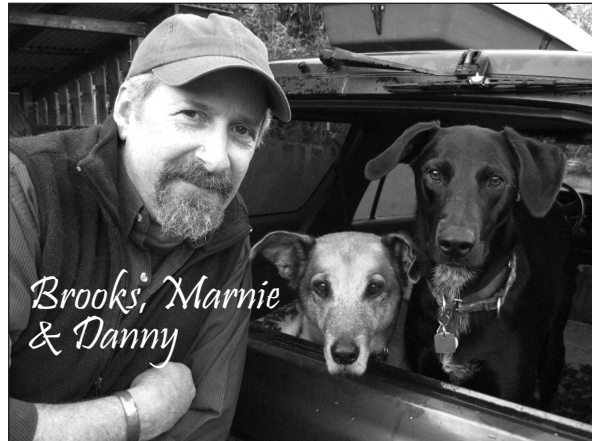
Together we do make a big difference, and I hope to head into our third decade with your support. We are currently at a critical juncture in our legislative efforts, so your active membership is vital to our success.

Please join us, once again, in taking a stand for wildlife. Make a contribution today for \$50, \$100, \$250, \$500...or any amount you can afford. There is so much work to be done. Predator Defense, and the animals, are counting on you!

With appreciation,

*Brooks Fahy*

Brooks Fahy  
Executive Director



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