

Dorothy Slaugh
Dennis Slaugh

Vernal, Utah 84078

December 6, 2006

Peter DeFazio
151 W. 7th, Suite 400
Eugene, Oregon 97401

Dear Congressman DeFazio:

On May 4, 2003, my husband Dennis Slaugh was shot with an M-44 sodium cyanide ejector at Cowboy Canyon, Bonanza Utah, in Uintah County. We had been RV-ing on a late Easter family camp out. The weather was good, so going off-road was a perfect option on this weekend. We are avid rock hounders, so at about 8:30 a.m. we were off rock hunting--looking for rocks, fossils, and old bricks from an old brick factory in the bottom of the canyon. We were about halfway to the bottom of the canyon when Dennis and his brother Deloy Slaugh decided to get off the ATVs and look around. They were looking and walking about when Dennis saw an object on the ground. To him it looked like a surveyor's marker and being that his brother was a surveyor, Dennis brushed across the top of it to see what township and range it was when he heard a loud pop. It exploded in his face hitting him on the right side of his chest then glancing off and hitting the right side of his face and getting into his eye. It was an orange or pink powder, his eyes were burning, lips tingling, and it felt like small rocks or gravel hitting his lips. He began wiping the powder stuff off. By then Deloy saw what had happened and came over to see what was going on. There were no signs or warning devices so he really didn't know what had hit him. Dennis was disoriented and Deloy kept asking him questions but he was out of it for a while. Then they realized that Dennis must have triggered some predator's bait.

After a while Dennis could start talking to Deloy telling him what had happened. He told him that he still had some of the powder on his face, so Deloy wiped the rest of it off. We went to see what had happened and we thought it was some sort of bait. We had heard of cyanide traps but we felt sure they had been banned years ago. M-44 cyanide traps set on public or private lands are triggered when pulled on by a curious rock hound or by a child or pet that could not read a warning sign even if one existed. A lethal dose of cyanide is fired forcefully at the unsuspecting victim. The poison is delivered instantly and you could die instantly, or, like my husband you can suffer for many years, and have your life cut short.

I heard of a similar accident that happened to a couple in Utah in which they lost a beloved pet German Shepard named "Max". They told me of an organization-- Predator Defense--with Brooks Fahy, executive director. Mr. Fahy is actively seeking a ban of M-44 cyanide traps. I would like to express my support of this organization's efforts to have these devices banned. I can personally attest to the horrific results produced by M-44s.

We sought legal advice from an attorney, but to no avail, because they did not know where to lay blame. But, I do because I have in my possession the actual M-44 weapon that is clearly marked property of the U.S. Government. I would like to see a ban on the M-44's and to have all the M-44's cleaned up across the country.

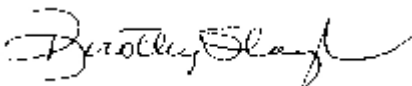
We had no warning of the presence of cyanide traps on the public lands in this area where we go camping and have fun riding ATVs. Before my husband was shot with the M-44 I had never heard of the USDA APHIS Wildlife Services program that uses poison to control coyote populations. I have learned the hard way watching my husband suffer every day of his life. It is now getting hard for him to breath and he has many other medical problems--he is in and out of the hospital. He says he would have been better off if the cyanide had killed him because he would not have to endure so much suffering.

I don't want anyone to ever succumb to the same inhumane death or near deaths that have been endured. I don't want another wife, mother, child, husband, father, grandparent, or pet owner to suffer the same type of loss. Falling victim to the effects of cyanide released from an M-44 device causes much pain and suffering.

I am asking that you please take a few minutes to hear my plea and help Brooks Fahy and Predator Defense ban the M-44. I believe that you will find my husband's story portrays actual, devastating results of M-44 use on our public and private lands across this country. His story fortifies the battle waged by Predator Defense against these devices. My hopes are that you will support this battle and submit a bill to Congress to ban all M-44 devices.

I thank you for your time. And I give great thanks for your past and present efforts to prevent the use of M-44s and other poisons on our lands. Please continue your efforts and work to ban the M-44 and other poisons.

Respectively,



DOROTHY SLAUGH

cc: Brooks Fahy, Predator Defense