

December 2012



Predator Defense



WHO is Predator Defense? Meet our team inside.

Momentum Builds Dramatically in 2012

Dear Friends of Predator Defense,

Your support has brought us to an amazing place in 2012. We are closing out the year feeling extremely hopeful and grateful, as we are gaining significant momentum on key issues, and it seems to be growing daily.

If you made a donation this year and did not receive a thank you, please forgive us. We have been far beyond busy. And we truly are thankful. We simply could not have made the amazing progress we're sharing without your support.

The wonderful news is that, for the first time, not only wildlife advocates, but also a number of wildlife management professionals, are calling for Congressional oversight hearings on Wildlife Services, the lethal "predator control" program operated by the U.S. Department of Agriculture. On Aug. 4, 2012, the two U.S. Representatives we've been working with, Peter DeFazio (D-Oregon) and John Campbell (R-California), requested both oversight hearings and agency reform, citing the program's waste of federal dollars, harm to ecosystems, and secrecy regarding practices and spending.

As you likely know, we've been the driving force behind a nationwide push for exposure and reform of Wildlife Services for years on end, and DeFazio and Campbell have promised to move things forward in 2013. In a word, we are thrilled. But there

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We Are Being Watched!



Introducing "PREDATOR DEFENSE FILMS"

Decision-makers and the media are watching the 12 videos we produced and released this year. We encourage you to enjoy the rewards of your contributions. Spend some time with adorable coyotes and bobcats, Bella the beautiful husky who survived a snare, and more by clicking on the YouTube link on our website.

Sacramento Bee Indicts Wildlife Services, Calls for Reform of Agency

We've been working for over a year now with Tom Knudson, a Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist from the *Sacramento Bee*, on an in-depth exposé of USDA Wildlife Services' out-of-control "predator control" program. These articles have garnered nationwide attention and public outrage.

The following headlines, spanning just Apr. 28-Nov.18, 2012, show how the *Sac Bee's* investigation has progressed:

- "The killing agency: Wildlife Services' brutal methods leave a trail of animal death"
- "Wildlife Services' deadly force opens Pandora's box of environmental problems"
- "Target and non-target animals often suffer" (*videos of our work helping victims*)
- "Suggestions in changing Wildlife Services range from new practices to outright bans"
- "Wildlife Services needs a tight leash"
- "I can't believe people think there could be adverse consequences to these coyote kills..." (*editorial cartoon*)
- "Put pressure on Wildlife Services"
- "M-44s lure animal with smelly bait, kill with cyanide"
- "Efforts to investigate Wildlife Services' methods continue"
- "Wildlife Services meets with its critics"
- "Davis [CA] cuts ties with Wildlife Services over coyote killings"
- "U.S. wildlife worker's online photos of animal abuse stir outrage"
- "Federal Wildlife Services makes a killing in animal-control business"
- "Reform urged for Wildlife Services"

All articles are available on our website at predatordefense.org/USDA.htm.

Our Director to Star in NRDC Film, "Wild Things"

A feature documentary on the USDA's ill-advised war on wildlife will debut on cable networks next year. It features Brooks Fahy, our executive director, in a prominent role.

Cable networks are currently bidding for the film. We will notify our members as soon as we know the air dates.

Introducing Our Newest Film: "The Imperiled American Wolf"

An intensive grey wolf slaughter is taking place across America, and we are hard at work with Predator Defense Films, producing a piece which exposes the perilous plight of these iconic predators. This will be our most important film to date. It features key interviews with our executive director Brooks Fahy, noted ecologist and photographer George Wuerthner, and carnivore expert Marc Bekoff, as well as breathtaking footage of wild wolves from wildlife filmmaker Bob Landis.



BELLA
Idaho snare survivor

Bella, Our Ambassador to the Western States

Bella, the beautiful husky mix who became the victim of a snare set to kill wolves deep in Boise National Forest, has been traveling the Western states this past year in support of our work, happily meeting many of you along the way.

The trap that maimed her was placed by the USDA's Wildlife Services lethal predator control program. Bella bit off her own foot in a desperate attempt to escape, and later lost her entire leg due to trap damage.

Predator Defense has assisted her owner, who saved her, and brought her story to thousands in our YouTube video. Read the full story, meet Bella, and watch our video interview at predatordefense.org.



Have You Watched our Thrilling Bobcat Rescue?

In February we received a call about a bobcat caught in an illegally set snare on private property. We immediately rushed to the location and found an adult male bobcat caught around the torso by a strangling snare. Fortunately we got there in time to save his life by restraining him and cutting him free. We were rewarded by his immediate race for freedom, and—amazingly—we caught all this on video.

While this bobcat was released unharmed, most animals caught in snares and traps die from strangulation, blood loss, starvation, dehydration, or exposure to the elements and predation from other animals like dogs. They suffer terrible agony for days and often chew off the foot the trap is gripping to get free. One such coyote with a missing foot from previous trap injury was found dead in the OSU fence line (read story below).

It is outrageous that the USDA Wildlife Services program and a small number of trappers nationwide can endanger pets and wildlife, let alone public safety. It's time for comprehensive, nationwide trapping reform.

Predator Defense and other organizations have been petitioning the Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission to institute new rules to safeguard the public and protect animals from barbaric, body-gripping traps and snares. We will help launch similar efforts, including ballot measures, to ban trapping in Oregon and other states.

Our rare video of the bobcat release is an important tool in our work to bring about reform and we have been sharing it broadly. Watch it at predatordefense.org. Or go to youtube.com and enter "Predator Defense" and "bobcat" in the search box.

Working for Full Victory Over Lethal Traps at OSU Sheep Farm

In March we celebrated a partial victory when Oregon State University (OSU) deactivated lethal traps set by Wildlife Services at their sheep farm that were killing innocent wildlife and endangering neighborhood pets.

However, not only is OSU still considering using lethal methods, their inadequate gates and broken-down fence line are what actually endanger their sheep, leaving them vulnerable to predators. In other words, the snares they previously installed were killing wildlife and endangering neighbors' pets without even protecting OSU's sheep!

With a few preventive measures like repairing their fence line, securing their gates, and installing hotwires, OSU can protect the sheep in their care while simultaneously ensuring the safety of people, pets and wildlife in their community. They can also become a leader in humane animal husbandry.

We continue to urge OSU to adopt simple preventive fixes and permanent nonlethal solutions and encourage you to do the same. You can help us make this a true victory by donating today.



WHO is Predator Defense? We five, and YOU!



BROOKS FAHY
Executive Director

BROOKS FAHY co-founded Predator Defense as a national wildlife advocacy agency in 1990. From his offices in Eugene, OR, Brooks has exposed America's ill-advised, hazardous and wasteful tax-funded "war on wildlife" to a worldwide audience. He has been featured in, and served as adviser for, a number of documentaries, news features and national magazine articles, including *Animal Planet*, *Outdoor LifeNetwork*, *BBC*, *CNN*, *TBS*, and *Men's Journal* and *Orion Afield* magazines. He recently became a wildlife film producer with the launch of Predator Defense Films, which released 12 films this year.

From the start, Brooks' efforts have been directed at documenting and exposing the dangers wildlife, people and pets face as a result of the USDA Wildlife Services agency's methods for "controlling" native predators (e.g., cougars, coyotes, foxes, wolves, bobcats and bears) using lethal poisons, traps and snares.

Brooks has spent extensive time investigating Wildlife Services' negligent handling of these devices, working in the field with former Wildlife Services trappers and law enforcement agencies. He has also helped individuals and families deal with the legal and emotional aftermath of first-hand exposure, which often includes injury and death of pets, danger to family members, and long-term health threats. Predator Defense has documented more of these incidents than any other organization and has brought the victims' personal stories to the attention of law enforcement agencies, legislators, and the national media.

Brooks has also run two separate wildlife hospitals set up to rescue, treat and rehabilitate wild animals that were trapped, poisoned, injured or orphaned. This hands-on experience has given him extraordinary insight, and—combined with his investigations of Wildlife Services' renegade behavior—provide him with a unique view into a world the general public rarely sees.

Brooks has repeatedly discovered Wildlife Services violating their own directives and has seen first-hand that their impact on native predators is counter-productive. In fact, their methods of predator control often increase the very wildlife populations they seek to reduce. The resulting combination of wasted taxpayer funds, misunderstanding of science, and risk to domestic animals and people makes reform of Wildlife Services a top priority.

Learn more about our work, Wildlife Services, and people whose lives have been affected at predatordefense.org.

PAUL GARRETT has enjoyed a long career in video, film and TV production, and has worked for several Hollywood studios, including MGM/UA and Universal. He is a world traveler and an internationally published wildlife photographer. Working with Brooks, Paul has filmed and co-produced our 12 Predator Defense Films to date, available via the YouTube link on our website.



PAUL GARRETT
Digital Media Director

An ardent animal lover and alleged cat whisperer, **PAM ROUND** has over 25 years of experience writing, editing, and designing educational and marketing materials for organizations large and small. She's created our website, our Facebook page, and our newsletters, and strategizes with Brooks on our expanding outreach campaigns.



PAM ROUND
Communications Director

A long-time advocate for animal rights, **SALLY MACKLER** founded San Diego Animal Advocates and the San Diego Feral Cat Coalition. Since moving to Oregon in 1993, she has served on our board of directors, as well as the boards of S. Oregon Humane Society, Friends of the Animal Shelter, and the Oregon Chapter of the Sierra Club. In addition to providing us with expertise on predator issues, Sally currently directs Spay Neuter Your Pet.



SALLY MACKLER
Oregon Carnivore Representative

Army veteran, former police officer, car-free cycling enthusiast, impassioned advocate and technologist, **MICHAEL LAFFERTY** works to drive change by connecting people and ideas. Michael developed and maintains our Twitter site and is our go-to tech guru.



MICHAEL LAFFERTY
Creative Technologist



BELLA
Texas M-44 Victim

Perseverance Pays: Trapper Who Intentionally Killed Family Dog Fined \$2,400

We are pleased to report that our persistent contact with the Texas Department of Agriculture paid off. A notice of violation and \$2,400 fine were issued to the Wildlife Services' employee who placed a spring-loaded sodium cyanide ejector (M-44) near a family's home to kill their dog.

Our original sad story about Bella, the beloved pit bull of the Walker family, garnered significant attention. It became an even bigger story when we learned that the trapper who set the device violated three prime EPA use restrictions for M-44s. Even worse, his records qualified Bella's death as the "kill" or "take" of an "intentional target."

The trapper involved was working outside his normally assigned work areas. He had requested and received special approval to conduct animal damage control for his father, a county commissioner, on land he leases located next to the Walker family's home. He grossly violated M-44 use restrictions by:

- setting the M-44 devices in proximity to areas frequented by humans or domestic dogs, where exposure to public and pets is probable;
- using improper record-keeping; and
- targeting a domestic dog, a species not specified for use on the label.

If you want to help us stop horrific tragedies like this one in the most effective way possible, support our bill to ban wildlife poisons by donating today at www.predatordefense.org. This legislation would provide protection from government agents using lethal hazards that have repeatedly harmed humans, pets and wildlife. Our bill is slated to be reintroduced in the next Congress and your donation is critical to keep pressure on and spread the word.

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

is much work ahead, as the next two stories demonstrate, and your ongoing support is of paramount importance.

Wolf Slaughter Underway Nationwide

Wolves are now under siege across the nation. Aggressive hunting and trapping seasons are occurring in Montana, Idaho, Wyoming, Wisconsin, and Minnesota. While hunting wolves is still illegal in Washington and Oregon, state wildlife agencies there have killed individual wolves and entire packs.

This war on wolves is a result of the delisting of wolves from the Endangered Species Act in 2011, which left their management to the discretion of individual states. The bloodbath comes after decades of endangered species protection and millions of tax dollars spent to reintroduce the species barely 15 years ago. History is indeed repeating itself, and wolves are paying the ultimate price for the reckless and capricious nature of what is called "wildlife management."

With agriculture and hunting interests directing decision-making, it is likely that pressure on other large predator species will also increase. Cougars, bears, and coyotes are under intense persecution, driven by these same special interests, not unlike the wolf. Livestock are the protected species, at the expense of native wildlife. Read more about our work to save wolves at predatordefense.org/wolves.htm.

Federal Trapper Set Dogs on Live Coyote He Caught

In early November we made the painful discovery of a USDA Wildlife Services trapper named Jamie Olson, who set his dogs upon—and, let them tear apart—a live coyote already caught in a trap. He posted graphic photos of this intentional infliction of suffering on his Facebook and Twitter accounts (now disabled), along with other heinous acts of animal cruelty he committed.

This trapper is still employed by Wildlife Services in the state of Wyoming. He also organizes predator killing contests in many western states, including one he had scheduled in November called the Montana Coyote Classic, which was thankfully and coincidentally(?) cancelled. Olson's actions have sparked public outrage. Read more about him, Wildlife Services, and the agency's barbaric methods of lethal predator control in the *Sacramento Bee* article on our website at predatordefense.org/USDA.htm.

We must put an end to your tax dollars being used to torture wild animals.

We Are Utterly Unique, and Without You We Are Nothing

At Predator Defense, we not only advocate politically for wildlife, we go directly into the field to document atrocities and save animals caught in illegally set traps and snares. No other organization does what we do. And your support is the only thing that makes this possible.

We are a grassroots organization without fundraising teams or large salaries. We do a whole lot with very little money. Please help us be more effective in making public lands safe for animals, both wild and domestic, by donating what you can today. We truly appreciate your support.

For all that is wild and free,

Brooks Fahy
Executive Director
Predator Defense



PREDATOR DEFENSE

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

Please donate today at www.predatordefense.org. The animals are counting on you!