



celebrating
25

years
thanks to people
like you

December 2015

Dear Friend of Predator Defense,

In these harrowing times many ask: "What's the point of protecting animals like wolves, cougars, and coyotes if there's no planet left worth living on?"

It is a challenging question. To answer it helps to keep in mind that this is also a world where engineers have created technology to convert sea water to drinking water in minutes, to generate free electricity from a bike, and much more. If humans can do these things, surely we can also work together to make peace and to restore the natural world. There is reason for hope, particularly if enough of us demand our leaders start making bolder and wiser decisions. And they will only do that if they know we have their backs.

We believe that we need the wild and the solace of nature now more than ever before. Native predators play a vital role in our health and the health of our planet and have so much



to teach us. Just one example: Predators do not reproduce more than the environment can support. Imagine if humans could follow suit.

There are places where predators are treated admirably. Over 80 countries and eight U.S. states have banned or severely restricted trapping. Costa Rica has banned hunting completely. California has not allowed cougar hunting for nearly 40 years. But we have recently been alarmed to see relatively progressive states like Oregon taking giant steps backward. Please read on, as our focus on Oregon in this newsletter is representative of problems nationwide.

Wolves Need Us to Take an Uncompromising Stand Against Their Slaughter

On Nov. 9, 2015 Oregon prematurely removed endangered species protection for their tiny population of 81 known gray wolves. This opens the door to make killing wolves much easier down the line, as has been amply demonstrated by the states who removed protections after the federal government gave them control in 2011.

In Idaho, Montana, Wyoming, Minnesota, Wisconsin and Michigan, over 3,600 wolves have been slaughtered by sport hunters and trappers alone. The worst killing states, Idaho and Montana, are waging a full-scale war on wolves.

For us, Oregon's ruling was not a surprise. What was stunning was how their wildlife commission barely concealed the fact that their decision had nothing to do with science and the will of the people, but rather had everything to do with special-interest politics and their primary constituents: hunters and ranchers. They even proceeded with recommending delisting before their own public comment period had ended, thus making talk of public input and peer review by scientists being respected and considered a sham.

The origins of this unacceptable situation deserve scrutiny. Specifically, for the people in charge of the welfare of our wildlife to be funded by and

Americans "EXPOSED" to Secret War on Wildlife

As you've likely heard, our primary focus for 2015 was getting as many people as possible to watch and share "EXPOSED: USDA's Secret War on Wildlife," the whistle-blowing film you helped us make. It got an extra boost when it won several awards, Jane Goodall gave it a "thumbs up," and your support helped us take it on tour.

We worked hard to spread the word, screening it six times in Idaho, the Ground Zero of wildlife killing in America. We also screened it in Oregon, California, Nevada, Massachusetts, Maine, Vermont and New York. On June 15 we even took it to Washington, D.C., holding a Congressional screening and panel discussion for an unprecedented standing-room-only crowd from both sides of the aisle.

We can honestly say that, together, we have raised Americans' awareness of wildlife atrocities. **THANK YOU!!!**



predatordefense.org

Helping people and wildlife coexist since 1990

— cont. on page 4

25th anniversary highlight

We were thrilled to receive the acknowledgment below from Rep. Peter DeFazio (D-OR). We've been working with him since 1990 to end America's war on wildlife. And our work continues.



PETER A. DEFAZIO
4TH DISTRICT, OREGON

TRANSPORTATION AND
INFRASTRUCTURE
RANKING MEMBER



Congress of the United States House of Representatives

October 30, 2015

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STATEMENT OF CONGRESSMAN PETER DEFAZIO

Predator Defense has worked tirelessly for the last 25 years to end the government war on predators. The Animal Damage Control Act, signed into law in 1931, enlisted the U.S. Department of Agriculture in a killing campaign against wildlife, and millions of animals have been trapped, poisoned, shot, and snared with our tax dollars. Predator Defense has my wholehearted thanks for being equally relentless and committed to ending this inhumane, inefficient, unjustifiable federal program.

Predator Defense has been an invaluable ally in my efforts to reform Wildlife Services and eliminate funding for the lethal predator control program. Our shared mission has been to make a strong case against lethal predator control, and we have made progress. I know public opposition will continue to grow as Predator Defense exposes more and more Americans to the cruel and dangerous activities of Wildlife Services.

There are challenges ahead, but Predator Defense has an impressive record of forceful advocacy and an admirable ability to get things done—and done well. You have earned my respect and admiration.

Please accept my congratulations on this notable anniversary.



L to R: Brooks Fahy, Rep. Peter DeFazio, M-44 victim Dennis Slaugh & wife Dorothy working to ban deadly device, 2008



L to R: Rep. Peter DeFazio & Brooks Fahy in Eugene, OR during filming of "EXPOSED: USDA's Secret War on Wildlife," 2013

Who We Are

Predator Defense is a national nonprofit advocacy organization working to protect native predators and help people learn to coexist with wildlife. Our efforts take us into the field, onto America's public lands, to Congress, and into courtrooms.



We believe in family values

Why We're Different

- We've been in the trenches since 1990, dealing with the most brutal and shocking wildlife atrocities.
- We're proactive. No other organization has done what we've done to expose America's secret war on wildlife.
- We're not part of the corporate pack.
- We don't sell our membership list.
- We don't spend money on marketing gimmicks.
- We produce hard-hitting, award-winning documentaries.
- We're changing hearts and minds to make a better world for all wildlife.

We believe each individual matters



What We Believe

- The idea that we need to kill predators to control their population is a myth.
- Predators should not be hunted or trapped.
- Individual animals matter. No animal should suffer.
- Family values matter. It is not OK to rip family units apart.
- Predators cause insignificant livestock losses for ranchers. Most losses are caused by poor animal husbandry.
- Private ranching should not be allowed on public lands.
- Government agencies manage wildlife cruelly, to maximize sport-killing opportunities, and to support "Big Ag." They do not manage wildlife for the sake of biodiversity.
- Wildlife agencies desperately need reform.



We believe predators should not be hunted

We believe we can stop America's senseless slaughter of predators, but only with your help

"Wildlife is not like ears of corn ripening for the harvest. Intact families of native predators are necessary for an intact ecosystem. Wildlife and wild lands are also essential for the health of human beings.

- Brooks Fahy, Executive Director

Take a Peek Inside the Mind of an American Wildlife Official

From what we've seen, if you are a typical wildlife official in America, here's how your mind works:

- Never mind the fact that science says predators do not need to be hunted, as they are self-regulating.
- Never mind the positive and essential effects predators have on biodiversity.
- Never mind the fact that intact families are imperative for social structure, particularly for wolves and coyotes.
- Never mind the fact that predators grieve the loss of a family member.
- Never mind that decisions are being made for hunters who want competition for deer and elk removed.
- Never mind that decisions are being made for ranchers who don't want to take responsibility/pay for protecting their livestock.
- Never mind the fact that your funding primarily comes from hunters and the sale of guns and ammo.

Don't you agree that mindsets like these should not be allowed when it comes to a job as a steward of wildlife in the 21st century? If so, take a stand with us against the mismanagement wreaking havoc on our ecosystems and violating the public trust. If enough of us demand states appoint commissioners who pay attention to science and represent the vast majority of the public, which doesn't hunt, they will eventually have to listen.

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

under the influence of the very people who want to kill wildlife is a travesty. This is happening in every state in the country. The very concept of wolf "management" is a misnomer. They are not being managed; they are being killed for no good reason.

Cougars Pose No Public Threat, But Are Intensively Trophy Hunted

Five states have now proposed increasing cougar-killing quotas. In 2015 Oregon took yet another step backward by establishing target areas in pristine habitat where government agents can slaughter as many cougars as possible. This decision is not based on conservation or science. Their justification: To purge the habitat of predators in hopes mule deer herds will rebound, and to remove competition for hunters. The problem: No credible science supports the notion that killing predators will increase mule deer populations. In fact, research shows that weather and nutrition/forage conditions are the primary factors influencing deer populations.



Next, We're Broadening Scope of Reform to State Wildlife Agencies

In the coming months lawsuits will probably be filed by environmental groups to challenge how Oregon and other states are handling wolf delisting and other wildlife issues. But even if these suits are successful, they will not address the fact that state wildlife management agencies are really nothing more than glorified hunting clubs. The very existence of these agencies is based on killing large numbers of animals to please their constituents. And as long as these agencies continue to be funded through the sale of hunting licenses, guns, and ammo, nothing will change.

Native predators continue to be slaughtered at record levels, all under the guise that we need to control their populations. The reality is the best available science is saying the opposite. The killing of wildlife is big business, plain and simple.

A key to enlightened wildlife policies in America starts with understanding that it is not about us managing them; it is about us managing us. In addition to reforming the USDA Wildlife Services program we've focused on for years, we need to demand reform of the outdated state wildlife management agencies. You will be hearing a lot more about this from us in 2016.

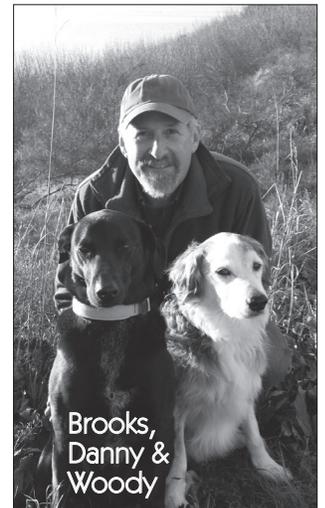
Please Help Us Bolster Our Finances So We Can Move Forward

A challenging aspect of our work is that we are a small group of committed idealists competing with large, deep-pocketed environmental groups that are willing to compromise with ranching and hunting interests. The big orgs have money to spend on fundraising, so they are more successful at it. Ironically and tragically, many of them are a key part of the problem our wildlife is facing, as they are not against hunting and trapping. They are OK with a certain number of native predators being killed. We are not. And they have made millions off the wolf slaughter. We have not, nor could we bear to.

We don't want to spend money on fundraising. We want to spend our time ending America's war on wildlife and helping people learn to coexist with native predators. But we need a substantial infusion of support to continue competing with these big orgs. Please donate today and spread the word to all who share our mission.

For all that is wild and free,

Brooks Fahy, Executive Director



Brooks, Danny & Woody

PREDATOR DEFENSE



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

History shows we blame predators for problems humans have caused. Help us right this wrong. Support our work at predatordefense.org.